

HO. 130 / 1
County of Southampton.

A

CALENDAR OF THE PRISONERS,

IN THE

COUNTY GAOL AT WINCHESTER,

FOR TRIAL AT

The Special Commission of Assize,

HOLDEN AT THE

CASTLE OF WINCHESTER,

On SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1830,

BEFORE

The Hon. Sir John Vaughan, Knight,
*(One of the Barons of the Exchequer)****The Hon. Sir James Parke, Knight,***
*(One of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench)****The Hon. Sir Edward Hall Alderson, Knight,***
*(One of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas)****His Grace the Lord Lieutenant of the County,******The Right Hon. William Sturges Bourne,***
And Richard Pollen, Esq.**George Purefoy Jervoise, Esq. High Sheriff.****THE GRAND JURY:**

THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE HENRY ROSE, BART. M. P. Foreman.

Sir Henry Joseph Tichborne, Bart.	Sir J. Theophilus Lee, Knt.
Sir Charles Hulse, Bart. M. P.	Peter Rainier, Esq.
Sir William Heathcote, Bart. M. P.	John Fleming, Esq. M. P.
Sir Graham Eden Hammond, Bart. C. B.	John Hanbury Beaufoy, Esq.
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Sir Henry Wright Wilson, Knt.	George Collins Poore, Esq.

Robbins and Wheeler, Printers to the County of Southampton.

THE CALENDAR OF PRISONERS FOR TRIAL
AT THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF ASSIZE HELD AT WINCHESTER.
FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW

HAMPSHIRE MACHINE BREAKERS
THE STORY OF THE 1830 RIOTS



JILL CHAMBERS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the following people without whose help much of this work would have been almost impossible to compile: the Staff of the following offices: The National Archives, Kew; Archives Office of New South Wales, Sydney; the Staff of the Archives office of Tasmania, Hobart; The Hampshire Record Office; The Wiltshire & Swindon Archives; The Royal Berkshire Archives; and The Museum of English Rural Life. I have also made good use of The British Newspaper Archive, (so much easier to find the newspaper reports I am interested in since it went online, before that it meant a trip out to the Newspaper Library at Colindale). I must also say a special word of thanks to the late Mary Caldwell, for helping me to start my research into the records at the NSW Archives on my first visit to Australia in the 1980's; the late Professor G. B. Shaman of Tasmania for his shared interest in the *Swing Riots*, and for helping me to piece together so many of the life stories of the rioters sent to Tasmania; the late Roma Draper for her help into the search for the men who arrived in NSW on the *Eleanor*; the late Eleanor Kingston for providing me with a base while carrying out research at the Hampshire Record Office, and for her drawings of the *White Swan* at Sutton Scotney and the *Trumpeter's Cottage*, Selborne. I would also like to thank all the descendants of the Machine Breakers who have contacted me over the years and provided me with details of their particular ancestor, unfortunately I have lost contact with most of them over the years, but I am grateful for their contribution to this work, and I apologise for not naming them all individually.

In the Appendices I have included transcripts of two letters, one written by Joseph Mason and the other by his brother, Robert. These letters, along with others, appear in A. M. Colson's thesis. When I published the first edition of *Hampshire Machine Breakers*, I was unable to find out where the originals of these letters were held but several years later I had a call from the Hampshire Record Office to tell me that they had now been deposited and could be found among the Baring (Northbrook) Family 1730-1935 Papers. Transcripts of the letters can now be seen on the Hampshire Archives website. In the early 1990's while researching for *Berkshire Machine Breakers* at the Berkshire Record Office, as it was then called, I came across Joseph Mason's manuscript, an account of his time as a convict in NSW. In 1996 this account was transcribed and published by David Kent and Norma Townsend under the title *Joseph Mason Assigned Convict, 1831 – 1837*. It makes interesting reading.

In putting together this account of the disturbances and trials in Hampshire I have relied, in the main, to reports that appeared in the national and local papers at the time and letters sent to the Home Office from various individuals in Hampshire, which are held at The National Archives, and can be found under Municipal & Provincial Correspondence 1830 (HO52/7) & 1831 (HO52/13). In instances where the same group of men, or different part of the same group, committed several offences it has not always been possible to decide in which order the events took place. In cases where the evidence differs I have had to draw my own conclusions and these might not always be correct. Similarly, in cases where first names and the spelling of surnames differ in these reports, I have used the spelling as it appears in the Calendar of Prisoners, and, hopefully, keep to the same spelling throughout. The spelling of the parish names are as they appear in the documents of the time, although I know some spellings have changed since 1830.

I have made every effort to check the facts but it is almost inevitable that errors will be found and I would like to apologise in advance for any that appear, and for any wrong conclusions I have drawn. Corrections, amendments and additions are always welcome. I hope that nothing I have written will cause distress or embarrassment to anyone concerned. My thanks once again to all the new friends I have made during the time I have been working on this project.

Jill Chambers
1 November 2024

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AONSW	Archives Office of New South Wales, Sydney
AOTAS	Archives Office of Tasmania, Hobart
BRO	Berkshire Record Office
GRO	Gloucestershire Record Office
HRO	Hampshire Record Office
KRO	Kent Record Office
NSW	New South Wales
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
VDL	Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CLASS LIST ABBREVIATIONS

ADM	Admiralty
ASSI	Clerk of Assize
CO	Colonial Office
HO	Home Office
MH	Ministry of Health
PCOM	Prison Commissioners
PC	Privy Council Office
T	Treasury

INTRODUCTION

When the first edition of *Hampshire Machine Breakers* was published in 1990 it marked the 160th anniversary of the *Swing Riots*, it is hard to believe we are now only six years away from the 200th anniversary. Back in 1990 *Hampshire Machine Breakers* was to be the first in a series of books which, I hoped, would eventually cover every county where rioting and machine breaking took place in 1830/31. Forty four years later I have still not reached that goal, although I have now published volumes covering Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, and Wiltshire, as well as Hampshire, and a book I called *Rebels of the Fields: Robert Mason and the Convicts of the Eleanor*. All these books are now out of print, but I have been updating them and some are now available to download from the Genfair.co.uk

It was in the autumn of 1830 that the agricultural labourers, mainly those in the southern half of England, rose up against their masters in an effort to better the lives of themselves and their families. By the beginning of 1831, instead of the improved working and living conditions they had hoped for, many families found themselves worse off, with the breadwinner confined to prison or worse still on board the prison hulks awaiting transportation to either New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, as Tasmania was then called, and many of those families left behind being described as 'on the parish'.

The riots seem to have been caused by a number of factors, the main ones being poor living conditions, low wages, at least three years of poor harvests, that of 1829 being followed by a very severe winter, which caused further distress to the farm labourer and his family. The last straw in some areas appears to have been the introduction of the threshing machine, as these were seen by the labourer as taking away his winter employment and it was the threshing machine that was to become the main target during the disturbances.

The real trouble started in August 1830, when the first threshing machine was destroyed on the 28th of the month, at Lower Hardres in Kent, but before this there had been several cases of arson reported and a threatening letter had been received at Mildenhall, in Suffolk, as early as February 1830. The trouble spread north and west from Kent and by December 1830, most counties south of a line from Norfolk in the east to Worcestershire in the west had been affected in one way or another. 'Swing' letters, were however received as far west as Herefordshire and incidence of arson occurred as far north as Carlisle.

The disturbances took a variety of forms. Letters were sent to farmers and manufacturers threatening the destruction of their property if they failed to remove their machinery or raise the wages of their workers, many of these letters were signed by the mythical 'Captain Swing'. Stacks and barns were fired and there were riotous assemblies with demands being made for higher wages and a reduction in the tithes. Attacks were made on workhouses and overseers. In Hampshire the workhouses at Selborne and Headley were attacked. At Brede in Sussex a group of labourers loaded Mr Thomas Abel, the unpopular assistant overseer, into the parish cart and wheeled him across the parish boundary where he was unceremoniously dumped. Machines were destroyed, with some of the rioters demanding money, beer or food in return.



2. Thrashing by Hand

The Farm – A New Account of Rural Toils and Produce
by
Jefferys Taylor

Although threshing machines in particular were attacked, as these were seen by the farm labourer as taking away his winter employment, they were not the only machinery to be destroyed. At Hungerford in Berkshire machinery and wrought iron was destroyed at an iron foundry belonging to Richard Gibbons. In Buckinghamshire attacks were made on recently installed machinery at several paper mills along a three mile stretch of river between Loudwater and Chepping Wycombe. Paper mills were also attacked at Colthrop in Berkshire and Lyng and Taverham in Norfolk. Also in Norfolk machinery was destroyed at Robert Calver's sawmill at Catton, and the mill itself was set on alight. At Wilton in Wiltshire a large number of men, led by eighteen-year-old John Jennings caused around £300 worth of damage at John Brasher's woollen cloth factory. In Hampshire machinery valued at £2,000 was demolished at Robert Tasker's Waterloo Foundry at Upper Clatford near Andover, while at Fordingbridge it was East Mill, Samuel Thompson's sacking factory and William Shepherd's threshing machine factory at Stuckton that bore the brunt of the labourer's anger. There were riots involving some Kidderminster carpet weavers, and needle-stamps and presses were destroyed by workers at Redditch in Worcestershire, but it is not certain that these were directly related to the main labourer's movement. In many instances of machine breaking, particularly in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, the labourers made demands for money, beer or food in return for what they termed 'their services'. Many of those involved in this were charged with robbery when they came to trial, which was a capital offence at the time.

The disturbances spread rapidly from one county to the next, taking less than a week to reach Wiltshire from Sussex. The organisation of the movement was almost entirely on a local level with leaders or 'Captains' being chosen from the community. Men like 'Captain' Charles Davis, who led the mob that destroyed Robert Pile's property at Alton Barnes in Wiltshire, or Thomas Hollis, known as 'The King', who led the rioters at Heythorpe in Oxfordshire. Bands of men from one village travelled around the farms and hamlets in their area gathering men, destroying machinery and in some cases levying money, as they went. News of what was happening passed quickly from one village to the next and it was not long before another band of men with similar grievances

were making their way around their area. One man who led rioters in more than one county was James Thomas Cooper, also referred to as ‘Captain’ or ‘Lord Hunt’. He led rioters in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset, and was executed at Winchester on 15th January 1831. In many counties the trouble was short lived, for example, the riots reached Hampshire around the 10th November and were virtually all over by the 26th of the same month.

It was the contagious aspect of the riots that alarmed the authorities, although they were rather slow to react at first. Some troops were dispatched to troubled areas but the Government left it to the rural magistrates to deal with the problem as they saw fit. When the new Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, took office in November 1830, it was seen that this was not enough. The Yeomanry were mobilised, special constables were sworn in and landowners organised their own forces made up of tenants and servants. By the end of December 1830, the main wave of rioting was virtually all over and almost 2,000 men and women had been rounded up and were awaiting trial. The Government considered that the magistrates in Kent, who had already tried some of the rioters, were being too lenient and a Special Commission was set up to deal with those in what were considered the worst affected counties, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Dorset, even though the riots in the Dorset were not on the same scale as those in the other four counties. Those prisoners that remained were left to be dealt with at the Assize Courts or Quarter Sessions.

The trials did not bring an immediate end to the disturbances. Riots and demonstrations continued into 1831, in some areas carried on into 1832, with more threshing machines being broken and, if anything, the number of cases of arson reported continuing to grow after this time.

Almost before the trials were over petitions were organised by individuals, and the inhabitants of numerous towns and villages throughout the country, in an attempt to save those sentenced to death and to plead for a reduction in the sentence of the others. In some cases the petitions had the desired effect, but in all 19 men were executed, over 600 were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment, and more than 480 were sentenced to transportation for either life, or fourteen years or seven years.

Their exile began with the move from gaol to the prison hulks, for the majority of these men that meant a journey to Portsmouth and the hulk *York*. For most of them their stay on the *York* was to be short, in the case of many of the men who sailed on the *Eliza*, it was no more than a day or two as by the 6th February 1831, 224 men were on board the *Eliza* bound for Tasmania and by April, 1831 the majority of the remaining prisoners were also on their way, either on the *Eleanor* that sailed for New South Wales with 132 machine breakers on board, or the *Protens* that carried 112 men to Tasmania, 98 of them having been convicted of machine breaking, or connected crimes. All three ships carried men who had been convicted at Winchester. These three ships took between 111 and 126 to reach their destination. Several more men, and two women were to follow the three main ships, arriving in Australia alone, or in two’s and three’s, over the next few years, making them one of the largest ever groups of people to be transported as a result of what was the worst ever disturbance in rural England. Not all of those sentenced to transportation actually sailed, some were to serve part of their sentence on board the hulks before being pardoned. Men like Joseph Carter from Sutton Scotney who was to give an account of the riots in an interview by Alexander Somerville in 1845. A sentence of death was recorded against him at his trial, this was reduced to 7 years transportation and he arrived on the *York* hulk on 12th February 1831. On the 1st March 1831 he was moved to the *Hardy* hulk and received a Free Pardon on 20th December 1832, after a number of petitions on his behalf had been sent to the Home Office.

The majority of the men who were involved in the riots were farm labourers, like Joseph Carter and David Champ from Hampshire and Edward Marsh and Charles Symes from Dorset, but some other occupations are represented. John Dandridge and Thomas Bowles were described as papermakers, as were many of the other men from Buckinghamshire. There were also a few blacksmiths, like John Tongs and George Carter both from Hampshire. Another blacksmith was Maurice Pope from Wiltshire who was also described as a prize fighter. More unusual occupations

included James Pumphrey, a road surveyor from Hampshire, and Thomas Whatley a carpet weaver from Wiltshire. In some cases more than one member of the same family was tried and transported. On board the *Eleanor* were four Shergold's from Wiltshire, cousins George and Henry and brothers George and John. Other brothers were Joseph and Robert Mason, Charles and John Bulpitt, Isaac and James Manns, all from Hampshire, Charles and John Horton from Berkshire, and Adam and James Thorne from Dorset. Four members of the Sims family of St Mary Bourne, were sentenced to transportation, William Sims and his son Daniel, who were tried at Winchester, and another son William, who was tried at Reading, sailed on the *Eleanor* and a third son John, also tried at Winchester, who sailed on the *Proteus*.

The two women sentenced to transportation were Elizabeth Studman from Kent, who arrived at Hobart on the *Mary* in October 1831 and Elizabeth Parker who was sentenced to transportation for seven years for breaking a threshing machine at Tetbury in Gloucestershire, but received a free pardon and was discharged in July 1831. She came up for trial again at the Gloucester Assizes held in March 1832, charged with stealing money from Daniel Cole. She was found guilty and sentenced to transportation for life, arriving in Hobart on the *Frances Charlotte* in January 1833.

The voyages of the ships that carried these men to Australia seem to have been fairly routine, but there is some indication that the prisoners were given limited privileges. It was normal practice for convicts to be handcuffed together and secured by leg irons while exercising on deck. Thomas Logan, the surgeon on the *Proteus*, notes in his journal that the prisoners in his charge had their irons removed, *'Most of them from the country, farm labourers, a few of them were artisans. Generally speaking they had the sturdy build of labouring men. Their awkwardness and stiffness were such that I became desirous of removing the embarrassment which their irons too evidently occasioned - not to speak of the danger of accidents to which they exposed them. They were accordingly all removed before leaving Portsmouth; nor did subsequent experience teach me that this act of consideration and beneficence had exceeded the limits of just prudence.'*¹

On arrival in Australia the men were kept on board until all their details had been taken. This having been done they were then brought ashore. From a letter written by Robert Mason of Hampshire, on his arrival in Sydney, we learn that the men on the *Eleanor* '*were permitted to come on shore in our own clothes, a great indulgence and considered an extraordinary thing by the people.'*²

In the same letter we learn that the men from the *Eleanor* were taken to the barracks where they were inspected by the secretary '*and then put into a backyard with orders not to correspond with those who were sent here for CRIMES. The character that our Cap' and Docf gave us excellent and the people of Sydney considered us downright honest men a valuable qualification here.'*³

In 1831 the assignment system was still in operation, and after being brought ashore, the men were assigned to government service or to individual settlers.

More than half of the men transported were married with families at the time of the riots and after they had been in Australia a year or two a few of them applied to the Governor for permission to have their families brought out at government expense. One of these was George Carter who applied and was given permission to have his wife and ten children sent out from Tangleigh in Hampshire. As he and his wife and most of their children appear in the 1851 census for Tangleigh it would seem that rather than his family join him in Australia he found some way of returning to England. Other men had their families brought out at their own expense after they were free and some, not all of them bachelors, married in Australia and made new lives for themselves. Peter Withers wrote several times to his wife in Wiltshire asking her to join him in Tasmania. He heard nothing from her until 1844, by which time he had married again. In his reply, dated 20th October 1844, he tells her of this. *'I now that for to eare that I am married is a hard trial for you to bare but it is no good to tell you a lye I sent a great many Leters Before I took a wife so not earing from you an I being a young man'*

¹ TNA – ADM101/62/6 – Surgeon's Journal, *Proteus*

² HRO – 92M95/F2/8/10 (95092 – Baring (Northbrook) family – 1730-1935)

³ HRO – 92M95/F2/8/10 (95092 – Baring (Northbrook) family – 1730-1935)

*I thought it a Proper thing to Look a partner which would be a comfort to me in my Bondage so we must not think about coming together again.*⁴

Even before the *Eliza* sailed efforts were underway in Parliament to try and obtain freedom for the men, but it was to be three years before Governor Arthur was directed to release the first machine breaker. This was John Boyes, who received a Free Pardon in June, 1834. He had been a farmer in Owslebury, Hampshire at the time of the riots and once pardoned he returned there and continued to farm until his death in 1856. In August 1835, 264 machine breakers were pardoned and more were pardoned in the years that followed. By the mid 1840's the majority of the men had received their freedom, either by way of a Conditional or Absolute, Pardon or a Certificate of Freedom. The only ones excluded were those who had been convicted of colonial offences. Men like Joseph Arney, of Fordingbridge in Hampshire, who was transported to Norfolk Island for the cattle stealing in 1836. On the whole the 'Swing' prisoners were fairly well behaved. The conduct records for the *Eliza* and *Proteus* men show only minor offences in the main, mostly relating to drunkenness or the neglect of duty. Although the offences appear minor the punishments may seem rather harsh to us. Henry Eldridge, another Hampshire man, who arrived on the *Eleanor*, was sentenced to a total of 125 lashes between March and June, 1833, his crimes were absconding, neglect of duty, violent language and disobedience.

The men, who had received a Certificate of Freedom on the expiry of their sentence or an Absolute Pardon, were free to return to England if they wished or could afford to, and some did as we have already seen with the case of John Boyes and George Carter. Another Hampshire man, John Tongs, returned to his family in Michelmersh, but by 1842 he was back in Hobart again, this time as a free migrant and accompanied by his family. For the vast majority of the men though there was to be no return to England. Like Peter Withers, most stayed on in Australia and made new lives for themselves, working as labourers, tradesmen, farmers and innkeepers. Some made their way to Victoria during the Gold Rush, others after much hard work, prospered, a prosperity they might not have achieved had they remained in England.

Perhaps the petition received by the Home Office in 1847 shows that the passage of time had done little to ease the feeling of loss felt by the families at home. It was from Elizabeth Cheater of Breamore, in Hampshire, whose son William Cheater had been sentenced to transportation for life at the Special Assizes in Wiltshire, in December 1830. She begs that her son be allowed to visit England in order that she can see him again before she dies. A negative answer was sent to this plea.

In this, and the other volumes in the series, I am trying to piece together the events in each county and find out something about those who were involved and what became of the families left behind when their men folk had been transported, and is not an attempt to discover the cause of the uprising. The information on the *Rioters* included in this volume is by no means the complete story; further research will no doubt bring more information to light. Over the years since *Hampshire Machine Breakers* was first published I have been contacted by many descendant of the men involved in the riots, and I am indebted to them for the information they have passed on to me on their particular ancestor and for putting me in touch with other descendants. It would seem that a number of those transported maintained contact with their former ship mates. Some acted as witnesses at weddings, others purchased property together, as in the case of William North and Robert Blake from Wiltshire, they also married sisters, as did Isaac Manns from Hampshire and Daniel Handcock from Berkshire. Just before the first edition of *Hampshire Machine Breakers* was published I was contacted by a descendant of Isaac Manns, who told me that when his son married in 1975, the bride and groom were unaware at the time, that 144 years earlier they both had an ancestor who had been accused of machine breaking and had sailed for New South Wales on board the *Eleanor*; Isaac Manns had been tried at Winchester and Thomas Radburn at Reading.

⁴ AOTAS – Withers Letters

PART I: THE RIOTS

On the thirtieth of November,
Last 1830,
Our Owslebury lads they did prepare
All for the machinery,
And when they did get there,
My eye! How they let fly;
The machinery fell to pieces
In the twinkling of an eye.

Chorus – Oh mob, such a mob
Never was seen before,
And if we live this hundred years,
We never shall see more.

Part of a song entitled ‘The Owslebury Lads’,
appears in *The Painful Plough*. Selected and edited by Roy Palmer

4th September– 18th November 1830

Saturday, 4th September

During the night a fire was discovered in a wheat rick belonging to Mr John Buckland, at Satchell Farm, Hound, near Hamble. The fire is thought to have been the work of an incendiary. This is not the first time that Mr Buckland's property has been attacked by incendiaries. At about 1 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday 10th December 1828, fire was discovered in a barn on his premises, and within a short while it had communicated to various other farm buildings, the whole of which were destroyed, together with two large wheat ricks, a barley rick, a large quantity of barley and wheat in the barn, and other property, including eight fine cart horses in the stables, several pigs, and the whole of the poultry on the farm. The loss, exclusive of the buildings on this occasion, was estimated at from £1500 to £2000 and although Mr Buckland's property was insured with the Norwich Union Office, the amount was not nearly adequate to cover the value of the stock destroyed.⁵

Monday, 13th September

The following notice, offering a reward of £200 for the conviction of the person or persons who set fire to Mr Buckland's property, appeared in today's edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle*.⁶

ARSON.

£200 REWARD.

In the Night between Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th of September, 1830, some evil-disposed person or persons wilfully and maliciously SET FIRE TO A WHEAT RICK, the property of Mr John Buckland, of *Satchell Farm*, in the parish of Hound, near Hamble, Hants.

The above Reward is hereby offered by the *Norwich Union Insurance Company*, in which office Mr Buckland's stock and buildings, and other considerable properties in the neighbourhood, are insured; and will be paid on the conviction of the offender or offenders, to any person or persons who will give such information and evidence as shall lead to conviction, by

CHAS. WOOLDRIDGE, Jun.

Agent to the said Company at Winchester.

Saturday, 18th September 1830

Today the Reverend William Hill Newbolt wrote from Winchester to Sir Robert Peel, applying for assistance to apprehend James Spencer, who has been charged with malicious burning, and is thought to have escaped to Jersey.⁷

Winchester 13th Sept^r 1830

Sir

In my capacity of a Magistrate for the County of Hants, I am compelled to claim your assistance under the following circumstances.

On the night of the 4th September last, a wheat rick, the property of Mr John Buckland, was destroyed by Fire at the Parish of Hound in this County. Myself and another Magistrates have since that period sat several days in the Investigation of the affair: and that investigation has brought to light some circumstances attending a fire which took place on the same person's premises in December 1828, on which occasion several Horses were burnt to death in the stable, and a large quantity of Buildings and of Corn were destroyed. It is clear that both the Fires were the work of incendiaries: and we have committed two men for Trial.

Very strong Evidence is before us, against one James Spencer, who constantly lived in the same parish of Hound, until after our Investigation had commenced. We assigned a Warrant against him on a charge of his being concerned in the Fire of September, having

⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 15 December 1828 & 13 December 1830

⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13& 20 September 1830

⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f9-10

equally strong Evidence against him as to the former Fire, but we have since discovered that he is in Jersey.

The object of this Application is therefore to obtain an Authority for Apprehension, which Authority, if it be permitted to me, shall be placed in the hands of a proper Officer here, under my direction.

I take the liberty to add my opinion that it is desirable in various respects, for effecting the ends of Justice, that no time should be lost in the apprehension of this man.

I have the Honor to remain

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

W.H. Newbolt D.D.

Magistrate for the County of Hampshire

Monday, 27th September

It is reported in today's edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle* that two men, James Hatcher and John Sansom, have this week been committed to the county gaol, for trial at the next Assizes, on a charge of having maliciously set fire to a rick of wheat, the property of Mr John Buckland, at Hound, near Southampton.⁸

Wednesday, 29th September

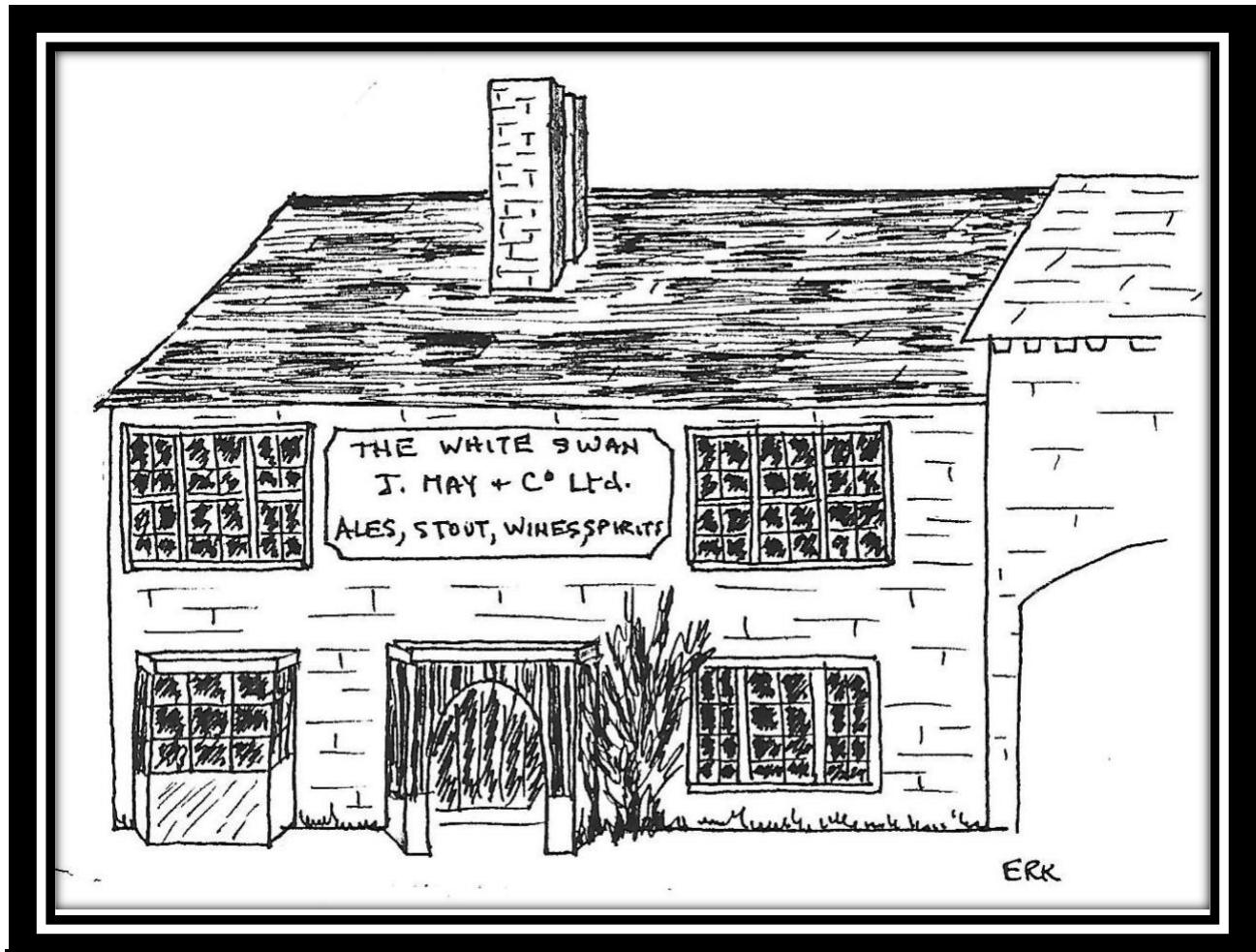
A meeting of The Radical and Musical Society was held at the Swan Inn, Sutton Scotney this evening. It was attended by a number of farmers, labourers and freeholders from the parishes of Barton Stacey, Bullington and Wonston and a petition, pointing out the distress faced by the poor of England, was drawn up and signed by 176 people. Joseph Mason, a smallholder from Bullington, was delegated to draft the Petition, and he used William Cobbett's "*Letter to the King*", which had appeared in the stamped edition of the *Political Register* of 18th September 1830. As well as including general information on sinecures, taxation, tithes and church property he included some local grievances, and has added some thoughts of his own.⁹

All those present contributed a few pence towards the cost of sending Joseph Mason to Brighton to present the petition to the King, he will make the sixty mile journey on foot, and a total of 17s has been subscribed for his expenses.¹⁰

⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 September 1830

⁹ See Appendix 3 for a transcript of the Petition and the names of those who signed it

¹⁰ *The Radical and Musical Society* met at cottages and ale houses in the Bullington area. As a rule the meetings began with beer and a song, before moving on to local political subjects and the reading out of the latest edition of Cobbett's *Political Register*. Brothers Joseph and Robert Mason were among the members of the Society.



3. The White Swan, Sutton Scotney
 © Eleanor Kingston

Wednesday, 20th October

On arriving in Brighton, Joseph Mason went to the Pavilion, where the King was in residence, expecting to exercise his right to petition his Majesty. He carried the Petition signed by 176 men from Wonston, Barton Stacey and Bullington, which he handed in, together with a letter, and was kept waiting for a reply.¹¹

Thursday, 21st October

Today Joseph Mason, who was in Brighton, received a letter from Sir Herbert Taylor, informing him that the Home Department was the official channel that should be used to petition the King.

Pavilion, Brighton, October, 21, 1830

SIR, - I have received your letter of yesterday, inclosing the petition which you have been deputed by certain persons belonging to the working and labouring classes of the parishes of Wonston, Barton Stacey, and Bullington, near Winchester, to present to the King, and I beg to acquaint you, for the information of those who have signed this petition, that the Secretary of State for the Home Department is the proper and official channel of such communications to his Majesty. I therefore return the petition to you, and I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
 H, Taylor.

Mr. Joseph Mason, Bullington, Hants

¹¹ Cobbett's Weekly Political Register, 16 June 1832

To travel to London with the Petition and to then return home would have meant a trip of around one hundred and twenty miles. Instead Joseph Mason went to a gentleman in Brighton, who he knew had been brought up in Winchester, and gave him the Petition together with the note from Sir Herbert Taylor, in the hope that he could see that the Petition reached the Secretary of State.¹²

Wednesday, 10th November

Anonymous letters have been received by farmers in the Portsmouth area, some of them promising vengeance if they continue the use of threshing machines.¹³

Thursday, 11th November

Mr James Westmore, a government contractor who has extensive warehouses at Newtown near Gosport, received a letter threatening to destroy his premises by fire. It was signed "Swing". This evening at around half past ten the threat was carried out and three ricks, one of straw and two of hay, and several head of cattle were destroyed. The wind was fortunately from the westward, which prevented the flames spreading to the large range of stores and the adjoining barn. Had it not been for the active exertions of the Officers of the Navy, Army and Engineers, with their men under orders, and the inhabitants of the town, the loss would have been much more serious. Immediately the fire was discovered, engines were landed from the *St Vincent* and *Asia*, at the same time the other men of war in the Harbour landed their crews to assist. Detachments from the different regiments also hastened to the spot, and were of great service in preserving order. There seems no doubt that the fire was started deliberately and every exertion is being made to discover the offender. The fire was not subdued until the early morning, Captain Purvis, of Bury Hall, a County Magistrate, remained on the spot the whole night.¹⁴

Mr Elkins, a farmer at Brockenhurst, has received a letter from the incendiaries, stating that unless he removes his threshing machines, his premises will be burned. Several letters, with the same threat, have also been written to individuals in the Portsmouth area. It has been reported that a stranger to the area has been apprehended, and committed for examination, after he was heard to say, "This is nothing to those I have seen in Sussex."

The Hants, Sussex and Dorset Fire Office have offered a reward of £50 for the conviction of any incendiary.¹⁵

Friday, 12th November

An anonymous letter was sent to Sir Robert Peel at the Home Department today. It complained of the harsh treatment of agricultural labourers, and was sent from Gosport.¹⁶

¹² *Cobbett's Weekly Political Register*, 16 June 1832. NOTE: According to William Cobbett this gentleman sent the Petition and Herbert Taylor's letter to his brother who lived in London, who, in turn, took the papers to Cobbett to see how he should proceed. After looking at the papers and hearing the story Cobbett said he would take them.

¹³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 15 November 1830

¹⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 15 & 22 November 1830. NOTE: This was John Brett Purvis R.N. of Bury Hall, Alvestoke

¹⁵ *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, 21 & 22 November 1830

¹⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f7-8

Gosport
12th November 1830

The incendiary Firing of Wheat Ricks and Barns which has for some time past spread nightly alarm and destruction through various parts of Kent and Sussex, has I am sorry to inform you extended to this Neighbourhood. The ricks of Mr Westmore of this Town, situated just without the Gates were fired last night and might have proved exceedingly disastrous. But although the principal desire of the incendiaries was frustrated by the speedy extinguishment of the fire in the barns and outer sheds connected with the Granary (a very large store) still there has been considerable destruction of property and a general panic defused among the Inhabitants of this part of the County of Hants particularly among the Farming Classes, several of whom either possessing or occasionally using Thrashing Machines have received anonymous threatening letters.

Averse as I should be to hint publickley by a single word anything that should seem to excuse such unlawful and wicked proceedings I cannot forbear privately representing to you that the agricultural peasantry are generally in an oppressed and discontented condition, and that Farmers have themselves, and only themselves to blame for their calamities and there is much reason to suspect that at bottom it would be found the Farmers are aiming against the tythes and wish to cast the of it on the peasantry who they are pushing to desperation. The Farmer has by an illiberal, grinding system of impolitical grudging economy, wickedly thrown his Labourers on the Poor Laws for that support which they ought to receive in the form of fair wages for their labor, hence has followed a reckless desperation of temper among the people ready for any vindictive and evil (act?) of violence. The Farmers quite inexcusable, as he is, and has been getting, good prices for his produce. Let him do the thing that is just and equal toward his labourer and all will soon be well.

Think, Sir, for a moment of the condition of Thousands of our Agricultural Labourers on 6/s or 8/s pr week going day after day to their work assisted by one or two or more children with only a scanty piece of Dry Bread and a Bottle of Water – Harshly told by the Farmer, if they need more to apply to the Parish and when the peasant with reluctant steps has found the overseers, he is refused, usually with abusive language, on the Ground of his “being in work”!!

My name can add no weight to the feeble representation. I Remain

✓✓✓

Saturday, 13th November

At about six o'clock this evening a barn belonging to Mr Ball of Longparish was set on fire. The fire was discovered almost immediately and the flames extinguished before they had done too much damage.¹⁷

Another meeting of local reformers, farmers, labourers and freeholders was held at the *Swan Inn* at Sutton Scotney today. The rejection of their petition to the King was discussed and Joseph Mason read out a letter, supposed to have been sent from Overton, which urged the men to strike for higher wages, stop the ploughs, send home the horses for the farmers to look after themselves and break all the threshing machines.¹⁸

Monday, 15th November

The Conservative Government, led by the Duke of Wellington in the House of Lords, and Sir Robert Peel, who was the Home Secretary, and Leader of the House of Commons, lost a vote of no confidence today. The Duke had overseen the introduction of Catholic Emancipation, but

¹⁷ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 22 November 1830. NOTE: It would seem most likely that this was Thomas Ball, of *Gravel Acre Farm*, who was buried on 27 March 1837 at Longparish, age 57.

¹⁸ *The Whistler at the Plough*; Alexander Somerville's interview with Joseph Carter of Sutton Scotney in 1845. Joseph Carter was tried at Winchester and sentenced to 7 years' transportation. He received a Free Pardon and was released from the *Hardy Hulk* in December 1832. See Appendix 2 for a transcript of this interview.

remained resolutely opposed to parliamentary reform. The Whigs under Lord Grey formed the new government, with Lord Melbourne the new Home Secretary.

This evening there was an extraordinary occurrence at Strathfield Saye Church, which caused great alarm and consternation in the neighbourhood of the Duke of Wellington's mansion, which is near the church. A great blaze of light was seen in the body of the church and it was feared that the church had been set on fire. Many people ran to the church to offer assistance. The keys were obtained and the doors opened, and to the amazement of all it was discovered that someone had lit a large fire in the stove in the Duke of Wellington's pew. There is much speculation as to how this could have been done as all the doors and windows of the church were found to be fastened. The park gates, which were formerly allowed to remain open to the public, and also those leading to the mansion, have been kept locked since the late commotion in London, and it is said that a number of men are kept continually within doors to resist any attack that might be made upon the premises.¹⁹

Tuesday, 16th November

The former Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, had arranged for a notice to be inserted into the Hampshire papers, offering the King's Pardon to anyone, who can offer information which results in the capture and conviction of the persons who set fire to Mr Westmore's property at Gosport on the 11th November. This pardon will not include the person who actually set fire to the rick.²⁰

WHITEHALL, Nov. 16, 1830

WHEREAS it hath been humbly represented unto the King, that between ten and eleven o'clock in the night of Thursday the 11th day of November instant, a STRAW RICK, in the Farm Yard of James Westmore, Esq. at Newtown, near Gosport, in the county of Hants, was wilfully and maliciously SET ON FIRE by some evil disposed person or persons unknown, whereby the same and two Ricks of Hay were destroyed. His Majesty, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice of the persons concerned in the felony before mentioned, is hereby pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them (except the person who actually set fire to the said Straw Rick) who shall discover his accomplice or accomplices therein, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

ROBERT PEEL.

And, as a further encouragement, a Reward of FIFTY POUNDS is hereby offered by the Directors of the *Hants, Sussex, and Dorset Fire Office*, at Gosport, to any person, except as aforesaid, who shall discover the said offender or offenders, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted of the said offence; to be paid on conviction by DAVID COMPIGNE, Secretary.

During the night Fareham was visited by some incendiary. A large stack and a quantity of trussed hay belonging to Mess^{rs} James and William Merrett at Wallington, in the parish of Fareham, was set on fire. The stack was in the centre of many other ricks of hay and corn, and it appears to have been selected to ensure that it communicated to the other ricks in the vicinity. Greater damage was prevented by the speed at which the Fareham engine reached the scene, the stillness of the night, and the large number of people of all classes who assisted in putting out the fire. The fire was discovered at 12 o'clock and by 4 in the morning was sufficiently under control to ensure the safety of the other ricks, but not without some difficulty and danger, this was achieved by cutting down and carrying away parts of the burning rick that the fire had not yet reached, and keeping the flames in check by means of the engine, which was well supplied with water. It is thought that the rick must have been set fire to in several places, as one end and two sides were all ignited at the same time.²¹

¹⁹ *Sherborne Mercury*, 22 November 1830. NOTE: Wellington had been jostled in the park in London and received threatening letters, telling him to remember Prime Minister Spencer Percival, who had been assassinated. He ordered that all the shutters on the ground floor of Apsley House, his home in London, should be closed and the gates to the yard and stable locked.

²⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830

²¹ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

The greatest alarm prevails amongst the farmers in the area between Winchester and Gosport, In consequence of the fire at Mr Westmore's rick yard, near Gosport, last week, and the one at Mess^{rs} Merrett's, at Wallington, this week. Letters threatening the destruction of corn and farm buildings continue to be received by many farmers. Mr John Whale, of Exton, has today received one such letter. The most active measures are however being taken to put a stop to these nightly scenes of destruction, and both horse and foot patrols have been established in the Gosport area, and many farmers keep a nightly watch on their property.²²

Wednesday, 17th November

The inhabitants of Fareham met today and formed an association and a reward of £500 has been offered to anyone who can give information that will lead to the discovery of the incendiary who attacked Mess^{rs} Merrett's rick-yard last night and a reward of £100 will be given for the discovery of any future incendiary in this parish. All the labourers who helped put out the fire have been rewarded for their assistance. In case of any future attacks the farmers of Fareham have set up a night watch around their properties.²³

At about one o'clock this afternoon a large party of labourers arrived in Whitchurch. They visited several shops where they demanded provisions, and it has been reported that they took what they wanted by force if their requests were not granted. At the private houses they asked for money, which was not, in most cases, given.

From Whitchurch they moved on to Charlcot Farm, to demand the destruction of the threshing machines. Many of the men remained at the house, insisting on money and provisions, which were given.²⁴

Several respectable inhabitants of Whitchurch went to Charlcot, and after remonstrating with the men on the impropriety of their conduct promised that a meeting would be called to inquire into their distress, and some arrangement made to raise their wages, if they would immediately and quietly depart, which they agreed they would do after first going to Freefolk House where they would make their grievances known to Mr John Portal.²⁵

Mr Portal met them on the road and the men behaved in a very orderly manner towards him. He has promised that a parish meeting will be held to consider their grievances. His assurances seemed to satisfy the men and they dispersed quietly.²⁶

Several fires were seen in the Fareham area this evening. The fire at Hamble seems to have been very extensive. The others were at Droxford and on Portsdown Hill. Threatening letters have also been received by a number of farmers in the area.²⁷

Thursday, 18th November

The following is an extract from a letter from Fareham, Hants, and dated 18th November.

I am grieved to have to inform you of several additional proofs of the alarming state of things in this neighbourhood: Last night several fires were observed in different directions: one at Hamble, another at Droxford, and another at the back of Portsdown-hill. The fire at Hamble was very extensive, but I have not yet learnt whose premises were destroyed. Several persons in this neighbourhood have received threatening letters, and we are all in terror and astonishment.”²⁸

²² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

²³ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

²⁴ Charles Edney would appear to have been the farmer at Charlcot Farm in 1830

²⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830; *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*, 25 November 1830

²⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830. NOTE: *The Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November & the *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*, 25 November, both report that the labourers extorted money by threats & used very abusive language towards Mr Portal. This statement is corrected in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830 – “On the contrary, their behaviour was most orderly.”

²⁷ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 22 November 1830. NOTE: *Evening Mail*, 24 November 1830, “It is not true that a fire took place at Droxford this week, as reported in a London paper yesterday.”

²⁸ *Sherborne Mercury*, 22 November 1830

A mob gathered at Mitcheldever and a wages meeting was held. Levies were made on householders and passers-by. Among the households visited was that of Sarah Whincop where the mob committed some damage before asking for money. In the hope of preventing further damage she handed over 15 shillings to James Pumphrey who was among the mob. He told her he would see to it that she was not bothered by the mob again. The men were later seen by John Coombs in a public house. They were in the process of sharing out the money they had collected during the day. Pumphrey said Mrs Whincop's money was to be spent on beer.²⁹

The home of the Reverend James Jolliffe, curate of Barton Stacey, was visited today by a mob of around 80 labourers. They demanded meat and drink. He told them that he could not give them much. Among the mob was Robert Mason, a smallholder from Bullington, who said, 'You have more than we have, and you must give us something.' A number of men in the crowd called out, 'We must have five shillings.' Fearing that they might cause damage either to him or his property the Reverend Jolliffe handed over the money to Robert Mason.³⁰

Mr Edmund Portsmouth, of Eastrop Farm, received a letter which threatened that his premises would be set alight if he did not remove his threshing machine. He has taken the threat seriously and today removed his machine. Mr Robert Buxton, a farmer at Monk Sherborne has followed his example.³¹

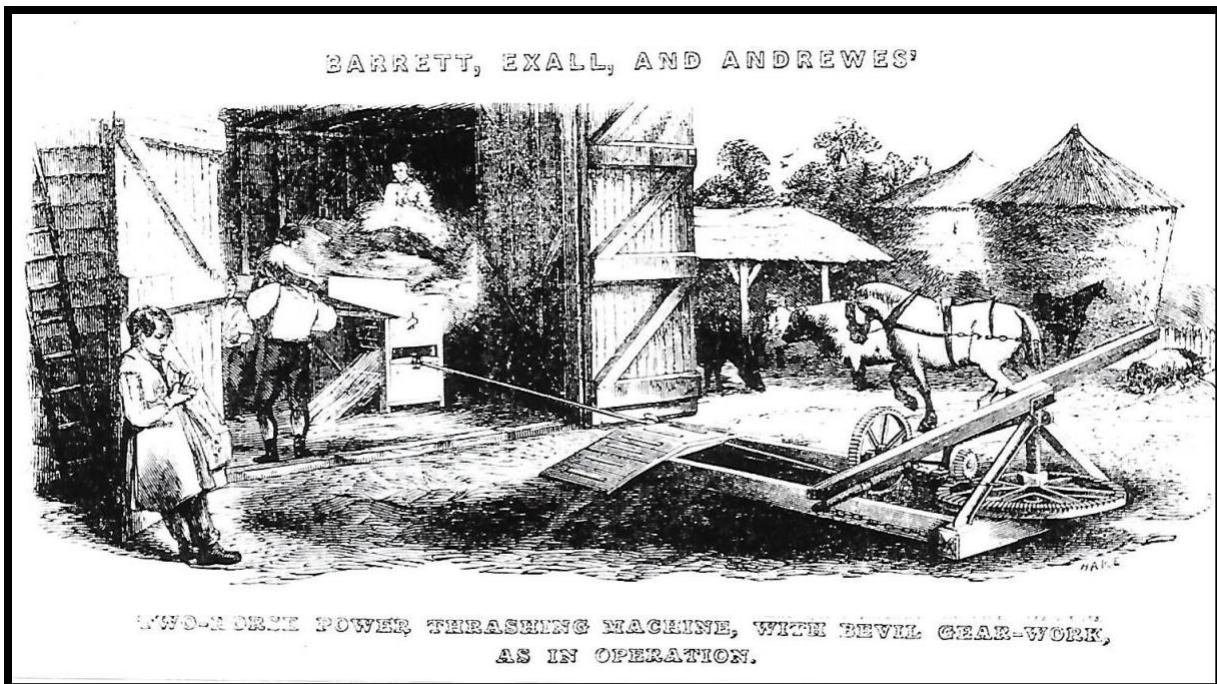
The town of Overton, and its neighbourhood, have seen scenes of great tumult and alarm today. Early this morning several hundred labourers assembled, and paraded around the streets, demanding money and food from the inhabitants, and saying they, their wives and children, had been starving long enough on a diet of potatoes and bread, and that their sufferings were now past all endurance. If they could not get more wages for their labour, they would take what they could get without working at all. Many of the neighbouring farmers, their masters, came into the town, and used every endeavour to pacify them, and persuade them to return peaceably to their homes and their work, with promises that their wages would be raised and their wants relieved. When they heard this, the men dispersed, but not before they had received money and food from some shopkeepers and other inhabitants of the town.³²

²⁹ *Morning Herald (London)*, 30th December 1830. NOTE: Sarah appears as Sarah Wincombe in all the newspaper reports, but as Sarah Whincop in the 1830 Gaol Calendar. Sarah was born at Stogursey in Somerset, and on 23 February 1815 Sarah Exon of East Stratton and Robert Whincop, were married at Micheldever. Robert is described 'of this parish'. Robert Whincop died in 1842, aged 71, and Sarah on 14 January 1859

³⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831

³¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830; *Evening Mail*, 24 November 1830. NOTE: Eastrop Farm also appears in reports as Estrop Farm. NOTE: Robert Buxton, of Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, was buried at Monk Sherborne 9 February 1833, age 45

³² *Morning Advertiser*, 22 November 1830; *The Times*, 22 November 1830



4. Barrett, Exall & Andrews' Two Horse Threshing Machine, 1840
(MERL, Reading)

The farm workers in the Emsworth, Havant, Westbourne and Warblington area have been at work breaking machines today. Early this morning they began to gather in Westbourne, before proceeding on to other parishes in the area, destroying ever threshing machine they found and pressing other labourers to join them.

Later in the morning news reached Havant of a large body of men, armed with sledge hammers, cross-cut saws, and large club sticks, in the yard of Mr Gawn Holloway, at Emsworth, cutting and knocking his threshing machine to pieces. They said they meant to destroy all the other machines in the neighbourhood. When Captain Henry John Leeke, a Magistrate residing in Havant, received the news he immediately set out on horseback for Emsworth. Just at the entrance of the town he met the party, about thirty in number, on their way to the Reverend Mr William Norris's. Captain Leeke asked them what their object was, they told him that as their present wages were not sufficient to live on, and they meant to destroy every threshing machine in the neighbourhood. Captain Leeke remonstrated with them on the impropriety of their conduct and, pointed out to them that they were pursuing the wrong means to redress their grievances, and recommended them to apply to the Magistrates, who, he was sure, would offer them every assistance, however, they would not listen to him and proceeded eastwards, threatening to return again the following day.

Captain Leeke was not able to stop them, nor were the few constables of the neighbourhood able to do anything, and the people were unwilling to assist for fear of the consequences to themselves. Captain Leeke then returned to Havant, where he met Sir John Lee, another Magistrate, and they proceeded to swear in Special Constables, and devise means of repressing the lawless spirit, which it seems is rapidly spreading. This afternoon they wrote a letter to Sir Colin Campbell, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Portsmouth Garrison, begging that he would have the kindness to order a detachment of soldiers to be ready to move should the need arise. Sir Richard Williams, the Commandant in the absence of Sir Colin Campbell, immediately replied that a force was in readiness to assist the civil power in case they should be required.

