

Friday, February 3, 2023

It's not often we find a detailed account of how a resident died in 1799, but we did today! Mordecai Price was murdered by Malachi Kerby (Kirby) and the court document gives some details. "...upon the body of one Mordecai Price then and there being in the peace of God and the State, feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did make an assault and that the said Malachi with a certain rifle gun, which he, the said Malachi in both hands then and there had and held the said Mordecai in and upon the left side of the forehead a little above the eye of him the said Mordecai then and there feloniously willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike, giving unto him the said Mordecai, the and there with the said rifle gun by the stroke aforesaid in manner aforesaid in and upon the left side of the forehead a little above the eye of him, the said Mordecai one mortal wound of the length of two inches and of the debth (sic) of half an inch..."

The document goes on to say that after being struck with the rifle, Mordecai languished for eleven days before he finally died on June 11th.

The Murder of Mordecai Price by the Hand of Malachi Kirby

(RG18: Superior Court case files: State vs. Malachi Kirby, 1799)

State of Tennessee Superior Court of law
Washington District September Term 1799

The grand Jurors for the State empanneled (sic) for the body of the District of Washington aforesaid upon their oath present that Malachi Kerby, late of Washington County laborer on the thirtieth day of May in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine with force and arms at Jonesborough in Washington County—within the District of Washington aforesaid in and upon the body of one Mordecai Price then and there being in the peace of God and the State, feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did make an assault and that the said Malachi with a certain rifle gun, which he, the said Malachi in both hands then and there had and held the said Mordecai in and upon the left side of the forehead a little above the eye of him the said Mordecai then and there feloniously willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike, giving unto him the said Mordecai, the and there with the said rifle gun by the stroke aforesaid in manner aforesaid in and upon the left side of the forehead a little above the eye of him, the said Mordecai one mortal wound of the length of two inches and of the debth (sic) of half an inch of which said mortal wound in the said Mordecai from the said thirtieth day of May in the year aforesaid until the eleventh day of June in the same year did languish and languishing did live on which eleventh day of June in the year aforesaid he, the said Mordecai at his dwelling house in Washington County within the District Washington aforesaid of the mortal would aforesaid died. And so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid, do say that the said Malachi Kerby, him the said Mordecai Price in manner and form aforesaid feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the state.

Hopkins Lacy, Atto. Gen.