By the afternoon the mob had committed several acts of violence, breaking every threshing machine they could find, and extorting money and beer from various houses which lay in their way. At least nine threshing machines were broken to pieces, even though it is reported that they had not been used lately. Among the machines broken were those belonging to The Reverend Mr William Norris at Warblington, Mr James Stevens, at Castle Warblington, Mr Butler, Joseph Freeland, David Wells, John King, David Walker at Emsworth, and Mrs Sarah Holloway's, all in the immediate neighbourhood. At Mrs Holloway's they took away a large quantity of beer and

pork. After the mob had broken Mr Stevens machine one of the men, George Jenman, demanded money and told him that they would set fire to his house if they did not get it.

The soldiers at the Portsmouth Garrison remained under arms throughout the night, but were not called out.³³

The following is an extract of a letter received by a gentleman in this town (Southampton):- "Emsworth, Nov. 18th, 1830. — "We have had very bad riots here today — Mr Holloway's machine broken to pieces before the eyes of half the inhabitants, and in the middle of the day. The same thing at John King's, Mrs. Holloway's at Leigh, and other places. It is said they also broke into Mrs. H's cellar. We expect sad work to-night. There has been no attempt at arresting any of the rioters. They all belong to the neighbourhood. The actual breakers about a dozen; the whole mob perhaps 100." ³⁴

At Portsmouth 150 special constables have been sworn in.

Mr Robert Parsons wrote to Sir Francis Freeling today from Petersfield to inform him of the large numbers of labourers who had been going around the area demanding an increase in their wages.³⁵

Post Office Petersfield
Nov^r 18th 1830

Hon^d Sir,

I think it proper to inform you the state of this part of the Country — about 300 men assembled in the parish of Harting — and went to Uppark the seat of Sir H. Featherston to insist on an increase of wages they entered the House and threatened immediate destruction to the House if he did not come in person and promise them their wishes — that being done left quietly — last night the two parishes of Harting and Rogate — met in a body and proceed'd to all the Farmers - for the same purpose they was all obliged to comply to their request — the same assemblys to day began at Compton and West Marden they began at the Rector of the parish in the same was as before; they arrived in a large body of men — we have had a meeting to day of all the principal Farmers in the neighbourhood; they all agreed to allow the men more wages, and are taken down all the Machinery — we expect a large body of men here to morrow from the parishes round — should any thing more serious happen I will inform you.

Hon^d Sir

Yr Most ob^t Ser^t

R. Parsons

A hay rick on the property of Mr Robert Longman, at Wadwick, in the parish of St Mary Bourne, was fired this evening. The fire was visible at Andover. This is yet another case of the incendiary at work, or so it is thought.³⁶

Mr Henry Hunt was in Basingstoke this evening, selling his "Matchless".³⁷

Friday, 19 November 1830

In consequence of the large number of agricultural labourers, and others, assembling between Chichester and Havant, the magistrates of Havant applied to Portsmouth and Gosport for an additional number of constables, to assist the local police. At five o'clock this morning, 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 3 Sergeants, and 100 rank and file of the 47th regiment, under the command

³³ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 22 November 1830; *The Times*, 23 November 1830. NOTE: Sarah Holloway had been widowed a few months earlier, her husband Joseph was buried at Warblington 10 May 1830

³⁴ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

³⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f31-32. NOTE: The places mentioned in this letter all appear to be in Sussex

³⁶ *The Times*, 22 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830; *Evening Mail*, 24 November 1830

³⁷ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

of Captain Dalzell, marched to Cosham, and, under the direction of the magistrates, were distributed at Horndean, Purbrook, Havant, and Emsworth.

Early this morning the depot of the 90th Regiment left Gosport and marched through Portsmouth, on their way to Chichester. This afternoon fifty men of the Royal Marines, under the command of Captain D. Campbell, also marched to Cosham, there to await further orders.³⁸

The magistrates of Havant were, this morning, joined by County Magistrate Captain Purvis of the Royal Navy, who attended from Gosport, with several constables from that district. They were joined shortly after by Major A. H. Campbell, another magistrate of the county. Having understood that the mob had, what they termed a committee, sitting at Westbourne, the Magistrates, together with 16 constables, proceeded there, where they were met by Lord George Lennox, and General Crosbie, two magistrates of the county of Sussex, who were accompanied by about 30 armed and mounted tenants of the Duke of Richmond. Between them they were able to apprehend nine of the most active members of the mob. Four of these men have been taken by Lord George Lennox's party to be lodged in Petworth Gaol and the remaining five were brought to Havant where they were examined by the magistrates this evening. Two have been committed for trial at the next assizes. Their names are John Hudson and Edward Sydenham. The cases of the other three, who were remanded for further examination, will be heard next Tuesday. One of the men, whose name is John Duke, a well known bad character, managed to escape. It would appear that the prompt decision of Sir John Theophilus Lee and Captain Leeke, with the assistance of Captain Purvis and Major Campbell, have been able to restore tranquillity to the area, without the need to call on the military for assistance.³⁹

The following is an extract of from a private letter sent from Portsmouth.⁴⁰

Extract

Portsmouth 19th Nov^r 1830

The rioters have begun in this neighbourhood they passed thro' Chichester & Emsworth yesterday, destroying all the machinery they could find. The 47th Regiment set off this morning for Cosham where they were expected in their way to Fareham, and the 90th Regt has orders to hold itself in readiness; The Soldiers have gone on to Horndean which direction the Mob has taken.

Sir John Theophilus Lee wrote to the Home Department from the Bear Inn at Havant with an account of the proceedings of the mob in the area and the capture of the ringleaders.⁴¹

Bear Inn Havant
19th Nov^r 1830

Sir

In my letter of yesterday I detailed to you the proceed^{gs} which had occurred in this county all last Night they were moving from Place to Place, and in the Night destroyed 5 Threshing Machines & a Mill apparatus, & broke into several Homes with various acts of Violence. This day we proceeded to Westbourne in Sussex, and having had 100 of the Military brought within a Mile or two of Havant & having sworn in a very large Body of Special Constables, the whole of the Ringleaders have been captured, and I now think, the combination which I yesterday feared would enter into this county may be now considered as broken up entirely, we shall however as much agitation continues to prevail to keep a good look out and do everything in our power to prevent any further disturbance of the Public Peace, and should anything further occur I shall make a point of giving you the relevant information of the proceedings. I hope you will approve of our having at the

³⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830; *London Evening Standard*, 22 & 23 November 1830

³⁹ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *London Evening Standard*, 22 November 1830

⁴⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f41

⁴¹ TNA – HO52/7 f145-146

outset checked this, above time, most alarming combination, and the Example thus set, in this part of the County, will I feel assured act most favourably in preventing any future Movements to disturb the Public Peace. The few Troops we have will remain a few days 'til all is quiet.

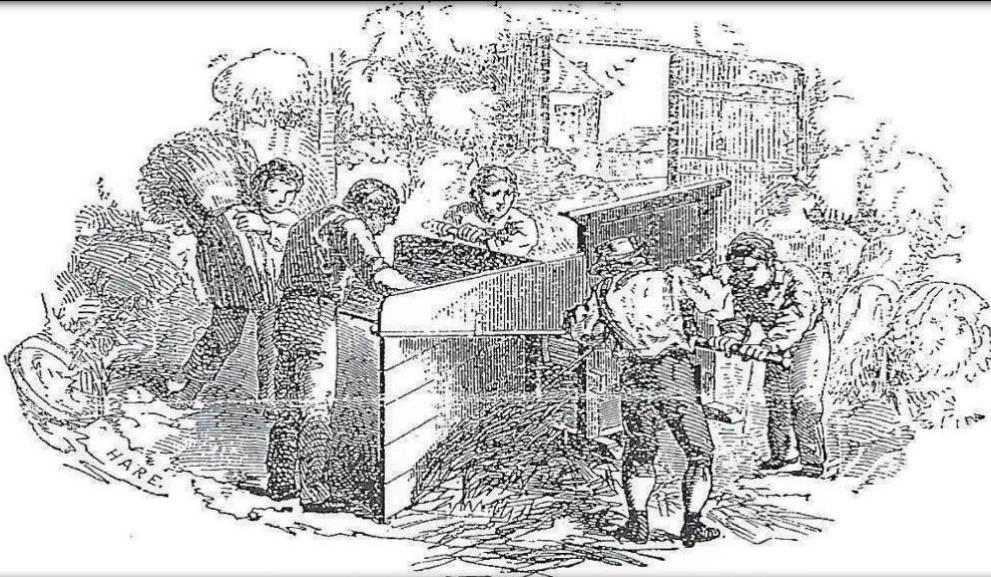
Sir I have the Honor to remain
 Your most obd^t
 & faithful humble Ser^t
 J. Theophilus Lee

Around midday a mob began to gather in Andover. Their first act was to destroy the threshing machine belonging to Mrs Baker. It was about this time that Mr Henry Hunt arrived in the town. He was cheered by the mob, but did not address them. The mob went on to other places, destroying threshing machines as they went, and compelling every labouring man they met to join them. A threshing machine belonging to James Callaway was also broken. They proceeded to Cricklade Mill, occupied by Mr Joseph Wakeford. Although Mr Wakeford and his friends put up some resistance, the mob destroyed his threshing machine, crying out, "Down with the machines!", as they broke the wheels. When William Robinson, a constable from Andover, arrived on the scene he found a large mob in the process of breaking the machine. Making his way through the mob Robinson seized John Whitebread, who he saw striking the wheel with a large stick. As he knew Whitebread he let him go and took hold of a man who he did now recognise and set off to escort him to Andover Gaol.

The respectable inhabitants of the town speedily enrolled themselves as special constables. At about half past five in the evening, they went out to meet the mob, as it was understood that their object was to destroy the workhouse. Led by the magistrates of the town they met the rioters in the High Street. At first they tried to make them disperse peaceably, but when this did not work a general affray began, with the labourers aiming their weapons at their opponents. When the labourers found they were met with resistance by the constables many of them took flight. Those that remained headed for the gaol with John Whitbread at their head.

They arrived at the gaol, shortly after William Robinson's arrival there with his prisoner. The doors of the gaol were forced and the prisoner released. This man had described himself as "Sir Somebody", from Sussex, and has not been seen since. Shortly after the prisoner was released the mob dispersed.⁴²

⁴² *Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 & 29 November 1830. NOTE: John Whitbread was also known by the alias John White. NOTE: There is no mention of James Callaway in the newspapers, however he does appear in the Gaol Calendar (TNA – HO130/1) and John Hopgood was found guilty of breaking his threshing machine. The Mrs Baker whose machine was broken is most likely to be Sarah Baker of New Street Farm, whose husband Robert had died in February 1830



5. Barrett, Exall, and Andrews' Threshing Machine
(MERL, Reading)

This evening a requisition, signed by some of the principal inhabitants of Winchester, was forwarded to William Barnes, Esquire, the Mayor, for the purpose of holding a meeting to adopt precautionary measures for the preservation of the peace, in consequence of the present state of excitement which has been manifested in the neighbourhood. The Mayor immediately acceded to the wishes of the requisitionists and has appointed a meeting to be held tomorrow afternoon at the Guildhall.⁴³

Henry Gardiner, Clerk to the Mayor of Winchester, wrote to Sir Robert Peel, to report on the riotous proceeding in the area and to ask for the assistance of the military.⁴⁴

Winchester Nov^r 19^b 1830

Sir,

I am directed by the Mayor and Magistrates of this city to apprise you of the perturbed state of the immediate neighbourhood of this city occasioned by a large concourse of the peasantry going from Farm to Farm destroying the machinery & levying contributions from the Farmers & others. The Magistrates have information of the intention of a number of these misguided people to enter the Town tomorrow in a body of five or six hundred for the purpose of destroying the Bridewell here and feeling there is no civil force here sufficient to put down such an assemblage of Persons earnestly request the favour of your causing some Military to be sent to these Barracks that they may be ready to quell any tumult which may arise either in the Town or it's Vicinity, there being no military nearer than Portsmouth

I have the honour to be

Your most obd^r Humble Serv^t

Hy Gardiner

Town Clerk

Labourers from the parishes of Warnford and West Meon gathered today. Their intention was to prevent the use of any threshing machines and to demand an increase in their wages. They visited several farms in these, and the neighbouring parishes, stating their complaints, and endeavouring to persuade other labourers to join them, and in some instances they were successful. There have been no reports of any damage having been done, and they are said to have conducted themselves well.⁴⁵

⁴³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830

⁴⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f5-6

⁴⁵ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 20 November 1830

There was trouble in the Overton area again today when a large number of labourers began to assemble around nine o'clock in the morning. Today they appeared more menacing as they had armed themselves, some with large clubs, others with flails and staves. The trouble seems to have started when the labourers who work for Mr John Atkins, the tenant of Ashe Farm, refused to do any more work until their wages were increased. Other labourers quickly joined them until they numbered 200 or more. As well as an increase in wages they are demanding that all threshing machines are removed, as they see them as the principal cause of their distress.

They declared they were not at all satisfied with the arrangements proposed yesterday, and they are determined to have justice. While the men were telling some of the principal farmers that they could wait no longer, but would have to help themselves, Mr Henry Hunt drove into the town, alighting at the *Poyntz Arms*. He was recognised by the men and given three cheers. Soon after this a number of farmers went to see Mr Hunt and asked him if he would address the assembled labourers, adding that the men had offered to abide by his decision, and that any measure that he might think advisable to propose as a means of conciliation would be agreed to on both sides. For some time he declined to interfere, saying that it was some time since he had lived in the area and it could not be expected that he still had any influence over the starving population. He was, however, eventually prevailed upon to comply with the entreaties of the farmers, and addressed the crowd, having first obtained, from both parties, unlimited power to act.

He proposed that the farmers should raise the wages of the labourers from 9s. to 12s. a week, and pay their house rents. This proposition was received with cheers, and Mr Hunt concluded with a strong appeal to the crowd, saying, "I trust there is not a man amongst you who would wish to eat the bread of idleness, and I have one further thing to state to you. You have lost two days labour, the farmers have lost your services for two days, and no good can result from you remaining gathered here together, I propose that every man here present should retire immediately to his work, and although it is too late for anyone to labour half the day, yet everyone who is found in his work this afternoon should receive 2s. from the farmer for his day's work, as an instance of kind and considerate feeling towards you."

His proposals were immediately greeted with cheers and in less than ten minutes there was not a man to be seen in the market place, all having returned to their work. The farmers and shopkeepers of the town, who had feared the worst would happen, were most grateful for this reconciliation, and tranquillity returned to the town.

It has been reported that all the magistrates and large landowners of the neighbourhood had remained at home during the last two days, and had refused every entreaty to meet with the labourers. However, no sooner was it known to them that the labourers had returned to their work, than the two Messrs. Pestall, of Freefolk, and three clergymen, arrived at Overton to thank Mr Hunt for his intervention. Mr Hunt told them that he now believed they must follow up what he had begun and reduce their rents and tithes.⁴⁶

A large body of labourers from Wonston, Hunton, Mitcheldever, Stratton, Barton Stacey, Chilbolton, Longparish, among other places, gathered early this morning and headed off in different directions.

As soon as it was light Richard Collis and some of the other labourers from West Stratton went to Mitcheldever where they joined other men from the village. Collis and George Prior junior went across to New Down Farm to collect the men from there. They went to Manor Farm, the home of Henry Pain where they asked for beer and a sovereign. Mr Pain gave them some beer but no money. They broke his machine, before heading for Barrow Farm.⁴⁷

The Reverend Mr Cockerton, curate of Stoke Charity, met up with around 70 or 80 men who told him they were going to Mr Dallas's house, they wanted him to go with them. He refused to accompany them and when he asked if they had seen their masters this morning they answered, 'No, we're going to Wonston to get our breakfast, and when we have done our business there we will return to Sutton and settle with our masters.' Mr Cockerton said he hoped they intended no

⁴⁶ London Evening Standard, 22 November 1830; The Times, 22 November 1830. NOTE: Appears in the newspaper reports as 'The two Messrs Pestall of Frifolk'

⁴⁷ HRO – 9M74/1 – Deposition of Richard Collis

violence and was told the only thing they wanted to do was break machinery. ‘I hope you will not,’ said Mr Cockerton. ‘For your masters have promised not to work them.’ They asked him for a little money, but he refused to give them any. As they left him they said, ‘We go on to Wonston, and you go to Sutton and talk to our masters, for you can do it better than us.’ As they passed Mr Cockerton they gave him a cheer.⁴⁸

At about 8 o’clock some men arrived at the house of James Parker in Sutton Scotney. Feeling intimidated by their number, there were between 100 and 200 present, Mr Parker handed over 5 shillings.⁴⁹

It was half past eight before Mr Cockerton arrived at Sutton Scotney, where he met up with some of the men again. Their numbers had now grown to between 700 and 800.

Between 8 and 9 o’clock this morning more than 100 labourers arrived at the home of Henry Cropp in Hunton where they pressed him and one of his brothers to join them.⁵⁰

It was between half past eight and nine o’clock when around 100 men from Mitcheldever and Stratton, many armed with sledge hammers and other offensive weapons, arrived at Barrow Farm, the home of William Pain. Mr Pain went out when he saw them and asked what it was they wanted. They told him they wanted their wages increased to 2s a day. He replied that he was ready to do what the other farmers in the area did. They then told him they had come to break his threshing machine. He begged them not to, saying, ‘I have never used it to the disadvantage of any man’s labour.’ Some of the older men in the mob were able to confirm that this was true, but the younger men, including David Champ, Henry Cook, and John Kear, were determined that the machine should be broken and headed off to the barn where it was kept. Some of the older men stayed talking to Mr Pain. He gave them some beer and promised to raise the wages of his labourers to 2s a day. Having broken the machine the younger men rejoined the others and seeing them drinking beer they demanded the same, and food as well. Mr Pain was afraid that they would break into his house and take what they wanted. ‘This is a bad beginning,’ he told them. To which someone replied, ‘The end is not come yet, it will end in blood.’ William Winkworth agreed, saying, ‘Yes, it will be worse yet.’

⁴⁸ NOTE: The Reverend Alexander Robert Charles Dallas was Rector of Wonston from 1828 until his death in December 1869

⁴⁹ *Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830

⁵⁰ *Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830



6. Sign Post for Borough Farm
(Known as Barrow Farm in 1830)
© Jill Chambers 2024

Isaac Hill called Mr Pain aside and spoke to him, 'Master, will you take a fool's advise, give them some money to get rid of them.'

Mr Pain took this advice, which he believed to have been given out of concern at what some of the men might do, and gave Hill a sovereign. The men then left the farm.

On leaving Mr Pain's the men met up with a larger mob coming from the direction of Hunton, including men from Sutton Scotney, Bullington, Barton Stacey and Wonston. Together they went to Richard Dear's farm at Weston Colley, arriving there at around 10 o'clock. Mr Dear's threshing machine was broken and the men demanded money for their work. When Mr Dear refused to give them any they asked James Dear, his son, for payment. Mr Dear repeated that neither he, nor any of his family would give them any money. Eventually Mr Dear's nephew handed a sovereign over to one of the men, after he had seen another of the mob with a sledge hammer in his hand ready to break into the house.



7. Sign for Weston Farm, Weston Colley
© Jill Chambers 2024

On leaving Mr Dear's farm the men headed for Sheep House Farm, the property of Mr Thomas Dowden. Arriving at the farm the men went into the barn and broke the machines. They also demanded, and received, two sovereigns from Mr Dowden. When they threatened to go on to Warren's Farm, also occupied by Mr Dowden, he offered them another £5 in the hope of preventing them from carrying out their threat.

From Mr Dowden's the mob, now increasing in number, went to Richard Twitchin's farm in West Stratton, arriving there a little after 11 am, a threshing machine was broken and two sovereigns were taken. From Mr Twitchin's farm the mob headed towards East Stratton.

Francis Callendar, Sir Thomas Baring's steward, lives at Home Farm, East Stratton, about a quarter of a mile from Sir Thomas's premises at Stratton House. At about 12 o'clock this morning a large mob, between 800 and 900 strong, came to the house. Mr Callendar went out into the yard and found them breaking a threshing machine and a bean mill. Grass sowing and chaff-cutting machines had already been broken. After the machinery had been destroyed one of the men, Thomas Berriman, demanded £5 for their work. Mr Callendar refused to hand over any money, but Berriman insisted that they would have it. Afraid that they might go on the Sir Thomas's house if he did not comply with their wishes, he agreed to pay them the money if they promised not to go on the Stratton House.

'We must have £10 if we do not go to the house', said Berriman. James Pearce, another in the mob, shouted, 'We'll smash the windows if we don't get £10.'

When Berriman promised that he would keep the mob away from Stratton House, Mr Callendar went inside and brought out ten sovereigns, which he gave to Berriman.

On receiving the money Berriman cried out, 'Ten pounds! Ten pounds! Come along.' The mob gave three cheers before adjourning to *The Plough*, a public house in the village. Only eight or ten of the men went into the inn, the rest were gathered on the nearby meadow. Berriman said that the men should only have half a pint a piece. A bill was made out for the beer, amounting to £3 18s 6d and Joseph Mason handed over a £5 note and took up the change and put it in his

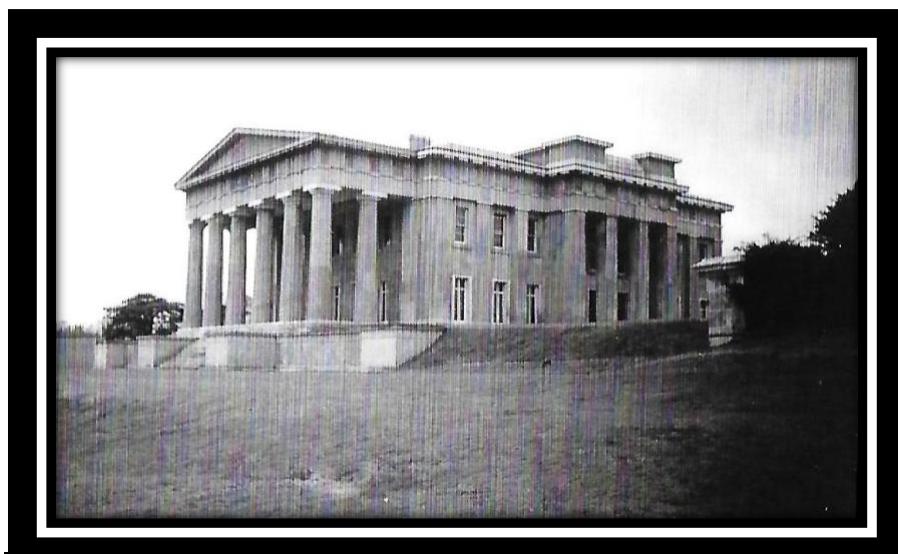
pocket. As he did so he said to Berriaman, 'Carter will settle by and by.' They remained at the inn for about half an hour.⁵¹

On leaving East Stratton a small number of men, between 20 and 30, headed for Northington Down Farm the main mob headed for Mitcheldever where the Reverend Thomas Clarke was forced to hand over one and a half sovereigns.

Mr William Bingham Baring met part of the mob, around 30 men, on the road from Stratton. They were armed with sledge hammers, bars of iron and sticks. They told him they were going to Northington Down Farm, the premises of Thomas Dowden, to break the machinery. Mr Baring went back to The Grange for assistance.

The mob arrived at Northington Down Farm at about one o'clock. They were seen by John Ailworth, Mr Dowden's bailiff, who heard someone say, 'Come on, my lads, I'll show you the way.' The men headed for the barn, broke through the boards, found the threshing machine and broke it.⁵²

Bringing 25 men with him Mr Baring headed back to Northington Down Farm. On his arrival he found the men standing in front of the farm house.



8. Northington Grange
© Jill Chambers

On seeing the men Mr Baring got down from his horse and addressed them. 'What do you mean by this wanton destruction of property? Who is your spokesman?' John Silcock stepped forward and told him, 'We break machines wherever we find them. We have already broken the machine here and intend to break others.' Mr Baring took hold of Silcock by his collar and on seeing this a cry of 'Go to work!' rose from the mob. They pressed forward and rescued Silcock. Before Mr Baring could do any more he was knocked to the ground. The blow that floored him was aimed by Henry Cook, a 19 year old labourer from Mitcheldever. George Harding, one of Mr Baring's men, was standing behind his master when he was struck. Harding has reported that he saw Henry Cook with a sledge hammer and heard him say, 'God d –m you, get out of the way.' Cook raised the hammer and when he brought it down it struck the brim of Mr Baring's hat and the collar of his coat and Mr Baring fell to the ground.

Harding thought that Cook was about to strike again and shouted, 'You blackguard rascal, will you hit him again?' He aimed a blow at Cook with his fist which caught Cook under the ear. Harding then seized the hammer and took hold of Cook. William Tibbell, another of Mr Baring's men, seeing what had happened, ran forward and also caught hold of Cook.

The mob dispersed and Cook was taken before Mr Wright, the magistrate, who cautioned him not to say anything that would incriminate him, but Cook admitted that he was the man who

⁵¹ *Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830. NOTE: *The Plough*, East Stratton, is now the *Northbrook Arms*

⁵² *The Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830

had knocked Mr Baring down. He said that he had done it because the man behind him had said that if he did not, he would knock Cook down.

This afternoon the party were returning to Sutton Scotney. On the way they called again at Henry Pain's Manor Farm, arriving there at around 3 o'clock. Mr Pain gave them a sovereign but they demanded more, he gave them another sovereign and they left. They went on to William Pain's at Burrow Farm. Mr Pain gave them £2.⁵³

It about 4 o'clock by the time they arrived at the premises of Mr James Wickham, a banker and farmer at Sutton Scotney. It was while they were busy destroying Mr Wickham's threshing machine that the Reverend Dr. Newbolt, a County Magistrate, arrived from Winchester, and after considerable difficulty he managed to obtain their attention. At this time several hundred were assembled, some armed with tools from blacksmiths and carpenters shops, and the remainder with large sticks. After a long parley they agreed to disperse, and to return quietly to their work the next morning, but only after Dr Newbolt had promised to recommend that farmers and overseers allow every married man with two children 12s. a week, and that those with more than two children would be given the price of a gallon loaf and 6d. Single men were to receive 9s. a week. The yearly servants also wanted an advance in their wages, but as they were left by their companions, they had to accept a promise that their case would also be considered. It is believed that if these promises had not been made the men intention was to go on to Winchester in the evening to make their demands known. The men had wanted Dr Newbolt to order that they be paid their wages for the two days they had spent breaking machines. Understandably Dr Newbolt said he could not consent to this.

While Dr Newbolt had been speaking to these men another part of the mob had visited Mr Wickham's farm and destroyed his threshing machine.⁵⁴

The money the men had collected during the day, about £17. was divided in a meadow at Sutton Scotney. The men from Mitcheldever each receiving 1shilling and 6 pence each.⁵⁵

At about half past ten this evening the home of Mr William Courtney, a farmer and maltster at Newton Stacey was visited by around 20 or 30 men, who had armed themselves with bludgeons. They informed him that a mob of about 1,500 men were heading his way, and that they wanted refreshments and money. Mr Courtney asked where they were from and they replied, 'From Bourne.'

Holding up his candle Mr Courtney was able to recognise Jacob Turner, James Annals, and William Smith. Annals said, 'Look at the light over the hills!' Mr Courtney looked but could see nothing. He then asked them where they had been and was told that they had been busy breaking machines and that they had been given quite a bit of money for their trouble. Annals then told Mr Courtney they wanted a sovereign from him. Mr Courtney refused to give them that much, offering first five shillings, then half a sovereign, but he was told this was not enough. When the mob began to push forward into the house he offered fifteen shillings. 'Let us take it,' said one of the men. The money was counted and accepted.⁵⁶

The men left and headed to the nearby house of Mr Leonard Lywood. Here they demanded money from Mr Lywood's maid, saying that they wanted fifteen shillings, the same as they got at another house.

Jacob Turner called out to Mr Lywood, 'Come out, and we will show you a light over the hills.' Mr Lywood came out and asked them if they intended burning property, and was assured that this was not their intention.⁵⁷

At around half past eleven this evening a large fire could be seen at Barton Manor Farm, in the parish of Barton Stacey, about one and a half miles from Newton Stacey. The farm was the

⁵³ The Morning Herald (London), 25 December 1830; *The Times* 25 December 1830

⁵⁴ *The Times*, 22, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830, The Morning Herald (London), 25 December 1830.. NOTE: It has not been easy to decide in which order these events took place, and it would appear that more than one group of labourers were involved. At a combined Vestry Meeting of the parishes of Mitcheldever and East Stratton in 1827 it was resolved to reduce the allowances to the poor. It is interesting to note that that of nine people who signed the resolution, six were visited by the rioters in 1830, Reverend Thomas Clarke, Sir Thomas Baring, William Pain, Henry Pain, Richard Dear, and Thomas Dowden

⁵⁵ HRO – 9M74/1 – Deposition of Richard Collis

⁵⁶ *London Packet & New Lloyd's Evening Post*, 24 December 1830

⁵⁷ *Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830

property of Sir Henry Wright Wilson, and occupied by Mr Pierce. Three barns, a granary and ricks of hay and wheat, were totally destroyed. Fortunately the house and stables were saved. It is impossible not to connect this incident with the riotous behaviour of the labourers in the area.⁵⁸

A meeting took place at Whitchurch today at which it was agreed to raise the wages of the married men with three children to 12s a week, and to give them a loaf for every child above three. The new wage for single men is to be 7s a week, with the liberty to better their condition at any time. When the men heard this they expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and they left the meeting peacefully, promising to return to work.⁵⁹

There has been great excitement in the villages of Avington, Easton and Itchin Abbas, almost wholly the property of the Duke of Buckingham. An attack on Avington House, the seat of the Duke, is expected daily. Rather than joining the rioters many of the labourers have banded together with the other inhabitants of the villages and intend to defend Avington House. They have set up camp around the house and say they will remain there until the danger is passed.⁶⁰

At about six o'clock this evening a mob of around 50 labourers, armed with sticks, arrived at Down Grange, in the parish of Basingstoke, the property of Cassandra Hankey, a widow. They rang the bell and it was answered by George Brown, Mrs Hankey's bailiff. When he asked them what they wanted he was told they needed money to support them as they were going to rise in a body and make their way around the county demanding an increase in their wages. Mr Brown pointed out that it was impossible for Mrs Hankey to talk to them all, but if they had a spokesman she would speak with him. At this John Gold and William Astridge, labourers from Cliddesdon, stepped forward and they, with two other men, accompanied Mr Brown into the kitchen, where Mrs Hankey came to speak to them.

The mob outside were very noisy and Gold went out to quieten them. Fearing for her life if she did not do as they wished Mrs Hankey agreed to give them some money if they would leave peaceably. She also told Mr Brown to give whiskey and water to the mob outside. This he did and he told them that Mrs Hankey had given a sovereign to Gold. On hearing this some of the mob shouted, 'It is not enough. We need more.'

The cry was repeated as Gold, Astridge, and the other two men came out of the house, but Gold told them to follow him, and they all left together, heading for the turnpike road.

This evening Mr Brown, who had been in Basingstoke, called at *The Stag and Hounds* on his way home. The mob that has visited Down Grange earlier in the day had gathered in one of the rooms. Gold, and some of the other men, came to speak to Mr Brown. He told them they were going the wrong way about it if they wanted to get an increase in their wages. He suggested that if they wanted him to, he could write them out a paper asking for the farmers to call a meeting to consider increasing their wages. He promised to bring them the paper in the morning.⁶¹

A large number of labourers gathered in Alresford this evening and proceeded to The Grange, the residence of Alexander Baring Esquire, where it is understood they committed acts of violence, and assaulted, and ill treated a son of Sir Thomas Baring, who happened to be there, when he tried to tell them of the impropriety of their conduct. The violence was of such an alarming nature, it was thought necessary to call in military aid, and an express for such aid was despatched to Portsmouth at a late hour this evening.⁶²

⁵⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830; *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*, 25 November 1830

⁵⁹ *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*, 25 November 1830

⁶⁰ *Stamford Mercury*, 26 November 1830

⁶¹ HO52/7 f217- 220. NOTE: Cassandra Hankey, widow, was not quite who she claimed to be. It would appear she was born Cassandra Palermo. On 31 May 1793 Cassandra Palermo married Alexander Sympson, who died in the Fleet Prison in 1798. It was sometime after this that Cassandra moved in with Augustus Robert Hankey, who had bought Down Grange in 1818. Augustus and Cassandra never married. Augustus died in January 1830, and in his will he describes her as 'Mrs Cassandra Sympson now residing in my house in Basingstoke.' Cassandra went on to marry Thomas Terry of Dummer House in 1832. Cassandra died in September 1853 and is buried at St Mary's Church, Eastrop

⁶² *The Times*, 23 November 1830. NOTE: This report may refer to the events involving William Bingham Baring

The following letter was sent this evening by the Magistrates of Alresford reporting the destruction caused by mobs in the area and asking for military aid. The letter was delivered by Mr Frederick Baring.⁶³

Alresford 19 November
1830

Sir,

We beg to represent to you that we have this Evening been called together at the solicitation of Mr Bingham Baring and many other Inhabitants of this neighbourhood to take into consideration the most effectual measures to be adopted to put down a riotous and tumultuous Assembly to the amount of a thousand persons of the labouring class who have for the last two Days been traversing the neighbouring Country and demolishing all thrashing machines and other Husbandry Implements within their reach and committing other depredation by demanding money and as we are satisfied no civil force can be collected to resist the designs of these evil disposed persons and having good reason to believe that they still intend to pursue their depredations we are induced to suggest to you the necessity of a sufficient military force being immediately sent to Winchester or other convenient place to be at the disposal of the Magistrates.

The Bearer of this communication (Mr Frederick Baring) will be able to give you a more detailed account of the riots which have already taken place and of the alarm which now prevails in this part of the Country.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your very obed^t Ser^r

Robert Wright

Henry Joseph Tichborne

John Dutby

Magistrates acting for the

Division of Alton Hants.

Saturday, 20th November 1830

The authorities in the Alresford area were so alarmed by the behaviour of the labourers yesterday that late last night they sent an express to Portsmouth, asking for assistance. This morning some troops arrived in the town, in carriages, drawn by post horses.⁶⁴

Immediate attention, by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, was paid to yesterday's request by the Mayor of Winchester for military aid. A detachment from the 47th regiment received orders by telegraph to march from Portsmouth this morning, and arrived in Winchester early this afternoon.⁶⁵

At nine o'clock this morning George Brown, bailiff at Down Grange, went to the *Stag and Hounds* where he met John Gold and gave him the paper he had promised him. He advised Gold to take it to the Mayor himself. This he agreed to do and he and the others with him headed off for Basingstoke.⁶⁶

The agricultural labourers gathered in a large field at Lower Wallop today to hold a wages meeting. The labourers have been receiving 8 shillings a week and were met by the farmers who proposed to raise this to 10 shillings, provided that their rents, tithes and taxes were lowered. To this the labourers agreed, and eight or nine farmers, together with the Reverend Henry Powney, the clergyman of the parish, went to the house of Mr James Blunt, the proprietor of the great tithes, to seek a reduction in tithes for this year. The Reverend Powney was deputed to wait on Mr Blunt, as Mr Blunt had only recently recovered from a severe illness. Mr Blunt agreed to reduce his tithes

⁶³ TNA - HO52/7 f44-45

⁶⁴ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Morning Advertiser*, 23 November 1830

⁶⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

⁶⁶ TNA - HO52/7 f217- 220

in proportion to the increased rate of wages the farmers intended to pay their labourers. This concession did not satisfy the farmers, they declared the offer was too indefinite, and demanded that Mr Blunt should reduce the rent by one third. Mr Blunt replied that although he considered it a robbery, under the circumstances he must submit, and he agreed to their demand. On hearing an agreement had been reached the labourers all returned to work immediately.⁶⁷

There was also trouble in Upper Wallop, where the labourers gathered in a riotous manner, and assaulted James Duke, kicking and striking him.⁶⁸

Early this morning a mob began to gather again in the Andover area and at around 11 o'clock they marched into the town. Estimates have put the number at around 300. Some of the men carried pitchforks on which were impaled mouldy crusts; others had armed themselves with bludgeons. They passed along the High Street in an orderly fashion and stopped at the *Upper Angel* where Mr Richard Bethell Cox, Mr Edward Walter Blunt and Sir Lucius Curtis, the local magistrates were meeting with farmers and land occupiers. Two of the ringleaders in the mob, John Gilmore and William Shepherd, forced their way into the room where the meeting was being held. Others would have followed but Gilmore barred the way shouting, 'There's enough in already.'⁶⁹

ANDOVER, HANTS.			
At a Meeting of the Magistrates for the			
Division of Andover in the County of Southampton, and also at a Meeting of the Magistrates for the Borough and Parish of Andover, respectively held on Saturday, the twentieth Day of November Instant, the undermentioned Resolutions were proposed and agreed to, viz:			
THAT they would recommend the several Occupiers of Land, in the different Parishes within the said Division, to allow the Labouring Class within their respective Parishes, the following rate of Wages, that is to say;			
EVERY able bodied Man above the age of 20 Years, the sum of twelve Shillings per Week.			
EVERY able bodied Man above the age of 16 and under 20 Years of age, the sum of nine Shillings per Week.			
EVERY old and infirm Person, the sum of three Shillings per Week.			
THEY will also recommend that a Gallon Loaf of Bread and Sixpence be allowed to a married Man for every Child above the number of two, after such Child shall have attained the age of one Month.			
IN consequence of the above Resolutions and impressed as we are with the Conviction of the impossibility of our Labourers existing on their present rate of Wages, WE, the undersigned Occupiers of Land in the Parish and Neighbourhood of Andover, are induced to agree to the above Resolutions, trusting that our Landlords and Tithe Proprietors or their Agents will meet us on Saturday the twenty seventh Day of November Instant, at eleven o'Clock in the forenoon, at the Star and Garter Inn, in Andover, to enter into such Arrangements as will enable us so to do.			
John Sweetapple Philip Henry Poore Richard Fortesque Henry Tredgold Thomas Dowling Joseph Wakeford John Lywood Robert Pickering Charles Cheyney George Guyatt George Dawkins Edward Ranger Charles Holdaway John Reeves William Longman, Sen. Robert Pocock William Gondall George Dowling	William Sweetapple Samuel Guyatt William Dowling Robert Dowling Abraham Goater Henry King Henry Cordery George Dowling Thomas Spencer Nicholas Cole William Attwood John Holloway Charles Mundy Hugh Mundy William Moon Thomas Biggs John Kellew Thomas Hutchins	Thomas Longman William Child Mary Lawes John Young John Chandler George Chandler William Chandler George Young William Leveredge Susan Batt Thomas Baugh John Cole Harry Church Charles Church John Herbert William Moore Thomas Sutton	Robert Longman Henry Poore George Marshment Henry Simes James Cole Robert Tilbury William Hilliard John Knowles Robert Tilbury, Jun. William Cooper Robert Martin Robert Cole Hugh Child Ann Cole Mary Farley Anthony Kersley John Hooper
Andover, November 23, 1830.			
KING, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, &c. HIGH STREET, ANDOVER.			

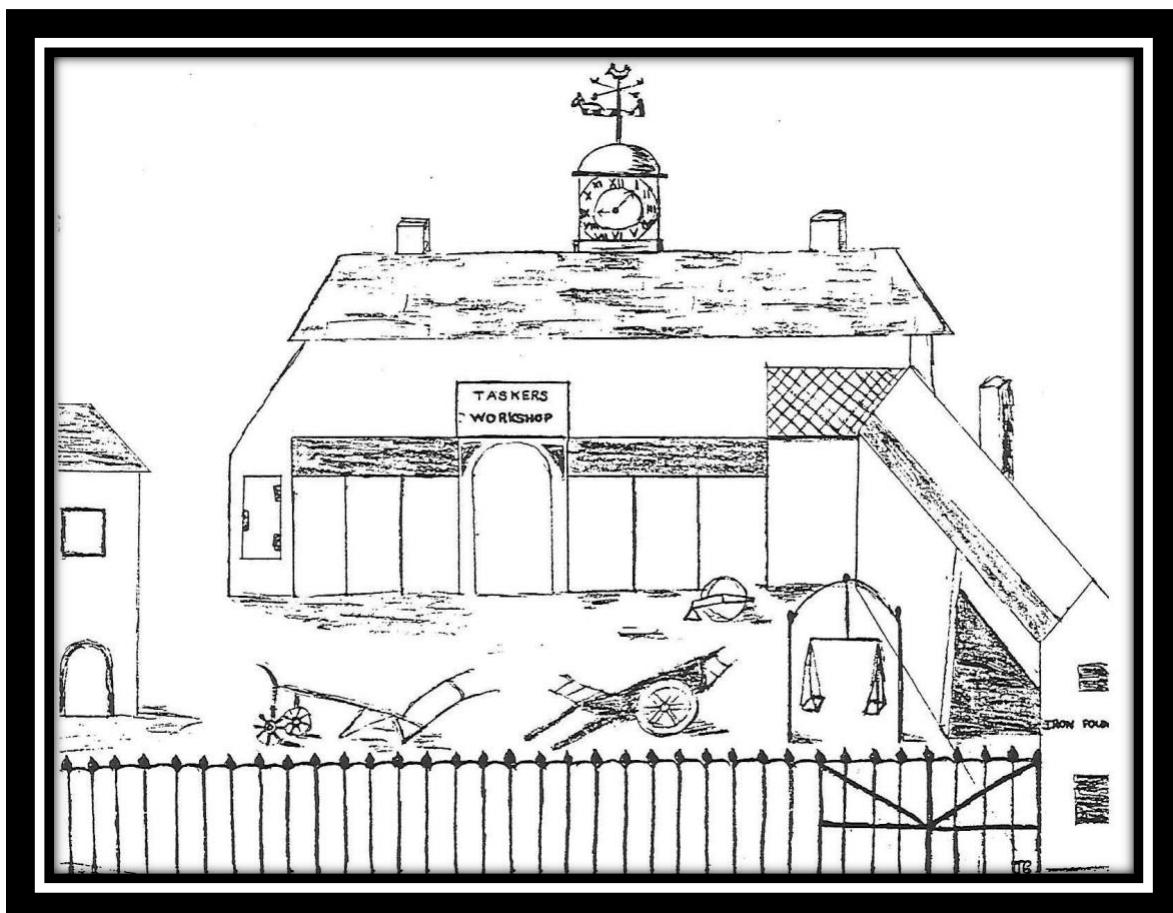
⁶⁷ *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*, 25 November 1830; *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830. NOTE: According to the account in this paper it was intimated to Mr Blunt "that the house would be immediately burned down in the event of refusal". The farmers of Lower Wallop considered their characters had been attacked in newspaper reports of this event and wrote their own account of what had taken place. This account, written on 1 December, appeared in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

⁶⁸ TNA - HO130/1

⁶⁹ NOTE: In 1830 James Grant was the innkeeper of the *Upper Angel Inn*. By 1851 he was living at *The Globe Inn*, Andover. NOTE: Richard Bethell Cox is recorded sometimes as Richard Bethel Cox

9. Resolutions Passed by the Andover Magistrates (TNA – HO52/7 f106)

In order to preserve the peace the magistrates decided they would recommend the farmers consent to the labourers demands and increase their wages. It was agreed by all those present that it was impossible for the labourers to survive on their present wages. The new rate recommended by the magistrates is that every able bodied man over 20 be allowed 12 shillings a week, those between 16 and 20 to receive 9 shillings a week and every old and infirm person 3 shillings, with a gallon loaf and 6d for every child above two. There were more than 70 farmers present and they agreed to sign these resolutions but added that they hoped the landlords and tithes owners would in turn reduce rents and tithes and so enable them to act on these recommendations. It had been hoped that having been told of these concessions the mob would disperse and the men return to their work but it seems they were bent on further destruction. They roamed around the town for a couple of hours and some of the men went to Thomas Bensley's printing works. They told Mr Bensley they had come to see if he was using any machinery. Finding none they asked for something to drink, telling him that if he gave them something they would not take his men away with them as they had intended. As he had no drink to offer them he gave them some money instead.⁷⁰



10. Tasker's Iron Foundry

© Jill Chambers

At around three o'clock this afternoon the mob gathered again. Their next target was to be the Waterloo Iron Foundry at Little Ann in the parish of Upper Clatford. The foundry is owned by brothers Robert and William Tasker and they employ a large workforce. As well as casting iron they make agricultural implements. Yesterday John Howell, Mr Tasker's foreman had been warned that the foundry might be attacked. Mr Tasker had taken the threat seriously and had put out the cupola fire and as a further precaution the foundry had been closed and the men sent home. John Howell came in to Andover this morning hoping to find out more about what was intended by

⁷⁰ Albion & Star, 25 December 1830

the mob. He found a large number of men gathered outside *The Angel Inn*. John Gilmore and the brothers James and Isaac Manns were there. Howell spoke to a man called John Price who told him that it would be a bad job before it was finished. James Manns saw Howell and came over to speak to him and told him that the foundry must be brought down. Mr Howell tried to dissuade him saying that it did nobody any harm, but seeing that he could do no good here he returned to the foundry.



11. A Sketch of the Courtyard of *The Angel Inn*, Andover
Charles George Harper, 1890 (Public Domain)

As the mob prepared to leave, they formed themselves into 3 columns behind Charles Faye, who carried a flag, and James and Isaac Manns. They left the town along the road leading to Upper Clatford. On their way they passed over several ornamental cast iron bridges which they destroyed, arriving at the foundry at around four o'clock. John Howell had closed and locked the gate against the mob and went to meet them in an attempt to stop the attack. He tried to persuade them to turn back but some of the men insisted that the foundry was ruining everybody. It appeared to Howell that Isaac Manns would have been persuaded to leave at this point but a shout came from behind, 'We must go on. It must come down.' The men pressed forward towards the gates. By the time Howell got there the gates were being shaken in an attempt to force them open. Faye aimed a blow with his pick axe at the base of one of the pillars, then Isaac Manns pushed forward saying, 'Let me come to the lock.' With one blow from his bludgeon Manns struck off the padlock, the gates swung open and the mob poured into the yard. Once inside the attackers exchanged their bludgeons for the tools and iron bars they found in the yard and set about destroying the buildings and machinery. Chimneys and walls were torn down, the roof was broken up and windows smashed. Lathes, a pressing machine and the cast iron mould boxes were destroyed. At one point a man named John Ellis, attempted to stop the destruction. 'Ahoy! Ahoy!' he shouted and in the

silence that followed he told the men that they could have whatever they wanted if they stopped now, but the mob was not to be put off. 'Go to work - no money shall stop us,' someone shouted and the destruction continued. Thomas Beckingham led the attack on the water wheel, all the floats were knocked off and the wrought iron paddles bent. Seeing that there was nothing he could do to stop them Howell returned to his house, which was about 50 yards from the foundry. Joseph Blatch and William Shepherd came to Howell's house later in the evening and demanded beer. Howell told them, 'I cannot give you any for, like you I have no more than what I get by hard labour.' Blatch told the mob that Howell was a poor man with a large family and they should not trouble him anymore, and they went away. It was around midnight before the last of the men left the foundry saying they would be back on Monday to finish the work.⁷¹

Crowds of people of all ranks, full of anxiety and rumour, assembled in the streets of Winchester today, and a public meeting was held at the Guildhall, presided over by the Mayor of Winchester, William Barnes. After the requisition put forward yesterday by the inhabitants of the city, had been read, the Reverend John Slater stated, "In consequence of it being understood that it is the intention of the mob, which has been guilty of acts of considerable violence at The Grange, to pay a visit to Winchester, after they had destroyed some threshing machines in that quarter, and to make some demands on the Magistrates, which they would endeavour to enforce, the requisitionists think it proper to adopt measures of precaution. I suggest that a number of the inhabitants be sworn in as special constables."

Mr John Young observed, "In the first place, it will be necessary to make a declaration that the inhabitants are fully determined to support the local authorities in the preservation of the peace." This proposition was agreed to, and formed the basis of the first resolution.

The Reverend Newbolt, a county magistrate, stated, "I received information of a very large assemblage of people collected at Mr James Wickham's, at Sutton Scotney, and I set out for that place yesterday, but soon after, in consequence of what I had heard, I proceeded to Stratton, and on my way I met some men, who told me they had done all the machines there, and were going to Mr Wickham's, with a similar intent. I addressed the men, telling them I came as a friend to them all, and that I had always been the poor man's friend, and ever would be. I then inquired on the nature of their wishes, to which they replied that their object was to have their wages raised to 12^s a week. I told them that I thought their request was extremely reasonable, and I was sure it would be acceded to. With this the married men said they would be satisfied, but they wanted me to give an order for payment of wages for the two days on which they had been employed in breaking the threshing machines. This, of course, I refused to comply with. The single men, however were dissatisfied, and said they would not quit the spot till they received an order for 9^s a week, which was done, and they were satisfied. It was evident that there was a most determined resolution to do great mischief, as they were armed with sledge hammers, saws, axes, and bludgeons. Under these circumstances I was convinced that, if the peace of the country was to be preserved, conciliation must be resorted to."

The Mayor expressed an opinion that the wages required by the labourers were not unreasonable, and if their wishes were acceded to, tranquillity would be restored. He continued, "The object of this present meeting is not the appointment of special constables to come in contact with these people, but merely to preserve the peace of the city."

Mr John Young said, "I think it would be wrong to enter into any discussion of the merits of the case between the contending parties."

A short conversation ensued, and the first resolution was put and carried unanimously. A Committee of six gentlemen was appointed to assist the authorities in preserving the public peace. The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Dr Newbolt, for his communication, and for his exertions to effect conciliation.

On the motion of Captain Mildmay, the thanks of the meeting were voted to the Mayor, who in returning thanks, said, "I will always be ready to accede to the wishes of my fellow citizens."⁷² Several inhabitants were then sworn in as special constables, and the meeting ended.⁷²

⁷¹ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830; *The Times*, 23 November 1830

⁷² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 22 November 1830

The Magistrates of Andover wrote to the Secretary of State today to report on the assemblies of labourers in their neighbourhood and the destruction of machinery.⁷³

To The Right Hon^{ble} The Secretary of State

for the Home Department

Sir,

We consider it to be our duty to report to you for the Information of his Majesty's Government that numerous Assemblies of the labouring classes have taken place in this Neighbourhood.

The object of these Meetings is to demand in a clamorous manner an increase of wages. The destruction of all threshing-Machines and to require of the Proprietors of Land and Tythes a reduction of Rents and Composition.

The practice seems to be to form local combinations between contiguous Parishes to force all reluctant persons into their schemes and to threaten an unison of Forces for the accomplishment of their purposes. They also demand and levy contributions in Goods and Money from the persons whose habitations they visit.

Some threshing Machines have been destroyed by the Rioters and some evil disposed persons have availed themselves of the prevailing spirit of discontent and excitement to destroy some corn and Hay Stacks by fire in resentment as it is supposed of some real or imaginary Grievance.

It is our wish and intention to attempt all measures of a pacific nature for the suppression of these proceedings without appearing to yield to intimidation but we doubt the sufficiency of the civil force without the aid of the Military which we should be reluctant to resort to unless in a case of extreme emergency.

We have The Honor to be,

with great Respect

Sir, your most faithful

& Obedient Servants

Rich^d Bethell Cox

Magistrates for the

Divisions of Andover in

the County of Southampton

and residing near Andover

Land^d Green Walton

P. S. Since we wrote the above we regret to add that a large body of the labouring classes joined by men of the lowest description have attacked and totally destroyed the Machinery belonging to an Iron Foundry near this place & thereby created a damage to the Proprietor of nearly or quite £2000 as we are informed. The pretext for this outrage was, that the Proprietor of the Foundry in question, has been in the habit of manufacturing Iron work for Threshing Machines. We assure you Sir that the whole Town & neighbourhood of Andover is at this moment in a state of the greatest agitation & alarm.

A number of labourers in the parish of Selborne gathered as usual to receive their weekly allowance from the parish and were heard by Mr John Harrison, the master of the poor house, to say that they intended to go to the farmers and force them to increase their wages. Mr Harrison advised them against this course of action, or they would repent ever after. At around 12 o'clock this evening three shots were discharged into Mr Harrison's bedroom. Although the clothes and furniture of the bed were completely torn to pieces by the slugs, fortunately none of the family was injured.⁷⁴

William Pain, of Barrow Farm, saw a large number of people in Mitcheldever, around 200 he thought. Amongst them he saw Isaac Hill, the younger, and called him over. Young Hill came and presented Mr Pain with a paper about the wages. There were a number of other farmers there, and each farmer called to his own men, and paid then the 2s a day as ordered by Dr Newbolt.⁷⁵

Charles Batt and Thomas Webb, along with several others labourers visited the premises of William Courtney, senior at Bransbury, in the parish of Barton Stacey, today. They threatened Mr Courtney, and demanded, and received two shillings from him and received a quantity of beer,

⁷³ TNA – HO52/7 f42-44

⁷⁴ *The Times*, 30 November 1830. NOTE: In this report the master of the workhouse is named as Mr Harris, not Harrison

⁷⁵ HRO – 92M95/F2/9/13 & 92M95/F2/9/11

bread and cheese. They also visited Mary Cotton, of Bransbury, and she, fearing for her life, handed over three shillings.⁷⁶

Between 6 and 7 o'clock this evening the Reverend Sir Henry Rivers was sat down to dinner with his family, at his home in Martyr Worthy, when he was told that a large crowd had arrived outside his house. He was not surprised at their arrival as he had heard earlier in the afternoon that they were in the parish of Easton. Going out of his door he was met by a mob of between three and four hundred, those nearest the door were armed with sledge hammers. He asked them what they wanted and was told, 'Money.' Being of the impression that they would not go away peacefully he handed over £20 in notes of the Knapp, Bulpitt and Markham bank of Winchester. There seemed some doubt in the mind of the mob as to the exact amount handed over and Sir Henry had a candle brought out so that they could check it. The notes were examined and the mob seemed satisfied. They gave three cheers and went on their way. As they left Robert Fisher, a servant to Sir Henry, heard one of the mob call for silence, he then asked that if they were all agreeable they would meet again on Monday morning. The men then split up in to two groups and went off in different directions.

The mob had visited several other houses in the neighbourhood before they got to Sir Henry's. At Mr Davison's machinery was broken and a sovereign given, at Mr White's they broke a winnowing machine. It would seem that a number of the men in the mob had been pressed to join. William Bolter was at work at the *New Inn*, where the mob assembled this morning. When he went into the house, someone said, 'Here's Master Bolter, and I am d-d if he shan't go with we.' Bolter was forced to go with them when they left the house. William Grantham and James Blackman were at work in the wheat barn with Thomas Parker, their master's son, when the mob came to Edward Parker's farm. They asked the men to join them, saying that their party could do no good unless they had more men. At first the two men refused to go but they were told that if they did not go freely they would be forced. They were threatened with sticks and told, 'If you don't come, you see what you have to trust to.' Grantham and Blackman felt obliged to go. The mob then asked for beer but Mr Parker said there were too many of them. He did hand over 5s. A horn was blown and the mob left taking Grantham and Blackman with them, telling Mr Parker as they went that he would not see the two men again until they had done all they had to do.

Later this evening the men arrived at the *Bat and Ball* public house to divide up their money. Here they met up with Moses Freemantle. George Over took out some money and put it on the table and asked Freemantle to count it and share it amongst those present. Freemantle agreed to do this and asked how many were to share it. The money amounted to £19 3s 6d and the number present to 52 men and boys. The men were given 7s each and the boys either 2s 6d or 3s. The money that was left was used to pay for the beer.⁷⁷

At Holybourne near Alton, the labourers assembled today, their object was to force an increase in their wages, stating that the present allowance was really insufficient to support their families. The farmers met, and agreed to give a reasonable price for labour. This appeared to satisfy the men and they returned to their work. The conduct of the men towards their employers was orderly and respectful, and they declared that they did not intend to join with any people who did not belong to their parish, their only request was that they earned as much as would enable them to live.⁷⁸

At around nine o'clock this evening there was an arson attack at South Park Farm in Ludgershall, across the border in Wiltshire. A barn, cart house and stable were set on fire. The fire

⁷⁶ TNA – HO130/1. NOTE: This event does not appear to have been reported in the papers. William Courtney of Bransbury was buried at Barton Stacey on 2 October 1836, aged 61. He was the father of William Courtney of Newton Stacey, who had been visited by a mob on the previous day. Mary Cotton appears to be connected in some way with the Courtney's, she was buried at Longparish on 12 December 1837, aged 57, and in her will named William Courtney of Newton Stacey as her Executor

⁷⁷ *Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830

⁷⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

communicated to a nearby cottage, where a man named Robert Chandler lived. The property belongs to John Barnes of Shoddesdon, and is rented by William Peachey.⁷⁹

⁷⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830. NOTE: At the Wiltshire Lent Assize at Salisbury in 1831 Henry Wilkins was found guilty of starting the fire at South Park Farm. Henry Barnes, the son of John Barnes gave evidence at the trial. Henry Wilkins was executed on 22 March 1831

Sunday, 21st November 1830

In the early hours of this morning a large gang of Labourers forced the landlord of the *King's Arms*, at Stockbridge, to rise from his bed and provide them with beer. From there they went to Houghton Mill where they obtained more refreshments and money. The next stop was Bossington House, the residence of John Storey Penleaze Esquire, where they demanded money, which was refused them. They forced their way into the house, took out a quantity of furniture, which they demolished, and afterwards they broke a number of windows. This same mob, by now about 400 strong, then went to Rookley House, King's Somborne, the home of George Lovell Esquire, after obtaining money by force from Mr Lovell, many of them then took possession of the house, and carried off the provisions which came their way. They also destroyed a threshing machine.⁸⁰

While in Houghton, the mob demanded and received money from Benjamin Read and Henry Rutt. Benjamin Read handed over ten Shillings and Henry Rutt gave one of the men, John Brown, a sovereign.⁸¹

This morning two troops of the 3rd Dragoon Guards arrived in Winchester from Southampton. The regiment had marched from Dorchester on Friday, on their way to Chichester, when an order was received by the Commanding Officer to dispatch two troops to Winchester.

Considerable excitement has prevailed in Winchester during the whole of today, produced by alarming reports constantly brought in from neighbouring parishes, many of which proved to be false. This afternoon, however, the city was thrown into great confusion and alarm when it became known that large parties had assembled at King's Somborne, and had visited the villages of Sparsholt and Littleton, and were traversing the country destroying threshing, and other machines, and levying contributions of provisions and money, in a most daring manner. Early this afternoon twenty men of the 3rd Dragoon Guards left Winchester heading towards Sparsholt, accompanied by Sir William Heathcote, who had been present in the city from an early hour this morning, and Paulett St John Mildmay, who had arrived in Winchester as soon as he had heard of the riots. Sir Hussey Vivian also arrived at the same time, and within a few minutes of his arrival was on duty at the head of a troop. The presence of these gentlemen, aided by the troops, very soon caused the rioters to disperse, but not before several of the ringleaders had been secured. Sir Hussey Vivian entered a public house, and seized two of the most turbulent in a very gallant manner, in the midst of threats from their companions. The rioters were brought to Winchester under an escort and safely lodged in the County Gaol early this evening.⁸²

The following appeared in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, of the 29th November 1830.

An anonymous letter, signed “*Swing & Co.*” was received by the Printer of this Paper, on Sunday last, desiring him to set on foot a subscription for the relief of the distressed labourers who were endeavouring to get more wages. We should not have noticed the circumstance, but the Rev. Mr Mansfield, of Rowner, has received a letter in the same hand-writing, and written on a similar sort of paper, telling him such a subscription would be set on foot by the Printers of the County Papers, and desiring him to contribute liberally thereto, under peril of the vengeance of “Rock, Swing, & Co.” We trust the Rev. Gentleman and all persons who receive anonymous letters will disregard them, though such Letters had better be sent to the nearest Civil authority, as these threats, when collected, may help to detection, and the offence is a very serious one.⁸³

Mr Henry J. Leeke, a J. P. for the County, wrote to Sir Robert Peel from West Leigh to report on the riotous proceedings in the area and the destruction of machinery.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *Morning Post*, 25 November 1830

⁸¹ TNA – HO130/1. Benjamin Read, a farmer, was buried at Houghton 20 December 1834, age 62

⁸² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830. NOTE: 17 captured according to the *S&W Journal*; 16 captured according to *Hampshire Telegraph*; no numbers given in *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁸³ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830

⁸⁴ TNA- HO52/7 f101-103

West Leigh near

Havant Novr 21st 1830

Sir,

I am well aware of the important Public affairs which must of necessity engross your attention at this moment, yet I feel I should not be doing my Duty as a Magistrate if I were not shortly to make you acquainted with the transactions which have so recently occurred in this neighbourhood — Many of the lower orders of the People have assembled together with Instruments of various sorts and totally destroyed several Thrashing machines, vociferating "we are out of employ — we have no Work — Break the machines — we will have Bread — we will not starve" — I met upon the Turnpike Road about 30 or 40 of them, I stem'd the Torrent in person as long as I was able by reasoning upon the Consequences which would certainly attend them if they persisted in the work of destruction of Property, and explained to them the right way to have their grievances redressed if they had any to complain of — Application to the Magistrates and surrounding Gentlemen peaceably & quietly and without Riot — The suddenness with which these works of Destruction were begun and accomplished prevented the swearing in of Special Constables and I am sorry to say I experienced reluctance in many so to assist however it was from the mistaken notion of consequences, and not from disaffection.

My neighbouring Magistrate and Brother Officer Capt^a Purvis R.N. speedily came here to our assistance and upon our receiving Information of the assembling together of a number of the Rioters at a public House at Westbourne within two miles of this Town, we mounted our Horses and proceeded to the spot accompanied by Col: Gubbins of Belmont and some other Gentlemen and Volunteers, leaving Sir John T. Lee another Magistrate upon the Bench at Havant — broke suddenly in upon them, and after a good deal of stout resistance we secured 8 of the Ringleaders 4 were committed to Chichester Jail and 4 to Gosport — We had great satisfaction in being joined at West Bourn by Lord George Lennox and two other Magistrates of Sussex acting with great Spirit & Resolution.

I am happy to have it in my power to say we have as yet experienced no other absolute act of Riot excepting the destruction of 7 or 8 Threshing Machines — no Fires — no molesting of other property, or person, and in a few instances only, asking for, or I may say demanding Beer and Provisions, and from all I have been able to learn I incline to think the cause of these riotous proceedings amongst the lower orders calling themselves Labourers, lies deeper than the cry for Labour — work and Bread, and instigated by wiser Heads than theirs and worse Hearts — We are in a state of quietness at present and some military have been promptly sent from Portsmouth to our assistance if necessary.

A meeting will be held here tomorrow by the Inhabitants or the surrounding Parishes to consider the best means of keeping order — protecting Property — and employing those who are out of work and really in want.

A circumstance has however by mere accident come to my knowledge quite Foreign to my Magisterial Duties which I think right to make you acquainted with Confidentially in these times of sedition and tumult — Many letters have lately been received at the Post Office in this Town from various parts directed to A.B. or C.D. — Initials only, to be left at the Post Office till called for — they have from time to time been called for and delivered to persons not known in the Town or Neighbourhood — such a circumstance no doubt frequently and innocently occurs in large populous Towns — but here, in this small Post Office a rare occurrence.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect,

Sir, Your most obed^t and
most humble Servant

Henry J. Leeke. J.P. for the

County of

Hants

To The Right Honorable

Sir Rob^t Peel Bart.

John Brett Purvis has received a letter by post today, which threatened to shoot, kill and murder him. The letter reads:-

Tyrant! — At seven o'clock last evening the muzzle of a gun was levelled at your heart, and in one moment your soul would have been in hell, but your momentary impulse in starting as the gun was aimed at you, I lost the present opportunity, and must wait another. Tyrant! Prepare to meet your GOD, your life is short, and your death certain, it can be at a post or lamp-iron — it is your merret to exalt such a pitiful fogger as you are. Your house is not worth blowing up, or we would have done it last night: 5 delegates as you call them — 3 at Gosport, and 2 at Portsea, have sworn on the Bible to your death, first chance, so you are watcht in all your movements by order of a Committee.

(Seal)

Sworn

Nov. 20, 1830

A. B.	0
C. D.	0
E. F.	0
G. H.	0
I. J.	0

*Captain John B. Purvis, Navy, on Road, near Gosport.*⁸⁵

Mr Charles Baker, who has extensive saw mills at Southampton, received an anonymous letter this morning by the penny post, which warned that if his mills were not taken down, in a few hours they would be taken down for him, and added that 500 were gathered together for that purpose. The mills were built about five years ago and house saws for cutting all kinds of wood and a machine for crushing the bones used for making manure. All are driven by a steam engine. The threat has been taken seriously and a nightly watch has been set up at the mills to prevent any attacks by incendiaries.⁸⁶

Another meeting was held at Winchester Guildhall today, where many more inhabitants were sworn in as special constables, and instructed as to their duty, in case of being suddenly called upon to act. Hand bills were posted in the principal streets, cautioning people against assembling together, or permitting their children and apprentices to leave home. The city remained quiet, but many excesses were committed in the surrounding villages, by extorting money, and plundering and destroying property. Several threshing machines were demolished, and their owners severely threatened.⁸⁷

A notice has been stuck up at St Mary Bourne, ordering all labourers, &c. to meet tomorrow, at 7 o'clock.⁸⁸

Mr Samuel Twyford wrote a private letter to Mr Phillips enclosing a petition for the redress of grievances.⁸⁹

Hollycombe, Liphook, Hants

Sunday

Dear Sir

I arrived at Sir Charles Taylor's a few minutes ago from London – he immediately put into my hands the inclosed Petition which he said he and the neighbouring Gentlemen had signed – I am sorry to say my Brother has done the same – You will perceive they have undertaken to do what is impractical – They plead Terror – What I shall do if it is presented to me I know not at present – Some of the Farmers objected, on which other said they would not employ any labourers and then they would be thrown on the Parish - & thus (.... to have desire all into their agreement?) – I suppose the same thing will follow in other Parishes – A number of workmen of the two or three neighbouring Parishes are to meet on tomorrow on both sides of this Place – I will write again as soon as I collect any information – The Gentlemen here abouts have made no resistance to this humble Petition – There are I believe no machines to destroy but one and that is on a Paper Manufactory in Iping – Mr Prentiss the Common Councilman is I think the owner and has a constant watch kept – he has received threatening letter – As yet we have had no fires just here – but the Population is & has been only half employed for some time.

It is my intention to communicate with Lord Egremont tomorrow & the Magistrates at Midhurst – but I do not anticipate any opportunity of trying the Spirit of the People except in my own case but the matter remains settled for the present – but I suppose they will find me out.

I am Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Samuel Twyford

In a Country place like this we could not find a Parson to be trusted in this question as a Special Constable. The little Farmers are Bankrupt & in one of Parishes told the Mob to burn away, the Barns were not their Property – Mr Poyntz of Cowdray has left for London having acceded to the terms prescribed – I understand Mrs Poyntz is

⁸⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Morning Post*, 25 December 1830

⁸⁶ *Evening Mail*, 29 November 1830

⁸⁷ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830

⁸⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

⁸⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f142-144; NOTE: The Petition mentioned by Mr Twyford's is not included with the letter

ill – I mention this to show how general is the opinion that no resistance should be made as to the Petition – I have no doubt we shall have the assistance of Mr Poyntz as soon as Mrs Poyntz's health will permit – If you should have any communication to make to me I will thank you to direct it to Trolton Rectory, Midhurst.

*I am
Dear Sir
Yours sincerely
Sam^t Twyford*

Today the Duke of Buckingham arrived at Avington House from London. By order of the Secretary of State he brought with him two of the new policemen, who have acquainted themselves with the plans of the rioters. This evening, between 100 and 150 of the inhabitants of Avington, Easton, and Itchin Abbas, who had refused to identify themselves with the riotous bodies perambulating the neighbourhood, were sworn in as special constables, and are guarding Avington House, which it is supposed, will tomorrow, be the object of attack.⁹⁰

A large number of labourers gathered at Crawley today. Richard Snow, of Crawley, was at church this afternoon when he heard that there was a riotous assembly in the neighbourhood of his house. He returned home to find that his house had been broken into by the mob and ransacked, apparently in search for provisions, but nothing had been taken. Some of the mob was still at the house when Mr Snow got there, and he was forced to give them a sovereign.⁹¹

Around two hundred labourers assembled in the parish of Kimpton today and went to the farm of John Barnes at Shoddesden, where they demanded money from Mr Barnes. He gave them a sovereign and a quantity of beer and victuals.⁹²

This afternoon Sir Lucius Curtis wrote to Sir Robert Peel to report on the riotous proceedings in the Andover area.⁹³

*Ramridge near Andover
21 Nov^r 1830
(Answered 22nd)
Sir,*

By a letter addressed to you yesterday by the Magistrates acting in this division you will be aware of the disturbed state of this neighbourhood. I greatly fear by the accounts I hear this afternoon that the people are becoming more riotous every hour. Last night a considerable Mob assembled at the Parish of Clatford and destroyed the Foundry of Mr Tasker and property to the amount of £2000. Another Mob assembled in the Parish of Kimpton at a place called Shoddesden and burnt the Barn and Cottage in the occupation of a Farmer named Barnes. I have also just learned that a Mob are assembling in the next Parish to this Fyfield and are threatening to burn the property of Mr Bishop and others and that tomorrow they are to assemble with a party from Ludgershall to attack the property of several Gentlemen. I think it my duty to give you this information that you may take immediate steps to stop the proceedings of these riotous assemblages, trusting that it may be considered perfectly confidential.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Lucius Curtis

I have just heard that the Mob are coming to Weyhill this evening to burn the Booths at that place.

(In another hand)

*They intend to visit me tomorrow or next day & I fear the consequences in Ly Winchester's state of Illness
Yr's most faithfully
Winchester*

⁹⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

⁹¹ *Evening Mail*, 29 December 1830

⁹² TNA – HO130/1

⁹³ TNA – HO52/7 f46-48. NOTE: The Shoddesden Farmer mentioned in the letter was John Barnes, he was still farming in Shoddesden at the time of the 1841 census. The barn and cottage mentioned in the letter were in the parish of Ludgershall

R^t Honble
Sir Rob^t Peel
Esq Esq

Two Andover magistrates, Edward Walter Blunt and William Iremonger, also wrote to the Secretary of State to report on the riots in Andover and the destruction of property at the Iron Foundry.⁹⁴

To the Right Honb^e
the Secretary of State
Home Department
Sir,

In continuation of the letter which was addressed to you, in haste, from our Bench yesterday, we have now the Honor to inform you that our meeting was attended by a mob amounting to several hundred persons from the neighbouring Villages, clamorously demanding an increase in wages, & declaring their determination to destroy all the agricultural machinery in the neighbourhood.

Their expectations as to wages having been taken into consideration, we announced to the public our intentions in this respect, which seemed to satisfy the multitude who quietly departed forthwith to their respective homes, giving three cheers & "God save the King" on leaving the spot where we were assembled.

It is our duty to state, however, that the success which has attended the proceedings of the several mobs, in the predatory excursions thro' the neighbourhood, has given encouragement to numbers of the most dissolute characters to assemble together who compel the disposed labourers to join them in their progress, & then as such as by their numbers & acts of intimidation, deprive us of the services of those persons to whom we should naturally look for support & assistance.

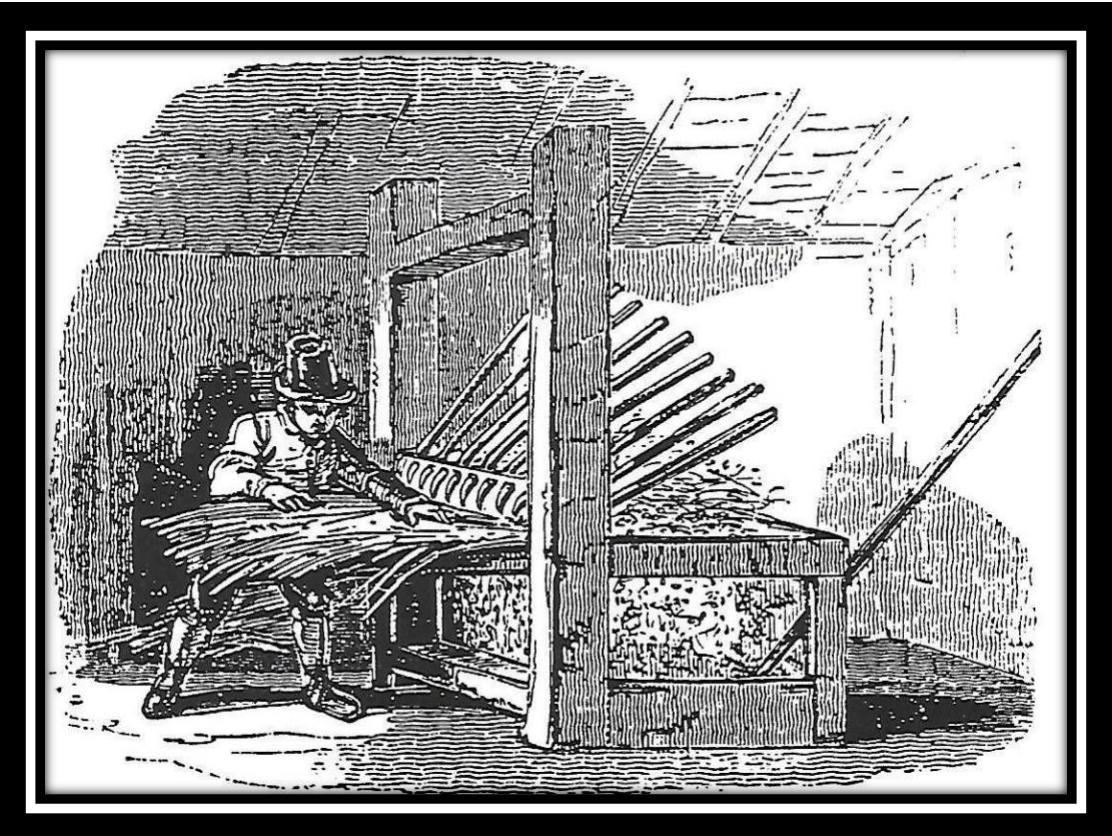
The focus of this Gang is the Town of Andover & we are concerned to state that after the parties above mentioned had dispersed, this accumulated Andover gang returned into the town, from a long predatory tour, & then proceeded at once to an Iron foundry within two miles of this Town where they destroyed the machinery moulds & other property to the amount of several hundred Pounds.

We have reason to believe that this Gang intend to proceed to further acts of violence tomorrow; & under the impression that they have the promise of support from a distance, we tried with extreme reluctance in all persons to join us in suppressing these proceedings; we have therefore deemed it our duty to make application to the Commanding Officer at Winchester for assistance in supporting the Civil Authority in case of necessity.

We have the Honor to be

E.W. Blunt Enham House
W. Iremonger Wherwell Priory
Andover
21 Nov^r 1830

⁹⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f48-49



12. Farm Labourer at Work
(The Farm. A New Account of Rural Toils and Produce)
Jefferys Taylor, 1834

Around 70 labourers gathered in the parish of Vernham's Dean and visited a number of farms in the area. At Henry Fermor's farm a winnowing machine was broken. George Hopgood and Jacob Wiltshire were recognised among the mob. In the same parish, these two men also visited the farm of Darius Bull where they made threats and demanded money. Fearing either injury to himself or his property Mr Bull handed over one sovereign and a half sovereign.⁹⁵

Between 6 and 7 o'clock this evening the mob arrived at the house of Mary Sergeant, where they demanded money. Mrs Sergeant handed over a sovereign, but this did not seem to satisfy the men. They made a great disturbance around the door and broke several windows. Fearful of what else they might do Mrs Sergeant gave them another sovereign. Some of the men went round to the back of the house and got in to the kitchen. They demanded more money and when Mrs Sergeant told them she had no more to give them, they asked for beer. Edward Holmes, constable of Vernham's Dean, arrived on the scene, but there was little he could do on his own other than identify some of the men and try and persuade them to go home. George Carter, Thomas Neale, Robert Cook and George Hopgood were among those he recognised.⁹⁶

Another incident took place in Vernham Dean in which John Pinerger, of Kinwarston in Wiltshire was assaulted by James Collins, alias James Fisher.⁹⁷

Mr H. D. Campbell wrote to the Home Department from Southsea to enquire on the power Magistrates had to call upon the Military for assistance.⁹⁸

Southsea, neat Portsmouth

21st November 1830

Sir,

⁹⁵ *The Times*, 25 December 1830; *Sherborne Mercury*, 27 December 1830. NOTE: Darius Bull, son of John & Sarah Bull, was buried at Vernham Dean 19 May 1835

⁹⁶ *Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830

⁹⁷ TNA – HO130/1 p.8

⁹⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f55-57

Understanding some question exists in the mind of the military as to their liability to be called on by a magistrate and to assist under his direction in the suppression of a tumult and for the protection of property may I beg the Favour of your opinion upon the following Points.

Has one Magistrate the Power to call in the aid of the military in cases of riot and for the protection of property and can the Military Commandant legally refuse such aid?

Has the Military Commandant a right to insist on knowing the private information upon which the Magistrate acts before he grants the aid required?

Whether the Commandant having granted the Aid required can legally recall the whole or Detachments stationed by the Magistrates for particular purposes without the Knowledge or Concurrence of such Magistrate?

From the present state of the Country it is necessary that Magistrates should act in the most decided and prompt manner, any unnecessary delay may be of the most fatal consequence and I am therefore induced to beg the Favor of an early answer.

I am happy to state that the Farmers as well as their men in the Parish of Portsea have at my suggestion, voluntarily come forward and been sworn in as Special Constables, in which Parish the Labourers appear perfectly satisfied and ready to support me in maintaining Order and defending their Master's Property. The same steps have also been taken by me in the adjoining Parishes of Widley and Wymering where the Labourers also appear satisfied, and from our success in securing nine of the Ringleaders at Westbourne on Friday last, in which we were mainly assisted by the cordial co-operation and support afforded us by Colonel Sir Richard Williams H.C.B. the Commandant at Portsmouth in the absence of Sir Colin Campbell H.C.B. I hope our future exertions will be unnecessary.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obed^t Servant

H D Campbell

J.P, for the County Southampton

This evening Mr William Lewis, the Mayor of Basingstoke, wrote to the Secretary of State to ask for military assistance to put down the disturbance around the town.⁹⁹

Basingstoke 21 Nov^r 1830

(Answered 22nd)

Sir,

I was in hopes I should not have had occasion to have addressed you on any tumultuary movements in this Neighbourhood, but, they have arrived to that pitch which impose on me the duty of earnestly begging the immediate presence of a military force in this Town. Mobs of from 3 to 500 have for several days been, and still are, moving about in the Vicinity levying Contributions and claiming redress of grievances, with vehement threats of destruction of property, of which the most serious apprehensions are entertained. The civil force is wholly inadequate to oppose such movements and this Country is at the Mercy of Mobs without the protection of a military force. I have just now (9 o'clock at night) received Information, which may be relied on, that parties from different quarters are at this moment concentrating within a Mile of the Town; and the Country is in the greatest state of general alarm

I have the honor to remain

Sir

Your most obedient

bumble Servant

W. A. Lewis

Mayor of Basingstoke

To The R^t Hon^{ble}

The Secretary of State

William Heathcote wrote to the Duke of Wellington's, from his Grace's Office at Winchester today to report on the events in the town and surrounding villages.¹⁰⁰

Winchester Nov^r 21. 1830

My Lord Duke,

I beg to report to your Grace what has passed here this day. I came into the Town about 10 o'clock at which time a detachment of the 3rd Dragoon Guards arrived. About 2 o'clock I received information that a large

⁹⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f85-86

¹⁰⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f79 – 81. NOTE: This letter was enclosed in a letter written by Lord Wellington to Lord Melbourne on 22nd November 1830

body of men were destroying machines in the neighbouring villages upon which I thought it right to require the assistance of a party of the military, & went to meet them, having been joined by Sir Hussey Vivian, & Mr Sloane Stanley who arrived several accidentally. The mob did not wait for us in a body, but we fell in with parties of them, & secured fourteen who were pointed out as having been active in the demolition of machines, which had been going on for some hours before we received information.

We have reason to expect a large assemblage of the Peasantry tomorrow in another quarter, but I hope we shall disperse them without difficulty. The populace of this Town are of the most law less kind, & the Police (under the control of the Corporation) not efficient; & there was so much disposition to riot when we brought the prisoners in, that we thought it expedient to place 20 men of the 47th in the Gaol for the night.

From what I have observed of the backwardness on the one hand, from intimidation, of individuals to come forward in the country places to aid the civil power & the readiness of the populace to resist that power on the other hand, I am convinced that it will be desirable to have as strong a force as can be spared in this Town for some time, & I hope reinforcements may be sent.

I forgot to mention to your Grace yesterday that we caused the arms of the militia to be moved in to the Gaol, & I have since had reason to think an attack had been meditated on the very insecure store in which they had been kept. I also, as a deputy Lieutenant, in the absence of your Grace, took the liberty of desiring the Adjutant of the North Hants Yeom Militia to muster his staff, & hold them in readiness if needed. I have to apologize for the hasty manner in which I am obliged to write &

I have the honour to be

Your Grace's most obedt Ser'

William Heathcote

At six o'clock this evening Mr W. Sloane Stanley, wrote from Winchester to the Home Department to report on the destruction of machinery and the capture of some of the rioters.¹⁰¹
Winchester Nov^r 21

6. P.M.

My dear Sir,

Nearly 200 men assembled this day in and proceeded to break Machines at several of the Farm Houses.

Sir W. Heathcote, Sir Hussey Vivian, Mr Paulett Mildmay, and myself, attended by a Troop of dragoons proceeded to a Village called Littleton about a mile from this Town – where, and in other Villages, we took Prisoners about 12 of them. I am sorry to add the two principal Ringleaders escaped – but have little or no doubt they will be taken in the course of the night.

The men were nearly all drunk, and complained they had not their rights.

I am truly happy to say that I heard no disloyal or political expressions escape from the Mouths of any of them – and from those that knew me, I met with no feeling but that of respect to myself as a Magistrate.

I have the Honor to

remain your obedient, Servant

W. Sloane Stanley

Excuse the haste with which this is written – I am off for another part of the County.

This evening the Reverend Henry Wake, Rector of Over Wallop, wrote to the Home Department to report on the destruction at the Iron Foundry and the state of alarm felt in the neighbourhood.¹⁰²

Over Wallop near Andover

Hants Sunday Night

Nov^r 21 1830

Sir,

It is with the most painful feelings I think it my duty to communicate to you the dreadful state in which we are in this Parish & neighbourhood. Not a night passes without Fires taking place around us. Yesterday a large mob six or seven a breast marched in regular procession in the face of open day with Sledge Hammers, Sticks, Axes & other implements in their hands for the avowed purpose of destroying a large Iron Foundry situated at the village of Clatford near Andover: - they effected their purpose without opposition – the Proprietors own men were even

¹⁰¹ TNA – HO52/7 f51-53

¹⁰² TNA – HO52/7 f53-55

compelled by the mob to assist in the destruction of their master's property – although the Proprietor offered 500 Sovereigns to these diabolical wretches to spare the Property – the loss of which is estimated at upwards of a thousand pounds: - tomorrow the mob has avowed their intention of visiting the Village of Abbotsann adjoining this Parish to destroy the remaining property belonging to the Proprietors above mentioned. – added to which we are all kept in the greatest alarm & agitation from the apprehension of our property being fired & the general feeling is that we are at the present left quite unprotected & at the mercy of a ferocious lawless rabble.

Neither life nor Property is safe & at the moment I am now writing (-11- o'clock-) a very large Fire is distinctly seen at a distance of not more than 6 or 7 miles – supposed to be corn stacks, &c.

Trust Sir you will not think me taking an improper liberty in addressing you on this most painful subject & beg

to subscribe myself

Sir

with the highest respect

Your very faithful Servant

Henry Wake Rector

of Over Wallop

A number of labourers visited the farm of Mr John Box at Broughton this evening and told him that they wanted to take down his threshing machine, which was in the barn, and asked for a light. He said, 'Don't do it tonight, for fear of a fire, and I have several ricks near the barn. If it must come down, if a few of you will come in the morning you can take it down, and I will give you some bread, cheese and beer afterwards.' The men left the farm saying they would return in the morning.¹⁰³

The Duke of Buckingham wrote a letter from Avington this evening which was enclosed in the Duke of Wellington's letter to Lord Melbourne dated 22nd November 1830.¹⁰⁴

Avington 10 o'clock

Nothing can be worse than the state of this County & neighbourhood. I may say that this part of the County is wholly in the hands of the Rebels. There are two troops of Dragoons & a few Marines in Winchester. The 42nd started from Southampton at 9 o'clock this morning. But they are already reported in different divisions in consequence of different Riots. One troop of Cavalry is already moved from Winchester to Rookley on the Stalbridge road where Mr Lovell's men are assembled. 1500 Rioters are to assemble tomorrow morning and will attack my farm House where there are Threshing Machines &c &c

They go about levying Contributions on every Gentleman however there are very few Magistrates, and what there are, are completely cowed. In short something decisive must immediately be done, The intended plan of meeting tomorrow is in the village of Itchen within a quarter of a mile of this place. Even the militia arms were never moved until this morning & are now placed in the Gaol which is threatened.

Yours sincerely

B&G

Late this evening the Reverend Thomas Heathcote Tragett, of Awbridge was visited by a band of labourers.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰³ *Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830

¹⁰⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f77-78

¹⁰⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

Monday, 22nd November 1830

A detachment of the 9th Lancers arrived in Andover this morning and this seems to have frustrated any further acts of destruction on the part of the rioters in the area. With the help of the special constables they have already succeeded in capturing 30 men who are believed to have been involved in the attack on Tasker's foundry. Isaac and James Manns, Joseph Blatch, Charles Faye, George Myland, John Ellis, Thomas Green and John Gilmore are among those who have been committed to the County goal. Mr Tasker has estimated that around £1000 worth of damage was inflicted on his factory by the mob, putting the damage to the machinery at between £200 and £300.¹⁰⁶

Sir William Heathcote returned to Hursley Park yesterday evening. Some misguided men had assembled in Hursley, but on the recommendation of Sir William they dispersed, returning to their respective occupations.¹⁰⁷

Around three hundred labourers assembled in Hurstbourne Tarrant today. They visited the premises of Mr Richard Earl Bunney, where they demanded and received one sovereign. Mr Bunney handed over the money as he feared the men might do some injury either to himself or his property. Joseph Hall was seen among the mob.¹⁰⁸

A meeting of the inhabitants of Havant and the surrounding parishes was held today, to consider and adopt such measures as will be thought advisable to repress any further tumultuous assemblies, and also to consider the best means of employing and relieving the poor. The Reverend Sir J Jervoise, being called to the chair, several resolutions were entered into to form and organise a strong constabulary force in each parish, to co-operate immediately in the suppression of all such riotous and tumultuous assemblies, for the destruction of property, and also to ascertain the number of poor in each parish not in constant employ, what work could be devised for them, and to take into consideration the rate of wages to be paid to them, and to able bodied and industrious labourers, it being the opinion of the meeting that an increase is in general cases required.¹⁰⁹

A meeting of Magistrates was held at Odiham today, and around 300 Special Constables were sworn in.¹¹⁰

Early this morning a large body of men, from Winchester and distant parishes, gathered in Itchen Abbas, about a quarter of a mile from the residence of the Duke of Buckingham, and began destroying machines and demanding money. An express was sent from there to Winchester, and a strong detachment of horse was immediately sent to the area. On hearing of this, the Reverend Robert Wright, a county magistrate and rector of Itchen Abbas, went out to meet the mob. He tried to speak to them, pointing out the illegality of their assembly, and advised them to disperse. They told him they would not, they had come to demand their rights and destroy machinery. One man stepped out from the crowd and coming towards Mr Wright asked him what he would give them, to which Mr Wright replied, 'Probably a broken head before we part.' Mr Wright and his son then left the mob and went to Avington House where he knew a number of the Duke's men had gathered to protect his property. About 100 men were sworn in as special constables and arming themselves with bludgeons they accompanied Mr Wright, together with two of the new police, who had been sent down from the Secretary of State's Office, to help quell the riots in the vicinity of Winchester, instantly proceeded from Avington House, back to where the mob was still assembled. Their number had grown and was now nearer 300. Mr Wright and his men attacked the insurgents so vigorously, and routed them

¹⁰⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹⁰⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹⁰⁸ TNA – HO130/1

¹⁰⁹ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830

¹¹⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

entirely, and within a short time had taken between 40 and 50 prisoners. They were brought to Avington Houses where they underwent examination, by Sir H J Tichborne, the Reverend Robert Wright, and S Wall, Esquire. Twenty nine of the rioters were committed to the County Gaol, where they arrived this afternoon, escorted by a detachment of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, who had arrived shortly after the capture of the men.¹¹¹

While Mr Wright was dealing with this mob another mob from the Winchester area had been at work. They had been to the property of Mr Andrew Twitchin of Itchin Abbas where they destroyed a threshing machine. Mr John Dagwell, a miller from Martyr Worthy, was at Mr Twitchin's farm when the mob arrived. When they saw him one of the mob called out, 'Here is Dagwell, the miller, let us have a sovereign off him.' Dagwell told them that he was a very poor man and that his need of a sovereign was as great as theirs. One of the mob, William Bolter, knew Dagwell and confirmed that he was poor, to which another said, 'Then let us let him off for a crown.' Dagwell had no money with him but borrowed 5s from Mr Twitchin which he gave to the men, who then left. On leaving Mr Twitchin's the mob arrived in Itchin Abbas just as Mr Wright and his constable were arresting the mob gathered there. Mr Wright and his men also succeeded in capturing a number of those who had broken Mr Twitchin's machine, including William Bolter and George Coleman who were taken into custody and brought to Avington House along with the rest, and examined.¹¹²

A meeting of the Magistrates and inhabitants of Fareham took place today, to consider the best means of preserving the public peace, and several resolutions with this object in mind were entered into. In consequence of the notice for a meeting of the Lord Lieutenant and Magistrates at Winchester, the Fareham meeting was adjourned until Sunday.¹¹³

The Duke of Buckingham wrote to the Duke of Wellington to report on the events that had taken place at Avington earlier today.¹¹⁴

Copy

Avington. Monday

My Dear Sir – We have had a day which I trust will be of use. A mob assembled consisting of about 300 men in the village within a quarter of a mile of my House in the village of Itchen. I am happy to say the men of my parishes stood firm and those of the very village in which the mob assembled came in a Body and defended me. The mob broke a Machine in the village, upon which a hundred of my men, labourers like themselves headed by the Revd Mr Wright a Magistrate and the two Police men sent down from the Secretary of State's Office and armed only with Bludgeons, attacked them, routed them in an instant and took near 50 Prisoners. I had sent for some Dragoons from Winchester who readily came, but the Business was over. Some Magistrates assembled in my House whither the Prisoners were brought and we took Depositions &c, letting out on their Recognizance those the least Guilty but committing to Winchester I think 35 who have just set off escorted by the Dragoons. It is of importance to have shewn the misguided that all the People not only are not with them, but are ready to attack and disperse them. I am bound in the amplest manner to bear testimony to the spirit and firmness of the Revd Mr Wright who himself headed the attacking Party, and to his perseverance and determination we owe to having dispersed this assembly. We have (committed?) several who pay'd money to the Rioters, other mobs are on foot on the Andover side of the County, but this side is for the moment quiet. Pray forward this Report to the Secretary of States Office

Buckingham & Chandos

An extract of a letter, dated East Tytherley, Hampshire, Nov. 22, appeared in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, dated 29 November 1830.

¹¹¹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 25 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830. **NOTE:** According to reports in *The Times* & the *Hampshire Advertiser* 31 prisoners were committed to Winchester. According to the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, Francis Baring Esquire was one of the examining magistrates and 28 rioters were fully committed

¹¹² *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830. **NOTE:** The report in *The Morning Herald* & *The Times* both name the farmer whose machine was broken as William, not Andrew Twitchin

¹¹³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 December 1830

¹¹⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f89-90. **NOTE:** This letter was enclosed in a letter written to Lord Melbourne by the Duke of Wellington on 23rd November

This morning, about nine o'clock, we were alarmed by the appearance of a mob, which assembled at the door, and gradually increased to between two and three hundred men, who insisted on Webb and Aylward, two farmers, accompanying them. They appeared at Broughton, and went to Mr Tyrrel's, the curate of Lockerley, for money &c. and paid their respects to us, as I have stated, this morning. From hence they went to Mottisfont to the Rev. Mr St John's, and we have heard that there was another assemblage on the Romsey road. Whilst here, they insisted on our giving them 20 sovereigns, but Mr Webb got them away by giving them eight. The Tytherley workmen behaved extremely well, resisted the others in a body, and prevented their entering the house.¹¹⁵



13. Fisher's Building, formerly Selborne Poor House

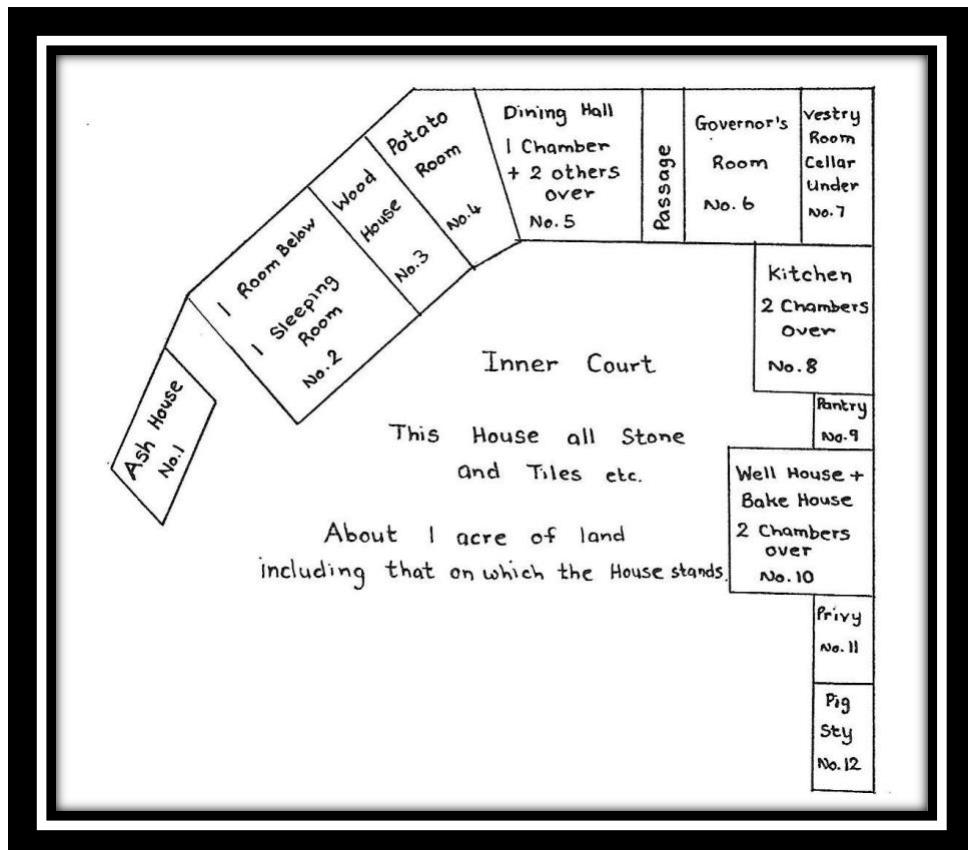
© Eleanor Kingston

This morning, a mob, around 300 in number, collected from the surrounding country, entered Selborne. They were armed with large clubs, &c. At around 7 o'clock in the morning the Reverend William Rust Cobbold, vicar of Selborne, came out of his house. He had not gone more than 50 yards when he met up with a group of about seven or eight men, some of his own labourers among them. He heard them say they were going to turn Harrison out of the poor house. The men were joined by Aaron Harding who told Mr Cobbold that the labourers wanted 12s a week for their labour, and that they had the backing of the local farmers. Mr Cobbold said that he thought 12s a week a reasonable amount and did not think any objections would be raised against this. 'We must have a touch of your tithes,' Harding continued. 'The farmers have undertaken to raise our wages, and we have undertaken to reduce your tithes. We think £300 a year quite enough for you - that is £4 a week.' Mr Cobbold replied that he would never concede to this. Harding told him that they were gathering a large number of men together to see that he agreed to their demands. The men then left and Mr Cobbold returned to the vicarage.

At around 9 o'clock John Newland, who has served in the Hampshire Militia, sounded his horn to gather the men together. Mr Cobbold went out to find a mob of about 200 gathered. Aaron Harding was there again. He said, 'We shall now go and turn out old Harrison first, and then come back to you; stop till we come back or it will be the worse for you!' Half of the men then headed off down Gracious Street towards the poor house and the others remained outside the vicarage. Mr Cobbold started to follow them down the road but soon met a number of men

¹¹⁵ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

running back towards him. One called out to him, 'For God's sake, Sir, run, for the men are bent on mischief.' Mr Cobbold returned home.



14. Plan of Selborne Poor House

(Copied from HA – 32M66/P08)

When the mob arrived at the poor house they found that the master, Mr Harrison, was not at home. They ordered his wife to leave and take her family with her, which she did. In less than 15 minutes the house was unroofed, the doors and windows broken to pieces, and the furniture destroyed and burnt.

Less than three quarters of an hour after leaving Mr Cobbold the mob were again gathered outside the vicarage. They had been joined by a number of local farmers. John Cobb went up to the gate where Mr Cobbold was standing. 'You must lower your tithes,' he told him. Mr Horatio Hale, one of the farmers, spoke to Mr Cobbold, 'For God's sake accept £300 a year, if you don't you will be murdered and your house destroyed!' Fearing for his life Mr Cobbold was forced to agree to their demands. When Mr Hale told the mob that Mr Cobbold had agreed to lower his tithes, a cheer went up, but the mob said they wanted it in writing. An agreement was drawn up which Mr Cobbold signed and the farmers who were present witnessed. It was then read out and received three cheers from the mob. They then asked Mr Cobbold for money and beer but he refused to give them either. Mr James Bridger, another of the farmers, suggested that they order beer from the public house and charge it to the poor book. This was done and the beer was brought out in buckets to the men.

Robert Holdaway, a carpenter, wheelwright and former innkeeper from Selborne, was chosen by the mob to take the agreement round to the neighbouring farmers for them to sign it as well. This he agreed to do and the signatures of several individuals in the Newton and Hartley area have already been obtained. The mob then dispersed. Holdaway proposed to proceed alone with the agreement tomorrow but the mob would not hear of this and insisted they would accompany him.

It has also been reported that the vicar of Headley was compelled to sign a similar paper to the one drawn up at Selborne. On hearing that mobs were attacking machines Mr Bennett, a farmer

at Headley, removed his threshing machine to Kingsley for safe keeping. Unfortunately it was found by a mob and destroyed.¹¹⁶

After seeing the notice stuck up in St Mary Borne yesterday, at 7 o'clock this morning around 200 labourers assembled, armed with large sticks, pickaxes, and other weapons, and proceeded to several houses in the area. It was between eight and nine o'clock in the morning when they arrived at the Vicarage House, the home of the Reverend William Easton. Mr Easton's son went out and asked them what they wanted. They replied, 'To come in.' The gate was locked and Mr Easton junior said he would not let them in. William Sims, one of the mob, called for a pick-axe, and with one blow broke open the gate. The mob came through the gateway and forced their way up to the door of the house demanding to be let in. Mr Easton repeated that he would not let them in. William Sims called for the pick axe and again the door was opened. The mob went inside, some making their way into the parlour, others heading for the kitchen.

The mob found Mrs Lucy Easton, the Reverend Easton's wife, in the parlour and William Sims demanded money from her saying, 'Money or Blood!' At first Mrs Easton refused to hand over any money and Sims told her that he would bring 500 men in the night if she did not. She offered them 3s but was told this was not enough and the cry of 'Money or Blood!' was taken up by the mob. Fearful of what they might do Mrs Easton sent her daughter, Lucy, to get some money. Miss Easton brought back a half sovereign and gave it to her mother who then gave it to Sims. Others in the mob had forced their way into the kitchen where they found the Reverend Easton. The men told Mr Easton that they wanted an increase in the wages. He told them to go to the stocks in the village where they would find a notice which said that the magistrates had already agreed to an increase in their wages. Daniel Sims, the son of William Sims, said, 'Damn you, where will your text be next Sunday?' He went on to say that the sermon Mr Easton had preached last Sunday was against the poor. Mr Easton denied this saying that he had always been a friend to the poor. William Sims cried, 'All out!', and the mob left the house.

Mrs Easton has apparently been ill for some time and was beginning to make a slow recovery. Her husband now reports that she has had a relapse and he believes it will be some time before she will be able to go out again.¹¹⁷

With perseverance Mr Blunt, the Magistrate, was able to persuade the men to disperse, but afterwards many of them assembled again and went on to destroy a machine, the property of Mr Vincent. At Mr Wedge's house, at Buckets Down they received two sovereigns, and money was demanded from Mr Jolliff and the Reverend Dr. Thomas Shepherd, at Crux Easton. From St Mary Bourne they proceeded, to the mansion of the Earl of Portsmouth, Hurstbourne Park, where they demanded and received money, the third time a mob had visited this place.¹¹⁸

Early this morning a number of men, with a fair proportion of women, and children, congregated at Leckford, near Stockbridge. They visited the houses of a number of farmers in the area, demanding an increase in their wages. About nine o'clock around 50 men, some armed with sticks and hammers, arrived at the farm of William Longman. They demanded bread and cheese, which he gave them. Then they told him he must pay 3s to each man present. Among the mob was William Summerbee, one of his own labourers. Summerbee told him he was not paid enough for his work. Mr Longman offered to pay them 2s each but was told that this was not acceptable. Some of the men forced their way forward and pushed open the door. Mr Longman's wife and six children were in the house and fearing what the men might do if he did not comply with their demands he agreed to pay them the 3s they asked for. When he asked who he was to give it to he was told that John Baker, who is a tythingman, was their receiver. He handed over a total of £7 4s.

Having obtained their object, they next went to Stockbridge, to the house of the vicar, the Reverend Mr James Harriman Hutton. They were armed with clubs and staves, and demanded that he reduce his tithes. They also demanded two sovereigns. This demand was accompanied by

¹¹⁶ *The Times*, 30 November 1830 & 24 December 1830; *Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830

¹¹⁷ *Morning Post*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

¹¹⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830. **NOTE:** Edward Wedge was farming at Buckets Down Farm, at the time of the 1851 Census he is shown as farming 90 acres, employing 2 men & 1 boy. He died in 1873. At the time of the 1841 Census there was a George Vincent farming Egbury Farm

violent threats in case of refusal. On recollecting that the Reverend Mr James Cutler had been connected with the parish for 21 years, they required an equal number of sovereigns, one for each year, and four additional as remuneration for their day's work. They compelled the agent to send an express to Mr Cutler, who resided at some distance, and declared their resolution to remain embodied until an answer, favourable or unfavourable, was returned, telling him, in case of refusal, all the stacks and property belonging to the Reverend Gentleman would be burned. The offenders have been identified.¹¹⁹

Farmers in the parish of Mitchelmersh attended a vestry meeting this morning, it had been called in order to discuss the labourers' wages. Hearing of the meeting around 100 labourers gathered around the vestry and the farmers inside heard the cry of, 'Now for Hall Farm,' rise up from the men outside. James Futcher, hearing the name of his farm, rushed outside in time to see a number of the labourers running towards his property. He caught up with them and was told that they were going to break his machine. On seeing Mr Futcher one of the mob, Arthur Fielder said, 'D - n your eyes, pay me the half-crown you owe me.' He went on to tell him that if he did not give him the money he owed 'he should not sleep again.' Fielder and another of the men, John Tongs, were armed with hammers, John Collins, George Palmer and Henry Rogers carried sticks. They went to the barn and destroyed the machine. Tongs, Rogers and Fielder were seen to be taking an active part in the destruction while Palmer and Collins stood by and called out. The same mob went on to Mr Gale's farm, where they went into the barn and destroyed a threshing machine.¹²⁰

The men who had visited the farm of John Box, at Broughton yesterday, returned again at half past seven this morning. Mr Box opened the door of the barn where the threshing machine was housed and the men started cutting down the wooden parts. After they had partly destroyed the machine they carried it out into the field, before going away. John Lush, William Kelsey and Henry Gale were recognised among the mob.¹²¹

The same men were seen at Norman Court, the property of Mr Charles Baring Wall in Broughton, where they broke a threshing machine.¹²²

At 10 o'clock this morning Down Grange, the property of Mrs Cassandra Hankey was visited by the mob for a second time. This time it was about 150 strong and the men were armed with bludgeons and sticks. John Gold and William Astridge were again in the mob but neither appeared to be the spokesman this time. Thomas Bennett, of Basing, was very active in the mob, encouraging and exciting them throughout the proceedings. The men moved into the yard and Mrs Hankey spoke to them through the kitchen window. On this occasion she handed over a sovereign to the leader and ordered John Child, her footman, to give bread and beef to the men. While on the premises the mob broke open the blacksmith's forge and took out three sledge hammers and used these to break the winnowing machine to pieces. After two such visits it is not difficult to understand the great feelings of agitation and alarm the poor woman is now suffering.¹²³

A mob has been very active in a number of parishes in the Basingstoke area. At about 11 o'clock this morning John Lawes, a carpenter, was at work upstairs in a house in Worting when the mob came along and he was forced to go with them. One of the men took his hammer saying, 'This will suit us very well.' They went to the Reverend Charles Wallington's at Worting where they were given half a sovereign by the parson's coachman. They told him it was not enough and he brought out 5s more. At Lady Waldo's the old lady handed £1 7s out to them through an open window. At Mr Hill's they received £1 10s and Dr Warren gave them a bill to get themselves

¹¹⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830

¹²⁰ *Morning Herald (London)*, 29 December 1830. NOTE: Mr Gale is likely to be Aaron Gale who received a £50 reward for his part in the capture of those who broke the machines

¹²¹ *Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830

¹²² TNA – HO130/1

¹²³ TNA – HO52/7 f217- 220

food and drink at the public house. They broke a threshing machine at Mr Taplin's and demanded £5 in payment for this but were only given £2.

At Manydown, in the parish of Wootton St Lawrence, a mob of around 150 men were met by Mr Bigg Wither who was out walking in his grounds. He led them round to the front of the house and asked them what they wanted, and was told they wanted money. Mr Bigg Wither remonstrated with them for a while but was eventually persuaded to give them a sovereign. The men remained on the premises for around twenty minutes.¹²⁴



15. Manydown

By George Frederick Prosser (1805-1882) - (1833)
(Public Domain)

They also visited the premises of Joseph Curtis in the parish of Wootton St Lawrence and he handed over one sovereign and one half sovereign.¹²⁵

The mob arrived at Tangier Park in the parish of Wootton St Lawrence, home of William Lutely Sclater Esquire, at about half past two this afternoon. Mr Sclater was standing at the garden gate when he saw a large crowd coming from the direction of Manydown, the residence of his nearest neighbour, Mr Harris Bigg Wither. As the men approached him Mr Sclater noticed that a number of them were armed, some with sledge hammers and crowbars, others with bludgeons and sticks. He estimated their number to be around 150 in all. They stopped opposite his gate and he asked them what they wanted. 'We want to have a little satisfaction from you,' was the reply. When he enquired where they were from a number of voices called out, 'From all parts.' Mr Sclater had attended a meeting yesterday at which it had been agreed by the farmers to raise the wages of the labourers and he told them of this. 'That is nothing to us, we must have something to assist us in the business we are upon,' he was told. When he told them he would give them nothing Charles Pain, who was armed with a sledge hammer, pushed open the gate and said, 'Then we must go to work.' At that moment a messenger arrived from Mr Bigg Wither at Manydown. He reported that soldiers were coming to which one of the mob replied, ' We don't care for the soldiers; we can die but once, the soldiers won't fire upon us.' Mr Sclater's gardener and under-gardener came on the scene and the cry of 'Press them!' rose up from the

¹²⁴ *Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830. **NOTE:** In December 1802 Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra were visiting their friends Catherine and Alethea Bigg at Manydown when Jane was proposed to by their brother Harris Bigg Wither. She accepted, but by the following morning had changed her mind. Two years later Harris married Anne Howe-Firth and they went on to have 10 children, Jane never married.

¹²⁵ TNA – HO130/1

mob. The two men ran off across the garden but were pursued by several of the mob. A short struggle took place when they caught up with them and the two men were taken. One of the mob addressed Mr Sclater, 'We must have satisfaction from you, the same as we have had from the other house, two sovereigns!' They formed a ring around Mr Sclater. He told them he had no money in his pocket but that he would get some. They let him out of the ring and he walked off a few paces before turning to them and saying, 'There are two sovereigns in my pocket, and if you insist upon it, you must take them.' This they declined to do and said that he must give the money to them. They formed the ring around him again and lifted their sticks in a threatening manner. Mr Sclater took the money from his pocket and held it out to them. He was jostled from behind and the money fell to the ground. 'He has dropped it,' someone said and several men bent to pick it up. Having got what they wanted they left the premises.¹²⁶

A number of labourers gathered in the parish of Brighton today, where they caused a great disturbance, much to the consternation of the inhabitants. Among those recognised are Isaac Butcher and William Hibberd.¹²⁷

A threshing machine, the property of Moses Hunt of Bossington was destroyed today. It has been valued at £30.¹²⁸

A large number of labourers gathered today at Durley, Upham and Exton in the Bishop's Waltham area. They went from farm to farm forcing men to leave their work and join them on their rounds. It has been reported that one of the men, William Primmer, fired off a gun as a signal for the men to assemble. At Durley they destroyed threshing machines belonging to Mr George Parker Whale, at Durley Farm, and Mr Thomas Pink, at Green Wood Farm.

The men from Upham destroyed machinery belonging to Mr Edward Gregory Morant Gale, of Upham House, before the two groups joined forces and proceeded to the residence in Upham of the Reverend John Haygarth, rector of the two parishes where they demanded money. They were joined at Mr Haygarth's by several farmers from the area, James Holdaway and George Target among them. They hoped the mob would be able to persuade Mr Haygarth to reduce the tithes and in return the farmers would increase the labourer's wages. By this afternoon the mob numbered around 250 and had organised themselves into a column behind six men with one of their number, Abraham Childs, acting as an officer and calling out the commands. He had tied a coloured handkerchief round his body in the form of a sash. Between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon they arrived at Preshaw House, the residence of Walter Long Esquire at Corhampton, where they were met by John Watts who is in Mr Long's service. The mob asked for Mr Long, but were told he was not at home. Several of the men then shouted for payment and Nicholas Freemantle, who carried an axe, demanded 10 guineas, food and drink. Mr Watts said that he did not have that much money to give them. The reply was met with threats and Mr Watts went inside and borrowed some money from the housekeeper and Lady Long's maid. When he returned to the mob outside Benjamin Harding stepped forward and received the money, it amounted to one sovereign and three half sovereigns. Before leaving the mob destroyed a hay-making machine and demanded and received bread and beer. As they left they threatened to return tomorrow, with even more men, to receive the rest of the money. They also called at other houses in the neighbourhood, where they asked for money.

A large number of the men then went to Bishop's Waltham, where they visited several respectable residents of the town who were owners of land at Durley, requesting them to attend a parish meeting on Wednesday, to consider the state of the labouring poor. This request was pretty generally complied with, but their request for money was resisted, with one exception, of a small donation, given from the kindest and best of motives. They demanded money from the Reverend Thomas Scard, Mr Fox, Mr Seymour, and Mr Gunner.

The principal ringleaders in these riots have been secured, and the men in general appear to be deeply sensible of the enormity of their conduct.

At Exton, the labourers called on the Rector of the parish, to request a reduction in his tithes.

¹²⁶ *Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830 & *The Times*, 23 December 1830

¹²⁷ TNA – HO130/1

¹²⁸ TNA – HO130/1

At Swanmore and Soberton the same spirit prevailed, and it is melancholy to reflect that many who have hitherto borne excellent characters, have been carried away by the madness of the moment to commit deeds for which their lives are now in jeopardy.¹²⁹

From the disturbed state of the parishes around Bishop's Waltham it was thought advisable to swear in some special constables in the town, and this was duly done by the Reverend Henry Atkins, who is a county magistrate. This evening it was reported that the labourers of the parish intend to assemble tomorrow morning at six o'clock, and that the signal for them to assemble will be the firing of a gun at the Market House, the appointed place of rendezvous.¹³⁰

A meeting was held at Alresford today, at which it was determined to raise the labourers' wages; and the landowners and clergymen pledged themselves to reduce the rents and tithes sufficient to meet the times. A few labourers attended the meeting, and before they left the town they destroyed a threshing machine at New Farm. The machine had been rented to farmer Henry Redman by John Chiddell of Petersfield. The men had threatened to destroy a steam engine, but were assured by those working it that it did not lessen the number of hands, and after receiving a portion of strong beer, they dispersed.¹³¹

The owners and occupiers of land in the parish of Titchfield held a meeting today and passed resolutions, expressive of their desire to convince the labourers that, while they sympathise with them for the privations they endure; admire their patience; and are disposed to do all they can to better their condition, they lament their incapacity, from excessive burdens, to afford the required relief. They regret the demoralising effects produced by paying the labourers partly from the poor rates, a practice which has already frightful consequences, and if persevered in will make a wilderness of this once happy land; and therefore they will maintain their labourers, except in extreme cases, without parochial aid. They condemn the destruction of any kind of property as wicked and mischievous, and declare their determination to resist intimidation. They also expressed a conviction that their labourers will not join any others in disturbing the public peace.¹³²

William Brackstone from Charlton, near Andover, is employed as a labourer on the Hetherden Turnpike. He was at work this morning, breaking stones on the road, when the mob came by and persuaded him to join them. They told him that it was by an order from the government that they were going to break all the threshing machines and there seems little doubt that many labourers have been given the same information and truly believe that they are carrying out government orders. The men went on to the parish of Thruxtion where they visited Redenham House, the property of Sir John Walter Pollen, and broke a threshing machine. Having destroyed the machine William Brackstone was heard to say, 'Now we have done our work, let us be paid for it here as we have elsewhere.'¹³³

From Thruxtion the mob moved on to Penton Grafton where a threshing machine and chaff-cutting machine belonging to Henry Gawler Esquire were destroyed. Richard Howse, Mr Gawler's bailiff, was in the barn when around 100 men, armed with bludgeons and hammers, came to the farm. There was a threshing machine in the barn but it had been taken down. The men destroyed the machine.¹³⁴

Great alarm has been felt by the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight during this week, owing to the spirit of disorder which has manifested itself. Consternation prevailed in Newport today, in consequence of information that the paupers employed in cultivating the lands of the House of Industry, in Parkhurst Forest, were in a state of revolt, and intended to march in a body to the town, for the purpose of demanding an increase of pay. Henry Sewell, Esquire, of the firm of Sewell, Hearn, and Sewell, mounted his horse, with the intention of meeting the men, but

¹²⁹ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹³⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

¹³¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

¹³² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹³³ *Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December 1830

¹³⁴ *Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830

unfortunately, in hastily turning the corner of the street, by the Free Grammar School, the horse fell, and was very much injured, and Mr Sewell was so severely bruised as to prevent him proceeding. Two other gentlemen, however, went to the Forest, and by promising the men that their wages would be increased, succeeded in restoring order. Whilst these proceedings were going on, the Magistrates assembled at the Town Hall, and swore in about 100 respectable tradesmen as special constables.¹³⁵

A number of labourers met together today in the parish of Buriton. They made their way around the parish using threats and violence to compel others to join them. Among those forced in this way were Robert Ford, Henry Emm, Richard Porter, William Spratt and Richard Clever. Having succeeded in gathering together quite a large number of men they went from farm to farm in order to persuade, by intimidation, those who employed labourers and workmen to increase their wages. Among the farmers visited were Thomas Maxwell, Charles Cotton Butterfield and George King.¹³⁶

This evening the farmers and landowners of Steep are in a state of alarm. A group, calling themselves delegates from the general committee, have called all the labourers of the area to a wages meeting which is to be held in the churchyard on the hill tomorrow. The following notice has been prepared and will be taken round for the farmers to sign.

'November 22, 1830. - From the poor of Steep to the farmers of Steep. Our complaint is, that we have not a sufficient maintenance to support our famleys, and as theare a geving more wages in the joining Parishes we do request that you will consent and sine your hands to this Paper that all labering men mairred and singel abel to do a day's work to have 2s per day and all lads over 16 yers of age to have 1s per day, and all boys that works under 16 yers of age to have 6d per day and refuse to pay thythes and taxes and we will stand your frends and assist you, old men that have a wife to ceep to have 1s 6d per day. Consented to and signed by.....'

Dr Quarrier, who had been so active at Liphook earlier in the day, arrived at his residence in Steep this evening. After consulting with Mr Coles, another of the county's magistrates, and John Bonham Carter Esquire, MP for Portsmouth, he sent round a request to all the farmers asking them not to allow their labourers to attend the meeting tomorrow.¹³⁷

John Brett Purvis Esq., a magistrate who lives in the Gosport area, received an anonymous threatening letter, bearing the Portsmouth post-mark, today. The letter, promising to shoot, kill and murder him, it reads:¹³⁸

"Tyrant, at seven o'clock last evening the mussel of a gun was elevated at your heart, and one moment your soul would have been in hell; but your momentary impulse in starting as the gun was emen at you, I lost the present opportunity, and must wait for another. Tyrant, prepare to meet your God; your life is short, and your death is certain: if it can be at a post or a lamp-iron, it is your merret to exalt such a pitiful fogger as you are. Your house is not worth blowing up, or we would have done it last night: five delegates, as you call them, three at Gosport, and two at Portsea, have sworn on the Bible to your death first chance, so you are watcht in all your movement by order of the committee.

Nov. 22, 1830 A B (Seal)
 C D (Seal)
 E F (Seal)
 G H (Seal)
 I J (Seal)

Captain John B Purvis
Navy, on-road, near Gosport.'

¹³⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹³⁶ *Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830

¹³⁷ *The Times*, 30 November 1830

¹³⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830

A mob visited Henry Fermor's farm at Vernhams Dean again today. They threatened to do more mischief if they did not get money. Under this threat Mr Fermor handed over two half crowns. The mob also went to William Childs' premises where they destroyed a threshing machine and forced Mr Childs to give them a half crown for their work. Another house visited in Vernhams Dean was that of William Alexander, where they demanded victuals, and Mr Alexander's wife, Mary, was forced to hand over a quantity of bread, cheese and beer.¹³⁹

A number of labourers gathered in Mottisfont today and Sarah Bailey was forced to give them money and beer. William Burbage and John Moody were among the mob.¹⁴⁰

During today a number of people have been visited by bands of labourers, threatening violence. Among those visited were The Reverend Dr Woodcock, of Mitchelmersh, Mr Atkins, of Kimbridge, and the Reverend O D St John, of Mottisfont.

On hearing that a large mob threatened to enter Romsey, the Mayor, William Henry Lintott, Esquire, assisted by other Magistrates and W S Stanley, Esquire, a county Magistrate, enrolled about 250 Romsey inhabitants as special constables and a general muster was held at the Town Hall. The men were formed into divisions and are ready to defend the town if the need arises. Late in the evening an express arrived in Romsey asking for assistance. It was understood that the rioters were proceeding from Woodley Farm, to the residence of Captain Gilbert Heathcote, at Jermyns. On hearing of this a party of Special Constables were sent there, and succeeded in dispersing the mob. However, the mob rallied, and went from farm to farm destroying machinery and levying contributions as they went. On their arrival at Warren Farm, near Baddesely, belonging to the Mayor, William Henry Lintott, they broke open the barn, and destroyed a threshing machine. At about two o'clock they visited Luzborough Farm, about a mile from the town, occupied by Mr Richard Withers senior. They forcibly entered the dwelling house, and were in the act of regaling themselves upon the provisions which they had plundered, when a strong detachment of special constables surprised them and succeeded in capturing 12 of the most active. The prisoners were taken to Romsey and safely lodged in the gaol.¹⁴¹

Around 300 labourers assembled in a riotous manner in Weyhill today. One of the places they visited was the house of John Smith, surgeon in the town where they demanded food, with threats. Mr Smith's servant, Bridget Perrett, was so afraid that she handed over a quantity of beer and other victuals.¹⁴²

The Duke of Wellington, as Lord Lieutenant of the County, wrote to Lord Melbourne this morning, enclosing two letters he had received yesterday, one from the Duke of Buckingham and the other from Sir William Heathcote.¹⁴³

Nov^r 22nd 1830

My Lord,

I enclose two Letters which I have received this morning as Lord Lt of the County of Hants.

Inform the Duke of Buckingham and Sir William Heathcote of the Reinforcements of Troops which will arrive at Winchester and at Andover this day, and tomorrow.

Orders had been sent and have been received for the removal to Portsmouth of the Locks and Bayonets of the Arms of the North and South Hants Reg^s of Militia from the Depots of the Reg^s at Winchester and Southampton. This measure will have been carried out sometime this morning at Winchester and probably yesterday at Southampton.

I have the honor to be My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient Humble

Servant Wellington

Since writing the above I have accounts that the Locks and bayonets were sent yesterday from Southampton.

¹³⁹ TNA – HO130/1

¹⁴⁰ TNA – HO130/1

¹⁴¹ *Salisbury & Winchester Gaol*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹⁴² TNA – HO130/1, p7

¹⁴³ TNA – HO52/7 f75-76

*The Lord Melbourne
Secr^y of State*

Mr R. Parsons, the Deputy Post Master of Petersfield wrote to Sir Francis Freeling today.¹⁴⁴

Post Office Petersfield

Nov^r 22nd 1830

Hon^d Sir,

Agreeable to your orders – I forwar'd the Express – the Troops arrived this afternoon – on their way to Winchester this part is in great confusion the Magistrates met the mob to day before they came into the Town – after a promise of an increase of Wages they appear'd satisfied and went back – we can see a large fire in Sussex suppos'd about Rogate – we have three Magistrates sleep here to night

Hon^d Sir y^r most ob^st

R Parsons

The village of Littleton, near Winchester, was visited by a party of labourers today. They obtained provisions and money afrom some of the inhabitants, and then departed.¹⁴⁵

At half past eight this evening Mr Francis Baring wrote to the Home Department from Winchester to report on the number of rioters taken in to custody.¹⁴⁶

Winchester Tuesday night 1/2 past 8

My dear Sir

As you I remember spoke to me particularly with regard to the man who had struck my cousin Bingham Baring when I saw you on Sunday I write to tell you that he was lodged in the Gaol this morning.

We have now a large number of the rioters – 10 taken on Saturday Sunday at Littleton – 30 Monday at the Duke of Buckinghams – 20 10 brought today from Romsey – a body of near 30 from this ? besides a few others.

In no one case has the mob shown the least intention of resistance.

I am my dear Sir

Y^r very sincerely

F Baring

In Winchester this morning an additional number of special constables were sworn in for the city and the county, and every precaution was used by the Mayor to preserve the public peace. Some hours before the arrival of the prisoners, the special constables were called out to clear the streets leading to the Gaol, and constables were stationed across each avenue of Gaol Street, in order to keep the intervening space clear. On the arrival of the cavalcade, the party stationed at the north end fell back right and left till the whole had passed, and instantly closed again till the prisoners were safely lodged in the gaol. Alarm had been excited in the city by a report of an intended attack upon the Gaol and Bridewell, for the purpose of rescuing the prisoners, and demolishing the Treadmill. At 7 o'clock this evening the constables were asked by the Mayor, to met at the Guildhall. The Mayor, finding that there was no indication of a breach of the peace at this time, dispensed with their attendance, thanking them for their support, and informing them that when, in future, their services were required, a bell at the Guildhall would be rung. They have since been formed into six divisions of 50 men each, and parties have nightly patrolled the city and its environs.¹⁴⁷

This evening a large body of men destroyed, and burned, the turnpike gates at East Dean and Tytherley.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ TNA - HO52/7 f72-73

¹⁴⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹⁴⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f73-75

¹⁴⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830

¹⁴⁸ *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

During the night several unsuccessful attempts were made to set fire to a pile of hurdles at Weyhill.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

Tuesday, 23rd November 1830

The constables sent from Romsey in search of mobs followed the men from Mr Lintott's farm, where they had already destroyed a threshing machine, to Luzborough Farm, where they surprised the gang, and succeeded in capturing twelve of the most active, who were brought to Romsey at about four o'clock this morning. After examination they were committed for trial at the next assizes. A party of Dragoons escorted the prisoners to Winchester, as it was feared an attempt would be made to rescue them.¹⁵⁰

A requisition meeting was held at Romsey Town Hall this morning, the Mayor, Mr William Henry Lintott in the chair. The meeting was attended by all the farmers and several hundred labourers from the area. It was agreed that the labourers wages would be increased - married men 12s and single 10s per week. This announcement appeared to give considerable satisfaction much to the relief of all concerned, and the well disposed retired to their homes.

In consequence of several threatening letters having been addressed to different individuals, and the disturbed state of the neighbourhood, day and night patrols have been established in Romsey.
¹⁵¹

Mr W. Sloane Stanley wrote to Sir Robert Peel from Romsey today to inform him of the capture of several rioters by the Special Constables, and to ask if the Romsey Troop could be reorganised and armed.¹⁵²

Romsey 2 o'clock P.M.

23 Nov^r 1830

My dear Sir,

200 Inhabitants have been employed all night as Special Constables in this neighbourhood; they came up with a Party of machine Breakers about 100 Strong – and brought in 11 Persons Prisoners – I have committed them to the Jail – and will take an opportunity of releasing some of them on their recognizances.

It is the correct wish of the Inhabitants that the Romsey Troop should be reorganized, and the Arms sent down to them forthwith.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient faithful Servant

W. S. Stanley

The Right Hon

Sir Robert Peel

(In another hand)

Friday

Inform Mr Stanley that if the Romsey Troop is reorganized, Gov^r will supply them with arms

This morning two more troops of the 3rd Dragoon Guards arrived in Winchester from Chichester. They were followed by the reserve companies of the 90th regiment of foot, from the same place. This afternoon the detachment of the 47th, which had arrived in Winchester on Saturday, marched to Bishop's Waltham. Major General Sir Colin Campbell, Commander in Chief of the South-West District, with his Staff, composed of, Colonel Warre, Assistant Quarter-Master General; Lieutenant Colonel Gurwood, Brigade Major; and Captain Campbell, Aid-de-Camp, arrived in Winchester this evening, from Portsmouth, to establish his Head Quarters in the City until further orders.¹⁵³

Shortly before six o'clock this morning, a gun was fired near the Market House at Bishop's Waltham. Soon after which about ten labourers assembled, as did several special constables. The

¹⁵⁰ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830; Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 29 November 1830; Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830

¹⁵¹ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830; Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830

¹⁵² TNA – HO52/7 f57-59

¹⁵³ Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830; Hampshire Telegraph, 29 November 1830

labourers then proceeded quietly through the town to their respective places of work, without any assemblage taking place.¹⁵⁴

This morning, Henry Pollexsin, of Brockhurst, practising as an attorney, was apprehended on suspicion of being the author of the anonymous letter received by Captain Purvis yesterday. He underwent an examination before the Magistrates, at Gosport, when the writing in the letter was sworn to be his. He was fully committed to take his trial at the ensuing Special Assizes.¹⁵⁵

As early as half eight this morning labourers began to gather in Steep churchyard. Dr Quarrier, accompanied by the overseers and some of the local farmers, who attended with the determination of apprehending some of the men who had been pointed out as the most active in spreading discontent. Dr Quarrier explained to the labourers the unlawfulness of their proceedings, of which the greater part did not seem to be aware, they promised to disperse and remain quiet and not to mix themselves up with a meeting which was expected to assemble tomorrow at Petersfield market. Dr Quarrier promised to use his influence with the farmers, and to report their condition and wishes to the Duke of Wellington, and the Magistrates, who are to meet at Winchester on Thursday. The labourers dispersed quietly and Dr Quarrier headed for Portsmouth where he went to see Sir R Williams, the Lieutenant Governor of the garrison in Sir Colin Campbell's absence. He requested that a detachment be immediately sent to Petersfield, in anticipation of a disturbance which seemed likely to break out there tomorrow, it being market day. A detachment of Marines was instantly sent to Petersfield. In the mean time J B Carter Esquire has been actively employed at Petersfield in swearing in special constables, and making other arrangements to preserve the peace, with the determination not to allow the military to act except in the case of a most pressing emergency.¹⁵⁶

Mr W. Walton wrote to Mr J. Barham Esquire from Stockbridge today to give him an account of the state of the neighbourhood around Stockbridge.¹⁵⁷

Stockbridge Nov^r 23rd 1830

To J. Barham Esq^r

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to say that our Neighbourhood is in a state of revolt, Andover, Overton, Sutton, Somborne & all the Parishes within 10 miles around has shared the same fate – the Farmers are obliged to promise the Labourers 2/- a day & a loaf & (8lb of bread?) for their children & likewise not to use their threshing machines any more, but with the latter the people were not satisfied but proceeded to demolish them which have been done & is still doing every where - the Iron foundry at Clatford is also destroyed – on Friday last a large Farm belonging to Sir H. W. Wilson at Barton Stacey which was in (tenant?) was burnt to the ground & since that there have been three or four large Fires to the North West of us all within 9 or 10 miles/ on Saturday night between 11 & 12 O'clock a party of Labourers & others began at the upper end of Stockbridge near the Queens head in forcing every able body man to join them, there was several people drag'd from their jobs & forced to go with them & by the time they got to the Turnpike Gate they mustar'd strong, they passed evr^y house very quiet, but not so at the Kings arms they order'd Phelps up & he was obliged to give them Beer &c. – by this time I had time to get up and go down to them to see if there was any possibility of stopping them but this was quite out of the question – they then proceeded to Mr Pain's where they extorted 3 or 4 Pounds besides beer &c. and took all the men from the Farm with them continuing their course through the Parish of Houghton draging the People from their beds & demanding money &c every where until they reach'd Mr Penleaze's House where they broke the large windows in front of the house & other damage to the amount 30 or 40 £, they then proceeded to Mr Ed Warches? at Compton where they extorted several Pounds besides Beer &c they then went on to Kingsomborne where the whole of the lower orders of that Parish joined them they then proceeded to Little Somborne Rookley Upsomborne & at all the other Farms & Parishes between that & Winchester breaking & destroying all the machinery that came in their way, they had advanced as far as Littleton when they were met by 2 Troops of the 3rd Dragoons who partly dispersed them but the mob rallying again in Camstone Park & the Soldiers following them rather close; one of the fellows struck one of their swords & broke it in two – the soldiers then closed on them & secured 17 or 18 of the worst & march'd them to Winchester &

¹⁵⁴ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

¹⁵⁵ Hampshire Telegraph, 29 November 1830

¹⁵⁶ The Times, 30 November 1830

¹⁵⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f60-64

lodged them in the Gaol the rest was glad enough to get away & the Soldiers (?) strike out in all directions they brought nearly 60 last night from the Grange Park where there was a g' many hundred & had began pulling the house down they were all put in the Gaol. The above and other things which I know to be true – the Romsey people & all Parishes to the right of it towards Salisbury began last night & to day. What I am now about to state relates more to y' self the Longstock people I believe was put down very quiet yesterday morn^g but about 2 o'clock the whole of the Labourers from Leckford men & boys old & young march^d in a body to John Spencer at Longstock to know if he w^{ld} agree to give them 2/^s Day as the rest of the Farmers in their Parish had done & also insisting that he should directly apply to you to lower his rent on the Farms at Leckford they then came in a body down to y' house but finding you nor y' Brother were at home they directly came to me desiring me to do some thing in it I promised I w^{ld} write to you on the subject – they then told me all the Farmers had gaved them their pay & money besides & they was sure you w^{ld} give them some if you was here I gave them 10/- which they seem^d pretty well satisfied with – they then went to Mr Jos Cossars demanding of him to write to Mr Cutler to lower half his Tithes declaring at the same time if he did not get a proper answer in a given time they wld ? the property belonging to Mr Cutler at Leckford & w^{ld} not leave Stockbridge until the answer came Mr. C. sent of Jem Knight down to Mr Cutler express, they then went to old Hutton's & made him promise to give up all the small Tithe's which he consented to & then old John was obliged to fork out 2£ before they would leave the house they are no way satisfied with the answer Mr Cutler has sent back & are now up again Mr Cosser & Old Hutton are gone down in Post Chaise to Mr Cutler their meaning is to try then (...ting?) the Tithes & Rent to be lower^d they have a notion that the Farmers will not be able to Pay them the 12/^s a week except that be the case I think you had better write a few lines to John Spencer on the subject what you think most proper & also to me as they are waiting for the result & will be with me to & if Spencer has a letter from you I think it will be all right – I can assure you the Farmers & others are very much alarmed indeed & expects every night to be burnt out we have now a double quantity of Watchmen or beside most of the people have private Watchmen around their Farms if you don't come I will write every day

I am Sir

y^r ob^r Ser^r

W Welton¹⁵⁸

A Royal Proclamation was issued today, offering a reward of £50 on the conviction of every person guilty of acts of outrage and violence, with his Majesty's pardon, if the disclosure shall be made by an accomplice, £500 are also offered, to be paid on conviction of any person for secretly setting on fire ricks of corn, hay, buildings, or other property, in the counties of Hants, Wilts, Berks, Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. An accomplice, if not the actual perpetrator, in addition to the reward, will be pardoned.

At Hartley Wintney today, 200 men were sworn in as Special Constables.¹⁵⁹

Part of the mob, which was so active in the Basingstoke area yesterday, have been out again today, visiting farms in the Sherbornes and Pamber. At the property of Thomas Chandler, in the parish of Monk Sherborne, they demanded and received one sovereign. A number of the men, some armed with large sticks, went to the house of William Hooper. They were met by Sarah Hooper, Mr Hooper's wife. When she asked them what they wanted they told her they needed some money to help them on their way. They scoffed at her offer of 5s. Mr Hooper came out and asked how much they wanted and was told by Thomas Warwick that they must five sovereigns and that if they did not get what they wanted they would break the door down. Mr Hooper pushed the door shut and fastened it, but the mob broke it open. Mr Hooper then handed a £5 note to Warwick. Moving on from Pamber, the men went to West Heath, to the *White Lion* public House, where it seems they intended to share out their spoils. It was here that a party of Grenadier Guards unexpectedly came across them, surrounded the house and ordered them to surrender. Submission was instant, and around 57 of the most active rioters were marched into Basingstoke by the Guards, and a small party of the 9th Lancers, two troops of which had arrived in the town during the day. The prisoners were lodged in a large outhouse during the night, and guarded by a strong number of constables.

¹⁵⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

¹⁵⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

Several gentlemen and clergymen in the neighbourhood of Basingstoke have promised to deduct out of their rents and tithes for the ensuing year, their full proportion of the increased wages given to the poor.¹⁶⁰

This evening Sir Claudius S Hunter received information that a desperate gang were assembled at a public house at Ewhurst. He, together with a party of the 9th Lancers, immediately proceeded to Ewhurst and succeeded in capturing 45 men who have been taken to Basingstoke, and will be examined there before the Magistrates tomorrow.¹⁶¹

Division of Basingstoke,		
IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.		
LIST OF RIOTERS,		
<i>Apprehended on the 23d Day of November, 1830 :—</i>		
Richard Benham, ...	Dummer,	†James Baker,..... Eastrop,
George Mathews, ...	Sherborne St. John,	†James Dibley, Cliddesden,
†Mark Wiggins,	Monk Sherborne,	Thomas Bennett, .. Basing,
Stephen Hardyman, .	Basingstoke,	†Henry Wells,..... Basingstoke,
William Wise,	Cliddesden,	†Richard Keens,.... Farleigh,
James Moody,	Cliddesden,	†Charles Maile, Worting,
James Deane,	Basingstoke,	†Richard Rampton,.. Basingstoke,
Thomas Knight,	Basingstoke,	George Baker,..... Cliddesden,
John Wilson,	Basingstoke,	Charles Wright, Basingstoke,
James Frewen,	Sherborne St. John,	Edward Brown, Basingstoke,
Stephen Rampton, ..	Church Oakley,	Samuel Brown, Basingstoke,
John Aslett,.....	Herriard,	David Knight,..... Basingstoke,
Thomas Bullpit,	Cliddesden,	†William Wearham,. Water End.
†Charles Pain,.....	Greenham	†John Bullpit,..... Farleigh,
†Thomas Warwick,..	Basingstoke,	Jesse Taylor, Basingstoke,
Charles Woolverd, ...	Sherfield,	†William Burgess,... Basingstoke,
Joseph Woolverd, ...	Sherfield,	George Rampton,.... Basingstoke,
†Peter Norman,	Sherfield,	Mark Baker, Pamber,
John Gray,	Salisbury,	Henry Lovelock,.... Reading,
John Harfield,	Cliddesden,	†Henry Keens, Farleigh,
†Charles Bullpit,....	Basingstoke,	James Piper, Tunworth,
†James Cook,	Cliddesden,	John Paice, Dummer,
†George Clark,	Cliddesden,	†John Batten, North Stoneham,
Thomas Ledger,	Cliddesden,	James Newman, Monk Sherborne,
John Cox,.....	Basingstoke,	Thomas Taylor,.... Basingstoke,
†John Keens,	Farleigh,	†Henry Bullpit, Cliddesden,
†Henry Day,	Basingstoke,	Fanny Newman,.... { Mother of James
James New,	Winslade,	{ Newman.

Robert Cottle, Printer; Basingstoke.—Price ONE PENNY.

16. List of Rioters apprehended in the Basingstoke Division
(Hampshire Archives – RO8M62/72)

¹⁶⁰ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

¹⁶¹ Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830

Samuel Wall, William Heathcote, and Robert Wright wrote to the Home Department from Winchester today to report on the various disturbances that have taken place in the County and the number of prisoners now in confinement.¹⁶²

Winchester

My Lord,

We think it necessary to inform yr Lordship that considerable disturbance has taken place in various parts of the County, & the Troops have been sent into the disturbed districts

The number of Prisoner now in confinement in the Gaol for rioting amount to 200.

We will transmit to yr Lordship further intelligence tomorrow.

We have the honor to be

Yr humble ob^r

Sam^r Wall

William Heathcote

Robert Wright

A meeting of the owners and occupiers of land in the parish of Hambleton was held today, to consider the best means to assist and satisfy the working people. It was agreed that their weekly pay should be advanced to half a guinea (10^s 6^d) a week, and constant employment found them at that rate, and that their house rent should be reduced to one shilling per week. It was further agreed, to petition the Legislature to take off all taxes on the necessities of life, and if others must be substituted in their stead, to tax property in a graduated scale for that purpose. Thomas Butler, Esquire, addressed the populace from the *George Inn* window, at considerable length, in the most conciliating and impressive manner, and received three hearty cheers from the assembled poor, and they all departed quietly to their own homes and work.¹⁶³

Mr Hay wrote from Romsey to Mr John Ingram Lockhart at Tubney this morning giving the substance of the demands made by the labourers in the district.¹⁶⁴

(Written at the top of the letter, in the same hand as the second part of the transcript is the following)

Tuesday morning

*How strange it is no regular
soldiers have been called out*

Honor'd Sir,

We have this Day been visited with a most formidable set of Men I ever saw pressing every one to join them without exception. They came to my House (being their first) this morning about 300 in number with a written document in their Hand. I enquired of them what their motive was in going about in such bodies, they told me to read their paper - which ran thus - Gentlemen Farmers we do insist upon your paying every Man in your parish two shillings per Day for his Labour - every single man between the ages of 16 & 20 eighteen pence per Day - every Child above two - to receive a loaf & sixpence per Week - the aged & Infirm to receive 4^s/0 per Week - Landlords - we do also insist upon your reducing their Rents so as to enable them to meet our Demand - Rector's you must also lower your Tithes down to 100£ per year in every Parish but we wish to do away with the Tithe altogether Old Doctor Rogers read this paper aloud amongst them - and added every one that cannot live upon 100£ per year - let him starve they then gave three Huzza's - I gave them plenty of bread & cheese & about 20 G^s of beer and desired them to be peaceable on their way, but I must go with them. It was no use to refuse them we went to Mr Grant. He also gave them a like quantity - then came your farm - they insisted upon going to the front of the House where they had plenty to eat & drink then they demanded Money - They said Money they would have they had it yesterday at the Rev^d St John's 5 Sovereigns at - Baily's Esq^r Tuderly this Gentleman being from home there was only two young Ladies in the House - they sent them out 5 Sovereigns which they indignantly refused saying they would have more or break the House down - they put their threats in execution they immediately broke two sash windows & was entering the House when three more Sovereigns was sent out which appeased them. They broke two Thrashing Machines, for Mr Webb. He also gave them 4 Pounds - Mr Bristow gave them plenty of Beer & desired them to call to morrow & he would give them money. - Mrs L. was obliged to give them 5£ this

¹⁶² TNA – HO52/7 f64-65

¹⁶³ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830; Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830; Hampshire Telegraph, 29 November 1830

¹⁶⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f65-67. NOTE: A number of the events mentioned in this letter took place in Wiltshire

morn^g – they then fell to work with your Winnowing Machine and broke it to atoms – they then pressed every man upon your place to go with them to Whiteparish they said they were going to Mr Ware to read their paper to him & compel him to lower his Tithe – taking me as their leader when I got to Chas Roses's I told them that I had conducted them through our parish & that I was unable to go any further with them owing to a severe pain across my Loins which I have been troubled with nearly a week. They permitted me to go home but would make Mr Grant Benth Pritchard – Mason – Moody go with them – by this time their force was augmented to nearly 600 & I make no doubt but they will increase to 14 or 15 hund^r before night. I beg you will send me directions respecting your mens wages – am I to pay them 12s/= per week --- all the neighbouring Villages has consented to pay their demand – Mr Grant & myself has also complied until we can have better advice & Government protection for we consider our Lives & Property at stake as things are at present

I remain Sir

y^r obed^r

W Hay

(What follows is in a different hand)

Wednesday

Nov^r 24th

It is no use to think of fire arms

Dear Lockhart

Bring all the con...? at Tubney...

I write to Tubney you had better go to Buttermere I think some men went there to desire the Buttermere people to Hurstbourne on Monday to a meeting there. I was not present yesterday I thought it best not to appear as I was not asked for I thought the mob would want more money if I did I sent nothing out 'till they demanded meat & drink before they sent in their paper J Thomson got out of the way they threatened to pull down the lodge they fancied he was in our house & came to the back door some climbed into the garden after him some found him & dragged him out of the ditch near Masons & he went with them they collected about 20 pounds which they demanded at every place money I mean at every gentlemen's they divided it in Melchet Park The Sherfield men had about eight pounds & got tipsy at the Hatchett Curtis had a blow from Stephen our boy which has blinded him Plaitford & Welton people came shouting this morning (up Furlongs?) to fetch our labourers, Grants, & Ray's they are gone to Wellow making the hollow, Framers go with them tomorrow I hear they are going to Bramshaw

(Letter addressed to)

J I Lockhart Esq^r

New House

Tubney

Near Abingdon

The Selborne mob called on Robert Holdaway again this morning and pressed him to go with them to gather more signatures on their agreement. They went first to farmers in the Empshott and Greatham area and from Greatham set out for Headley where a meeting had been called by the farmers and clergy to discuss the issue of the labourers' wages. It was to take place at *The Bush Inn* at Headley.

At around 11 o'clock the mob arrived at Headley poorhouse which is out on the Liphook road and it soon became clear that it was their intention to attack the house. Their arrival was not altogether a surprise to the master, John Shoesmith, as earlier this morning Matthew Triggs, a bricklayer from Headley, and his brother had called at the poorhouse and asked for a pauper called Tuckey, who was their uncle. They wanted to take him from the house and send him down to his sisters in the village as they thought there would be trouble at the house later today. Mr Shoesmith would not agree to let Tuckey go but gave the two men beer before they went away. At around 10 o'clock Mr Shoesmith went down to Headley Green to see if he could find out what was happening and saw that a crowd of around 250 had gathered there. He returned to the house and about a quarter of an hour later the alarm was given that a mob was on the way.



17. Headley Grange, formerly Headley Poor House

© Jill Chambers

Mr Shoesmith recognised Robert Holdaway and called to him, 'What Holdy, are you here?', to which Holdaway replied, 'Yes, but I mean you no harm, nor your wife, nor your goods, so get them out as soon as you can, for the house must come down.' Shoesmith told him that some of the children were sick with a fever and that a number of old people were inside. Holdaway promised they would be taken care of and the windows of the rooms they were in would be marked. Some of the mob then made a rush towards the house but were called back by Henry James, he shut the gate and said, 'No one shall enter here at present.'

Mr Shoesmith was given an hour to remove his goods from the house and the mob then moved on to Headley where they met up with the Headley labourers who had begun gathering on Headley Green as early as 8 o'clock this morning. The Reverend Robert Dickinson, the vicar, came by on his way to *The Bush* and asked Holdaway to go with him and bring the agreement with him. The mob followed Mr Dickinson up Crab Tree Lane and Holdaway and Mr Dickinson went into *The Bush* to join the farmers already assembled there. After some discussion it was agreed that the tithes would be reduced and an increase made in the labourers wages. The farmers then all made a small contribution, amounting to around £7, to be shared out among the labourers. Holdaway then left the meeting and went out to pass on the news to the people waiting outside. He read out the agreement and told them how much money the farmers had contributed to be shared among them. It was then reported to him that while he had been inside *The Bush* some of the mob had returned to the Poorhouse with the intention of destroying it. The farmers asked Holdaway to go to the house and use what influence he had to stop the destruction. Holdaway then set off for the Poorhouse followed by many of the labourers.

The destruction was already well under way when he reached the house. Windows were smashed and torn out, floors were broken up, and ceilings torn down. They had made their way to the roof where rafters were broken up and between 40,000 and 50,000 tiles stripped off. When they had finished the only room not damaged was the room where the old people were. The mob carried the sick children out into the yard on two beds and covered them over. Mr Shoesmith had about 30 gallons of home-made wine in the house and according to him many of the men and women were in the yard drinking the wine out of tins. It would seem that Aaron Harding was doing nothing but drinking the wine and that his brother Thomas was quite drunk. Holdaway kept calling

the men to come away but they took no notice, and when he was asked what he thought of the work he replied, 'I am sorry to see it - it is too bad - it will hang me.' At last after much persuasion, he managed to draw many of the men away with him towards Kingsley where the agreement was signed by several more farmers. The money that had been contributed by the farmers was shared out and the people began to disperse. Before dispersing it was agreed among them that they would gather again tomorrow and go to Alton. In view of what has occurred today Mr Holdaway refused to go with them again. Mr Sparrow, one of the visitors of the poor, says that the Poorhouse is completely destroyed and repairs will cost as much as £800.

Early this morning a mob gathered in Owslebury with the intention of breaking all the threshing machines in the area. They went to Marwell Court Farm, the home of Mr Thomas Deacle. His threshing machine was carried out into a field and destroyed. On hearing that the mob intended going to Mr Smith's farm, Mr Deacle went to warn him. The mob left Marwell Court Farm and went first to Farmer Young's where they pressed other labourers to join them. Then they went on to the farm of Mr Joseph Lowndes where money was demanded and Mr Lowndes was forced to hand over two half sovereigns. The mob then went on the Farmer Smith's. John Boyes, a farmer from Owslebury, was taking some sacks to be mended when he heard a lot of noise coming from farmer Smith's yard. Going into the yard he found the mob breaking up one of Mr Smith's machines. Seeing him there Mr Smith sent out one of his servants to bring him in. Going into the parlour Mr Boyes found Mr Deacle there with Mr Smith, Mr Smith was afraid that greater damage would be caused unless they could do something to appease the mob. The three then composed the following paper.

COPY OF AGREEMENT

Owslebury, November 23rd 1830.

We, the undersigned are willing to give 2s per day, for able-bodied men, and 9s per week for single men, on consideration of our rents and tithes being abated in proportion.
(Signed)

Mr Deacle, Mr Smith and Mr Boyes all signed the paper and Boyes took it out and read it to the mob. They insisted that he carry it round to all the landowners and farmers in the neighbourhood and ask for their signatures. Mr Boyes went with the mob to Mr Long's at Marwell Hall, arriving there between 11 and 12 o'clock. John Boyes gave the paper to Joseph Fletcher, Mrs Long's butler, and told him that they wanted Mrs Long to sign it. Mr Fletcher took it to Mrs Long, she signed it and returned it to Boyes who looked it over and said that Mrs Long had only signed one side and she had to sign both sides. One side was for the occupiers of land who agree to raise the labourers wages and the other side for the landlords who agree to reduce the rents. Mrs Long signed the other side and so did Mr Lowndes who was in the house with her. Having completed his task Mr Boyes left with his paper. The mob then demanded money. They told Mr Fletcher they wanted £12 or £14. Mr Fletcher told them Mrs Long would never agree to that amount. After some consultation they agreed to accept five sovereigns. Mr Fletcher asked who he should give it to. 'To me, Mr Fletcher, if you please,' said Nicholas Freemantle.

From Marwell Hall the mob went to Baybridge. At about 3 o'clock this afternoon the mob, by now numbering around 150, arrived at Rose Hill in the parish of Owslebury. Here they were met by Moses Stanbrook who is in the service of Lord Northesk. There were a number of men in the mob that Mr Stanbrook recognised, William Adams and Nicholas Freemantle who both carried axes, William Barnes, John Hoare and William Boyes. It was Adams who spoke, he asked if there was any machinery. When he was told that the only machine was an old winnowing machine that was of no use he said, 'Well we must have that.' The machine was destroyed. John Boyes stepped forward and asked Mr Stanbrook to sign the paper. This he did and Mr Boyes then left. The mob demanded money and Mr Stanbrook said, 'You must recollect that Lord Northesk is not at home, and that if I can get any money, it will be my loss and not my lords.'

'We must have five sovereigns,' someone shouted. 'If you don't have it you must get it, for we will have it.' Mr Stanbrook had a sovereign in his pocket and got three and a half sovereign from the other servants. He offered the money to the men, but was told it was not enough. He then asked if a five pound note would do. After some consultation they agreed to accept this. Mr Stanbrook

asked who he should give the money to and Nicholas Freemantle was pointed out as their receiver. The mob gave a cheer as the money was handed over. They then moved on to Owslebury Down where they met up with a party from Upham and Waltham. It was here that John Boyes left them and went down to a public house in Owslebury. The mob came along later and spent some time drinking. As they left one of them said to Boyes, 'We'll meet again tomorrow, and get some more.' Boyes replied, 'You've got too much, I am afraid, already.' Many of the others agreed with this saying, 'We have, we'll go to work tomorrow.'

Thomas Gregory, a blacksmith in Quarley, was at breakfast with his family this morning when a number of men came to the house. Two or three of the men entered and forced Gregory to go with them saying, 'D-n it, come along with us,' Joseph Lane, bailiff to Mr Richard Bethel Cox, met the mob in the streets of Quarley, Thomas Gregory was with them, Mr Lane asked Gregory what they were doing to which Gregory replied that they were going to destroy all the machinery, by order of the magistrates. Mr Lane followed the mob. At about 8 o'clock, by now numbering around 30 or 40 men, they arrived at Mr Cox's farm. Mr Cox anticipating that his threshing machine might be attacked had taken it down two days before and it now lay out in a field. The mob went to the field and broke it to pieces. After the machine was broken the mob demanded payment from Mr Lane, who was still present. At first he refused to give them anything, but then they threatened to go to Mr Cox's house. He asked what amount he should give and was told that the payment was a sovereign. When he asked who he should give it to a man called Rose was pointed out. Lane handed the sovereign over to Rose who held it up for the men to see. They gave a cheer and left the field.

Mr Henry Atkins wrote to the Home Department from Bishop's Waltham today to report the apprehension of William Robinson under suspicious circumstances.¹⁶⁵

Nov. 23/30

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you, that a Person has been taken into custody here under very suspicious circumstances – he states his name to be William Robinson, he is lodging at Portsmouth, which place he left this morning, and where he says he has been residing about a fortnight – he states that he was about two years and a half a Partner in the House of Clemetson, Robinson & Company, 78 Upper Thames St, Growes?, - he refers to Mr John Clemetson of that place – to Mr Dixon, 5 New Boswell Court, and to his Brother Mr Jn^o Robinson at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. He is of very genteel appearance – of about Five feet, seven Inches – of a florid complexion, auburn whiskers – and aquiline nose (judged?) of about thirty years of age.

I have ordered him to be detained till the receipt of every intelligence which you may be pleased to transmit to me, and with which I trust I shall be honoured which of Post. He incloses a letter to his Brother, if you think it right that it should be transmitted to him.

I grieve to add, that this Town and neighbourhood are in a state of great excitement and disturbance, but a military Force has arrived which I trust will be sufficient to restore peace.

I have the honor to remain

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

Henry Atkins

(a Magistrate for Hants)

Bishops Waltham

23rd Nov 1830

Large bodies of labourers assembled this morning at Shirrell Heath and Wickham. The whole body had armed themselves with axes, spades, implements of husbandry, and stakes. They went to a number of houses where they asked for money, beer, and provisions. In general no money was given, but they did receive some beer and food. During the course of the morning they went to Hall Court Farm, where they destroyed a threshing machine belonging to Mr James Chiddell. Afterwards they went to Holywell House, the home of Mr Samuel Hawkins. Mr Hawkins was not at home, but by intimidation they procured money and beer from his wife.

¹⁶⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f68-69

The Wickham party soon became very numerous and violent, and it was thought necessary to call for military aid. The labourers had armed themselves with various weapons, and it was considered necessary to read the Riot Act, which was accordingly done by George Collins Poore, Esquire, a county magistrate. This had the desired effect of dispersing the men, without calling upon the military to do so, and three of the ringleaders, John Smith, William Abraham, and William Varndell, were taken into custody. Varndell was very violent, and after almost all of the rioters had dispersed he said, 'If they were all such men as he, he'd be d – d if such a handful of soldiers should stop them.' The ringleaders were immediately taken before Major Campbell and Moses Hawker, Esquire, two magistrates who were at Wickham, and after the necessary depositions had been taken, all three were committed to the county gaol for trial.¹⁶⁶

After the three men were captured the mob partially separated, but proceeded in groups towards Wickham, where they again collected. Major Campbell addressed them, and begged to know what they had to complain of. They spoke very rationally on the lowness of their wages, on which they said it was quite impossible to live. On being told by Major Campbell that he had no doubt their case would be considered, they dispersed quietly.¹⁶⁷

William Hearn, the Clerk to the Magistrates of Newport, Isle of Wight, wrote to the Home department today to report the apprehension felt should the labourers on the island cause any disturbances, and requested that military aid might be sent.¹⁶⁸

Newport Isle of Wight

November 23rd 1830

My Lord,

I am directed by the Magistrates for the County of Southampton acting for the Division of the Isle of Wight to represent to your Lordship the disturbed state of the Island and the apprehensions they entertain of serious disturbances amongst the labouring classes. Should these occur (as they fear there is to probable ground to believe) they would stand in much need of the protection of a military force – and as there are no Troops at present quartered at Albany Barracks they beg to request that your Lordship will place at their disposal if necessary some of the Garrison force at Portsmouth (which is the nearest depot). They would feel obliged by your Lordships giving Directions to that effect.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obed'

humble Servant

W^m. Hearn

Clerk to the Magistrates

The Right Hon The

Secretary of State for

The Home Department

Answered 25 - & Copy to Off commanding Troops at Portsmouth

Today the Andover Magistrates wrote to the Home Department to report on the salutary effect the appearance of the Military had in the neighbourhood of the town.¹⁶⁹

*To the Right Honorable
Secretary of State for the Home
Department
My Lord,*

¹⁶⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830. NOTE: A sale by auction at Hall Court Farm, to be held on 20 September 1831, was advertised in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, 12 September 1831, 'the property of Mr James Chiddell, leaving the above Farm'

¹⁶⁷ *The Times*, 30 November 1830

¹⁶⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f87-89

¹⁶⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f105-108

We have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that the appearance of the Military have had the effect of suppressing those open measures of violence and Rapine which have lately taken place in this Neighbourhood and has enabled us to apprehend several Persons who were concerned in perpetrating the outrage at the Iron Foundry near this Town,

We are at the same time bound to report that Confidence in the power of the Magistrates is not re-established. So general is the reluctance (perhaps from fear) amongst all Classes to render us any Assistance that there is at the present barely a semblance of civil Government within our Jurisdiction.

The Meeting announced in the enclosed Paper will necessarily keep the Country in a state of ferment and we expect a considerable degree of Tumult on that occasion.

We have the honor to be

My Lord

Your most obedient humble

Servants

Rich^d Beth^r Cox

W. Iremonger

J W Pollen

Lucius Curtis

Edward Sturt

The Duke of Wellington wrote to Lord Melbourne today, enclosing the letter from the Duke of Buckingham reporting on the mob that assembled in Itchen.¹⁷⁰

London Nov^r 23rd 1830

My Lord

I enclose the Copy of a Letter just received by the Post from the Duke of Buckingham.

I am going into Hampshire; and will report to your Lordship as soon as I may think it possible to dispense with the services of the Troops, and that description of countenance and support to the reaction of the Magistrates which their presence in the County affords

I have the Honor to be My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient Humble

Servant Wellington

The Lord Melbourne

A large number of labourers assembled, in a riotous manner, in the Burghclere area today and visited several properties in Burghclere, Highclere, East Woodhay and Sidmonton.

It was between four and five o'clock in the morning when around 100 labourers arrived at John Fosbury's farm in the parish of Burghclere, and destroyed his threshing machine. One of the men, William Watts, was very active, breaking the machine with a sledge hammer.¹⁷¹

Also in the parish of Burghclere the mob visited Stephen Kent's farm where they destroyed a threshing machine and Mr Kent was forced to hand over two sovereign. Another threshing machine was broken at the property of Thomas Evans and for this he was forced to hand over a note of the Bank of England worth £5; three shillings was paid by Thomas Lovelock; and two sovereigns were taken from Edmond Arbuthnot. At the premises of Sir James Fellows a threshing machine was destroyed and Lady Elizabeth Fellows was forced to hand over two sovereigns. Also in the parish of Burghclere, and the mob extracted five shillings from William Stevens and a sovereign from Ann, wife of Joseph Povey.¹⁷²

It was about half past one this afternoon when the mob arrived at the premises of the Reverend Mr William Brudenell Barter's at Burghclere. Five men, including John Nash, James Martin and William Stroud, came to the house, but around 300 men were within a stone's throw of the premises, breaking machines. William Baker, Mr Barter's servant, went out and asked them why they were there. Stroud told him that they wanted two sovereigns. Baker told them that his master was not at home and that he had no money to which Stroud replied, 'We will have two sovereigns,

¹⁷⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f91-92. NOTE: A transcript of the Duke of Buckingham's letter can be found in the chapter covering 22nd November 1830, as this was the date it was written

¹⁷¹ Morning Herald (London), 31 December 1830

¹⁷² TNA – HO130/1

or we will call the rest of the company and we will beat the house down.' Fearful that they would carry out this threat Baker gave the money to Stroud.¹⁷³

The premises of Mr William Budd, at Burghclere were visited by a mob twice today. The first group asked for beer or money and assured Mr Budd that they did not mean to intimidate him by their number. The second group arrived at 9 o'clock in the evening, and was fewer in number, but just as formidable as they were armed with sledge hammers and iron crowbars, and making the same request. He refused to give them either beer or money but said he would leave some money at *The Chequers* in Whitway, and *The Crown* at Highclere for a pint of beer and some bread and cheese for the first of the men who took his advice, stopped their daily and nightly processions, and returned to their work. He also told them that he would prepare a Petition in which he would set out their sufferings and grievances to present to Parliament. He would make the Petition available for their inspection and approval at Whitway next Monday, and Highclere on Tuesday.¹⁷⁴

The same mob has been very active in the parish of East Woodhay today. At around 10 o'clock this morning they arrived at Thomas Child's farm. Mr Child went out to meet them and asked them what their business was. They told him they had come for a little money, they hoped he would give them a sovereign. James Martin, William Stroud and John Annetts were among the mob and although Annetts carried a hammer over his shoulder no threats were made and the men seem to have behaved in a perfectly civil manner. Mr Child put his hand in his pocket and gave them a sovereign for which he was thanked.¹⁷⁵

In the parish of Highclere the same mob extracted ten shillings from William Wedge and destroyed two hay making machines belonging to the Earl of Carnarvon.¹⁷⁶

The same men, numbering around 100, many armed with sticks and iron bars, visited the farm of Mr Joseph Asprey at Sidmorton where a threshing machine was broken. The mob, led by James Martin, then demanded two sovereigns for their trouble. Mr Asprey was not at home and his wife, Mrs Jane Asprey, sent her servant, Mary Taylor, out to them with a sovereign. This was returned to Mrs Asprey with the threat that if she did not pay in full they would take the roof off the house. Mrs Asprey sent out the sovereign again together with a pounds worth of silver. It was greeted by a cheer from the mob and they then left the premises.¹⁷⁷

At around 11 o'clock this evening between 15 and 20 people came to the shop of Benjamin Canning in East Woodhay. They demanded bread or money. Mr Canning told them that he had already given money to the mob and could not afford to give any more. One of the men struck the window with a stick. Others threatened to pull down his house if he did not pay them. In the hope that they would leave without causing damage he gave them eight shillings.¹⁷⁸

The Reverend Thomas Douglas Hodgson wrote to the Home Department today from East Woodhay to report of the depredations of the mob.¹⁷⁹

Nov. 23, 1830

Sir,

In addition to the many communications which must have been received at the Secretary of States office I think it my duty to inform you that the parish of East Woodhay has been pillaged by bands of lawless persons who break all the cast iron machinery and demand money at all gentlemens houses – my own has been twice visited – Large contributions of money have been levied – and the people are becoming more & more exorbitant.

¹⁷³ *Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830. NOTE: The Reverend William Barter was rector of both Burghclere and Highclere and was for some time domestic chaplain to the second Earl of Carnarvon

¹⁷⁴ TNA – HO17/50 Hp40 - Petition in favour of William Hill. NOTE: William Budd was for some time Clerk of the Peace for the County of Berkshire. He was a friend of William Cobbett who dedicated his book *The Woodlands* to him. Cobbett stayed at Burghclere in November 1821 and says, "We got about three o'clock to this nice, snug little farm-house, and found our host, Mr Budd, at home." On 1824 William Budd married widow Jane Pavey at Burghclere. Jane died at Burghclere on 28 September 1832, aged 69. William Budd died at Newbury on 26 1840, in his 82nd year.

¹⁷⁵ *London Evening Standard*, 25 December 1830

¹⁷⁶ TNA – HO130/1

¹⁷⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

¹⁷⁸ *London Evening Standard*, 29 December 1830

¹⁷⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f70-72

There is no power here to repress them and unless some speedy measures are taken the consequences will be most serious. All the parishes in the neighbourhood are in the same state.

I am Sir

Your most obed^t Servant

T Douglas Hodgson

Rector of East Woodhay

Hants

near Newbury

Fordingbridge has been in a state of great agitation all day today. A number of labourers gathered in the town this morning. Their leader appears to have been a man they called 'Captain Hunt', he rode ahead of them on a white horse. Witnesses estimated that at its height the mob numbered around 300, it seems that many were forced to join them against their will. From Fordingbridge the men moved on to William Shepherd's threshing machine factory at Stuckton. When they arrived at the factory one of the mob, Charles Read, asked for Mr Shepherd. On being told that he was not at home he turned to the mob and said, 'Come on, lads, we will break the house down, and Mr Shepherd in the middle of it.' Short work was made of destroying the machinery and wrecking the building, and the men refreshed themselves with eight or nine buckets of cider in the process. Thomas Hicks was at the factory. Hunt approached him and told him that they must have money. When Mr Hicks asked how much they wanted he was told, 'Two sovereigns, but three would be better.' Afraid of what they might do to him if he refused Mr Hicks took out what money he had on him, this amounted to £1 3s 6d, and handed it over to Hunt.

A number of farms in the area were visited by the mob. They destroyed threshing machines, demanded money and provisions and forced other men to join them. At Josiah Gerrard's farm the threshing machine was broken to pieces and the pieces were carried out into a field where they were burnt. Joseph Arney was seen gathering wood in Mr Gerrard's farmyard and taking it to the field where the machine was already on fire and adding it to the fire.¹⁸⁰

At about two o'clock this afternoon, the man calling himself Captain Hunt, and between 200 and 300 rioters arrived at the farm of John Chubb near Fordingbridge where Hunt demanded food and drink for his followers but he was told by Mr Chubb that he did not have enough to feed them all. Hunt then demanded a sovereign and when this was refused Hunt cried for silence, and then said, 'If that gentleman don't give us a sovereign in two minutes, go to work lads!' They left around quarter past two heading down the road towards East Mill.¹⁸¹

It was just after two this afternoon that John Fulford and his son arrived at *The Greyhound Inn* at Fordingbridge. Fulford had a piece of bread and cheese in his hand and said to Michael Lyster Street, the innkeeper, 'Master, bring me a pot of beer in a minute at your expense.' Mr Street brought him the beer. Fulford went on to tell the innkeeper that he had been out all day and night breaking threshing machines and was now on his way to East Mill to destroy the factory there. He also made enquiry as to the presence of any constables or military in the area and Mr Street told him he had not seen or heard of any. The mob arrived at *The Greyhound* at around half past two. Hunt ordered £1 worth of beer and some of the men rushed into the house and took out everything edible. The majority of the mob then went off in the direction of East Mill, a few remained drinking at the inn.

Between three and four o'clock this afternoon, as the mob of between 200 and 300 passed William Mercer's house two of the men, George Clarke and Edmund Nutbean came knocking at his door demanding food and drink. Mr Mercer gave them food but said that he had no drink to give them. They said they would have money instead and if he did not give it to them they would set fire to his house. When Mr Mercer refused to hand over any money they called after the mob, 'Here, here, come back.' It appeared that some of the mob might indeed come back so Mr Mercer handed over 3d and told Clarke and Nutbean to order some beer at *The Greyhound* and he would pay for it.

Joseph Neale saw two men knocking at the door of a cottage opposite his house, as the mob went by. One of the men, George Steel, approached him and asked for money. Mr Neale walked away

¹⁸⁰ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 22 December 1831

¹⁸¹ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 21 December 1830

but Steel followed him. Afraid that Steel would use the iron bar he carried on his shoulder Mr Neale gave him a shilling.¹⁸²

On hearing that a mob was approaching the factory Jonah Thompson, brother of Samuel Thompson who owns the mill, went out to meet them. Hunt was at the head of the men and Mr Thompson spoke to him. 'My friend, may I ask you what you are going to do?'

'We are going to the factory to destroy the machinery,' was Hunt's reply. Hunt quietened the mob and said they should listen to Mr Thompson. Mr Thompson spoke to them for five minutes and tried to dissuade them from their intended actions. He told them that the factory, which spins hemp and weaves sacks, employs between 50 and 60 poor people. The mob became noisy again and clamoured to go on. 'Attend to me,' shouted Hunt as he waved his hand, 'let every man stand to his colours and go on.' The mob moved on and Mr Thompson was prevented from following by some of the men. Stephen Whitt, a miller at East Mill, was at the factory when the mob arrived, this was about four o'clock. They seemed to approach from all directions. On his arrival Hunt shook hands with Mr Whitt who begged him not to destroy the machinery as it would put many poor people out of work. Hunt said it would not be destroyed if he was given money but rode on towards the factory before Mr Whitt had time to get some money out for him.

Many of the men went into the mill and started breaking the windows and machinery. The noise of the machinery being broken could be heard from outside. Hunt left the scene after about 20 minutes and went off over the bridge, a number of the men went with him. Others remained and having broken up much of the machinery began throwing it outside. Having completed their task they went off in all directions, as they had arrived, some going across the fields. Among those who have been recognised are Henry Eldridge, Joseph Arney, who is a journeyman carpenter, Samuel Quinton, Charles Read and George Clarke. Mr Thompson estimates that around £1000 worth of damage has been done.¹⁸³

A number of the men returned to *The Greyhound* at Fordingbridge. Mr Street had locked his gates after the mob had left earlier in the day. When they reached the gates a cry of 'Break the gates!' rang out. Despite Mr Street plea to stop, the gates were forced opened and Hunt stabled and fed his horse before handing money out to the men. They remained at the inn for around two hours. Between 10 and 12 o'clock this evening the house of William Mercer was visited for the second time today, this time by just four men, all in a state of intoxication. One of the men, 18 year old William Sutton, told Mr Mercer that unless they were given money they would set the house on fire. He then broke one of the windows and a door panel. Mr Mercer took some coppers out of his pocket, amounting to 4d which they snatched from him before going on their way.¹⁸⁴

At around midnight John Kimber and another man, thought to be part of the mob that has roamed Fordingbridge all day, came to the house of Mrs Jane Perry. They demanded money from her, saying that if she did not give it to them they would fetch 300 more men. Her husband was not at home and afraid of what they might do she gave them half a crown.¹⁸⁵

The Reverend Henry Burnaby Greene, the vicar of Longparish, received an anonymous letter today threatening the destruction of the vicarage.¹⁸⁶

The town of Ringwood was thrown into the greatest confusion this evening, by information that a mob, several hundred strong, was advancing on the town from Fordingbridge, where the greatest outrages had been committed. Threshing machines, and every description of machinery, were quickly demolished. Within two hours of hearing this, 400 of Ringwood's inhabitants were sworn in as special constables by John Mills, Esquire. Shortly afterwards Viscount Fitzharris, Henry Combe Compton, Mr A Fane, and other neighbouring gentlemen, arrived in the town. On receiving the intelligence of the trouble in Fordingbridge, a party of gentlemen, headed by Lord Fitzharris, went to offer their assistance.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸² *Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830

¹⁸³ *Morning Advertiser*, 22 December 1830

¹⁸⁴ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

¹⁸⁵ *Sherborne Mercury*, 27 December 1830

¹⁸⁶ NOTE: The Reverend Henry Burnaby Greene was vicar of Longparish for 63 years

¹⁸⁷ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

This afternoon a considerable number of labourers were seen on Owslebury Down, where they divided into bodies of twenty men each, and a distribution of £17, which had been collected took place, A female on horseback was seen to be very busy with this party.¹⁸⁸

Around 500 farm labourers gathered on Horton Heath near Fair Oak today, their purpose being to compel their employers to increase their wages. From Horton Heath they proceeded to the farm of Mr Caleb Owton, of Chalcroft Farm, where they broke his machine, they then went on to the farms of William Gosling, and William Hallet, where machines were also broken. From there they proceeded to Moor Green, and to Mr William Henry Gater's, at West End, extorting money at each place, and pressing other labourers to join them. They stopped for some beer at West End, before proceeding to Swathling Grange, the property of Dr Edwin Godden Jones, arriving there about 10 o'clock this morning. By this time their number had grown to around 250.

Many of the men were armed with sledge hammers, axes and clubs. One of the mob, Abraham Childs, appeared to be in command. He had a red and yellow handkerchief tied around his body. Dr Godden Jones demanded to know the reason for them being assembled in such a riotous manner and was told by Childs, 'For our lawful rights, to break machines, and get higher wages.' Then he asked Dr Jones if he had any machines to which Dr Jones replied, 'You rebel ruffian, how dare you question me!' He went on to tell them that if they had any grievances to complain of this was not the way to get them redressed. A voice from the crowd called out. 'We have waited long enough, we'll wait no longer!' He begged them, for their own sakes, to disperse as he expected the military to arrive at any moment and that if they made any resistance then they would be fired on. He called for silence, 'I command you in His Majesty's name to disperse, and to keep silence, while I make proclamation to that effect.'

Childs made a sign and called out, 'On boys, on!' At this the men let up a yell and someone blew a horn. Dr Jones called for silence three times then read the Riot Act. 'Our Sovereign Lord the King charges and commands that all persons, being assembled, immediately do disperse themselves, and peaceably do depart to their habitations, or their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the first year of King George I, for preventing tumultuous and riotous assemblies!' The mob refused to disperse.

*Our Sovereign Lord the King
charges and commandeth all
persons being assembled immediately
to disperse themselves, and peaceably to
depart to their habitations, or to their lawful
business, upon the Pains contained in the
act made in the first year of King George,
for preventing tumult and riotous assemblies.*

God Save the King

18. The Riot Act (Gloucester Record Office D1571X63)

¹⁸⁸ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

The mob went on to Portswood, a farm belonging to Major-General Gubbins, where they broke a threshing machine. On their return the mob was met by Dr Jones, who rushed into the crowd and seized the ringleader. Dr Jones was then struck in the face with a bludgeon, and two of his teeth were knocked out. At this point he fired the pistol he had in his hand, but without effect, but had to relinquish the man he had captured.

From there the mob went to Mr John Tribe's farm. He had already destroyed his threshing machine, but they succeeded in extorting some money from him. From Mr Tribes farm the mob made their way to Mr John Fleming's, the county member, at Stoneham Park. Having received information of the approaching mob Mr Fleming sent a message to Winchester asking for military assistance, and having collected his labourers together, went out to meet the mob. They met in a field opposite Mr Tribe's lane, and Mr Fleming apprehended the first of the rioters as they approached, his example was instantly followed by his men, and in all 45 men were taken into custody. It was at this moment that a detachment of the Third Dragoons arrived from Winchester, and the rioters dispersed in all directions. The prisoners were escorted to Mr Tribe's, where Mr Fleming, Dr Jones, and county magistrates, Mr Bingham Baring, Captain Jervis, and Mr Beckford, and Mr Woodman, the county clerk, assembled, and took their depositions. Ten of the rioters, Richard Page, William Barber, Thomas Smith, William Snelgrove, Abraham Childs, (the leader), William Whittaker, William Scorey, Levy Reeves, Samuel Broomfield, and Levy Harding, were committed to Winchester for trial. The others were bound in their own recognizances of £10 each, to keep the peace and give evidence.

There seems to have been some surprise at the rising of the labourers in this area as it would appear they have no cause for complaint respecting their wages. On Mr Fleming's estate, the ditchers, who are universally paid less than other labourers, have always received 12s per week during the winter, and 16s in summer, and the farmer's, it is believed, pay equally liberally.¹⁸⁹

A meeting of the inhabitants of Lymington was held in the Town Hall today. The purpose being to adopt measures for the protection of property from the acts of incendiaries, who, it is understood, are making their way through this and the adjoining counties.

The Reverend George Burrard was called to take the chair, and observed, 'Although I consider the primary object of this meeting to be the adoption of measures for the protection of property from the midnight incendiary, I should also bring forward to your notice a subject, which, at the present crisis, is of the greatest importance – that of the Labourers' Wages. The labouring classes are at this present moment in a state of great excitement, and I am confident that nothing will appease them but an advance of wages.'

At this point several farmers stepped forward, and said, that they would, one and all, be most willing to advance their men's wages, but even now they were labouring under such a weight of rent and tithes that it was with the greatest difficulty they could keep up with them; and under the present circumstances, without a proportionate reduction of rent, &c. they feel, that to raise the labourers' wages, would, in a very great degree, lead to their ruin.

The Reverend Burrard concurred with them. "The course of relief to the poorer classes must spring from that which you have alluded to, the reduction of rents, &c. I propose to the meeting, that with a view to meet the present demand of the labourers, that all persons employing such labourers should pay them not less than nine shillings per week; and that the parishes be recommended to give a gallon loaf and sixpence to every married man, having a wife and one child, with the addition of sixpence for every other child incapable of working."

This proposition was put to a show of hands, and was carried, just one person dissented.

While the meeting was going on, around 40 to 50 men from the adjoining parishes, marched up to the Town Hall to hear the decision. Their behaviour was very orderly and peaceable. The Reverend Burrard addressed them from the window of the Town Hall, and told them the decision of the meeting, which was received with great pleasure. They expressed themselves very well satisfied, gave three hearty cheers, and separated to their respective employments.

¹⁸⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830. NOTE: According to the *Hampshire Chronicle* 53 men were captured. NOTE: Dr Edward Godden Jones died at Swathling Grange 31 January 1842, being at that time a justice of the peace and deputy lieutenant for the county of Hants

The Reverend Burrard then brought forward and read some resolutions, respecting the protection of property, which ended in a subscription being commenced to defray expenses, and give rewards to any person or persons who shall detect, and by their evidence convict any miscreant, or miscreants, who shall set fire to, or attempt to set fire to any rick, barn, outbuilding, or dwelling house, within the parishes of Lymington, Boldre, Brockenhurst, Milford, Hordle, and Milton. The amount subscribed amounts almost to £1,000, and the reward offered is £300.¹⁹⁰

Today Mr Rickman wrote from Bashley Lodge, near Lymington, to the Home Department, giving his observations on the state of the Country.¹⁹¹

Bashley Lodge near Lymington Hants

Nov^r 23rd 1830

My Lord,

The contagious violence of the lower orders is rapidly extending itself. They who are at the summit of Society appear to be on the top of a volcano composed of the physical strength of a pauper population & plentifullly surcharged with sulphur of discontent & of underhand traitorous excitement.

The neighbourhood of Winchester & several other parts of this County have within these few days been scenes of outrage of the usual kind accompanied in one instance with a striking proof of the disposition of the more furious rioters towards their Superiors. The first anxious question on this onset is, how is it to be resisted & put down? Because it seems certain that although the present proceedings are not without some palliation in the truly lamentable condition of the agricultural poor, yet the power of forcing concession once achieved will become so congenial to the larger and demoralized portion of them as to continue to be exercised progressively towards the climax of absolute domination.

The Magistrates upon some of the occasions above alluded to appear to have acted with equal promptness and self possession and therefore I conclude that their calling in, as they did, the regular troops to their aid was absolutely necessary.

It is however a sad sign when the civil power cannot, of itself, enforce civil order. Every instance at home of the application of a force designed only to be put in action abroad, savors accordingly to circumstances, more remotely or more proximately, of Civil War – the very thought of such a war is horrible – Alas! Too horrible to be dwelt on if we look to it's adverse element in England – on the one hand, the disaffected poor, giants in their congregated strength, madmen in their recklessness & furies in their vengeance – on the other hand the rich, impotent in their riches and depending for support on the standing army, an engine which the anomalous magic of popular combination on the continent has broken in pieces.

I fear we are almost in the incipient of civil war – I fear Magistrates and constables will soon be the weaker side - I fear the tendencies to rebellion are, like the first flow of the tide, already heaving – I fear your Lordship will find that a civil army must be established – and if it be established it's efficacy will wholly depend on the due admixture of it's ingredients. An exclusively Yeomanry Cavalry force, I am persuaded, could not by it's attachment to the Government at all compensate for the severing of the last link between the higher & middle classes and the lower which the name almost of such a force would in these times effect – I humbly submit to your Lordship that by far the greater portion of this civil army should be infantry – that its mass should be in a considerable degree of the poor and that it's levy should proceed to an amount & by districts so linked as that the character of every individual inrolled maybe known and approved by those intrusted with the levy and that the officers & privates should be in those relations & habitudes of mutual dependence & acquaintance which may secure their cordial co-operation.

My Lord, Time & events are flying onward – Do not whilst you are relying on the standing Army, however well affected, reject, without consideration the, perhaps, too anxious perhaps, foolish advice of a very humble individual who with the love of wife and children and country will always be a loyal subject to his Sovereign.

I should not, my Lord, have thus intruded myself but that extra ordinary events give extra ordinary privileges – and as my obscurity does not render me perfectly anonymous I take the liberty of saying that I am a Solicitor residing on a small farm in the country and practicing my profession (including a clerkship to a division of Magistrates & tax commissioners) in the next Town and that I am pretty well informed of the Conditions & feelings of the poor in the neighbourhood. I have the Honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships most obedient humble Ser^t

J. H. Rickman

¹⁹⁰ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

¹⁹¹ TNA – HO52/7 f99-101

In consequence of the disturbances of yesterday and today, it has been considered advisable to station a party of military at Bishop's Waltham, and accordingly this afternoon a detachment of the 47th regiment marched into the town. A number of special constables were also sworn in. A meeting of the inhabitants of the town took place in the Reverend Thomas Scard's school room. Captain Griffith in the chair, and some strong resolutions, for the preservation of the public peace were entered into. The situation of the labouring classes was also averted to and much commiserated with.¹⁹²

The Duke of Wellington wrote to Lord Melbourne, from Strathfield Saye, to report the capture of a large number of rioters by a party of Guards and Lancers.¹⁹³

Strathfield Saye Nov^r 23 1830

11 at Night

My Lord

I arrived here this afternoon; and since my arrival have received the report of a very successful affair in a very lawless part of the County between this and Kingsclere.

It appears that am Mob of about 300 or 400 Persons did a good deal of (Machines?) yesterday in the neighbourhood of (Buriton?). They went this morning to Mr Chutes at the Vine about five miles from hence towards Basingstoke; and they were returning towards Wolverton an estate recently purchased by me from Sir Peter Pole. They had ordered a contribution at the time.

The Magistrates of Berks and Hants had moved last night a Detachment of Lancers from Reading to Aldermaston; and with this detachment they followed the Mob towards the Vine as hearing they had themselves assembled at the Furze Bush a Public House at the head of Tadley Common. The Magistrates at Basingstoke headed the Lancers from that town as soon as they heard of the approach of the Mob at the Vine. They followed from that Place. The Mob were thus enclosed between the two detachments of troops, somewhere about Baughurst. The whole were taken.

I am assured that the pressed Men were allowed to go away. The Ringleaders of the amount of 70 were detained; and my Informant saw them brought in Basingstoke this evening by the Guards and Lancers. The amount of troops employed was but small. Twenty Guards and twenty Lancers.

It is reported that Hunt is in the County, and was yesterday at Basingstoke.

I will let you know more of this affair tomorrow; but if it be as reported I hope that it will have entirely have put an end to disturbance in this part of the Country.

I have the Honor to be My Lord

Your Lordship's ever obedient Humble Servant

Wellington

A large mob destroyed the turnpike gates at East Dean and Tytherley yesterday evening. This evening they returned and ordered the toll collectors and their families to leave their houses, they were only allowed time to get their things out before the gates and houses were then set on fire. The mob told the toll collectors, 'It is our intention to destroy all parsons, excise men and turn pike gates in the country.' It seems that considerable damage was done to other property of this description at other places, belonging to the Broughton and Romsey turnpike trust.¹⁹⁴

Wednesday, 24th November 1830

Despite the precautions taken by Mr Baker his saw mills at the corner of Marsh Lane in Southampton were set on fire soon after one o'clock this morning. Flames were suddenly seen to come from the north east corner of the building, which is the most accessible part, and nearest the road. The mills were closed at the usual time last night, and all was found to be secure. Fearing an attack on the premises Mr Baker had established a guard, and during the night two men and a boy are employed to constantly walk around the building, which is wholly composed of wood, and surrounded on all sides by an open space, part of which is a timber yard, and part a garden and orchard. It is supposed that the incendiary must have climbed over the wall

¹⁹² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

¹⁹³ TNA – HO52/13 f 107-109

¹⁹⁴ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

of the adjoining garden. On first discovering the fire the man who was watching the property, released the horse from the stable, and sent off an express to Mr Baker, who resides at Millbrook. The whole town was thrown into a state of fearful anxiety by the ringing of the alarm bells, the cry of 'Fire', and the springing of the watchmen's rattles. A large number of people were on the scene within a few minutes but it soon became evident that all attempts to save the buildings were useless as the buildings were almost entirely made of wood, covered with a thick coat of tar to preserve it from the weather, and the yard and warehouses being filled with stacks of timber, bone dust, and other inflammable commodities, the whole area covering half an acre. So rapid was the progress of the flames, that in less than ten minutes from their first discovery, the entire building in which they had originated, a lofty timber shed adjoining the mills, was perfectly enveloped in them, and they had communicated to the rest of the buildings, from which the shed was only separated by a slight wooden partition, to such a degree, that it was impossible to enter any part of it. The engines arrived promptly, and commenced playing with considerable spirit, though from the intense heat, the flaming pile could only be approached from some distance.

In half an hour the flames had attained complete mastery over the buildings, and the night being perfectly calm, they rose to a great height in the air, presenting a most grand and magnificent spectacle, which was visible beyond Farnham in Surrey, and no doubt in all the other counties adjoining Hampshire. The fire burnt for almost three hours and all that now remains are piles of smoking wood, ashes, and broken, disjointed machinery. Unfortunately the well belonging to the premises was so close to the fire that it could not be made use of. It was not until the arrival of the engine that a supply of water could be obtained. The engine recently presented to the town by the various Fire Offices proved extremely useful. The tradesmen and firemen of the town are to be much praised for their efforts, as are the lower orders for their good conduct.

It is only five years since the mills were erected. They are used for sawing all kinds of wood, both by circular and upright saws, among which was a 14 foot veneer saw, which alone, with its fitting up, cost £1100. There were also machines for crushing bones for the purpose of manure, the whole being driven by a steam engine of considerable power.

A reward of £500 is offered by the town, £500 by the Government, and the exceeding liberal sum of £500 by the County Fire Office, for the discovery and conviction of the incendiary. It is understood that the cost of erecting the premises cost £8,000, and they were insured to the amount of £6,000. The engine house and chimney, the only parts of the building made of brick, stand alone among the smoking ruins.

Captain Hyde Parker, of H.M.S. St Vincent, at Portsmouth, on perceiving the flames coming from the saw mill, immediately sent off a detachment of marines and sailors to render assistance; but, in consequence of mistaking the road, they did not arrive in Southampton until 8 o'clock.¹⁹⁵

Between one and two o'clock this morning, about 40 fellows from Millbrook, in a state of intoxication, proceeded to the house of Mr Anthony Manning, of Redbridge, where they demanded money. A little was given to them, but before they left, they broke a fan light over the door. Disgusted with their conduct Mr Manning armed himself with a stick and followed them. When he found the man who had broken the window, he hit him several times with the stick, with such force that the stick was broken to pieces. The man's companions looked on and made no attempt to assist him. When Mr Manning spoke to them, saying he knew several of them, they quickly went away.¹⁹⁶

The parishioners of Millbrook held a meeting at the poor house today and it was decided that both married and single labourers would, in future, receive 2^s a day. A number of people in the parishes of Millbrook and Eling have received threatening letters.¹⁹⁷

Between 20 and 30 labourers gathered in Redbridge today. They paraded the village and succeeded in obtaining drink and money from several individuals. They later stopped a coach which they

¹⁹⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 29 November 1830

¹⁹⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

¹⁹⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

believed was carrying a prisoner. Instead they found inside an exceedingly frightened Lady Letheridge. Some money was taken from her.¹⁹⁸

This evening, as Miss Mary Trim of Southampton, was passing near the bridge, at Redbridge, in a post chaise, she was stopped by some of the labourers, who were intoxicated, and they demanded money. When the post-boy attempted to proceed, he received a violent blow, and an attack was immediately made upon the chaise, and the panels were entirely broken. A gentleman of the name of King came up, and the fellows made off. The chaise belongs to Mr Whitbourne, of Lyndhurst.¹⁹⁹

Some of those who were with the mob at East Mill and Stuckton yesterday continued with their rounds well into the early hours of this morning. At around 2 o'clock they arrived at West Park the home of Eyre Coote Esquire, in the parish of Rockbourne. It appears that a dozen or so men had visited the house late last night. On that occasion they had asked if there were any machines on the premises and Mr Coote had told them that he had no machines. At the same time he had warned them that their actions were likely to get them into trouble. The men had behaved in a very civil manner and had promised to pass peacefully through the village. Mr Coote had given them a little beer.

Warned that there might be more trouble Mr Coote sent James Mitchell, one of his servants to watch the park gates. At around two o'clock in the morning he heard the men coming from the village. They started breaking the gates and he heard one of them say, 'I am d-d to hell, but we'll go to West Park House, and have either the house or the money.' James Woodrow, Mr Coote's gamekeeper heard the hammering on the gates and went down to see what was going on. He hid under the wall of the lodge and heard voices say, 'We will go up to West Park.' Both Woodrow and Mitchell went back to the house to warn Mr Coote of the approaching mob. When the mob arrived at the house Mr. Coote, together with some of his friends and servants were standing under the portico of the house waiting for them. There were around 40 men altogether and Charles Shepherd appeared to be their leader. As they approached Mr Coote asked, 'Well, my lads, what do you want?' 'Money!' was the reply. Mr Coote told them he would not give them any and a scuffle broke out, in which several of the insurgents were severely wounded by a discharge of fire-arms. The two ringleaders and eleven other prisoners were captured and are now lodged in Winchester goal. The rest fled and it is believed they have left the county and made their way into Dorset.²⁰⁰

At about eight o'clock this morning a groom, mounted on a horse almost spent with fatigue, reached Captain Rainier's house, at Hill. He had come from West Park, the seat of Mr Eyre Coote. He carried a note from Mr Coote, written in pencil on a scrap of paper, with the words: 'For God's sake send out troops, or we shall all be destroyed.' Captain Rainer enclosed the note with the message he sent to the troops at Winchester.

Captain Rainier swore in 100 constables to act for the preservation of the peace at Millbrook. Some apprehension has been expressed for the safety of the foundry. An armed watch of at least twenty men continues to surround the premises, and a residence nearby is well provided with arms &c. in case of attack.²⁰¹

An express arrived at Christchurch a 2 o'clock this morning, with the news that a numerous and disorderly mob were approaching Ringwood. The principal inhabitants of the town were immediately aroused from their beds, and assembled at the Hotel, where several magistrates were in attendance, for the purpose of devising the best possible means to avert the impending evil. A great number of special constables were enrolled. The officers and men of the preventive service, well armed, were also assembled. *The Tartar* revenue cruiser lay-to off the harbour, and sent one

¹⁹⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 29 November 1830

¹⁹⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²⁰⁰ *Morning Herald (London)*, 26 November 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 22 December 1831 & *The Times*, 23 & 24 December 1830

²⁰¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830. NOTE: A Peter Rainier, Captain RN, age 52, of Hamilton Place, Hill Road, was buried 20 April 1836 at Southampton All Saints

of her brass 4-pounders on shore, with a quantity of ammunition, in order to enfilade the entrance to the town. Day and night patrols have established, to scour the adjacent country. After these precautions had been effected, it was ascertained that the rioters had met with a spirited resistance at West Park, the seat of Eyre Coote, Esquire, M.P., in which Lord Fitzharris, the Honourable Edward Harris, Mr Fane, and a few other gentlemen, had succeeded in capturing the ringleader and several of his associates. The rest of the mob then made a detour into Dorsetshire.²⁰²

Today the number of troops in Winchester was strengthened by the arrival of the depot of the 45th regiment.²⁰³

The magistrates attended at the Town Hall in Lymington today, and swore in upwards of 200 special constables. They will continue their attendance at the Town Hall until Saturday, so that the neighbouring parishes may have the same opportunity of swearing in special constables. By acting so promptly, and also the gentlemen, tradesmen, and the inhabitants generally showing such a willingness to perform the duty of their office, it is hoped that the town may remain peaceable, and not be visited by the disorderly people who are causing such devastation in other parts of the county.²⁰⁴

At 2 o'clock this afternoon a large crowd of labourers, complaining loudly about their low wages and expressing a determination to see them increased, gathered opposite the *Anchor Inn* in Liphook. Mr Budd, a magistrate for the county, Sir James McDonald and Mr Sparrow arrived on the scene and attempted to restore peace and persuade the mob to disperse. It was at this point that the Regulator Coach arrived. On board was Dr Daniel Quarrier, another of the county's magistrates. He immediately left the coach and joined Mr Budd and the others. He addressed himself to the crowd, pointing out the unlawfulness of their proceedings, and observing among them a stranger, whose name turned out to be Thomas Hamblin, who without any local grievance to complain of, was foremost in inciting the others to acts of resistance to the lawful authorities. Dr Quarrier pointed out to them the danger of listening to such an adviser, a man, who he said had come among them, not to complain of any hardship or deprivation, but for the sake of inflaming the minds of the industrious and well disposed, and he implored them not to be led astray by artful and designing men whose only object was to create discontent towards their superiors. Dr Quarrier then addressed himself to Hamblin, inquiring what the nature of his complaint was, and for what purpose he had come among them. Hamblin replied that he had as much right to be there as Dr Quarrier did, and proceeded to use the most inflammatory language towards the magistrate, and became very abusive. Dr Quarrier called on the constables to assist him in apprehending the man, and at the same time he forced his way through the crowd and got hold of Hamblin by the collar. Two constables instantly assisted in securing Hamlin. Mr Budd, who was mounted, rode his horse between the mob and the prisoner and kept them off as it seemed the mob were about to attempt a rescue. Hamblin was hurried into the Regulator Coach followed by Dr Quarrier and a constable. Dr Quarrier warned that anyone who attempted to release Hamblin would also be taken into custody, and with that the coach rode off. On arriving at Petersfield a committal order was made out and the prisoner was then taken to Portsmouth in the coach, under the charge of the constable, Dr Quarrier remained in Petersfield. On arrival in Portsmouth Hamblin was taken to Gosport Bridewell where he remains, he is to be re-examined early next week. The charge against him is for having gone from house to house inciting people to unlawful acts.²⁰⁵

Mr J. R. Keele, the Mayor of Southampton, presided at a numerous meeting of the nobility, gentry, and inhabitants of the town today, to take into consideration the present alarming state of affairs, and particularly the threats directed against individuals, corn merchants, and others. The Mayor

²⁰² *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

²⁰³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁰⁴ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²⁰⁵ *Morning Post*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 30 November 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 29 November 1830.

NOTE: Dr Daniel Quarrier was born in Scotland in 1785. He was Surgeon to the Royal Marine Service, and died in 1843

and several gentlemen addressed the meeting, after which certain resolutions were unanimously agreed to. A committee of twelve, consisting of an equal number of gentlemen, merchants, and tradesmen, was appointed to co-operate with the Magistrates, in organising and directing the special constabulary force and the nightly patrol. A subscription was entered into for the purposes of offering a reward of £500 for the discovery of those concerned in firing Mr Baker's mills, of offering other rewards for any similar crimes in future, and for the expenses of the proposed nightly watch. Upwards of £2500 were subscribed on the spot for these purposes, and £500 since. Seven hundred special constables have been sworn in, by whom the streets of the town, and adjoining lanes, are to be regularly patrolled at night. No further outrages have since been perpetrated, owing to these precautions, although many employers of machinery and corn merchants, in and about the town, have been threatened with destruction. Fifteen hundred pounds in all has now been offered for the discovery of the late incendiary: viz. £500 by the town, £500 by the County Fire Office, and £500 by Government.²⁰⁶

Mr J. R. Keele, the Mayor of Southampton, wrote to the Home Department to report on the fire at the Saw mill of Mess^{rs} Baker & Fox. He also enclosed a copy of the resolutions passed at a meeting held in the town today.²⁰⁷

Southampton

Nov^r 24 1830

My Lord,

I think it proper to inform your Lordship that a Saw Mill in this Town – belonging to Mess^{rs} Baker and Fox was consumed by Fire last night and it appears to have been the Act of an Incendiary. Mr Baker had a few days ago a threatening Letter, there was not the least disturbance during the Fire, and the people exerted themselves in endeavouring to Extinguish it, there was a large assemblage of people in our neighbourhood yesterday breaking machines. We had a very numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town this day when some resolutions were adopted and a Subscription amounting to £2780 was instantly made & which Resolutions I beg to enclose for the Information of your Lordship.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

Your most obed^t Servant

J R Keele

Guildhall 24 November 1830

*At a very respectable and numerous Meeting of the
Householders and Inhabitants of the Town and County
of Southampton*

J. R. Keele Esq^r

Mayor in the Chair

Resolved

That this meeting view with the deepest Indignation and concern the progress of a spirit of disunion and mischief that must eventually be alike Calamitous to all ranks of persons.

That this meeting will be at all times disposed to sympathize with the distress of the Poor and to assist in their relief.

That this meeting will nevertheless not suffer their property to be destroyed and the public peace to be outraged by Acts of violence.

That this meeting are most Indignant at the destruction of Mr C Bakers property by Fire and at the Anonymous threats that have been directed to other persons to involve them in Calamity.

That this meeting do therefore determine immediately to raise a Subscription of £500 to be offered a reward to any person or persons who will discover the offender or offenders who fired Mr Baker's premises to be paid upon Conviction.

That this meeting will further raise another sum of £500 as a fund to supply rewards for the discovery of any further incendiary Acts, or other Acts destructive of the public peace or injurious to Individuals within the Town and County of the Town of Southampton for the six months next ensuing.

²⁰⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁰⁷ TNA - HO52/7 f108-112

That for the payment of all incidental Expences attendant on the watch and ward an immediate Subscription be entered into.

That the thanks to this Meeting are most cordially given to those of persons of all ranks in life so readily came forward to assist in extinguishing the fire last night.

That it is absolutely necessary for the safety and tranquillity of Southampton that a Volunteer force be immediately organised and armed accordingly to the ancient English Constitutional force called Watch and Ward and placed at such points as may be best calculated to secure the Public Tranquillity.

That the Householders of the Town be requested to enrol their names forthwith and to call on their Friends to do the same to act a special Constables or Watch and Ward under the direction of the Magistrates.

That a Committee be appointed to make arrangements for the stationing and disposal of special Constables and for assisting in the preservation of public peace under the Sanction of the Magistrates and that the following Gentlemen be such Committee

The Honble P B De Blaquire

Colonel Henderson

James Weld Esq^r

Tho^s Sloane Moody Esq^r

Mr James Bovill

Mr John King

Mr W^m Le Fevre

Mr S Lintott

Mr W^m Bridger

Mr Tho^s Slade

Mr Wm Randall

Mr Rice

That the most hearty thanks of this meeting are hereby given to those brave Officers and Seamen who came up from his Majesty's Ships St Vincent Commanded by Capt^r Parker on seeing the Flames from Portsmouth Harbour.

That a Copy of these Resolutions be transmitted by the Mayor to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and that they be also printed and advertised at the discretion of the Committee.

J. R. Keele Mayor Chairman

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor J R Keele Esq^r for so promptly calling Together the Inhabitants and for the attention which he has given to the object of this meeting.

This morning a large gathering of labourers took place in the parish of Droxford, where they were met by some of the principal farmers. The farmers assured them that their situation would be taken into consideration. Despite this the men proceeded to Swanmore Farm, occupied by Mr John Appleby, where they destroyed a most valuable threshing machine, the property of his landlord. The machine had been erected some years earlier by A Shearer, Esquire. It was very large and constructed of the best materials, and of the finest workmanship, and had cost six hundred pounds. It was anticipated that the labourers intended further mischief, but shortly after they had left Swanmore Farm a magistrate made his appearance. As they assembled in front of Swanmore House, he exhorted them to be peaceable and disperse to their homes; and they immediately left the park. Some troops had started out from Bishop's Waltham to enforce the obedience of these men, should it be necessary, but they had departed before the arrival of the soldiers.²⁰⁸

Mr Isaac Goldsmid wrote to Mr Phillips, the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, from Camberwell today to report the attack on his house at Tytherley and the extortion of £8.00.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²⁰⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f93-95. NOTE: According to the 1834 List of Persons Entitled to Vote in the County of Southampton, Isaac Lyon Goldsmid owned a freehold mansion & manor house in East Tytherley, Tenant: Thomas Webb. Place of Abode: Champion House, Surrey. He was a financier & philanthropist, and one of the leading figures in Jewish emancipation in the United Kingdom. Along with Elizabeth Fry & Peter Bedford, he was a zealous fellow worker for the reform of the penal code and the improvement of prisons. He was the first British Jew to receive a hereditary title.

Dulwich Hill House

Camberwell

24 Nov^r 1830

Sir,

I beg leave to trouble you with this letter because I think it may be of use to state some circumstances which induce me to believe that the number of those who are disposed to commit excesses are much less than the casual observer imagines for a great majority that join the promoters of these disturbances, act from compulsion and are desirous to escape from this authority as soon as they know they can rely on any force for protection, and all that is now required after the advertisement in last night's gazette for the military to act promptly and they would fly on their first appearance. My family returned from Tytherley last night, & it appears the number of the rioters were in the first instance few, but in passing through the villages they compelled the labourers and even the farmers to get out of their beds to join them, my two game keepers acted under the same coercion & they even endeavoured to force my coachman and groom to act with them and the former in the first instance stopped their entering the house till he was joined by the peasantry of the village by merely taking up the meat chopper & threatening to cut the first man's hand off who entered the door. They wished Mrs Goldsmid to sign a paper agreeing to an increase of wages, & they were satisfied with the reason she gave for declining to do so namely that she had no authority over the property they insisted upon having money and she gave them £.8 & they left without committing any other violence except breaking a few squares of glass, several of the villages begged my servants to admit them into the house for protection.

Mrs G on her way to London met the officer of the Lancers & on informing him of the occurrence he stated that his orders were only to proceed to Basingstoke.

I have written to my game keeper to know if he can identify any of the rioters & if he is able not a moment shall be lost in instituting an enquiry

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Isaac Goldsmid

Phillips

Under Secretary of State

Home Department

Thankfully all the precautions taken by the Petersfield authorities proved successful and market day passed without the anticipated disturbance.

About 100 gentlemen and others were sworn in as Special Constables at Everley today.²¹⁰

The prisoners captured by Sir Claudius Hunter at Ewhurst yesterday evening were examined before the magistrates in Basingstoke this morning. It seems they were part of the mob that has been so active in the area. Seventeen men were sent to Winchester goal, escorted by the 9th Lancers, the remainder were remanded.²¹¹

A Vestry Meeting of the inhabitants of Soberton was held today, and the following proposals were submitted to the labourers, namely: - 12s per week when work offered; or half a guinea per week and employment found the whole of the year. The labourers chose the latter proposal, and resumed their work.²¹²

The Duke of Wellington wrote to Lord Melbourne to report that he understands that 20 of the prisoners taken by the Guards and Lancers may be committed for Capital offences.²¹³

Strathfield Saye Nov^r 24 1830

My Lord

²¹⁰ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

²¹¹ Hampshire Chronicle, 29 November 1830

²¹² Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

²¹³ TNA – HO52/13 f111-113

I have heard of no disturbances in this part of the County this day. There is a Report of a Mob at Alton; but I have not heard that they have done any Mischief.

From what I have heard this day I am inclined to believe that the account which I sent you last night although taken from a Gentleman present was a little large in fact, as to the Number of Persons taken originally and sent to Basingstoke.

However no doubt can be entertained of the importance of this Capture of so many desperate Characters; nor of the satisfaction and serenity which it affords to the resident Gentry and Farmers. There are among the Captured some (soled?) Burglars and thieves; and I understand that not less than twenty might be considered for Capital offences.

I will report to your Lordship tomorrow from Winchester.

I have the Honor to be My Lord your Lordship's most Obedient Humble Servant.

Wellington

I understand that the Guards which went to Basingstoke last night returned to Newbury this morning in Carriages sent in the course of the Night from Newbury to remove them.

The Lord Viscount Melbourne

Mr Samuel Wall & Mr Robert Wynch wrote to the Home Department today to report that Winchester and the surrounding area were now quiet, and that a number of prisoners were now lodged in the Gaol charged with extorting money and braking machines.²¹⁴

My Lord,

Acceding to our promise we write but have not anything particular to communicate.

Some distant parts of the County appear to be disturbed. But Winchester & the neighbourhood is more quiet. Several Prisoners have been brought into the Gaol to day, charged wth extorting money by threats, & breaking machinery.

We have honor to be yr

Ob^d

Sam Wall

Robert Wynch

County Gaol

Novr 24th 1830

At 9 o'clock this evening Mr Richard Pollen wrote to Mr Phillips from Winchester to tell him of a meeting of the Magistrates that is to take place tomorrow. He also said that he believed it was necessary for a Special Commission be set up try the prisoners.²¹⁵

Winchester Wednesday

Night 9 o'clock

My Dear Sir,

I told Lord Melbourne yesterday when I had an interview with him, that I w^d take the liberty of writing to you from this district if any thing worth communicating occurred, no doubt you will have full particulars also from the Military force here, & possibly from other quarters, so that I shall merely give my opinion as a magistrate of the state of the neighbourhood. We have abt 130 prisoners in the gaol, the principal Leaders in all the riotous assemblies – we have not yet got hold of any incendiary – but from intelligence received this morning I am informed that there is a chance of some evidence as to a fire at Sir Henry Wilson's farm 7 miles from this Town. My persuasion is that the Country people as so cowed at the sight of the Military, that we can now by the aid of the Gentlemen & special constables soon allow you to move some part of the troops from hence towards the west, to which I fear these feelings amongst the agricultural labourers is undoubtedly expanding itself. We expect a large body of the Magistrates of the County to meet tomorrow in consequence of a circular letter which I took upon me to send them, at which meeting the Lord Lieutenant will preside.

I shall propose to dedicate our time committedly to the dissection & examination of the evidence of the different offences. We shall have a great body of testimony applicable to Robberies (or extorting money from various persons under bodily fear) - & if that sh^d be so, I w^d very seriously press upon his Majesty's Government the absolute necessity of a Commission to try these offences as speedily as the forms of Justice will allow – our Gaols are full, &

²¹⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f95-96

²¹⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f112-114

any delay in trying the offenders, if evidence can be satisfactorily established, will be very dangerous if not fatal to the peace of the Country.

*I am My dear Sir
respectfully yr's
Rich Pollen*

*S. M. Phillips Esq^r
C&c C&c*

Early this morning many of the town's people of Fordingbridge were sworn in as special constables. Already they have succeeded in capturing several of the men who were so active at East Mill and Stuckton. Among them is the man calling himself Lord Hunt, his real name is James Thomas Cooper from Grimstead who has been employed as a servant by a Mr Mussell, who keeps *The Three Crowns* at Whaddon, and he is said to be a character well known at the Rotunda Meetings. He was taken at an inn in Damerham, and brought into Ringwood this afternoon, escorted by a strong armed party of horsemen, who had left the town for West Park to render assistance. The men who had captured him had to hold pistols to the window of the chaise that carried him in as they passed through Fordingbridge and Ringwood in order to prevent the inhabitants of these towns from attacking him, they were so incensed at the damage he and his followers had done to their properties.²¹⁶

This evening a detachment of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, under the command of Cornet Kelson, marched into Fordingbridge. Fortunately they have not yet been called into action, as the town at present is in a state of tranquillity.²¹⁷

A public meeting was held at Newport, Isle of Wight, today, and a handsome subscription was commenced for the purpose of supplying the poor with fuel and other necessaries during the winter at reduced prices. All the leading people of the Island came forward on the occasion.²¹⁸

Today the Duke of Buckingham wrote to the Home Department from Avington to request that the Bucks Yeomanry may return to their own Country.²¹⁹

Avington

Winchester

Nov 24th

1830

My Lord,

The Regiment of Bucks Yeomanry under the Command of the Marques of Chandos having been moved out of the County of Bucks to Hounslow Barracks I have the honor to request your Lordship will allow it to be moved to Beaconsfield Risborough and Thame where I have reason to apprehend their service may be wanted, or if it be thought advisable to have it nearer the disturbed districts, that it may be (posted?) at Marlow from where it can be marched across the Thames if wanted.

At all events I have the honor to request the Orderly Duty on the numbers that may not be done by the Yeomanry when Home especially at this time of the year are not calculated for that Service.

It may be interesting to your Lordship to be informed that everything is quiet in this immediate neighbourhood and that the presence of a Military Force is still necessary to keep down the bad spirit which persists in this neighbourhood and which generally speaking the Farmers have not the Spirit, and in some instances not the Wish to put down.

*I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your obedient Servant
Buckingham & Chandos*

*The Right Hon^{ble}
The Secretary of State*

²¹⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²¹⁷ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

²¹⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²¹⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f103-105

A mob of around 200 men, armed with sticks and hammers, gathered at *The Sherfield Hatchett* today. Mr William Stead, a Romsey solicitor, met them on the road near East Wellow; they appeared to be coming from Wiltshire. Mr Stead asked them why they were there and was told by John Moody, who had a white handkerchief tied around his hat, that they were going to the Reverend Thomas Penton's to get him to sign a paper agreeing to lower his tithes and raise their wages and also that they intended to get £5 from him for their trouble. The mob then asked Mr Stead for money and he handed over 5s. William Reeves, landlord of *The Sherfield Hatchett*, told him that this was nothing, at which Mr Stead offered to take the money back but they would have nothing of that.²²⁰

The mob then went to the Reverend Thomas Penton's where Moody handed the Reverend gentleman a paper which they asked him to sign. The paper contained a description of an agreement to increase the wages for labourers and the lowering of his tithes. Mr Penton refused to sign and said that as far as the labourers' wages were concerned he would pay the same as his neighbours and he would make his own arrangements with the farmers concerning tithes. Moody then demanded £10 to which Mr Penton replied that he did not have that much or half that much for them and that he would not willingly give them any money. Moody then named the other people who had given them £5. Mr Penton then offered £2, afraid that they might cause some damage to his property. Moody asked the mob if they would accept the £2. They agreed to this and Mr Penton handed over the money to the man Moody indicated as their receiver.

Mr Stanley, a magistrate, and Mr Curtis, an attorney, both from Romsey met the mob at Mr Penton's. Mr Stanley tried to address the men and a cry of, 'Throw him off his horse,' was heard. William Reeves went up to speak to Mr Stanley, 'Who was it sent the men to goal yesterday?' he asked. Yesterday Mr Stanley had in fact committed several rioters. A cry of 'Forward!' went up from the men and Mr Stanley and Mr Curtis were driven from the yard.

The mob then went to Manor Farm, Wellow Farm the property of Mr Joseph Allsop. John Eastedd of East Wellow was there on horseback and he asked James Moody, where they had come from. 'Oh we come from yonder, to regulate wages and tithes,' was Moody's reply. Mr Eastedd then asked for anyone from East Wellow to step forward. Some did so and he asked them if they had any complaints to make, they answered that they had not. Mr Eastedd told them to stand apart from the others and he got down from his horse and walked among the men. He recognised a number of the men including William Reeves, Thomas Scammell and James White. Reeves told him, 'We are going to have 12s a week wages.' White said, 'We shall come to your house and break your machines.' Mr Eastedd left them and went home.

Some of the mob went on to Embley House, the home of Mr Edward Nightingale, and then to Mr John Eastedd's farm at East Wellow where they broke up a chaff-cutting machine. 'Stop!' called John Pointer, who had a ribbon tied around his hat, 'Mr Eastedd's business is not settled yet.'

The mob stopped and Pointer asked Mr Eastedd for two sovereigns. He told them that he could not afford to give them that much to which Pointer replied, 'Well we can work as well by night as by day and there is no knowing what might happen before morning.'

Several others echoed this thought. Mr Eastedd took the threats seriously and asked them if they would leave the parish if he gave them a sovereign. They said they would so he handed over a sovereign to Pointer.²²¹

²²⁰ NOTE: In some newspaper reports Mr William Stead is named as Mr William Steele. There are several references in various Hampshire Newspapers of the time to the firm of Daman, Stead, & Curtis, Attorneys-at – law, or Solicitors, Romsey. William Stead, of Romsey and Beata Prior Alexander were married at Wilsford, Wilts in 1831. At the time of the 1841 Census William Stead, age 37, Solicitor, is living at Woodley Lodge, Romsey with his wife Beata, age 30. He died at Romsey in December 1878

²²¹ *Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830; *London Packet & New Lloyd's Evening Post*, 29 December 1830. NOTE: William Edward Nightingale was the father of Florence Nightingale. He was born William Edward Shore. His mother was Mary Evans the niece of Peter Nightingale, a lead mining entrepreneur, and it was under the terms of Peter Nightingale's will that William Shore changed his name to Nightingale and inherited Lea Hurst in Derbyshire. In 1826 William Nightingale bought Embley Park for the family to use as their permanent residence, with Lea Hurst being used as a summer residence



19. Embley Park, Hampshire,
Home of Florence Nightingale's family.

(Coloured lithograph after Frances Parthenope Nightingale. Wellcome Collection. Public Domain Mark. Source: Wellcome Collection. <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/z2swakuf>)

At Week, in the parish of Binstead, a mob destroyed a threshing machine belonging to Robert Shotter and Edward Baigent. The machine has been valued at £25.²²²

There was a partial rising of the peasantry today at Shirley and Millbrook, near Southampton, but it was not accompanied by any violence. The men demanded an increase of wages. This evening the landowners and farmers of the neighbourhood met, and it was agreed that they should be paid 12s during the winter. At the same time it was intimated that Sir Charles Mills intended reducing his rents.²²³

Mr William Lang, a Wine Merchant in Portsmouth High Street, received a threatening letter today it read simply: 'Next week your premises will be on fire.'²²⁴

Mr Budd, of Burghclere, after two visits from labourers yesterday, has had a poster printed; pointing out to them the danger they are placing themselves in by their actions.

²²² *Morning Post*, 27 December 1830

²²³ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²²⁴ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

BURGHCLERE,

5 o'Clock, Wednesday 24th, November, 1830

Friends and Neighbours,

I last Night did not refuse you Beer or Money in Order to save a few Pounds, but my Credit and your Character; because though your first Division assured me you did not by your Numbers mean to intimidate me, and your second party much fewer in Number but quite as formidable with a Sledge Hammer and Iron Crows assured me so likewise, I told you that by Complying with your Request it would appear like Compulsion; Notwithstanding I then refused I shall do that which I may hereafter find my Brother Farmers have done and leave at the Chequers in Whitway and the Crown at Highclere some Money for a Pint of Beer and Bread and Cheese for the first of you, that shall have attended to my Advice by discontinuing these Daily and lately extending into Nightly Processions with Horns and Hurrahs, now that most, if not all your Employers have assented to a Rise of Wages and your Overseers or Vestries to a more liberal Relief where there are large Families.

As I shall by Monday (I hope) have prepared the Petition I promised you, it will on Monday lay for your Inspection and Approval in Whitway and on Tuesday at Highclere, wherein I shall set forth your Sufferings and Grievances and pray of his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament that which I think is absolutely necessary at the Present Moment, and such other Matters as they may hereafter on taking your Case into Consideration deem it fit to enact.

In Order therefore, that your Petition may have any Chance of Success, Let me again intreat You (as I did last Night at 9 o'Clock) when to your Credit be it known I did not see one Person among you disguised in Liquor, That you will discontinue these Unlawful Meetings, return to your Work, and thereby intitle yourselves to the Increased Wages, and Relief which has been so generally agreed to.

Recollect! that by your present Proceedings, You are rendering your Employers much less able to pay the additional Wages which are necessary to your Support, by obliging the Plough-Men to leave their Teams and increase your Numbers, And you must be aware that though all the Products of a Farm are very little dearer now, than they were 40 Years ago, The Rent and Tithes are double and the Taxes more than four times what they then were, as must be evident to you by considering that those who before the late War paid £14 in Taxes now pay £60 or £70, add to which not only the difference between £14 and £70, but an addition in Wages to every one they employ.

I am your Friend and well Wisher,

W. BUDD.

MAYO, PRINTER, NEWBURY.

20. Notice Issued to the Labourers by William Budd
(TNA – HO17/50)

25th – 26th November 1830

Thursday, 25th November

The Duke of Wellington, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and arrived in Winchester from Strathfield Saye today, and breakfasted at the *White Hart Inn*. His Grace afterwards presided at a very numerous meeting of the Magistrates, held at the Grand Jury Chamber. Resolutions have been agreed to, which, it is hoped, will suppress the prevailing disturbances and outrages, and help restore peace to the county, they called upon the respectable inhabitants to co-operate with the Magistracy in putting down all unlawful assemblages, and recommended that yeomanry and volunteer corps be formed in the county. The Lord Lieutenant was requested to communicate to Ministers that the Magistracy are of opinion that a Special Commission should be sent to Winchester immediately, for the trial of the prisoners now under confinement charged with offences against the peace of the county. The Magistrates also expressed a desire to relieve the distress and improve the condition of the labouring classes who had abided by the laws, and point out the danger to which those who had endeavoured to enforce their demands, by the destruction of property, menace, or personal violence, have exposed themselves. Two boards of magistrates have been appointed to look into the cases of the prisoners in the gaol. Interrogations will begin tomorrow. A Committee of Magistrates has been appointed to examine the prisoners previous to their trial.

A vote of thanks was unanimously given to the Duke of Wellington, for his conduct on this occasion, and the business of the meeting was terminated. His Grace, after dining at the *White Hart*, with a private friend, returned to Strathfield Saye this evening.²²⁵

The Duke of Wellington wrote to Lord Melbourne from Winchester to report that considerable progress has been made towards restoring order in the County. He also suggested that it was necessary to organize a Volunteer and Yeomanry Corps.²²⁶

Winchester Nov^r 25th 1830

My Lord,

I have had a Meeting of the Magistrates of Hampshire here this day which was attended by a considerable Number of Gentlemen of large Property.

I will lay before you tomorrow a Copy of their Resolutions.

They appear to be of opinion that Considerable Progress has been made in restoring order and Confidence. Many of them had sworn in large Bodies of Constables, and had been able to maintain the Peace without the (.....rate Assistance although under the Protection and Countenance of the troops.

They therefore made but little objection to the removal of some of them more particularly. As two Squadrons of the Life Guards are moving into this County from Sussex.

I have accordingly settled with Major General Sir Colin Campbell that the 3rd Dragoons are tomorrow morning to commence their march into Dorsetshire to be replaced here by a Squadron of Life Guards and that the 9th Lancers are likewise to move from the Town on the Road to Andover leaving small Detachment till replaced by the other Squadron of the Life Guards.

The 9th Lancers will then be collected in Wilts while the 3rd Dragoons will be in Dorsetshire.

The Hampshire Magistrates have recommended that a Special Commission should be sent immediately to Winchester to try the Prisoners of whom there are two hundred already in Confinement, and they besides recommend that a Corps of yeomanry and Volunteers should be formed in this County to attain which object they pledge themselves to make every effort.

I have the Honor to be My Lord

Your most obedient humble Servant

Wellington

The Lord Viscount Melbourne

Mr Robert Parsons, the Deputy Post Master of Petersfield, wrote to Sir Francis Freeling today to report the capture of 13 rioters.²²⁷

²²⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²²⁶ TNA – HO52/13 f109-111

²²⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f125-127

Post Office Petersfield

Nov^r 25th 1830

Hon^d Sir,

I beg to inform you that about thirteen Men are taken to day – and will be brought into Peter^f to morrow – they was taken to day by a party of Life Guards and some of the 47th and from Marines under the command of a Sargeant – they took them at Selborne and Headley, between Liphook and Alton – we expected a great Mob, yesterday, it being our Market Day – the Magistrates took every precaution sworn in especial Constables – and with the Troops made a Strong force – the fellows heard of it and was afraid to come we have a party of Life Guards come in this Evening – and since they arrived I rec^d an express for them to march to Alton – I hope now this part of the Country will remain quiet – I rec^d the Proclamation and sent it to all the villages round – I will send you a letter to morrow nights post should any thing particular happen,

Hon^d Sir

Yr most ob^f Serv^f

R Parsons

A number of labourers have been visiting farms in the Fawley area and forcing others to join them in order to demand an increase in their wages.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning Mr John Cheyney, a farmer at Fawley, saw three men approach some of his labourers who were at work in a field. He later met up with around 50 or 60 men near his house, many of his own men among them. It seems the mob had persuaded all his labourers to leave their work and return to the farm. He asked what it was they wanted and was told by Richard Lane that they had two objectives. Firstly to get their wages raised and secondly to get rid of Fry, the assistant overseer of Fawley, and that until this was achieved there would be no more work done in the parish. It would seem that the dislike for Fry had arisen because he used men and boys to pull the parish cart and that on more than one occasion a poor, weak minded woman, named Jane Stevens, had been used to pull it. After speaking to Mr Cheyney the men went off towards the neighbouring farm at Stanswood. Mr Cheyney followed them. On the road they met up with Jonathan Wyatt, one of Mr Cheyney's labourers, who was doing some carting for his master. The mob called to him to join them, he refused but they forced him to go along with them. They arrived at Stanswood, the farm of Mr Stephen Toghill Harding at about 11 o'clock. They told Mr Harding they had come for his men, and asked where they were. He told them they were all at their work. Mr Harding saw the men trying to force one of his men, Robert Bowdland away, and told Bowdland to go as they were being so violent.²²⁸

At Eaglehurst, the residence of Lord Cavan, Lady Cavan went out to speak to the men as her husband was not at home. She said 'Seeing you are my neighbours, and armed, yet, as I am an unprotected woman, I am sure you will do no harm.' They assured her that it was not their intention to harm her. Lady Cavan then asked them what their object was and was told it was to get their wages increased. She pointed out that the magistrates had planned a meeting for tomorrow to see what could be done about the labourers' wages and that they should wait until they had seen what the outcome of the meeting was before gathering together in such numbers. 'We will wait no longer, but we will meet the magistrates, and force them to give us what we want,' was their reply to this.

Lady Cavan went on to express surprise that they should protest now when there was no apparent signs of distress around Eaglehurst and the wages were the same as they had been for several years. To this they answered that they had been oppressed for too long and would bear it no longer. One man told her that he had a large family and had to keep them on 12s a week, he received 9s a week for his labour and 3s from the parish. He had been told that the 3s from the parish was to be discontinued and did not know how he could manage on 9s only. Lady Cavan told him he would not benefit his family by idling his time here. Turning to her own labourers, a number of whom were on the scene, she said she hoped none of them would join the protesters but was told by the crowd, 'They will come, if not by fair means then by foul. It should be the act of one and all. We

²²⁸ Albion & Star, 29 December 1830

will do no harm today, but our object is to collect all the parish, and to compel the magistrates to grant what we want.²²⁹

By the time the labourers reached John Munday's farm, at around 2 o'clock this afternoon, they numbered around 200. They told Mr Munday they wanted 2s a day for their labour, adding that they did not blame the farmers for the low wages but the landowners and the rector. Mr Munday tried to persuade them to go home, telling them again that the farmers and magistrates were to meet tomorrow and he believed that an agreement would be reached to have their wages raised. They told him they were going to the poor-house to cart Fry, the assistant overseer, out of the parish. Fry was spotted by the men but they could not get to him. It was late this evening before the men dispersed. Peter Westbrook heard one of the labourers, John Webb, give orders to the rest of the men, 'Attention,' he called, 'I give notice and command every man to assemble tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock precisely, at the post office.'²³⁰

This evening, a detachment of the 47th was despatched from Winchester, to assist the peace officers in Fawley tomorrow, if necessary.²³¹

The Alresford Great Sheep Market held today, was very well supplied, but the very disturbed state of the country prevented the attendance of the dealers, and consequently the greater part were driven away unsold. The few sales that were made were on just as good terms as at the late sheep fairs.²³²

William Robinson, the respectable individual taken into custody at Bishop's Waltham on Tuesday, on suspicion of being concerned in some of the incendiary acts lately committed in this and other counties, was discharged today, as the evidence against him was not sufficient to authorize his detention.²³³

Mr John Bonham Carter wrote to Mr Phillips from Petersfield to report that his head quarters were at Petersfield, and that the parishes in his Division are all quiet and that many of the Selborne and Headley Rioters have now been taken.²³⁴

Petersfield

Dear Phillips,

I write to say how sorry I am that I did not inform you that my head quarters were at this place. I think now that I ought to have done so but I really did not (dream?) of it as I did not want any of your aid.

At present the parishes within the division in which I act are quiet – there have been assemblies of the labourers but no gross acts of violence – on Monday there was an assembly to demand an increase of wages from the neighbouring farmers around this place, & tho' no violence was offered, I and my other magistrate the Rev^d Mr Coles thought it right to send three of the most active of the party to Gaol & I believe this act has had great effect & I apprehend nothing on Tuesday in the middle of the day rumours reached us of great violence at Selborne & of an intended movement further off at Headley that very day & that the same people intended to come here yesterday (being market day) to settle all with the farmers. Both these places are out of my division but hearing this we ascertained the general correctness of the rumours from a respectable quarter & therefore sent for some troops. At night we heard positively that on the Monday the mob had attacked the workhouse at Selborne & on the Tuesday had done the same at Headley demolishing it in part & destroying & carrying off the furniture. Yes^t morning ab^t 8 o'clock information came that the same gang were going to attack a farmer's house ab^t 3 miles off on the road between those places & this place. I went immediately with 4 or 5 farmers & my colleague was to dispatch some Cavalry by ano^r road to be sent for if any thing happened. Nothing occurred; but small parties did collect at Liphook with the intent of crossing the county there to destroy the paper mill which had machinery at Iping in Sussex. Mr Budd the magistrate at Liphook persuaded them to go back & as I since learn, they gave up the project for that day because they co^d not muster their forces. Mr Coles joined him there last night & he took with him the Cavalry 20 of the life guards tho' I have not heard fr^m Liphook today. I am pretty sure that nothing has been attempted.

²²⁹ NOTE: General Richard Ford William Lambert, was 7th Earl of Cavan at the time of the Riots, Lady Cavan was Lord Cavan's second wife, Lydia Arnold, who he had married in 1814, she was the sister of the Reverend Thomas Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby School from 1828 to 1841

²³⁰ *Morning Herald (London)*, 29 December 1830

²³¹ *The Times*, 29 November 1830

²³² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²³³ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²³⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f120-122

We have found it exceedingly difficult to get people to give information of the names of the rioters – but some names were obtained yesterday from a party concerned who is now with me under my protection & I have since got a great deal more from farmers who have come to me last night & today. The people at Selborne & Headley have in my view committed felony by beginning to demolish the respective houses & also by demanding food & money of different people – in some cases at Houses & in others stopping them on the high road – not as I can learn using threats but undoubtedly obtaining what they demanded by force of their appearance &c. I am in great hopes that from Liphook which is nearer these places, the magistrates will be able to take some of the ringleaders into custody today – but if not it will be done forthwith. You may depend upon us – there will be no flinching from our duty – no yielding to any thing here.

Some infantry are here from Portsmouth abt 40 – 10 I sent to Liphook on Tuesday night – as far as I am concerned I wished to send them back this very day – but I wait for accounts from Liphook & do not choose to give my orders 'till I hear from my colleague.

Yours sincerely

John Bonham Carter

N^o2 9 o'clock

Dear Phillips,

I write again to say that I have heard & believe that many of the people concerned in the Selborne & Headley riots have been taken today.

Yrs truly

J.B.C.

Letters, of which the following is a copy, have been received this week by several farmers in the neighbourhood of Southampton, and at Botley and Durley :-

November 20th, 1830.

Sir, - We will give you till a fortnight to destroy your threshing machine. If it is not destroyed by that time you must take the consequences.

SWING

Two farmers at Durley received letters of this sort today, but their threshing machines were destroyed on Tuesday. The letters bear the Southampton Penny Post mark and also the Southampton Town mark, and the writing is evidently that of a person who has been in a solicitor's office.²³⁵

Today Sir Colin Campbell wrote to Mr Phillips from Winchester to report that one squadron of the 9th Royal Lancers have proceeded to Salisbury and that more detachments could be sent if required.²³⁶

Winchester 25th Nov

1830

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterdays date, previous to the receipt of it, I had ordered one Squadron of the 9th Royal Lancers to proceed to Salisbury, which place they would reach early this day. If any more Troops should be required there, I will be enabled to detach some more in the course of tomorrow. I request that you will inform Lord Melbourne, that his Lordship may rely upon every aid & assistance in my power being afforded to the Magistrates upon their application.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant
C Campbell
Major-General

J. M. Phillips Esq^r

A Royal Proclamation, offering £500 for the apprehension of incendiaries, has been published. The Mayor and Magistrates of Romsey have caused several hundred copies of the Proclamation to be printed and issued, and are taking every step in their power, not only for the protection of

²³⁵ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

²³⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f114-116

property in the town, but, as far as their forces will enable them, to assist the unprotected in the country.²³⁷

A detachment of the 47th Regiment was sent across the river from Southampton this evening, to assist the peace officers after a rising of the labourers in the area.²³⁸

John Bonham Carter wrote to Mr Phillips again today
Selborne and Headley rioters had been taken.²³⁹

to report him that 13 of the

Friday Ev^g

Dear Phillips,

I write to say that Mr Coles & Mr Budd arrested 13 of the rioters yesr^r – they went to Selborne Headley & the neighbourhood with 4 or 5 Constables & a party of the Life Guards, but I believe that in no one case was the arrest made by any one of the military. When taken, the prisoners were put under their charge to be escorted to Liphook. Today they have been sent to Portsmouth to go thence to Gosport Bridewell. I have not yet heard of their arrival. They were forwarded from this place under the charge of constables without any military & directions were sent to one of the magistrates of Portsmouth to see to their safe conveyance across the water

I last night sent an express to Sir C. Campbell placing the infantry we had here 40 men of the 47th at his disposal thinking their presence no longer necessary & they returned today to Portsmouth.

There are some other principal parties yet to be taken; but we do not intend to take a very great number it being our endeavour to find out the worst cases – especially those of men who were not in a state for complaint from lowness of wages.

The offences will be for Demolishing the workhouses

- carrying off the goods
- obtaining money & food from persons travelling & in houses
- Burning one threshing machine which had been taken down
- compelling the Clergyman to sign agreements for the reduction of Tithes

It seems advisable to me that we shod endeavour to get strong cases of each kind of offence in order to show the illegality of their proceedings in all these particulars & not have examples of only one description of acts. We shall however do o'wise if you wish it

Yrs truly

J.B.C.

Friday, 26th November

Mr C. W. Foster wrote to Lord Melbourne from Andover toady to report on the disturbances in the neighbourhood of Andover, and to suggest the re-organisation of the Yeomanry Corps.²⁴⁰

Andover – 26 November 1830.

My Lord,

The scenes which have recently occurred in this Town and neighbourhood have been attended with such danger, and are fraught with such fearful consequences, that I feel it my bounden duty to communicate to your Lordship all that has come within my knowledge on the subject. The Peasantry have not only dictated a rate of wages, - not only destroyed all agricultural machinery, and demolished Iron Foundries; but have proceeded in formidable bodies to private Dwellings to extort money and provisions. In fact have established a system of pillage. None but those who are Inmates of the Houses can form any idea of the dread and anxiety that prevail. When the alarm was at its height, there was a want of unanimity even on the part of the respectable Inhabitants to repress the disorders. Some imagined the complaints of the Labourers to be well founded; and that Rents and Tythes are too high. Others formed misconceptions as to the effects of machinery; and almost all were paralized by the overwhelming force of the Rioters, led on by the most wicked and worthless Vagrants. In such a state of things, it is in vain to look for any effectual check in the civil power. It did not even dare to show itself on Saturday, such were the numbers that poured into the Town, armed with bars of Iron and other desperate weapons. On Monday the arrival of some Lancers restored order for the present; but all reflecting men to plainly perceive, it is only to the presence of the Military that we can look for permanent security. A fatal example has been shown of successful Insurrection. The Labourers have in fact imposed such a rate of pay as they conceive to be their due; and there is too much reason to

²³⁷ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

²³⁸ TNA – HO52/1 f28

²³⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f123-124

²⁴⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f116-118

apprehend that, that in the event of any future pressure or difficulty, even during the ensuing winter, they will renew their extortions, perhaps with aggravated guilt. If therefore the military power be not sufficient to protect the entire Kingdom from a repetition of these outrages, - it is submitted to the consideration of your Lordship, whether the Yeomanry Troop should not be re-organized with all the expedition that the exigencies of the Time require. Without entering into the question of wages, all prudent will deprecate the idea of their being determined by violence and compulsion; and it is fervently hoped and trusted, that in order to strike Consternation into the hearts of the Insurgents, the law will be put in force, with unwonted terror and severity.

I have the honor to be

*Your Lordship's
very obedient and faithful Servant*

*E W Foster
Hill House
Andover
Hants*

Eliza Pleden, wrote to Sir Francis Freeling from Fordingbridge Post Office today to report on the disturbances at Fordingbridge and in the neighbourhood.²⁴¹

*Post Office Fordingbridge
Nov^r 26. 1830
Sir,*

In answer to yours of this morning I beg most respectfully to give you what information I am able of the occurrences of this place. A mob of about 300 entered the town on Tuesday after burning all the threshing machines as they approached us on the road for 6 or 8 miles. They demanded something to eat and drink at every house as they passed through to a manufactory about ½ a mile distant where they destroyed the whole of the machinery which employed from 70 to a 100 people who are in consequence thrown out of work. They then proceeded to the premises of a mill wright who makes all the machines in the neighbourhood from thence to the principal farmers in the neighbourhood where they without exception demanded something to eat and drink and in the evening they came back into the Town where they so completely intimidated the Inhabitants who were quite unprepared for them that they obtained money from house to house nearly the whole night without opposition. They had by this time considerably increased their number and dividing their forces went to the different villages among the rest to West park the residence of Eyre Coote Esquire where they were resisted for the first time by Mr Coote & his Household and the Ringleader with several others was taken into custody and has since been committed to Prison. The Magistrates and Gentlemen of the neighbourhood immediately swore in Special Constables and sent for a company of Soldiers since which time the place has been in a general state of confusion and excitement should any thing else occur I will not fail to communicate it.

*I am Sir
Your very obleg'd Obed^mt Servant
Eliza Pleden*

Around 300 labourers gathered in Fawley again today, they had armed themselves with bludgeons, and presented a very formidable appearance. They were addressed by Lord Cavan and Captain Dodd, who declared that they would listen to nothing unless they sent a deputation, this was done, and a promise given on the part of the Magistrates, to submit the labourers' demand for an increase of wages to the famers, as there were none present at the time. They promised the men that they would give them the farmers' reply tomorrow.

Not being satisfied with this proposition the labourers refused to disperse, without an assurance that their wages would be raised to 2^s a day, and that the master of the workhouse, who had made himself obnoxious to them, would be discharged. At the repeated request of Lord Cavan and the other magistrates, some of the better disposed men attempted to leave the meeting, but were prevented by others. Lord Cavan and the special constables attempted to capture the ringleaders and a scuffle ensued in which Captain Keele received a severe blow. When Lord Cavan saw a man, named Henry Cavell, urging the people to remain, he rushed in and seized the man. A rescue was attempted, and the rescuer, named Cull, was secured by Captain Luke Dodd and Captain Keele, R.N. A party of soldiers was near at hand and they were ordered to charge, and with their aid three

²⁴¹ TNA – HO52/7 f132-134. NOTE: Eliza (Elizabeth) Pleden, an Innkeeper in Fordingbridge took over the Post Office in the town on the death of her husband Robert in 1825. She died in 1848.

of the ringleaders were secured, but not until one was severely wounded. They were taken to Winchester this evening.²⁴²

Mr Henry Weyland Powell wrote to Lord Melbourne from Foxlease Park Lyndhurst to suggest that an alteration be made in the recent Proclamation.²⁴³

My Lord,

As a humble individual I beg to point out to your Lordship that by the wording of the late Proclamation it will not have a prospective effect and that it would be highly advantageous so far to amend the same that it might embrace any ulterior crimes which may be committed before the issuing of the Proclamation.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships

Very humble Ob^r Ser^r

H. Weyland Powell

Foxlease Park

Lyndhurst

26 Nov^r

R. Williams Esquire, wrote from Portsmouth today to C. M. Phillips Esquire, at the Secretary of State's Office in London, to report that the reserve Companies of the 11th Regiment had now removed to the Isle of Wight.²⁴⁴

Portsmouth Nov^r 26. 1830

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and I request you will be pleased to acquaint Viscount Melbourne that upon the requisition of the magistrates at Newport in the Isle of Wight and in compliance, also, with directions from Lt General Sir Colin Campbell at Winchester, the Reserve Companies of the 11 Regt (according to the Detail stated on the other side) crossed over to the Island this morning at Eleven o'clock, and will march from Ryde to Albany Barracks.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant

R. Williams

Col. Com^r

C.M. Phillips Esq^r

Secretary of State's Office

London

Detail of the Reserve Companies of the 11th Reg.

2 Captains

3 Lieutenants

3 Ensigns

10 Sergeants

9 Corporals

4 Drummers

127 Privates

R. Williams

Col. Company Garr^r

²⁴² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830; *The Times*, 29 November 1830

²⁴³ TNA – HO52/7 f158-160. NOTE: Henry Weyland Powell had been in the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards and served with them at Walcheren, in the Peninsular, and in the actions of Quatre-Bras and Waterloo

²⁴⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f2-3

Dr. Daniel Quarrier, a J.P for Hampshire wrote to Lord Melbourne from Dunhill Cottage, with information relating to John Evans.²⁴⁵

Dunhill Cottage

near Petersfield

Nov^r 26th 1830

My Lord

I lose not a moment in acquainting your Lordship that Evans who has been apprehended at Westbourne applied to a highly respectable Tenant of mine for a House. He came to this county in a handsome chaise and a good Horse, saying that his name was John Evans, that he resided at Seven Oaks in Kent, where his goods were and that he then laid 7^s per week for taking care of them – that he did not like Seven Oaks and that he was then at a Farmers of the name of (...gian?) at Westbourne near Chichester.

If this information may be of use in detecting Evans and in convicting the Incendiary, it will be the highest delight of my respectable servant Mr John Powell who has greatly aided me in quieting the Labourers in this neighbourhood, and the utmost satisfaction to.

Your Lordships, most obedient

D. Quarrier J.P. C^o Hants

To the R^t Hon^{ble}

Lord Melbourne

F. Baring Esq. wrote to the Home Department from Winchester today to report that things in the area were much quieter and to ask that more of the King's Proclamation could be sent down.²⁴⁶

Winchester Nov^r: 26th. 1830

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the circular to your letter. It gives me great pleasure to hear L^d Melbourne is able to send down a Gentleman to arrange to assist in the pursuing of the evidence. As far too as I can learn the measure was given great satisfaction to the magistrates in general.

Things are very much quieter today – both the information of the magistrates as well as that which has been received by Sir C. Campbell leads us to hope that the disturbances are in a great measure put an end to. At the same time I cannot but see in the respectable inhabitants the greater alarm at the notion of having the military withdrawn. A fear in which I do not participate as I feel sure that nothing of the kind will be done to suddenly.

The King's proclamation might be sent down in such numbers as to be circulated among the clergy and in the villages. I have no doubt it will do good.

Y^rs very sincerely

F Baring

I leave this place today

Mr John Ingram Lockhart wrote to Lord Melbourne today from Tubney to report on the disturbances in Oxfordshire & Berkshire & Hampshire, and also on the necessity of establishing an armed force.²⁴⁷

My Lord

I had the honor of addressing a Letter to you as Secretary of State last week, respecting the disturbances in Hampshire, I now enclose a Letter from my wife & a principal Tenant of Sherfield English near Romsey Hants your Lordship will I am sure see the absolute necessity of an immediate armed force, if Government cannot command at all times a disposable force, these will be an end of all capital all confidence the construction will perish and anarchy will triumph. I shall immediately as a Magistrate of Hants proceed thither I am ready to join any (desired?) force however small in the field, and I will bring six armed men with me. I beg leave to state that I cannot incur any reproach for not being in Hampshire on Monday last I was compelled to attend the Speaker of the House of Commons to give in my recognizance as a Petitioner - on Wednesday as a Magistrate of Oxfordshire, I enrolled about 40 Special Constables at Hasely near Tetworth having heard that on the proceeding day a mob of about 200 men had broken all the threshing machines within a mile of my House at Haseley. I this day proceeded to Tubney

²⁴⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f14

²⁴⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f15-17

²⁴⁷ TNA HO52/7 f19-20

near Abingdon, a vast body of respectable men came forward in a field in the Parish of Marcham & under the directions of Mr Blandy & Mr Duffield Magistrates of Berks enrolled themselves special constables. In Oxford and Abingdon all is quiet at this moment & the special constables will certainly act with firmness. 12 of the Rioters at Little Milton near Hasely were taken & committed to the County Gaol in Oxford. Such is the present intelligence which I can give your Lordship. I have now only to state and with most deference that our economy & Retrenchment has operated too much on our social defences our Volunteers must be called out, and arms distributed to the best disposed Persons. The Yeomanry Cavalry must be reorganised – believe me my Lord public credit will suffer much more from unsuppressed Riot, than from social & I may call it domestic expenditure – a Horse police is necessary to every County Gaols & Prosecutions have no longer any adequate Terror, we must rely on our courage; & on armed (...) a small support from the military will be sufficient – at the moment that I write this, 4 o'clock, about 70 Horsemen are passing on the Farringdon Road to Abingdon, and they are conducting a Van full of Rioters to the County Gaol – these Horsemen are the Special Constables sworn in this morning – of the Parishes of Marcham, Frilford, Tunney & Shippon near Abingdon the (...) conduct in every district would overwhelm these Rioters, but in Hampshire where they are so numerous, I have for so many days been unassisted, a small force is necessary, & then the farmers will join it.

I am My Lord with profound respect your most faithful & obedient Servant

J J Lockhart

a Magistrate of Hants Berks &

Oxfordshire – now at Tubney

near Abingdon but proceeding

tomorrow to Sherfield near

Romsey Hampshire Nov^r 26

1830

Right Hon^{ble}

Lord Melbourne

H M Secretary of

State for the Home

Department

&c &c &c

Mr Augustine Creuze wrote to the Lord Melbourne from H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth, to suggest the expediency of an order to the Gunsmiths, and other persons selling firearms at to remove the Locks from the guns in their shops.²⁴⁸

H.M. Dock Yard, Portsmouth

Nov^r 26th 1830

My Lord, I beg most respectfully to submit to your Lordship that a very useful precaution in these times of popular excitement and violence, would be to address a circular to all Gunsmiths and other persons selling firearms, either in the metropolis or in the disturbed districts, desiring them to take the locks from off pieces in their shops and warehouses, and to keep them separate from the pieces to which they belong, and only to be identified by private marks.

In the event of any attempt on the part of a mob to procure arms, by an attack on such shops it must be evident this precaution would be an effectual barrier to their success.

I respectfully suggest that the same precaution might be taken in any stores of fire arms belonging to his Majesty's Government which cannot be effectually guarded.

I have the honor to be

With great respect

Your Lordship's

Most obed^t Servant

Augustin Creuze

Right Hon^{ble} Lord Melbourne

Secretary of State for the home Department

&c. &c. &c.

Mr Charles Hodges wrote to Sir Francis Freeling from Ringwood today.²⁴⁹

²⁴⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f129-131

²⁴⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f131-132

Sir Francis,

In answer to your letter of this morning I beg most respectfully to state that the most prompt measures have been adopted by the magistrates here who have sworn in about 250 Special Constables and used other means to Quell any mob that may enter the Town from Salisbury, Fordingbridge or elsewhere – There has been very serious riots at Fordingbridge and a great number have been taken and sent to Winchester Gaol – I have been at Fordingbridge and am in great hopes that there will be no more disturbance as the Town at present is very quiet – If any thing of the kind occurs in this Town I will immediately inform you of it – There has been nothing set on Fire nearer to us than Southampton.

I am, Sir Francis (with all due respect)

Your very obedient Servant

Chas Hodges

Ringwood 26th Nov^r 1830

The following notice is to appear in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal edition to be printed on 29th November 1830.

ADDRESS

November 26th, 1830.

T

HE disturbed State of the Country seeming to render desirable the armed re-union of the Loyal Inhabitants, for the protection of persons and property from violence and destruction, and for the maintenance and execution of the laws, it is proposed again to embody a CORPS of MOUNTED Yeomanry in the VALLEY of the AVON.

It is believed that this measure will meet the approbation of the Government, and that orders would be forthwith given for arming each person as may be willing to enrol themselves.

It is thought that a Squadron of about 120 men, composed of two Troops would be the most desirable arrangement for the Valley: one Troop being formed at Ringwood, from the vicinity of that place and Fordingbridge, and as far up the Valley as the verge of the county: and the other at Christchurch, from Burton, Sopley, Avon, and other places in those vicinities.

J. MILLS, Esq., of Bistern, would place himself at the head of the Ringwood Troop, and the VISCOUNT FITZHARRIS at the head of the Christchurch; and, after the Troops were formed, they might choose a Gentleman, who might be named a Major, to command the Squadron.

It is believed that allowances in respect of equipment and other particulars would be granted, similar to what were formerly granted to the same description of corps.

Such of the loyal Yeoman of the Valleys of the Avon and Stour, as shall feel inclined to unite for the proposes aforesaid, and to form part of either of the proposed Troops, are requested to forward their names forthwith, either to John Mills, Esq., at Ringwood, or to the Viscount Fitzharris, at Heron Court, according as they may desire to belong to the one Troop or to the other.

It is requested that only such persons as can, at ALL TIMES, command a horse for their use, will send in their names.²⁵⁰

Magistrate, William Neville Cameron wrote to the Home Department today to report on the measures taken in Christchurch for the preservation of the peace in the town.²⁵¹

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's communication of the 25th Inst and beg leave to assure you of my using my best endeavours as a magistrate to fulfil the duties of my situation as expressed by your Lordship.

I have much satisfaction in adding, that I have made such arrangements, with the ready assistance of the Gentlemen and others of this neighbourhood as to give confident hope of not only repelling any attack, but of assisting others who may require aid.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's

²⁵⁰ Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 29 November 1830

²⁵¹ TNA – HO52/7 f127-129

*Most Obedient
Humble Servant
(WN?) Cameron
Magistrate
Christchurch
Hants*

Christchurch

Novem^r

26th

1830

The Clerk to the Magistrates of the Isle of Wight wrote to Lord Melbourne today with a request that the Preventive Water Guard quartered in Albany Barracks next Saturday, and the proposal that retired Pensioners be sworn in as Special Constables on the Island.²⁵²

Guildhall, Newport

Isle of Wight. November 26th

1830

My Lord,

I am commanded by the Magistrates acting in and for the Isle of Wight, to state that having deemed it prudent for the preservation of public peace to call in the aid of the Preventive Water Guard it is extremely desirable they should be quartered on Saturday next in Albany Barracks to prevent any communication with the ill disposed part of the Inhabitants and I am to express an earnest hope that your Lordship will have the goodness tomorrow to make such Communication with the Barrack Department as may secure sufficient Authority to be sure by tomorrow Night's Post to Capt^r Bygrave the Barrack master on the subject.

I am further to suggest to your Lordship the propriety of causing the necessary directions to be given for the assembling of the several Pensioners from the Army now in the Island to be sworn in as special Constables and placed if necessary under the direction of the Magistrates who will be aided not only by the principal Inhabitants but by the Officers of the Army now here one of whom (Colonel Evelegh) is on full pay.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordships most
obedient & faithful
Servant*

W?

*Town Clerk of Newport
and Clerk to the
Magistrates of the
Isle of Wight*

The Rt Hon.

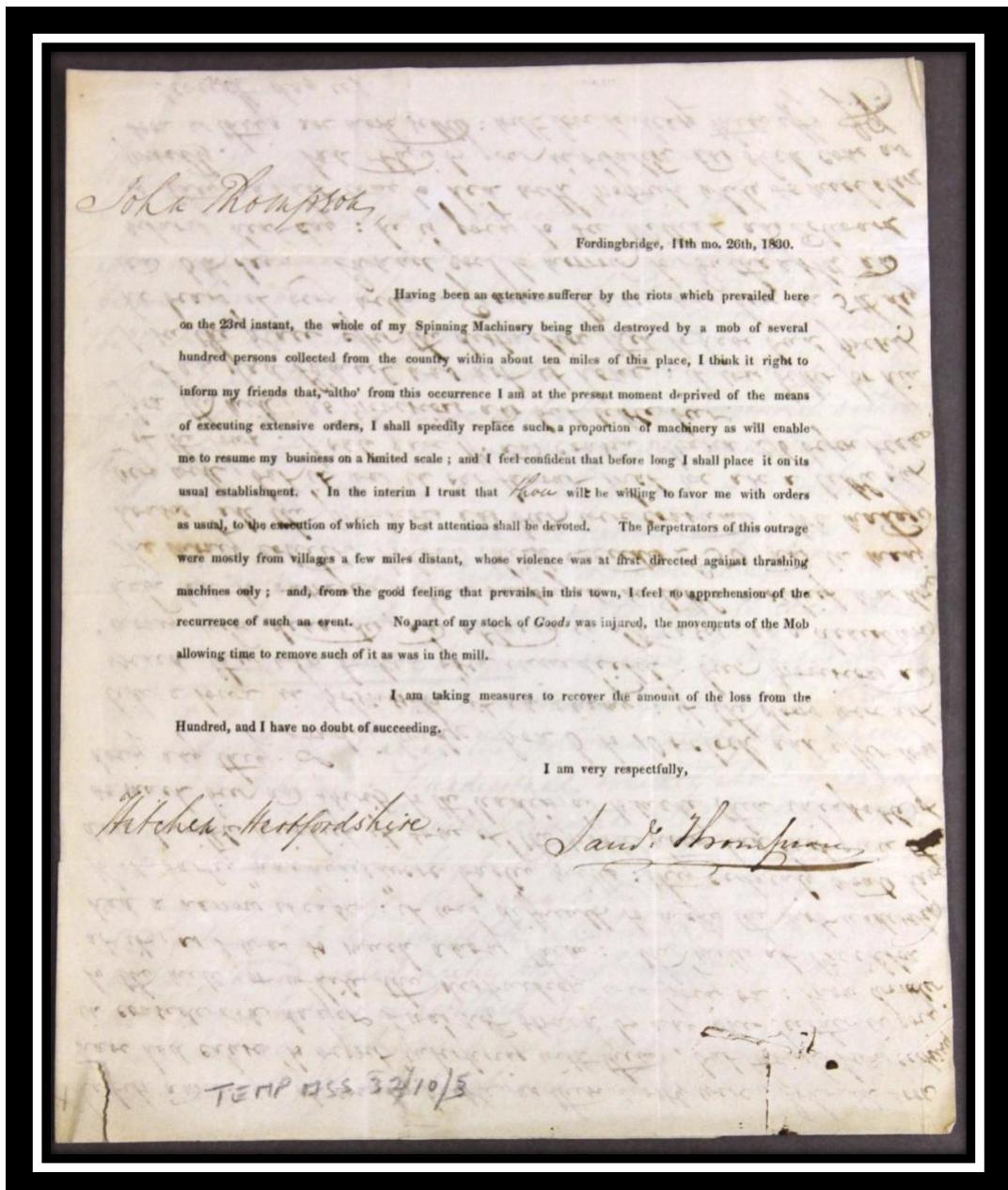
The Secretary of State

H.D.

&c &c &c

London

²⁵² TNA – HO52/7 f118-120



21. Letter from Samuel Thompson

© Britain Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers)

This afternoon five men were brought from Mitchelmersh and surrounding area, and four have been committed for trial by William Sloane Stanley and George Eyre, Esquires.²⁵³

Today Jonah Thompson, of Fordingbridge, wrote to his brother John in Hitchin, Hertfordshire telling his of the events that had taken place at East Mill three days earlier.²⁵⁴

John Thompson, Hitchin, Hertfordshire

My dear Brother

I believe we are now quiet in this neighbourhood after much commotion in various places: a great number of persons have been taken up here and more than 20 are, and will be sent to Winchester as concerned in destroying the machinery.

Samuel has taken the first step towards recovering his loss from hundred, and no doubt he will recover it without difficulty: the loss to the poor people who were employed in the mill, and the stop put for the present to a concern that was going on to well, are much to be regretted; endeavours were used of course as soon as possible to restore the whole to the state it was in, but it will be many months before it can be done.

²⁵³ Hampshire Advertiser, 27 November 1830

²⁵⁴ LSF - TEMP MSS 32.10/3 – letter from Jonah Thompson describing riots – 26 xi 1830. NOTE: Samuel Thompson died on 8 June 1867 at Hitchin Hertfordshire

No person of Fordingbridge was concerned in this, and the people here are so excited at the destruction of the machinery that it was difficult to send away the prisoners in safety. I never saw a mob before: I understand something about it now, as I met them just by Samuel's house, and went with them to the mill, as Samuel was absent I determined to meet them, and at all hazards to prevent their going to the mill if possible: I could get none of the respectable inhabitants to venture, and was strongly advised against meeting the mob myself: I rode up to the leader who was on horseback; I obtained a hearing, but nothing I said had any effect and I was obliged to follow and witness the destruction: if I had not been well acquainted with the habits and ways of country people, as these mostly were, I should soon have had cause to regret interfering with them; but though I was certainly in considerable danger, I was not struck by any one, either in going to the mill, or while the destruction was going on: I now wonder at it, as I was so much among them: the mill at Bickton had a narrow escape: it was difficult to make the mob understand that barley "machines" were barley mills: they certainly would have done terrible mischief if some of the people near had not given so much beer and spirits to the leaders, as to make them incapable of doing any thing.

Fordingbridge from 6 to 10 o'clock, and after was like a town in possession of an enemy: if the doors were not opened they were broke open immediately; but, provisions, and money were demanded, and obtained in all cases, as a denial would have led to outrage: I am surprised so little mischief was done. The money collected I should think exceeded £50, and in many hours all the provisions and beer were consumed. We managed very well, but it was in our favour that we are a little out of the town. I only gave 1/- and cousin Maria 2/6 before I came from the mill; no provisions and but little beer.

I am glad Samuel was not at home: it was better for him to see the place after the destruction, than to have been present, he bears it very well. George Penney was here on 5th day and 6th day. Samuel goes tomorrow to Southampton, and returns next day: he is going to see William and Edward as they cannot come to him with propriety while so much alarm prevails. I am obliged by your invitation, and shall come as soon as things are more settled: with love to Mary these effg seventh day cos. J.T.

Eyre Coote wrote to the Lord Melbourne today to report on the attack on his house at West Park and the success of his resistance.²⁵⁵

West Park November 26 1830

My Lord,

Perhaps in these disturbed times any information relating to the state of the Country, and to local riots may be acceptable to your Lordship, particularly when they proves that by a little firmness the mob which has hitherto passed unresisted may be quelled. The case with which I am more particularly concerned is that of an attack upon my residence at West Park by a mob of about fifty persons in order to extort money. I received information that I should probably be visited during the night upon which I took my Keepers into the house and mustered twelve men in all including Lord Brabazon and Mr Dawson of the 14th Dragoons both on a visit to me and myself. About eleven a party came, demanding if I possessed any machines. I told them I had none, and expostulated with them on the impropriety of their conduct they were exceedingly civil and promising to pass peacefully through the village I gave them a little beer. About an hour afterwards a much stronger body of about one hundred persons came headed by a person on Horseback, whom they called Hunt, they all departed in the same peaceable manner. However I was on my guard at about two o'clock in the morning a third party I presumed stragglers from the two first, was heard breaking windows and creating much disturbance in the village at the same time extorting money and victuals from the inhabitants. On hearing them commence breaking the Iron Gates at my Lodges I sent two men to endeavour to dissuade them. They were heard to say "Let's wait and either take the house by force or have money" upon which we immediately determined upon resistance and nine of us drew under the Portico of my house to await their arrival, I distinctly heard them say "Up with your Irons and be prepared". Two men were about a yard in advance and one came directly up to me with I believe an intention of striking me, upon which my Keeper rushed upon him and a general fight took place, we secured nine, most of them dangerously wounded, the others fled, two shots were fired by our party, those who were able to be (restored) were immediately sent and Lodged in Winchester Gaol. In the course of the morning I received intelligence that the Leader of the second mob was in a public house in the village of Damerham upon which I sent a party to take him and I am happy to inform your Lordship he is now in Winchester with the rest. His real name is I believe James Thomas Cooper and is a most desperate character and the persons I sent with him to Ringwood had to hold their pistols to the windows of the chaise to prevent the inhabitants of Fordingbridge and Ringwood from tearing him to pieces on account of the damage he had done to their properties. Sir Colin Campbell on my application forwarded an officer and 19 men of the 3rd Dragoons to Fordingbridge and we are organizing a strong body of Constables to endeavour to resist any further attacks. I am now surrounded by a considerable body of my Labourers and others in my pay to defend me. I think it necessary that the Military

²⁵⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f29-31

should remain here for some time to come as the mob are very exasperated against me for the part I have taken which I sincerely trust may be imitated by the whole of the Country. The Gaols are very full and I trust there will be a Special Commission for trying the prisoners as soon as possible. Begging your Lordship to excuse the length of this letter and to excuse any inaccuracies from the hurry of the moment. I have the honor to remain
Your Lordships Obedient Servant
Eyre Coote

Mr John Mills wrote to Lord Melbourne from Ringwood today to report on the riot at Fordingbridge and the attack on Mr Coote's house.²⁵⁶

Ringwood Nov^r 26th 1830

My Lord,

I have the honor of detailing the events which have taken place in this neighbourhood within the few last days.

I came down here on Tuesday evening and found this place in the greatest confusion. A party of from four to five hundred rioters were in possession of Fordingbridge and were said to have detached a strong party with the intention of seizing this town.

I found that the inhabitants were not prepared to resist and that they were in great alarm that the lower orders of the people here would turn upon them.

Knowing that I could have no troop at my disposal I immediately took steps to avail myself of such means of defence as were within my reach and succeeded in enrolling 300 Special Constables. I then collected all the firearms in the town, and such others as my own house offered – in this way I got together 40 Guns – 20 Pistols – and as many Sabines.

By sending expresses around I was enabled to get to my assistance some Gentlemen in the neighbourhood, Lord Fitzharris, Mr Harris, Mr Compton, Mr Jane, and Mr Dent, and in four hours from the time I arrived I had three hundred men at my disposal, and twenty horsemen. Having explained to them my intention of acting offensively and attacking the rioters instead of waiting for them, I found that a spirit was excited amongst them and they professed themselves ready to go anywhere.

I then put these Gentlemen in quest of the rioters, in the direction of Mr Coote's, and Fordingbridge; they arrived there at three A.M. and found that his house had been attacked, but they had been repulsed – nine men were taken prisoner, some of whom were badly wounded. The whole of that part of the country had been plundered – in the town of Fordingbridge they had levied contributions in money on every person – from the various houses they took all the provisions they contained; broke open the doors and shattered the windows. Such machinery as was in the place was destroyed and all the thrashing machines were burnt. I must here draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, that plunder and destruction of machinery was the avowed object of these men – though the wages in this part of the county are but eight shillings a week, no demand whatever was made for an increase. They were lead on by a man mounted on a good horse, who passed by the name of Hunt, but whose real name is Cooper – they paid implicit obedience to his orders and marched in regular order. On Wednesday morning two keepers belonging to Mr Coote succeeded in apprehending this man, at a public House, where he had been resting himself and his horse. I have committed this man to Winchester Jaol, and have collected such evidence as will be conclusive. He stated to me that he was a friend of Mr Hunt's and that he had constantly attended the Rotunda.

In the course of Wednesday I received information that the Rioters were proceeding to make another attack upon Mr Coote's house; and I immediately collected what horsemen I could to proceed to his assistance. The distance from hence, nine miles, did not permit me to get there on time to find them assembled there; for finding a large body of Mr Coote's tenantry assembled they retired without delay – having resolved upon pursuing them we succeeded in overtaking them on the Downs near Downton, and convinced that the dispersion of this body was of importance, we rode at them and dispersed them in every direction.

Our numbers did not allow us to take many prisoners, but we kept possession of fifteen. As this took place in the County of Wilts, for which I was not in the Commission of the Peace, I could only deliver them over to the constables of Downton, the nearest place.

The success of this attack has been productive of great advantages, for it has given confidence to our people and convinced them that it requires only determination to put an end of these disturbances. I have scoured this country by day and night, have established communications in every part within fifteen miles and have so arranged with neighbouring towns that we can join our forces on any given point at the shortest notice.

I have extend into details of our proceedings that your Lordship may see that by acting on the offensive, instead of confining ourselves to the defence of this town or the neighbouring Houses, we have most fully succeeded in

²⁵⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f21-24

driving these rioters away, and of infusing a spirit of Loyalty, confidence, and good feeling into all classes, and we are now making arrangements which will enable us to give assistance to places within thirty miles.

I beg leave to assure your Lordship that I will answer for the peace of the district without the assistance of one single soldier.

Your Lordship will I trust forgive me for any inaccuracies which may appear in this – for I am so occupied with making further arrangements so that I have not one moment to spare.

I have the honor

My Lord

Your obedient & humble Servant

John Mills

acting Magistrate for the Division
of New Forest West

To

The Right Hon^{able}

The Secretary of State

Home Office

Richard Pollen wrote, from the County Gaol at Winchester, to Mr Phillipps to report on a meeting of the Magistrates in the town, and other events in Hampshire.²⁵⁷

The Gaol Winchester

Nov^r 26. 1830

My dear Sir,

I did not write to you after our general meeting of Magistrates yesterday as I had nothing of importance to communicate except the Resolutions proposed & carried unanimously at the suggestion of the Lord Lieutenant. The meeting embraces all the respectability of the County – the Resolutions I could not procure from the Printers before the Post left the Town, We have altogether about 200 prisoners in the County for these offences, 150 of whom are in the Gaol or perhaps more, others continue to be brought in, but the influx of these is getting very slack, & evidently we have stopped the evil here for the present. General Sir Colin Campbell has sent off I sh^d guess about half the Cavalry to the Westward, Wilts, Dorset, & towards the borders of Somersetshire. He begs me to refer you to the Office of the Adjutant General for correct & exact information in this point. The mob have in no case been armed except with bludgeons, Iron bars, & Scythes. I do not apprehend therefore that the civil power in this County will require them: I have conversed a good deal to-day with our Gaoler (Mr Bucket) upon the subject of the North Hants Militia musketry (600 stand) now in the Gaol – he thinks it might be difficult to remove them, as many of the lower orders congregated in this neighbourhood formerly belonged to the Militia – they know we have them in the Gaol – these men are not to be trusted, in case of a removal of Bayonets * locks to the garrison at Portsmouth I suggested to the D. of Wellington yesterday the propriety of leaving them where they are for the present in which I understand him to acquiesce. We have experienced some difficulty in getting evidence out that will decrease I think with their fears of prosecution. We have taken up every suspicious person in the neighbourhood. I hope we have a strong case ag^st one incendiary of some saw mills at Southampton, I have not heard the evidence & I need not tell now how such testimony breaks down when looked into & sifted, it is a case of an accessory before the fact, a case particularly desirable to secure.

Mr Tallants presence will be very beneficial as to classifying evidence, & crimes & very desirable indeed to the magistrates it will also relieve me from much anxiety. I have been almost bewildered by applications, questions, arrangements &c &c which however complimentary to my supposed judgement & experience has really knocked me up. My respect for the magistrates, whom I have so long presided over in this County made me anxious to attend them on this painful occasion, but as the whole of my property is in a part of Wiltshire (Malmesbury) which is disturbed, & has very few magistrates, & still fewer whose good sense I c^d rely on, in case of difficulties, I cannot but feel much anxiety to be in the way in the case of emergency. I shall therefore leave this tomorrow, & shall be in London at 4 o'clock – if Lord Melbourne or yourself w^d wish further information on the state of the Country, & will send a note to my house 6 Burlington S^t I will immediately wait upon either of you. I have just seen the King's Proclamation. I fear the £50 reward for machine breaking will produce more cases than Government may anticipate – there will be a superfluity for "machine breaking" the real difficulty is the cases of arson. Many Prisoners on their examination have stated that they were pressed by the mobs who had amongst them Persons who said "They came from Kent Sussex & Surrey & w^d go through the whole Country to raise the wages". It is thought that these leaders

²⁵⁷ TNA – HO52/1 f25- 27

consisted of about 10 or 12 & have passed on to Dorsetshire South Wilts & Somerset – it may not be however correct, but it sounds like a probable case. I have directed the magistrates attention very much to the class of People found in the mobs many miles from their own homes, Taylors, Shoemaker &c who have been found always very eloquent they are universally politicians: they shd be, I think selected. I mean to turn Mr Tallants over to Sir Wm Heathcote our County member, on whom in every particular he may rely.

Several other particulars I might mention but possibly I may have the honor of an interview with yourself or L^d Melbourne or both on my return to London. I have as much as possible avoided writing to you, as I know how much the Home Office is besieged on these occasions, We have a few persons of atrocious character whom we hope to seize to-night in bed. I have recommended as sparing an application as possible for the Military, on these occasions as they have been much harassed particularly the Dragoons. Our Gaoler has been very active, he is a determined man, we have sent him on these occasions generally with 2 Police men whom we have here, & a few constables & a chaise, into which (the parties roused from sleep) are easily secured & placed. The Military in no instance in this County have been called upon to act except as an escort.

It may be worth considering the law, which exempts all Thrashing Machines from capital punishment, shd such scenes as these occur again amongst the agricultural classes. I confess I view with great regret that they have found the mode of combining, which I had hoped was confined to the manufacturing Classes. I am however fatiguing you & myself too in going at so much length into these matters. I took the liberty of introducing myself to L^d Melbourne on Tuesday last, shd he wish further information from me, I shall be happy to wait on him or yourself. I am

My dear Sir

Very faithfully y^rs

Rich. Pollen

S. M. Phillips Esq^r

P.S. I regret to say our arson
case will break down.

Mr T R Keele, the Mayor of Southampton, wrote to the Home department to report the measures taken there since the attack on the Saw Mill.²⁵⁸

My Lord,

I think it proper to inform your Lordship that the Town of Southampton has been perfectly quiet since the destruction of Mess^{rs} Baker's Saw Mill. We have now above 600 special Constables (Volunteers) sworn in and ready to Act at the shortest notice. Of this Body we have a nightly foot Patrol for the Town and its immediate neighbourhood of about 100 men and a nightly Patrol of Horsemen some miles in advance on every Road in the vicinity of the Town. There is also a Detachment of 40 men of the 47th Regiment stationed here so that we were enabled to send 30 men last night across the river to Fawley where a rising of the Labouring classes had taken place. Under these circumstances we consider ourselves not only secure from any open violence but in a Condition to assist our neighbours within a few miles of us in any case of emergency.

I remain

Your Lordships
obedient Servant

T R Keele

Mayor

Southampton Nov^r 26 1830

²⁵⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f28-29

27th – 30th November 1830

Saturday, 27th November

Additional special constables were sworn in at Winchester this morning. A number of prisoners are expected to be brought to the County Goal today and as a precaution constables have been stationed on the approach roads to the gaol. The men stationed on the north end fell back as the prisoners passed through and closed up again behind them. They stayed in place until all were safely lodged inside the goal.

Mr Charles Baker placed the following notice in today's edition of the *Hampshire Advertiser*.²⁵⁹

M

R. CHARLES BAKER takes the earliest opportunity to return his sincere thanks to the Inhabitants of Southampton generally for their prompt assistance at the DISASTROUS FIRE at his SAW MILLS, on Wednesday morning last.

Friday Nov. 26, 1830.

The Magistrates assembled at Fawley this morning, to propose some measures of relief, and it is understood that a reduction of rents will immediately take place, which must, it seems, be immediately followed by a reduction of tithes. The small farmers cannot even pay the present low rate of wages, and are obliged to give corn, potatoes, &c. in payment to their labourers.²⁶⁰

Sir G. H. Rose wrote a private letter to Lord Melbourne from Cuffnells, Lyndhurst, to suggest that Chelsea Pensioners be employed as Special Constables.²⁶¹

The following prisoners have been committed to the County Goal during this week; Benjamin and Moses Leigh, for stealing 300 prawns, in the Isle of Wight; Lazarus Lawrence, for stealing a great coat, and a shepherd's crook, and one 6d, at Enham; George Webb, William Newman, John Weeks, John Newman, John Slade, William Webb, Henry Eldridge, George Clark, John Fulford, Samuel Quinton, Joseph Arney and William Sutton, for riotously assembling and breaking machinery at Rockbourne and Fordingbridge; James Thomas Cooper for a similar offence at Ringwood; Charles Pain, James Cook, John Keens, John Bulpitt, John Batten, George Clark, James Baker, Henry Bulpitt, Richard Rampton, Henry Day, Henry Keens, William Wareham, Charles Bulpitt, Thomas Warwick, Richard Keens, Charles Maile, William Burgess, James Dibley, Henry Wells, Peter Norman and Mark Wiggins, for riotously assembling at Basingstoke; John Hayes, for a similar offence at Weyhill; Isaac Manns, James Manns, Joseph Blatch, Charles Faye, George Myland and John Ellis, for riotously assembling and breaking machinery, the property of Messe^{rs} Tasker, at Upper Clatford; William Rogers, William Skelton, Moses Baker, George Knight, James Cole, Richard Webb, William Day, Charles Notley, Benjamin Bartholomew, George Chollocombe, William Rose and Henry Cook, for riotously assembling and breaking machinery, the property of William Henry Lintott, at Romsey; Barnard Oliver, Henry Wells, Richard Hoar, John Smith, William Abraham, William Varndell, John Gold, William Astridge, John Hopgood, Thomas Green and John Gilmore, at Buriton, at Wickam, at Andover, at Basingstoke and at Upper Clatford; James Young and Edward Purkess, for felony.²⁶²

A number of threats have been made to farmers in the parish of Carisbrook, in the Isle of Wight. Threats were made to burn the house and property of Alexander Campbell Esq., and threshing machines belonging to Thomas Gleed and William Hughes.

²⁵⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²⁶⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

²⁶¹ TNA – HO52/7 f149-151. NOTE: This letter has not been transcribed as it proved difficult to read. Sir George Henry Rose defended the conduct of William Bingham Baring, who was accused of using unnecessary force in the apprehension of Mr & Mrs Deacle. Sir George died in June 1855 at Sandhills, Mudeford, near Christchurch, which along with Cuffnells, his principal residence, was sold.

²⁶² *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

A general meeting of the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight took place today, at the Guildhall in Newport, to take into consideration the best means to effectively check the spirit of insubordination which so extensively prevails; and as large rewards are offered for the discovery of ill disposed persons, it is hoped that further mischief and outrage will be prevented. Notice of the meeting appeared in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6th December 1830.

NOTICE.

A

Meeting of the Gentry, Clergy, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, (convened by the Magistrates acting for the said Island), on a Requisition, holden at the Guildhall, in Newport, on Saturday, the 27th day of November instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration and to adopt such measures as may be deemed expedient to preserve and maintain the Peace of the Island.

Sir G. E. HAMOND, Bart. C. B. in the Chair

This Meeting taking into consideration the unlawful and riotous proceedings which have lately occurred, and are still in progress in various parts of the kingdom; and having received information that a feeling of discontent, bordering on actual violence, exists in the minds of some of the labouring classes, deem it incumbent to call on all the loyal and well-disposed part of the community, to come forward and unite in such measures, as may effectually prevent similar riotous and wicked proceedings in this Island, which have been so seriously destructive to Property in other parts of his Majesty's dominions. That with this view and to accomplish a purpose so essential to the protection of the property, and safety of the Inhabitants, this Meeting have unanimously come to the following Resolutions: -

That whilst they have always felt, and most sincerely feel it to be their duty as subjects, as men, and as fellow Christians, to do everything in their power to alleviate the wants, and provide for the necessities of their poorer neighbours, and to furnish them with the opportunity of procuring, by honest industry and labour, those means of subsistence, which must ever be most gratifying to the mind of an honest and well-disposed member of the community, - they at the same time feel bound to express their positive determination, to arrest and put down every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the country. And that they will never collectively or individually yield to intimidation or threats, any relief or advance of wages, they do not think it right from a feeling and principle of duty to grant.

That in order to provide the most efficient means for carrying the foregoing resolution into effect, it is expedient, that all persons here together, with all other well-disposed persons in the Island, do unite in co-operating with the Magistrates in such measures, as they shall in their discretion, think most advisable. - And, that they be requested to adopt immediate and active means for carrying the foregoing Resolutions into effect.

That these Resolutions be signed by the Chairman, and printed and circulated, and also inserted in the provincial paper.

GRAHAM EDEN HAMOND, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, resolved unanimously, that the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his impartial conduct.²⁶³

During yesterday and today, a number of labourers, who have been committed for machine breaking and other acts of violence at Durley, Upham, Preshaw, and other places during the week, have been taken into custody. Today the cases of some of them have been gone into, at Bishop's Waltham, before Walter Long, Esquire, and the Reverend H Atkins, two county magistrates. The following men have been committed to the county Gaol : - Peter Houghton, tythingman of Minsingfield, James Houghton, tythingman of Winterhill, John Chalk, John Stoneage, and Richard Etherington, junior, for destroying a threshing machine at Durley, the property of Mr Thomas Pink; and Benjamin Harding, James Cropp, and Charles Brummell, for demanding money, with menaces and threats with intent to steal the same, at Upham. The cases of the other men will be gone into tomorrow.²⁶⁴

²⁶³ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁶⁴ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 27 November 1830

Mr B...? wrote to the Honourable George Lamb from Portsmouth, enclosing a letter from Admiral Thomas Foley, which give an account of the precautionary measures taken by the Port Admiral.
²⁶⁵

*Admiralty Office
27 November 1830
Sir,*

I am commanded by my Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Melbourne, a copy of a Letter from Admiral Thomas Foley, giving an account of some precautionary orders which he has issued to the Commander of the Ships at Portsmouth, for affording aid, in case of need, to the Civil Power, and I am at the same time to request that you will acquaint Lord Melbourne that my Lords have signified to the Admiral their approval of the steps he has taken.

I am

Sir

*Your most obedient
Humble servant
Jn B...*

The Honb^{le} George Lamb

*Copy
No 723
St Vincent, in Portsmouth
Harbour, 26th November 1830.
Sir,*

I request you will be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that anonymous letters threatening the destruction of property having been received by private Individuals in this Garrison and its vicinity, I have deemed it prudent to issue confidential Instructions to the Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Port, calling on them to be prepared to aid the Civil Power in the preservation of the public peace, and the dispersion of any tumultuous assemblages, should they occur, as well as to be ready to dispatch at a moment's notice, Engines from each Ship, under the charge of an Officer, with a body of Seaman to render assistance in case of Fire.

I have also given directions that in the event of any riotous body attempting to cross the Harbour from the Gosport side, each Ship is to dispatch as many Seaman and Marines as can be spared to compel the Mob to put back, taking care that the force employed acts under the requisition of any Magistrate that may be present.

It is necessary I should observe that these Steps have been taken, not that there is any immediate cause for apprehending that an attempt is meditated against the Public Establishment where machinery is in use, but merely as a measure of precaution, in order that in case of emergency the Naval force may be in perfect readiness to act with promptitude and efficiency.

I am

&c

(signed)

*Tho^r Foley
Admiral*

*Right Honorable
John Wilson Croker
&c &c &c*

The *Alban* steam vessel arrived in Portsmouth this evening from Jersey, having on board a man in the custody of a constable of Martyr Worthy, who was apprehended on a warrant dated the 18th instant, signed by Dr Newbolt and another Magistrate, for setting fire to a wheat rick at Hound, near Hamble, the property of Mr Buckland. The *Alban* was expressly dispatched on Monday for his apprehension.²⁶⁶

²⁶⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f134-137

²⁶⁶ *Morning Post* 29 November 1830. NOTE: *The Morning Post* names the owner of the wheat rick as Mr Blackburn. The man in custody was presumably James Spencer, although he is not named

Mr Henry Flight wrote to Sir Francis Freeling enclosing a copy of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Magistrates for the County of Hampshire, held on 25th November.²⁶⁷

Post Office Winchester

Nov^r 27th 1830

Sir

Enclosed is the Resolutions agree'd to, at the Meeting of the Lord Lieutenant and Magistrates of the County of Hampshire , and I beg to Inform you the Villages round this Neighbourhood are again quiet.

I have also taken the liberty to send you the Hampshire papers.

Sir

I beg to remain

Your obedient

Humble Servant

Henry Flight

for the

Postmaster

To

Sir Francis Freeling Bart.

Secretary

&c &c &c

G P O

London

Sunday, 28th November

Sir Charles Hulse wrote to Lord Melbourne to report on the riots in the Fordingbridge area, led by James Thomas Cooper.²⁶⁸

Breamore House

near Fordingbridge

Nov^r 28th 1830

My Lord

My Lord,

As I understand some particulars respecting Riots which have occurred in this neighbourhood have already been transmitted to you, I shall take the liberty of sending for your Lordship's information the details only of a most destructive attack which has been made upon every species of Machinery in the immediate vicinity of the spot on which I write – On the 23rd of this month about 8 o'clock in the morning on the blowing of a Horn in the vicinity of the town of Downton in the County of Wilts a Mob assembled rapidly under a leader of the name of Cooper, an Ostler at a Public House in a village near Salisbury, who had stolen his Master's Horse, & mounted it at the head of about 400 hundred men on foot they proceeded to every house in the Neighbourhood demanding Meat & Drink, & Money, armed with sledge hammers & long sticks pressing into their service numbers from every village they went thro', & collecting many willing to join them; their course was along the valley of the River Avon thro' Breamore to the Town of Fordingbridge where they ransacked almost every house for Meat & Drink & Money – Here I believe Sobriety ceased – They then branched off to three Country Villages, Whitsbury, Rockborne, & Damerham on the borders of the Counties of Hants, & Wilts, where they continued their plunder & devastation thro' the night till two o'clock the next day, when they were dispersed by a species of Constabulary force of Horse & Foot hastily collected from Fordingbridge – They had made in the course of the night several violent attacks on a Gentleman's House (Mr Coote's) the particulars of which I understand have been transmitted to your Lordship's Office - Altho' this mob had robbed everyone they met of trifling sums of money, they refused a large sum which was offered to save some Machinery in a Flax Mill employing a great number of persons – They said they came purposely directed to destroy all Machinery throughout the Country – I cannot collect that there was any popular cry but "down with all Machinery" – The Leader who said his name was 'Hunt' has been taken, & sent to Winchester for trial with many others – The Magistrates at Fordingbridge have been endeavouring to send for the first trials the cases of greatest violence & activity, but the Robberies with threats, & ill treatment have been so numerous that I fear we shall not satisfy the respectable inhabitants of this district without sending more for trial than will be eligible under the present state of the Prisons – The wages in this part of the Country have certainly been low for those out of constant employment, but I have to remark that the only Labourers who did not join the Mob were those of

²⁶⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f137-139. NOTE: A copy of the Resolution is there but not the Hampshire papers mentioned

²⁶⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f248-250

Fordingbridge, which as far as my experience goes, tho' I am not a Parishioner of it, is the most distressed Parish in this part of the Country.

I remain

My Lord

with great respect

Y^r humble Serv^t

C. Hulse

Magistrate to County Hants

PS.

The above is the result of two long days enquiry – I did not arrive on the spot till Friday morning, as I was attending Parliament in London

A detachment of the 11th regiment embarked this afternoon in the *Caron* steamer, for Newport. The Preventive men on the different stations in the Island are also ordered to assemble there, as a measure of precaution in case of disturbance.²⁶⁹

A meeting of Magistrates was held at the *Swan Inn*, Alresford today, when the whole of the male population voluntarily came forward as Special Constables, to form a horse and foot patrol, if required. Much to the credit of the peasantry in the town, not one of them has joined any of the tumultuous meetings in the neighbourhood, and the gentlemen assembled today, therefore resolved to acknowledge and reward their exemplary conduct by a subscription for their relief during the winter.²⁷⁰

The rector of the parish of Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, received a letter today which threatened vengeance on him and the farmers and gentry if they did not raise the labourer's wages.

Mr John Morant wrote to Lord Melbourne from Brockenhurst House today to report on the state of the country near Lyndhurst.²⁷¹

Brockenhurst House

Nr Lyndhurst

Hants

My Lord

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of yr Lordship's Circular of the 25 ult.

I request any directions from the Home Office may be addressed to me as above, as I lose a day's post by their being directed to Lymington.

I have to add, that tho' on the score of wages there has been here some excitement, no attacks on farm property of any kind have been committed in this Division as far as has come to my knowledge.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

Y^r Obed^t Ser^r

John Morant

Nov: 28

1830

The Earl of Malmesbury wrote to Lord Melbourne today to report that the peasantry are in a state of excitement and are about to convene a mutiny. He asks if the Government intended to restore the Yeomanry, and believes they will need the assistance of the military.²⁷²

Private

Heron Court

Ringwood

Nov. 28th

²⁶⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 December 1830

²⁷⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 December 1830

²⁷¹ TNA – HO52/7 f139-140

²⁷² TNA – HO52/7 f140-142

1830

Dear Melbourne

You will doubtless be met on your Entrance into your arduous and important office by a shower of Letters similar to that which I am addressing to you. Our hitherto peaceful & well disposed but certainly patient Peasantry, a sturdy race, are now in a state of excitement & that will require great firmness & decision – but at the same time Judgement, & consideration for what they really have been suffering, to allay. I am about to convene a meeting in my little Jurisdiction – The Isle of Wight a populous agricultural District same as elsewhere, tho' precautions are taken fears are entertained of disturbances. I very much wish to know what are the intentions of Government as to the restoration of the Yeomanry, an obvious thing to do, &c &c &c
Would you have the goodness to direct this information to be sent to me, addressed to "The Post Office Newport Isle of Wight.

In this part of Hampshire we have been saved from the ravages of one of the worst predatory Bands of any that have been traversing the country with impunity, By the prompt & bold measures adopted by two of our Magistrates Mr J. Mills of Bishorne & Mr Compton of Manor House Minstead. I speak of the affairs at Mr Coote's House, & near Fordingbridge – which little town, I'm told, has suffered sorely. I think we shall require a troop of Horse to be stationed in the frontiers of Dorsetshire at Wimborne, for instance, as there may be difficulty on such points getting yeomanry & Magistrates to act on either side of the Boundary.

I will not add any thing more to this Long letter – than my earnest hope that you all of you put equal to coping with the difficulties that these tremendous times must at every (.....?) present to you – you have a man of high character & energy at your head. Believe me to

Be very sincerely

Yrs

Malmesbury

The Lord

Vist^r Melbourne

An unfortunate accident happened this evening to Mr Ware, a surgeon, one of the most active of the Romsey special constables, whose pistol went off by accident in his pocket, and the ball lodged in his thigh. Every attention was promptly rendered by all the medical gentlemen of the town. The ball has not yet been extracted; but it is sincerely hoped that the wound will not prove mortal.²⁷³

The meeting of the Magistrates and inhabitants of Fareham, that was adjourned last Monday, took place today. A resolution was entered into, recommending the payment of sufficient wages to agricultural labourers, to enable them to maintain their families, except in extreme cases, and to give employment to them all. A proposal was made to raise a Volunteer Corps of Yeomanry, under the command of H. P. Delmé, Esquire of Cams Hall, which met with general approval; but the consideration of the subject was deferred till the wishes of the Government were made known. Mr Delmé came forward and declared his intention to call his tenants together, and recommend them to pay their labourers sufficient wages to keep them from their parishes, and said that he would meet the additional charge by a reduction of rents. The declaration was received with great applause.²⁷⁴

A general meeting of the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight took place today, to take into consideration the best means to effectively check the spirit of insubordination which so extensively prevails; and as large rewards are offered for the discovery of ill disposed persons, it is hoped that further mischief and outrage will be prevented.²⁷⁵

Monday, 29th November

Colonel Edward Perry Buckley wrote to Lord Melbourne from Stony Cross to report that a number of people have been sworn in as Special Constables at Lyndhurst and the neighbouring villages and asks if Government will furnish them with swords.²⁷⁶

²⁷³ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

²⁷⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁷⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁷⁶ TNA - HO52/7 f151-152

Minestead Lodge

Stony Cross

Nov^r 29th 1830

My Lord,

We have sworn in a number of Special Constables at Lyndhurst & the neighbouring Villages, who will turn out on Horseback – might I take the Liberty of asking your Lordship whether the Government will furnish them with swords, should there be no objection to this, they might be given over to the Yeomanry as soon as they are embodied, in the mean time they would be of the greatest use to us, one hundred might answer our purpose.

I am

My Lord

Your most Obed^d Serv^r

EP Buckley

Answered 30th November

Acquaint Mr Buckley that I cannot issue any unless sanctioned by the L. Lieutenant.

The Earl of Cavan wrote to the Home Department from Eaglehurst to say that he had not received the circular sent to the County Magistrates and gave gives his address.²⁷⁷

Eaglehurst (Southampton) Nov^r 29 1830

Sir,

As I attribute my not receiving The Late Circular Letter of The Secretary of State for The Home Department (Lord Melbourne), to the Magistrates of this & other Counties, from my address not being known at your office. I have as a magistrate of this County, to request that all letters of a similar nature may be directed to me here.

I have the Honor

to be

Sir

Your most obed^d

Humble Serv^r

Cavan

To The Under Secretary of State

For The Home Department

Attempts were made by William Smith, and others to incite labourers to join in the destruction of threshing machines in the parish of Newchurch, in the Isle of Wight.

Stephen Terry, Esquire, (with the rank of Major by Brevet), has offered his services to the Secretary of War, under the sanction of the Duke of Wellington, to raise a volunteer corps in the parishes of Preston Candover, Dummer, and neighbourhood, with a body of pensioners attached, intended for the preservation of the peace in that district.²⁷⁸

At a quarter past ten this evening an alarming fire was discovered in the back lane, in Petersfield, in two barns the property of the Hon. H. Legge, in the occupation of Mr John Richardson, a builder, and Mr William Allen, a baker. The barns contained a great deal of timber, and about 200 bushels of potatoes. The flames spread so rapidly that within two and a half hours the whole was a heap of ruins, together with two adjoining stables, and three cottages opposite, the property of Colonel Hylton Jolliffe, occupied by an old couple, named Marshall; a man, his wife, infant child, and aged mother, named Crockford; and a family named Vollan; who lost nearly the whole of their clothes and furniture. The flames also reached a cottage built by the late Thomas Carter, Esq. for his old and faithful butler and housekeeper, Mr Daniel Plasto and Mrs Houghon. By the meritorious actions of a detachment of the 2nd Life Guards, whose conduct cannot be too highly applauded, managed to quell the flames before they could communicate to the *Swan* stables, which are thatched and adjoined to a cottage. The fire is thought to have been caused by an

²⁷⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f157-158

²⁷⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

incendiary, and it is gratifying to know that the whole population of the neighbourhood, hastened to the spot, anxious to assist.²⁷⁹

Two barns and three small cottages, with numerous small outbuildings attached to them, were totally consumed. A gentleman in the neighbourhood can swear to seeing a man on horseback, who has been described by the London Papers as riding by night through the country, and a very narrowly escaping when pursued by leaping a gate. A man of the very same appearance, with a horse of the like description, (a blood-bay one) about 17 hands high, was seen by the gentleman before mentioned, to gallop at a rapid rate over Eartherington Hill, eight miles from the spot where the fire occurred.²⁸⁰

The following notice appeared in today's edition of the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*.²⁸¹

LABOURERS, - BEWARE of MEN

who are going about the Country to make you do
what you will soon be sorry for. – The times are bad,
but BURNING CORN WILL NOT GIVE YOU
BREAD. – If you have reason to complain, tell your
Employers so like men, *and they must do what they can*
to make your situation more comfortable.

~~Rushing the Corn will not injure the Farmers because~~

Sir Graham Hammond wrote to Lord Melbourne from Norton Lodge to report the burning of a hay rick, the property of the Very Reverend Dean Wood, Rector of Freshwater, and asked that an offer of a reward be made. He also enclosed a copy of a threatening letter that was found on the property the same day as the fire took place.²⁸²

Norton Lodge, Yarmouth I of Wight

29th Nov^r 1830

My Lord,

I beg to inform you that a rick of hay belonging to, and in the premises of the Very Revd Dean Wood Rector of this Parish (Freshwater) was fired by some incendiary this morning but by the extraordinary exertions of the immediate neighbours it was at length got under. Its proximity to the other ricks rendered it almost impossible that they should not have shared the same fate, and only the very great exertions used saved them. At day light a most inflammatory and atrocious letter was found on the premises addressed to the Bailiff of the Dean, who is not in the Island.

In consequence a public Vestry was held this day at which it was resolved that this meeting views with the utmost horror the atrocious act committed this morning, and with a view to the detection of the offender offers a reward of 100£, over and above such reward as His Majesty's Government may think proper in consideration of circumstances to advise His Majesty to put forth.

All the Gentlemen and great part of the Inhabitants have come forward to be sworn in as Special Constables to preserve the peace.

I am in great hopes that the main body are perfectly well disposed.

Begging I may be excused, for the great haste in which I write, and hoping that your Lordship will advise a reward to be offered.

*I have the honor
to be
My Lord
Your most obed^r Serv^r*

²⁷⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

²⁸⁰ *Exeter & Plymouth Gazette*, 4 December 1830

²⁸¹ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 29 November 1830

²⁸² TNA – HO52/7 f241-244

Graham Hammond B.
J.P.

The R^t Hon^{ble}
Lord Melbourne
P.S. A Copy of the threatening letter is enclosed.

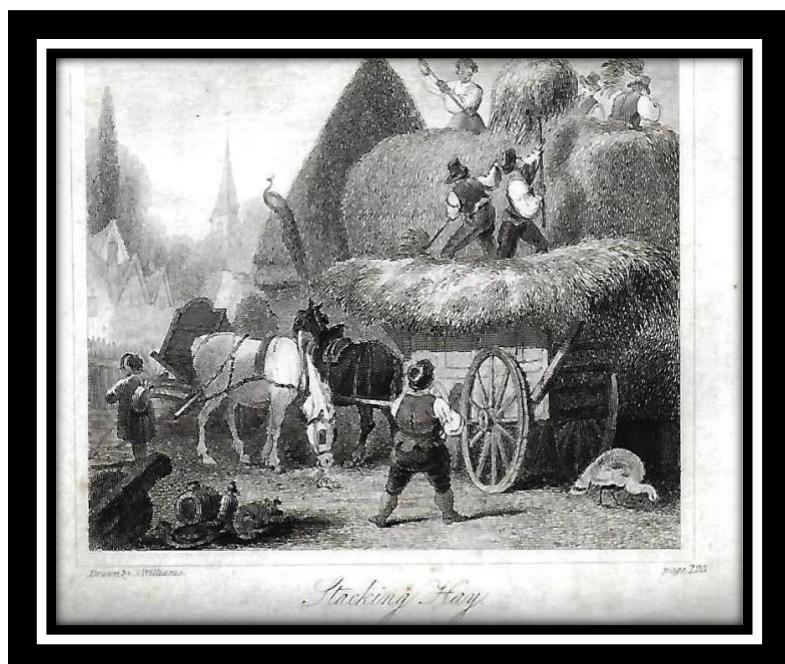
The Copy of a letter found on the Premises of the Very Revd Dean Wood Rector of Freshwater Parish in the Isle of Wight, after the fire this morning the 29th Nov^r 1830 addressed to "Mr Peeter Dearen Freshwater."

The Farmers friends and the Pasens enemy We have taken the liberty of riting this few lines to you to inform you of our intention and it is to let you kn^w our determination is to live or Di. for this last 20 years wee have been in a starving condition to maintain your Dam Pride So now jentlemen if you Dont advance our wages wee will see what can be done so now jentlemen wee should be fery sorry to burn any Corn for we have not holtbred a nof now for what we have done now is soar against our will but your harts is so hard as the hart of Pharo but wee will see if it cant bee Broken so now as far as you Constables wee don't care a dam for wee have to one yeat and three oat of four of then will turn to be of our sides and insted of making Constables Staves there shall be more need of Coffins. So now as fer this fire you must not take it as a front for if you hadent been Deserving it wee should not have don't as for you my Ould friend you didnt happen to be hear if that you had been rosted ifer and if it had been so how the farmers would lagh to see the ould Pason rosted at last. As for you Mr Hicks wee have been informed that you have got some dam bad ricks and as for Admorell Hamond he seems to talk like a man and wee are in hopes that he well do somthing for us if he can and as for Mr Crozier tho' he is ... up in with such wee will get at him if he don't leave of his bad tricks So now if you acts like jentelmen it shall be all fery well

But if you don't you will shurley go to Hell and as for this litel fire Don't be alarmed it will be a damd deal wors when we Burn down your farm So no I hope that you will stand fellow frend or els in a middle of a fire you shall stand.

We should be gland if you would show this to all the jentlemen in Freshwater.

A True Copy
Graham Hamond
In Sir G. Hamond's
of 29 Nov^r 1830



22. Stacking Hay
(The Farm. A New Account of Rural Toils and Produce)
Jefferys Taylor, 1834

The four troops of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, which arrived in Winchester on Sunday and Tuesday last, commanded by Majors Mansell and Storey, marched yesterday and today for

Romsey, Ringwood, Blandford, and Dorchester. They will be replaced tomorrow by a squadron of the 2nd Life Guards from Petersfield. The troops now in the city are, the Depot of the 90th, commanded by Major Mackay and a detachment from the 47th regiment, as well as being the head quarters of the South-West District, headed by Major-General Sir Colin Campbell. Detachments from the 47th regiment are stationed at towns and villages between Winchester and Fareham.²⁸³

Robert Parsons wrote from Petersfield Post Office.²⁸⁴

½ Past Ten O'clock

Nov^r 29th

Post Office

Petersfield

Honored Sir,

I am sorry to inform you at this time is burning five small Houses just at the entrance of our Town supposed to be set on fire by some of these malicious Person or Persons 2 large Barns and Stables also at this moment Burning Honored Sir

y^r Obedient Serv^r R. Parsons

The number of commitments to the County Gaol and other prisons exceeds 200, including considerable parties, charged with having riotously assembled, and destroyed machinery of various kinds, at Rockborne, Basingstoke, Andover, Weyhill, Upper Clatford, Fordingbridge, Romsey, Buriton, Wickham, and other places.

Several Magistrates have been busily employed during the week in examining depositions against the numerous prisoners. Those whose crimes are of the most serious nature will be detained for trial before the Special Commission, and others, whose offences are of a lighter character, will, perhaps, be allowed to depart on their own recognizance.²⁸⁵

A public house at Selborne was burned down during the night. It was thought at first to have been caused by accident, although the manner in which the fire originated remains a mystery. It seems the fire started at about 7 o'clock in the evening, in a place where no light is carried at any time, and it is now the opinion of all who have examined the circumstances of the case that the conflagration was produced by an incendiary, for the purpose of burning down the village, the houses being near together and mostly thatched.. The flames communicated to the thatch of one of them several times; but by strenuous exertions, a plentiful supply of water, and a providential direction of the wind, this was prevented. The house is insured in the Royal Exchange Office for about half its value; but the occupier is uninsured, and of course a considerable sufferer.²⁸⁶

Tuesday, 30th November

J. W. Scott Esquire sent an application to Lord Melbourne from Rotherfield Park, near Alton asking if one or two Police Officers could be sent to Farringdon.²⁸⁷

Rotherfield Park

Alton

My Lord,

As the nearest magistrate, I have been requested by the Rector & most respectable inhabitants of Farringdon, a village in (....?) about 2 miles from Alton and in the hands of a very lawless district, to request that your Lordship will have the kindness to allow one or two police officers to be stationed in the village for a short time. As this parish has lately been the scene of great disorder & as the inhabitants have generally agreed to be sworn in as Special Constables, this may not only be a necessary precaution, but may be the means of detecting the ring leaders.

With every apology for troubling your Lordship I have the honor to be

My Lord

yr very obedient

Humble Servant

²⁸³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 November 1830

²⁸⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f160- 161

²⁸⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 29 December 1830

²⁸⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830 & 13 December 1830

²⁸⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f161-163. NOTE: James Winter Scott

J. W. Scott

John Ingram Lockhart wrote to Lord Melbourne from Sherfield House, Romsey to give an account of what he had observed at the various places he had passed through.²⁸⁸

My Lord,

I beg leave to state for your Lordship information that I have travelled thro' the Towns of Farringdon, Newbury, Hungerford, Marlboro', Devizes & Salisbury, & that I find on (minute?) enquiry that a better disposition prevails amongst the Labourers, conciliatory propositions generally have been made & acceded to, but the energy & persevering spirit of the Cavalry, of the Yeomanry equally have mainly contributed to produce this result. One Incendiary has been apprehended at All Cannings near Devizes & he has made some disclosures, he is now in Salisbury confinement. I have met the magistrates for Wilts & Berks at Hungerford, and others at Devizes, who speak in the highest forms, of the Corsham, Calne, Westbury & Devizes Yeomanry. I am my Lord your Lordships

Most faithful &

Obedient Servant

J. J. Lockhart

Sherfield House

Romsey

Hampshire

Nov^r 30

1830

Right Honble

Lord Melbourne

H.M. Principal Secretary of State for

The Home Department &c &c &c

Placards have been pretty plentifully sent to various parties in Portsmouth neighbourhood during the week. The following is one among many, and was sent to the Reverend Mr Mansfield, Rowner, near Gosport: - 'Sir, the printers of the Hampshire papers are requested to make an appeal to the affluent in the county of Hants, to raise a subscription for the distressed and unfortunate, and as you have it in your power to contribute, it is hoped that the appeal will not be made in vain, as, if you do not, you have just cause to regret, as you are well aware that necessity has no laws, and that the same fate will attend you as those who have been callous to the wants of the poor. WILL WATCH, ROCK, SWING, and Co.'

Notices to the same effect have been received by Mr Westmore and Mr Pottle, the agents for the Hampshire Chronicle.²⁸⁹

²⁸⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f163-164

²⁸⁹ *The Times*, 30 November 1830

1st – 31st December 1830

Wednesday, 1st December

Mr William A. Lewis, the Mayor of Basingstoke wrote to the Duke of Wellington enclosing copies of depositions taken by the magistrates of the town.²⁹⁰

20th Basingstoke 1st December 1830

My Lord Duke

I beg leave to inclose for your Grace's Information Copies of the Depositions taken before the Magistrates of this Town against Rioters committed for Trial to His Majesty's Gaol at Winchester.

*I have the honor to be
My Lord Duke
Your Graces Most obedient
Humble Servant
W. A. Lewis
Mayor of Basingstoke*

His Grace the Duke of Wellington K.G.

*Lord Lieut of the County
of Southampton
&c &c &c*

John Miles wrote to Lord Melbourne to thank him for his letter of appreciation and to put forward some of his own thought on the present state of the country.²⁹¹

Ringwood Decr 1st 1830

My Lord,

I beg leave to return you my sincere thanks for the very flattering manner in which you have been pleased to express your appreciation of my conduct and of those who assisted me in the occurrences which took place in this neighbourhood.

The apprehension of the principal offenders, and the dispersion of the less guilty followers, has removed all present danger from us. I am happy to say that a good spirit prevails and that I have enrolled a body of 70 Yeoman in a district which furnished but 30 when we last embodied. The exertions of Lord Fitzharris have enabled him to enlist as many in his immediate neighbourhood.

But, My Lord, I feel that I should but ill discharge my duty did I confine myself to this lone effort.

I continued to assure your Lordship in my last letter that I would answer for the peace of this district without the aid of a single soldier. I repeat that assurance, and I beg to state in consternation, that on the appearance of a squadron of Dragoons which marched into the town on their route to Dorchester I felt myself called upon to explain to the Inhabitants that they did not come to protect them, but that they were passing through on their way to Dorchester.

I was desirous of keeping alive a feeling of pride which they entertained that they had not only preserved their own homes from destruction and a populous district on their own, but had gone to the aid of those who had not the means to defend themselves.

It is this feeling that I have encouraged to the utmost, for I must tell your Lordship, that there is no town in England of its size that contains as many lawless desperate characters – smuggler, poacher and deer stealer in all the perfection of their professions – and yet I will answer for them.

But, my Lord, although I can keep them true I will own to you that I see difficulties in other quarters. The Labourers have hitherto behaved well – they have made no demands for a rise in their wages though they receive by 8 shillings a week. I could, did I not fear to occupy your time, shew you that with the various local advantages they possess, that they are better off than many in other counties who receive 11 or 12 – at all accounts they are as well off as they have been at any period

²⁹⁰ William Anthony Lewis was the mayor of Basingstoke 1830/31. This letter was enclosed in the letter sent by the Duke of Wellington to Lord Melbourne on 3rd December 1830, unfortunately the depositions mentioned in the letter are not included

²⁹¹ TNA – HO52/7 f169-173

within twenty years, relating to the price of a bushel of wheat – and neither before or since the disturbances have they in any one instance in this parish demanded more.

But, my Lord, when all around us meetings are held, with Magistrates presiding, fixing a scale of wages/ which in itself every labourer knows to be absurd inasmuch as a glaring injustice is practised upon the good workman by giving him no more than the bad one/I shall not be surprised if these people forget to put into the balance their own various advantages, and say, we must have 12 shillings per week because in such a parish they have agreed to give that sum to their labourers.

I do assure your Lordship that to myself as a Landowner it is a matter of perfect indifference what wages I give – but I do feel, that if I give a greater sum than my poorer neighbour can give, or than the labourer really requires, that I am doing an act of gross injustice to the community – the body of labourers would not be benefitted by it, for fewer would be employed, and the land would be but half tilled.

The real need in this part of the Country is, not that the wages are too low, but that there is not employment for the population and a high price for labour would severely ensure the growing and insufferable raise of the poor rates.

I assure your Lordship that this bending to the demands of the labourers has not in any one instance that has come to my knowledge proceeded from a conception of the Justice of the claim, but either from fear to meet the subject fairly, or from a desire to gain popularity. These feelings have already done incalculable mischief – have fostered and encouraged the lawless meetings and riotous proceedings in this county, and have taught the lower orders that they have only to assemble in a body to obtain their demands.

The advice I have given to such farmers as have asked it is – if you think that the man who works for you has behaved well – if you think that by not joining the marauders they observe that their conduct should be rewarded, give them an increase, and I have no doubt but that you will find your account in so doing. But if a demand is made upon you, enforced by threats, resist it to the utmost – there can be no end to demands if you are driven to accede to them.

I must crave your Lordship's indulgence for having entered at length upon this subject, but I have done so for the sake of putting before you the real state of this part of the Country, and of showing you that nothing so much tends to mislead the labourer of one parish as a scale of wages found in another.

The state of the Country here is – that the markets are not attended – the farmer can sell no produce; and the workman are thinking of nothing but their duty – these are the unavoidable consequences of the late tumults. My object has been to endeavour to get everything back to its former quiet state – and though I am fully prepared to meet any sudden ebullition, I cautiously avoid all demonstrations of preparation.

The evidence against Cooper and the other principal leaders is complete – from all that I can collect he is the only one concerned in the riots here, who was not belonging to the County – Three fourths of the mobs were pressed men: forced to leave their work to join them – plunder and destruction of machinery was their avowed object. The quantity that they ate and drunk exceeds all belief – for they took from every house all that it contained – indeed the capture of Cooper was solely owing to his not being able to proceed further till he got sober.

It might appear that there was something of a more determined character in their attacks repeated as they were, upon Mr Coote's House – but in fact it was the success of their first visit which lead them to repeat it – he gave them an abundance to eat and drink – they returned a second time, with the same success – on their third visit he resisted – but when I tell your Lordship that for sixteen hours they met with no opposition, that everybody gave them what they had to give, it will not be surprising that they acquired confidence and that this success knew no bounds.

I am perfectly satisfied that the men of honor would at any time have dispersed them.

*I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's obedient & humble Serv^t
John Miles*

*The Right honourable
The Secretary of State
Home Department*

The farmers of Lower Wallop, who considered that their characters had been attacked in newspapers reporting the events in their parish on 20th November, wrote today to put forward their own account of what had taken place. This account, written on 1st December, appeared in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830.
²⁹²

LOWER WALLOP, December 1, 1830

SIR,

We, the undersigned, having observed in your Journal of last week a gross miss-statement of what occurred at Lower Wallop on Saturday week, beg that you will, in justice to our characters, insert the following unqualified contradiction of all the most material parts contained therein.

On the day named, all the labourers in the parish, amounting to between 100 and 200, assembled together under considerable excitement, many of them with large sticks, and demanded of their employers an advance of pay from 8s to 12s per week, at the same time saying they well knew the farmers could not afford to pay them so great an advance without a proportionate abatement of their rents and tithes; and that they would go to Mr Blunt, the proprietor of the great tithes, and insist on his receiving less for the future, and if he should object to do so, his house should come down. We desired they should by all means be peaceable and quiet, and do no mischief to anyone, but promise us to remain where they then were until we had been to Mr Blunt, and stated the circumstances of the case to him, to which they agreed. We then consulted together, and thought that it would not be advisable to go even by ourselves in a body to Mr Blunt's house, as he had but recently recovered from a severe illness, but deemed it the most respectable and becoming way to request the clergyman of the parish, the Reverend Henry Powney, who was with us the whole time, to wait on Mr Blunt, and make known to him all the circumstances under which we were compelled to request that he would be good enough to consent to make us an abatement of tithes, in proportion to the advance of pay demanded of us by the labourers, which was one third, an advance which they have ever since been paid. Mr Powney went accordingly to Mr Blunt, and we waited the result of his interview at some distance from the house, when, after a considerable interval, he returned and communicated to us that Mr Blunt had acceded to our wishes. With respect to any intimation being given to Mr Blunt that, in case of his refusal, his house would be immediately burnt down, all that we have to say is, that we deny most positively all knowledge of any such dreadful intimation being either heard or given.

We remain, &c.

Edward Godwin
H.B. Appleford
H.R. Bailey
George Brewer
John Lywood
Stephen Webb
Peter Cowdery
James Saunders

John Pyle
William Warwick
John Saunders
John Saunders
Thomas Farley
Samuel Morrison
G. Pothecary

Thursday, 2nd December

The principal inhabitants of Petersfield met at the Town Hall today, for the purpose of entering into a Subscription for relieving the distress of those people affected by the recent fire in the town. A copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting appeared in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6th December 1830.²⁹³

PETERSFIELD, 2nd Dec, 1830

The principal inhabitants of Petersfield met at the Town Hall today, for the purpose of entering into a Subscription for relieving the distress of the Sufferers by the fire, and rewarding the persons who were active in endeavouring to extinguish the Fire.

Vice-Admiral John Giffard, in the Chair.

²⁹² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

²⁹³ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

It was unanimously Resolved, that a Subscription should be immediately entered into for the above purposes; and that the following Gentlemen, namely, Mess^{rs} Lipscomb, Mess^{rs}, Greetham, Andrews, and Captain Yates, R.N. do form the Committee, to enquire into the circumstances of those who suffered by the Fire, and the particulars of their loses, and also to enquire and ascertain who were most active in endeavouring to extinguish the Fire, and to apportion Rewards to be given for their exertions.

It was also Resolved, that the thanks of this Meeting and of all the Inhabitants, are due to Captain Kintock, in command of the Troop of the Second Regiment of Life Guards at this place, and to the troops under his orders, as well as those Inhabitants of Petersfield and the neighbourhood, (who so promptly assisted), for their great exertions to extinguish the Fire and save the Houses and other Property near the Fire.

It was also resolved, that Mr Lacy be appointed Treasurer to receive the Subscriptions on this occasion.

That a Copy of these Resolutions be transmitted to the Editors of the *Hampshire Telegraph* and *Hampshire Chronicle*, to be inserted once in their papers.

JOHN GIFFARD, Chairman.

Resolved unanimously. – That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Vice-Admiral Giffard, for his kindness in taking the Chair on this occasion.

The Duke of Wellington wrote to Lord Melbourne, enclosing further Depositions against a number of people committed to Winchester Gaol for levying contributions, together with the letter written, and sent, the previous day by W. A Lewis, the Mayor of Basingstoke.²⁹⁴

London Decr 2nd 1830

My Lord

*I enclose further Depositions against Persons committed for trial to this Gaol of Winchester, for levying contributions. I have the Honor to be My Lord
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant*

Wellington

The Lord Viscount Melbourne

Mr John Ingram Lockhart wrote to Lord Melbourne to suggest the expediency of empowering the Constabulary force to act in any adjoining County, and to report that tranquillity had been restored.²⁹⁵

My Lord,

It is represented to me that it would be very desirable that the constabulary force under the first of Geo 4th should be empowered to act in any adjoining county, as well as that for which they may be appointed when any magistrate shall direct them so to do. I am happy to say that extensive & almost universal as the riots and outrages have been in this Hundred of Hants (Thorngate) now all is quiet & the Rioters submissive. I am My Lord

*Your Lordship's most
obedient & faithful Servant*

J I Lockhart

*Sherfield House
Romsey Hants
Decr 2 1830*

The Right Honble

Viscount Melbourne

H.M. P. Secretary

For the Home Department &c &c &c

²⁹⁴ TNA – HO52/7 f166-168. NOTE: The Depositions are not included with these letters

²⁹⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f173-174

Robert Parsons, Deputy Post Master at Petersfield, wrote a private letter to Sir Frances Freeling to report concerns that some arms, which had belonged to the Yeomanry, were being kept in the town.²⁹⁶

Post Office Petersfield
Decr 2nd 1830

Hond^d Sir,

Thinking it proper to inform you that I overheard there is in our Town - Swords Carbines & Pistols to a considerable number; formerly belonging to our Yeomanry; in whose hands I consider very improper - of course the Government are not aware of it

I was fearful of making the report to our Magistrates, fearing it should be known; I gave the Information - I trust you will be particular in not letting any one know in this Town from what quarter you received your this Intelligence as it may do me a most serious injury - the name of the person who has the implements is G. Todman a Blacksmith - he lives in the Dragon Street - I have not been there - but I think there is no doubt of the truth of it - the name of the Cop^l of Yeomanry was T. R. Ridge Esqr - he has been dead some years.

Hond Sir
yr most obt Ser^t
R. Parsons

Friday, 3rd December

Mr Gibbs, Collector of the Customs at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, wrote to Lord Melbourne to report the arrival and detention, as suspicious characters, of certain Spaniards.²⁹⁷

Custom House Yarmouth
3rd December 1830

My Lord,

I do myself the honor to report for your Lordship's information, that shortly after the departure of the mail yesterday, a Dutch Fishing Boat of about forty Tons arrived here from the Hague with Twenty-six Spanish Officers and soldiers, together with Three Women and six Children of the same Nation.

They were on the point of disembarking for the purpose of finding their way to London when the circumstance was reported to me, but as I considered from the tenor of the letters which I lately received from your Lordship's office, and the peculiar state of the Country at this moment, that it would be highly improper to allow such persons to go at large, I took immediate measures to prevent their doing so: - at the same time it was found that the accommodation on board the Schngt was of so wretched a description, and the supply of provisions as scanty, that it would be impossible to keep them there, in their crowded state and I have in consequence lodged the whole of the single men (Twenty-two in number) in this Building, under the charge of some of my people, and placed the married Persons in an adjoining Public House, under similar restraint, until such time as I shall receive your Lordship's Instructions how to act.

The account which they give of themselves, is, that they originally belonged to the Constitutional Army in Spain, which was broken up by the Invasion of that Country by the French in 1828, - that they then fled to Portugal and joined the Liberals there, - but were again put down by Don Miguel, who placed the whole of them on board a Prison Ship where they remained for two years and a half, without having any communication with their friends. - that six weeks back they were liberated, and told to proceed either to England, Holland or France, but when on the point of setting off for the latter place, they were informed they could alone go the Holland.

On their arrival there, the Dutch Government, would not permit them to land, but having provided them with a Passport and a conveyance, ordered them off, to this Country which they reached yesterday at about Three o'clock.

They are not in possession of the smallest sum of money amongst them, and are many of them, in all other respects, in a most destitute condition.

²⁹⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f174-176. NOTE: The G. Todman referred to in this letter would appear to be George Todman, who was still living in Dragon Street, Petersfield at the time of the 1841 census, and described as Independent, with him is his wife Jane and a younger George Todman

²⁹⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f164-166. NOTE: Neither the Passports or the list of names are included with the letter

They are, with the exception of one of the married men, very desirous of proceeding to France, where they feel confident they will be well received, but they of course have no means of acting for themselves.

I believe the Alien Law does not exactly bear me out in detaining them, but I have considered it my duty to do so, and trust that the measure will meet with your Lordship's approbation. I have only to add that until such time as I may receive your Lordship's orders concerning them a daily expense must be incurred for their subsistence and the hire of Bedding &c.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordship's
very humble Servant
J Gibbs*

Collector

*PS. Enclosed are the Passports, and a List of their names and occupations.
The Right-Honourable*

*The Secretary of State
for the Home Department*

Mr Hearn wrote to Lord Melbourne from Newport enclosing a threatening letter which had been received by a farmer in the eastern part of the Island. ²⁹⁸

*Guildhall Newport
Isle of Wight December
3rd 1830*

My Lord,

I have it in Command from Lord Yarborough and the other magistrates for this Island to enclose your Lordship a Letter received by a Farmer at the Eastern part of the Island and to state that if it were possible through the medium of the General post office and London Police to trace the writer much real service would be done as there is strong reason to believe that the attempts to excite Riots and Burnings are from parties in London.

There have been three cases of Burning in the Island - One of a Hay Rick near Newport - another of a Hay Rick at Freshwater and the third in a Field in the centre of the Island.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordship's most
obed^t Hble Servant*

The Viscount Melbourne

&c &c &c

Saturday, 4th December

Mr Eyre Coote, of West Park, has promised to reduce the rents of his tenants so as to enable them to increase the wages of their labourers, without loss to themselves.

Fordingbridge has been restored to tranquillity, and about 50 of the rioters have been caught, 34 of whom have been committed for trial. Nearly all the inhabitants of the town came forward to take the office of special constable. It is intended to re-establish the Yeomanry Cavalry, and upwards of 70 of the most respectable persons of the town and neighbourhood have already enrolled themselves as members under the command of Mr Coote. The inhabitants have also agreed to establish a nightly watch during the winter months. ²⁹⁹

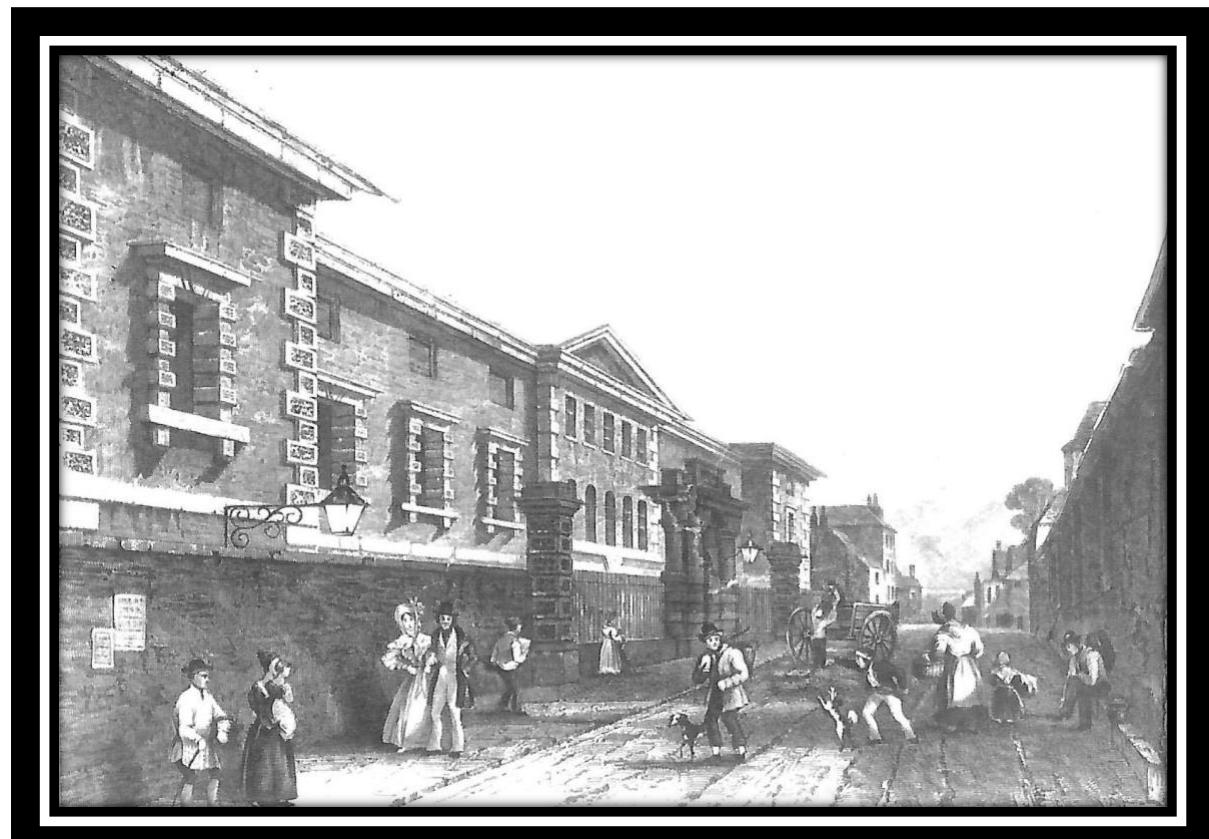
WINCHESTER, Dec. 4. - The following prisoners have been this week committed for trial :-

Charles Read, John Kimber, John Moreton, George Phillpot, Aaron Deadman, Charles Shepherd, John Phillpot, David Gilbert, William Arney, Joseph West, George Steele, for rioting and breaking machinery at Fordingbridge. - Henry Cavell, Josiah or Joseph Cull, Andrew Mintram, for riot at Fawley. - John White, Thomas Beckingham, Thomas Goodall and William Stanmore, for rioting and breaking

²⁹⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f168-169. NOTE: The letter does not appear to have been enclosed

²⁹⁹ Dorset County Chronicle, 9 December 1830

machinery, the property of Mess^{rs} Tasker. - Thomas Astell, for stopping Lady Lethbridge's carriage, and committed a highway robbery at East Meon. - Henry Rogers, George Collins, George Palmer, John Collins, for riot and extorting money at Romsey Extra. - James Cropp, Benjamin Harding, Charles Brummell, Peter Houghton, James Houghton, Richard Etherington, John Stoneage, John Chalk, for rioting, breaking machines, and extorting money at Durley. - Charles Bratcher, for rioting at Fawley. - Jacob Wiltshire, Henry Masters, Isaac Isles, for rioting and extorting money at Andover. - Collins alias Fisher, for an assault. - Joseph Maybey, for rioting and breaking machinery at Romsey Extra. - Thomas Broomfield and George Osman, for an assault at Redbridge. - James Martin, William Stroud, John Annetts, John Nash, Henry Brown, Daniel Payne, William Broadhurst, James Ward, William Ward, John Payne, William Baker, John Harris, John Piper, Isaac Steele, William Hill and James Cooper, for a rioting, robbery, and breaking machinery at Burghclere. - John Webb, Richard Lane, William Lane, for riot at Fawley. - Thomas Gibbs, William Heighes and Thomas Heighes, for robbery and breaking threshing machines at Alton. - John Newland, for riot at Selborne. - Joseph Hall, George Hopgood, Thomas Gregory, for extorting money and breaking machines at Andover. - James White, Thomas Scammell, William Burbage, for a similar offence at Romsey. - Thomas Bennett, for a riot and William Farmer for riot and extorting money at Basingstoke. - Thomas Page for a similar offence near Alton. - Edmund Charles Nutbeen, George Clarke, Joseph Golding, George Moody, John Harrison, James Fryer, William Elkins and Charles Hayter, for extorting money and breaking machinery, at Fordingbridge. - William Watts, for a similar offence at Basingstoke. - John Hall (Heath), for pulling down the Poor-house at Alton. - William Conduit, William Brackstone, Thomas Neale, George Carter, for robbery and riot at Andover. - James Glasspoole, Thomas Stagg, for a similar offence near Bishop's Waltham. - John Pointer, Alexander Pragnell, Jesse Burgess, for a similar offence at Romsey Extra and Bishop's Waltham. - Thomas Webb, John Allen, William Beckingham, William Brackstone, for a similar offence at Andover. - Samuel Saunders, for a rescue at Fawley.³⁰⁰



23. Winchester Gaol
(Hampshire RO – 2/97)

³⁰⁰ Hampshire Telegraph, 6 December 1830

Sunday, 5th December

Lord Yarborough wrote to Lord Melbourne to report that that the Isle of Wight was now in a quiet state, but that there were still signs of discontent among the labourers, and a number of threatening letters had been received. ³⁰¹

Newport I. of Wight
Sunday 5th Decr 30

My Lord

I have the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that I believe the Isle of Wight to be in a quiet state – but there are some persons residing in the Island & well acquainted with the internal feelings of the lower classes, assure me that they only consider it for a time, as there exists much discontent among the Labourers.

I have to the best of my judgement with the assistance of my brother Magistrates formed an efficient force of Special Constables, and I trust without great outrage to dispense with the Military, at the same time having a few will clearly show that we may have their aid if required.

In case it is thought proper by your Lordship to send Troops out of the Island I sharply recommend a sufficient number to be left for the protection of the Barracks being all built of wood.

There have been no Fires the last week tho' many threatening letters.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordship's
most obedient
Humble Servant
Yarborough*

The Right Hobble

Viscount Melbourne

&c &c &c

Today four men were committed to Gosport Bridewell on suspicion of being concerned in the destruction of the Poor-house, near Petersfield. One of them has been an itinerant tinker, and is said to have beat up the copper belonging to the house, which he carried away with him. ³⁰²

Late this evening Lord Malmesbury, the Governor of the Isle of Wight, arrived on the Island, in the *Alban* steam vessel, in consequence of representations being made to him of a tendency to tumult and riot existing there. His Lordship having been led to believe that things on the Island were in a much worse state than they really were, had brought with him a number of men belonging to the Preventive Service, and also some soldiers, thirty men altogether. ³⁰³

Monday, 6th December

The men from the Preventive Service and the soldiers brought to the Isle of Wight by Lord Malmesbury yesterday, left today as it seems their services are not required. His Lordship will attend the meeting of the Magistrates today and leave the Island tomorrow.

Nearly £300 pounds has been collected for the relief of the poor of the Island during the coming winter, and distribution of Coals will take place next week. ³⁰⁴

At an adjourned meeting of the County Magistrates and Gentlemen held today at the Town Hall, Southampton, a return of persons to be sworn in special constables was made. However it has been reported that a great number of them refused to be sworn, on the ground that there was no longer any apprehension of a disturbance, where the wages of the labouring classes had been raised, as this measure had perfectly satisfied them, and taken away all cause for alarm. The magistrates are,

³⁰¹ TNA – HO52/7 f176-178

³⁰² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830. NOTE: This possible refers to James Martin who was involved in demolishing the Headley Poor House, amongst other offences

³⁰³ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

³⁰⁴ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

however, proceeding with the greatest activity to put the county in a respectable state of defence.³⁰⁵

A lad, named Richard Hexter, was committed for trial at the Special Assizes, on a charge of sending a threatening letter to Mr W. Lang, a Portsmouth Wine Merchant. The letter threatened that his premises would be on fire "next week".³⁰⁶

The following notice, dated 6th December, relating to the Special Commission of Assize for the county, appeared in the Hampshire papers.³⁰⁷

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF ASSIZE

FOR HAMPSHIRE.

NOTICE is hereby given, - That a Special Commission of Assize and Gaol Delivery for the County of Southampton, will be holden at the Castle of Winchester, on Saturday the 18th day of December instant; and that at such Commission of Assize *such Prisoners only will be tried* as shall be in custody or on bail to answer for any offence *arising out of the Riots and Tumults* which lately existed in this county; and that no other prisoners committed for trial at the ordinary Lent Assizes, or General Quarter Sessions, will be tried at such Special Assize.

And Notice is hereby further given, - That all Jurors, Bailiffs, and others concerned, are required to give their attendance at the Castle of Winchester, on Monday the 20th day of December instant, punctually at nine o'clock in the forenoon, otherwise they will be fined.

Dated this 6th day of December, 1830.

EDWARD HOPKINS, Under sheriff

Today's edition of the *Hampshire Telegraph* reported that Winchester and its neighbourhood had remained quiet since their last publication. A few prisoners are occasionally brought in from distant places, and the military guards remain at the Gaol and Bridewell. The special constables have not lately been called upon, and apart from the above circumstances, and the expectation of the Special Commission for the trial of the rioters now in custody (nearly 200 in all), there is no indication of any disturbance past, present, or to come. The Commission is expected in about a fortnight. It is said that yeomanry corps are forming at Stratton and Hursley, but nothing is yet done towards the formation of any volunteer force in Winchester. Some anonymous handbills have been issued for a meeting with that view, but they met with no attention.³⁰⁸

This morning the two troops of the 2nd regiment of Life Guards, which have been stationed in Winchester for a short time, marched to Basingstoke, where they halted for the night. They will proceed to Blackwater tomorrow and arrive at Windsor on Wednesday. The detachment from the 47th, commanded by Captain Pennycuick, also left Winchester for Portsmouth today. The head-quarters of the South-West District, which were removed to Winchester in consequence of the late disturbances, have returned to Portsmouth, the presence of Sir Colin Campbell and his Staff being no longer necessary in this neighbourhood, and the public services requiring their attendance at Portsmouth.³⁰⁹

³⁰⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 December 1830

³⁰⁶ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

³⁰⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830. *Hampshire Telegraph*, 20 December 1830

³⁰⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

³⁰⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

Sir Theophilus Lee wrote to Lord Melbourne from The Elms, Bedhampton with some suggestions respecting the Chelsea Pensioners.³¹⁰

*The Elms, Bedhampton
in Havant. 6th Decr 1830*

My Lord,

*I took the liberty some weeks since, to suggest to the Duke of Wellington, the idea of having the great number of Military Pensioners in this Kingdom, called on to enrol themselves in the several districts wherein they reside. I considered such a force which I believe exceeds 130,000 men, of inestimable value, as a Nucleus around which, Volunteers might rally in case of need, the great drawback to Pensioners coming forward even as special Constables is a want of Confidence & the fear of retribution from the Mob. If but 50 or 100 Pensioners according to extent of the District, were to be assembled and formed under one or two Half Pay Officers or a Staff, a sufficient Number of Volunteers from the Tradesmen, & lower classes, would (now?) immediately rally round such a point of support. It would also be the means of keeping Pensioners minds in a proper mode of feeling; taking the Soldier of the Regular Army the Marines &; I feel assured the Pensioners greatly exceed the No. I have taken them at. The Circular which I have this Morn^g received, calling upon these People, to assist the Magistrates to keep the Peace when called on, will do no more than the Magistrates could themselves effect, such a Bill posted up, all will plead Ignorance of, but if Lists were made out at Chelsea Hosp^l & the Navy Pay Office, showing where the Pensioners reside in the various districts, & subdividing such Lists by the Clerks of the Peace of the Counties & sending them to the several Magistrates residing in each Place, shewing then, by what No. of Pensioners they are surrounded: & their Names, then, the Plan now adopted might in some Degree be beneficial, at present the Bill now planned sent from the Secy of Chelsea Hosp^l will be useless; but the only efficient Plan is to direct all these Men to the support of the State by whom they are so liberally Pensioned otherwise, a very few of such fellows, so well trained to arms, would soon render the Peasantry very formidable, & would once they are so amalgamated it will be too late to do what I propose. Circular Letters from Chelsea & Navy Pay Office to each Pensioner (where their addresses are all known) dictating them on pain of forfeiting their Pension, to present themselves before a neighbouring Magistrate to be sworn in as Special Constable, even if the Gov^t sh^d not think them fit, to assemble them in Bodies, as I have proposed, would be desirable, each Magistrate keeping the Names & address of each Pensioner so sworn in; one man who has been a Sergt might have such List, & be held responsible to call on the Persons specified in his List whenever required. Whether these Men should be armed (& if so how?) or not, I leave entirely to yr Lordships Judgement. * of course materially defeat the *³¹¹ had not some kind of weapons, wherewith to defend themselves. I beg to apologies for this Intrusion & I have the Honor to remain*

My Lord

Yr Lordship's

faithful humble Servant

J. Theophilus Lee

If the Naval Pensioners nr 30,000 in No. were also called on it might be double & the Pension stopped if there not forthcoming

Today's edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle* includes some details of the arrangements for the forthcoming Special Assize.

His Majesty's Commission for holding a Special Assize for Hampshire will be opened on Saturday the 18th December, when Mr Baron Vaughan, Sir James Parke, and Sir Edward Hall Alderson, will arrive in Winchester, and proceed to the Castle for that purpose. Their Lordships will on Sunday attend divine service at the Cathedral, and on Monday will enter upon their judicial functions in separate Courts. The Attorney General is expected to attend. The Magistrates who were selected to investigate the cases, at the meeting held at the Grand Jury Chamber on 25th November, have been daily employed in hearing evidence, and have placed the offences in five different classes, viz. – incendiaries, robbers and extorters of money, machine breakers, rioters, and

³¹⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f178-181

³¹¹ * a piece has been torn from the page in these two places

common assaults, from the latter of which they have detained chiefly the principal ringleaders and abettors. The number now in the gaol exceeds 200. And many warrants are daily issued for the apprehension of numerous principals not yet in custody.³¹²

W. Hearn, Clerk to the Newport Magistrates wrote to Lord Melbourne enclosing copies of the orders issued by the magistrates of the Island to the Special Constables.³¹³

*Guildhall – Newport
Isle of Wight
December 6th 1830*

My Lord,

I have it in Command from the magistrates for this Island to enclose your Lordship Copies of the Orders issued by them to the Special Constables which they trust will meet your Lordship's approval.

I have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordships'
most obedient &
Humble Servant*

*W. Hearn
CPS*

*The Viscount
Melbourne*

The Duke of Wellington, as Lord Lieutenant, has written to many gentlemen of the county, who have offered to raise volunteer Yeomanry Corps. Sir Thomas Baring and Sir William Heathcote have exerted themselves very successfully in their respective neighbourhoods. John Fleming, Esq. has already mustered a troop; two companies are forming in the Vale of Avon; the Ringwood Troop is to be commanded by J. Mills, Esq. of Bisterne; the Christchurch Troop by Viscount Fitzharris; and many other gentlemen are following their example.³¹⁴

The Inhabitants of Fareham have formed and organised a large constabulary force of horse and foot to preserve the public peace, and have divided them into sections, according to the recommendations of the Home Secretary, under conductors. They have also come to a resolution to pay their able labourers 12s. per week.

It has been suggested to the Secretary for the Home Department, that to give due effect to the sentences of transportation at the approaching Special Commission, the convicted culprits should immediately be banished.³¹⁵

The following notice, written, on the 2nd December by some of the inhabitants of Fawley appeared in today's edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle*.³¹⁶

We, the Gentry, Yeomanry, and peaceable inhabitants of the parish of Fawley, take this opportunity of returning our sincere thanks to the Magistrates of this district for their services in quelling the riotous proceedings on Friday the 26th ult. In doing so, we cannot pass over in silence the feeling of gratitude we possess towards the Right Hon the Earl of Cavan, for the very decided, temperate, humane, and indefatigable manner in which his Lordship particularly exerted himself in endeavouring to restore peace and tranquillity in the breasts of those at that period riotously inclined.

We must acknowledge with gratitude the daily, as well as nocturnal, exertions of Andrew Robert Drummond, Esq. and Luke Dodds, Esq. and also to the Right Hon. Sir George Rose, and Henry Combe Compton, Esq. must we exhibit the same sense of feeling, for their great kindness in so promptly rendering us such inestimable services.

³¹² *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

³¹³ TNA – HO52/7 f251-255

³¹⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

³¹⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

³¹⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 6 December 1830

Nor must we omit to declare our heartfelt thanks for the assistance and forbearance of Lieut. Blake, of the 47th regiment, and his men; also to Lieut. Hill, and those under his command, of the Coast Guard station.

We close this declaration of gratitude with the hope that the assistance of the above individuals may never again be required in so disgraceful a scene, and that those who were the instigators of so unlawful a proceeding may maturely reflect upon the impropriety of their late conduct, and in future act with becoming humility towards the Magistrates, and those persons under whom they may individually serve, and not hastily plunge themselves and families into ruin by conducting themselves in so disgraceful, insulting, and riotous a manner, particularly when warned with a patient explanation of the evil consequences attending such conduct.

Fawley, Dec. 2, 1830.

It has been reported that Mr Drummond, of Cadlands, intends to make a reduction of twenty-five per cent. at his next Rent Audit; and the Honourable and Reverend Thomas De Grey, of the same parish, will reduce his tithes in proportion.
³¹⁷

The Isle of Wight has been for some days past in a state of excitement, rather from the apprehension of possible riots amongst the labouring classes, than from any overt acts of violence. Threatening letters have been received by several of the farmers, in consequence of which, the threshing machines have been generally disused. Symptoms of discontent made their appearance during the last week amongst the paupers employed on the Forest Farm, and at one time an actual strike took place, and they left their work for the purpose of visiting some neighbouring farmers. They however, after a little confusion, returned to their work. The statement contained in the *Hampshire Chronicle* of last week, that they were pacified by a promised advance of wages, is erroneous. No concession has taken place to any violent demands, but an addition to their wages was made last week by the Guardians of the Poor, in consequence of an advance in the price of bread in the town of Newport. With the present arrangement they have expressed themselves satisfied; and as the labourers employed by the farmers are generally very well contented, we have reason to believe that the Island will remain in its present tranquillity. Proper precautions have however been taken by the Magistrates to repress any disposition to disturbance; special constables have been sworn in different parts of the Island; and a public meeting was held on Saturday last, at which the great body of respectable inhabitants by a public resolution expressed their willingness and desire to co-operate with the Magistrates in such measures as they might think it right to adopt for the preservation of good order. Regretfully, however, it is stated that fires have taken place in the last week, which it seems are to be contributed to the incendiary system. A hay-rick, belonging to Mr Tucker, of Newport, was set on fire on Saturday night last, and totally destroyed. The inhabitants of the town were called from their beds by an alarm of the fire-bell, the engines were immediately got ready, and every exertion made to stop the progress of the flames, but without success. Two men are in custody on strong suspicions of having been concerned in it. A hay-stack belonging to the Very Reverend the Dean of Ely, at Freshwater, and a threshing machine belonging to Mr Richard Harvey, at Rookley, were wilfully destroyed by fire on Sunday night; and an unsuccessful attempt was made, on the same night, to set fire to a corn stack at Gatehouse Farm, near Ryde. The Magistrates are using every exertion to discover the offenders; and there seems little doubt, from the insular situation of the Island, and the great difficulty of escape, that the guilty parties will soon be brought to justice. Large rewards have been offered for their discovery, in addition to those already offered by Government. Strong suspicions are afloat that attempts to excite disturbance have been made by agents from the other side of the water. Rewards have been offered and measures taken for the apprehension of such offenders.
³¹⁸

Tuesday, 7th December

³¹⁷ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

³¹⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 6 December 1830

Thomas Sewell and William Hearn, of Shanklin in the Isle of Wight received the following letter today:

'Pseudo Gentlemen

Woe unto you also you lawyers! for ye lade people with burdens grievous to be any longer bourne, again I say unto you lawyers! for you have taken away the kee of knowledge: ye enter not in yourselves and them that were entering in ye hindered.- defend the poor; relieve the oppressed. If our unhappy wrongs are not speedily redressed vengeance will have its course, at the expense of your loss and destruction.
From Yours etc etc
an Anti Pettifogger

and advocate for the rights
of the oppressed Poor'

Sir Henry Wright Wilson wrote to the Home Office to report on the state of his neighbourhood. ³¹⁹

The Andover Magistrates wrote to Lord Melbourne to ask if it was necessary to have two Justices of the Peace present at the swearing in of Special Constables. ³²⁰

My Lord,

A question having been raised before the Bench of Magistrates acting for the Andover Division of this County whether the presence of two Justices of the peace be necessary to administer the Oath to the Special Constables to be organised under the direction conveyed in your Circular letter said as much delay and inconvenience would be obviated by the performance of that duty by a single Justice after the necessity of the measure shall have been proved to the satisfaction of the whole Bench. We shall be glad to be favoured with your instructions on this point as we meet with considerable difficulty from the reluctance on the part of the farmers to come forward or be sworn in out of the respective parishes.

We have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Your Lordship's most
Obedient Serts*

Lanc^t G Halton

JW Pollen

E W Blunt

The following notice appeared in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of 11th December 1830. ³²¹

³¹⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f183-185

³²⁰ TNA – HO52/7 f189-191

³²¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 December 1830

To the Inhabitants of Southampton and its Neighbourhood, and the Yeomanry of Eling, Totton, Nursling, Redbridge, and Marchwood.

A Season of comparative calmness is the proper period to take measures to ensure tranquillity for the future.

It is proposed, in consequence of the late Resolutions at Winchester, to re-organize the Southampton and Eling Troops of Yeomanry Cavalry.

The Old Officers of the above Squadron trust, that on this occasion, they may fully depend upon the zeal of their Comrades, and of all good men and trust everyone at the present crisis should be active and vigilant, and remember, that in times like these "England expects every Man to do his duty."

Those Gentlemen and Yeomen who are desirous of joining the said Troops, will be good enough to send their Names to Mr MOODY, 8, Hanover Buildings; or Mr HULTON, Bevis Mount, Southampton, on or before the First of January.

Southampton, 7th December, 1830.

Wednesday, 8th December

Mr William Baldwin wrote to Lord Melbourne, from Ringwood to ask how the cost of the proceedings against the Prisoners were to be defrayed. ³²²

Ringwood 8th December 1830

My Lord,

As Clerk to the Magistrates of this Division I have been constantly occupied with three or four Clerks during the last ten day, in taking proceedings against nearly forty rioters, committed to our County Gaol, from this neighbourhood, and having received instructions from the Clerk of the Peace to forward him, the same, and the requisite information to enable him to prepare his Briefs, I am desired on behalf of the Prosecutors to request your Lordship will be pleased to state how the costs of the proceedings against the Prisoners, will be defrayed.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

*your Lordship's obt hble Ser^t
W^m. Baldwin*

*Right hon^{ble} the
Secretary of State
for the Home Department
Office London*

A very well attended meeting of the occupiers of land in the neighbourhood of Stockbridge took place today at the *Grosvenor Arms Inn*, Stockbridge. The purpose of the meeting was to take into consideration the propriety of raising the wages of the labourers, and a scale of wages was agreed to. It was, however, the conviction that the majority of the occupiers of land could not continue to pay the increase in wages without a reduction of rent, tithes, and taxes. ³²³

Today Lord Melbourne issued the following circular to County Magistrates. ³²⁴
Whitehall, 8th December 1830.

Sir, I am commanded by his Majesty to lose no time in acquainting you, that it has been observed, with great regret, that the justices of the peace and others have,

³²² TNA – HO72/7 f185-186

³²³ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

³²⁴ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

in many instances, under the influence of threats and intimidation, and the apprehension of violence and outrage, advised the establishment of a uniform rate of wages to be paid for labour in their respective neighbourhoods, and have also, from the motives, in many instances recommended the discontinuance of the employment of machines used for threshing out corn, and for other purposes.

Reason and experience concur in proving that a compliance with demands so unreasonable in themselves, and urged in such a manner, can only lead, and probably within a very short period of time, to the most disastrous results; and that the tranquillity which is obtained by concessions grounded upon principles so erroneous, is likely to be of very transient duration.

The justices of peace must be aware that they are invested with no general legal authority to settle the amount of wages of labour; and any interference in such a matter can only have the effect of exciting expectations which must be disappointed, and ultimately producing, in an aggravated degree, a renewed spirit of discontent and insubordination.

Upon the second point it is only necessary to observe, that these machines are as much entitled to the protection of the law as any other description of property, and that the course which has been taken of prescribing or recommending the discontinuance of them, is, in fact, to connive at, or rather to assist in the establishment of, a tyranny of the most oppressive character.

His Majesty's Government are fully sensible that allowance is to be made for the new and difficult circumstances in which Magistrates have been placed by the recent disturbances which have occurred in various parts of the kingdom; but under no difficulty, nor in any extremity, ought principles so contrary to the general interests of the community, and so injurious more especially to the welfare of those who have been deluded into the commission of these offence, to be recognized, still less to be sanctioned, by persons in authority, whose duty it is at all hazards to maintain the authority of the law, and to secure the liberty of the subject.

His Majesty's Government feel deeply for the sufferings and privations which have of late years pressed, and still continue to press upon the labouring classes of the community. They are anxious to adopt as speedily as possible every practicable and reasonable measure for their alleviation; but they are also entirely convinced that these sufferings will only be increased and protracted by a course of concessions to violence and tumult.

It is my duty, therefore, to recommend in the strongest manner, that for the future all Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates will oppose a firm resistance to all demand of the nature above described more especially when accompanied with violence and menace; and that they will deem it their duty to maintain and uphold the rights of property of every description against violence and aggression.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient Servant.

MELBOURNE.

Thursday, 9th December

Lord Yarborough wrote to Lord Melbourne from Newport, to acknowledge receipt of his Lordship's Circular, and to report that no riots have taken place. ³²⁵

Guildhall Newport Isle of Wight
December 9th 1830

My Lord

On behalf of my Brother Magistrates acting within this Island (as well as myself) I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Circular of yesterday's date and your Lordship will allow us to express our most perfect concurrence in and approbation of the sentiments thereby conveyed.

As Magistrates we have felt it our Duty to resist every attempt at intimidation and have in every instance left Farmers to exercise their own discretion as to the use of Thrashing Machines many have discontinued working them - others are now working machinery and some of the latter have done so at the entreaty of their own Labourers.

The Enclosed Resolutions will best show the general feeling of the respectable part of the community here.

³²⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f187-189. NOTE: Resolutions not enclosed

I have great pleasure to add that no actual Riot has hitherto taken place in the Island and we are inclined to believe that the active measures of the Magistracy aided by the Special Constables have in great degree contributed to the preservation of the public peace.

We are sitting daily to receive and act on all Communications and we confidently rely on your Lordships support and continuance with reference to the strong and on other occasion's unusual means which it is necessary to adopt.

*I have the Honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's
Most faithful and
Obedient Servant
Yarborough
Chairman of the Bench of
Magistrates*

*The Viscount Melbourne
&c &c &c*

At a Petty Sessions, held at Romsey today, Thomas Scoates and Joseph Dennett, were committed to Winchester to take their trial at the approaching Special Assizes, charged with being concerned in the late riots in the neighbourhood. Five other men were held to bail to appear if called on.³²⁶

Sir Thomas Baring wrote to Lord Melbourne to give information as to the state of the Police in Winchester.³²⁷

Dear Lord Melbourne

General Sir Collin Campbell the Commander of the forces at Portsmouth who has been here during the last fortnight with his staff in consequence of the disturbed state of this part of the Country, and who is about to leave Winchester, has previous to his departure addressed a letter to the Mayor of Winchester desiring to be informed what preparations had been made or what measures the City magistrates had it in contemplation to adopt for the preservation of the peace of the Town when upon the termination of the Judicial Proceedings it would be necessary for the military to be withdrawn. The letter of the Gen^l and the answer by the Mayor, which I have seen, have been forwarded by Sir Collin Campbell to London and will be submitted to you through the regular channel. I have therefore been requested by some of the magistrates of the County, who have taken an active part in suppressing the riots, privately to communicate to you some (?) and (?) relating to the police of Winchester and more especially of the condition in which it now is, the better to enable you to determine upon the measures most desirable & expedient to be adopted.

Winchester, altho' containing larger numbers of abandoned & dangerous characters in proportion to its population than any Town in the Kingdom, is also the most inefficient & defective in its police, being under the government of a set of men, with one or two exceptions only, little better than old women – not so the principal inhabitants who voluntarily came forward and enrolled themselves as Special Constables as soon as the danger from the rioters began to manifest itself, and who I am persuaded would continue to act so long as their services might be considered useful in preserving the peace. But the Mayor (who by the bye is a Brewer and no doubt would be glad to keep the military in the Town for the beer they drink) urges the General to keep the military in the Town for its security after the Judges have left telling him that the Special Constables must be discharged upon the expiration of the time for which they were enrolled, and that power to swear in others. I entertain very little doubt, and it is also the opinion of other Magistrates with whom I have conferred upon the subject, that unless there shall be a strong constabulary force retained for some time after the Judges leave the Town that the riots will recommence in Winchester. We have near 200 prisoners, and many cases of a very bad description. There will no doubt be some executions and a very considerable number of the offenders transported, and until all the latter have been removed and for a short time

³²⁶ Hampshire Telegraph, 13 December 1830; NOTE: The names of the two men are given as Seates and Dennett, Seates is named as Scoates in the Calendar of Prisoners

³²⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f194-198

after considerable excitement will prevail and tumult must be guarded against. Even tho' County Magistrates will take care of any prisoners and that nothing happens within the walls of our prison; but it is the duty of the City Magistrates to take every necessary precaution against our being attacked by the people of the Town and from the interviews which we have had with the Mayor who proposes even less spirit than has been I am persuaded that anything short of a very forceful letter from your office will have any effect or do any good. Excuse my troubling you I wished to put you in possession of all I have leaving you to act as you may think proper and you may rely upon it that under all circumstances there will be no want of energy on the part of the County Magistrates I am happy to say that we have apprehended nearly the whole of the ringleaders of the different mobs and I may add that this part of the Country is now free from all danger of riots. I hope also of incendiaries from which the vigilance adopted has I believe hither to with one or two exceptions preserved us.

Should you favour me with a reply to this I shall be obliged to direct to you to me Stratton Park nr Winchester

I remain

Dear Lord Melbourne

Your faithfully

Th^s Baring

Gaol Winchester
9 Decr 1830

Friday, 10th December

The Reverend Dr Newbolt wrote to Lord Melbourne to state the circumstances under which he addressed a mob at Stratton in a conciliatory manner. ³²⁸

Winchester
Decr 10th 1830

My Lord,

Seeing by the papers of this day that a Circular is sent from your Office to all Magistrates, reflecting in a very strong manner upon those, who have addressed an illegal assemblage of people in a conciliatory manner in order to disperse them; and as I feel that I fall under your displeasure on this account, I must beg to state to you the circumstances under which I was placed, when I so acted, & when I trust that you will have the candour to allow, that I not only did my duty as a Magistrate, under the exciting circumstances in which I was placed, but that I did it discreetly.

On the 19 of Nov: between the hour of one & two I was informed as a M. that there was an immense mob of people about 1400 assembled at Sir T. Barings at Stratton destroying every thing they could lay hold of & that his house was in danger. I immediately order a Post Chaise, (for I am such a Cripple from an accident, that I cannot ride on horseback, or walk without the assistance of a Crutch) & told the driver to make the best of his way to Stratton; but they had quitted that place before I arrived there, & I followed them to Sutton, where I arrived just as they entered Mr Wickham's premises - the first I saw was Mr. W "when he said to me let them alone, they will only break my thrashing machine, & then they will depart. I then addressed some of the Ringleaders, I asked them what they wanted, one answered 12^s a week for a married man & two children. Mr W & some other Farmers who were there said they were willing to give it. The married men then began to move off, when I said you must promise me not to do any more mischief, & not to come on to Winchester tomorrow to destroy the Bridewell (which they had before said they would do) but return to your work, this they promised to do & preformed it - the single men then said now you must settle for us, when I said that I see that in Sussex, the single men receive 6^s a week when one of them with a tremendous oath said "you shall not leave this spot till you have ordered us 9^s a week; at this time they had hold of the door of my carriage, some of them with sledge hammers in their hands, & very much intoxicated with liquor; I then turned to Mr Wickham & the other Farmers & they said we will give them the 9 shillings; they then began to disperse, & I returned to this place - this was the first rising in this County therefore I had no president to follow.

Since that time I have had the satisfaction of hearing from Mr Wickham that I arrived just in time to save his property from destruction; and that I left his place just in time to save my own life, as some of the mob had it in contemplation to drag me out of the carriage & destroy me on the spot, & it was entirely owing to the interference of

³²⁸ TNA – HO52/7 f191-194

some of the better disposed of the Peasants that my life was preserved. The result of my contribution was the population of eight parishes returning to their manual labour, & they have continued so ever since.

My conduct has been considered by the whole of the population of this place, as the means of saving this City from plunder & ruin, as at the time the mob contemplated to enter this City we had not a Soldier here, or a Special Constable sworn in, & their numbers would have been at least 2000 - it is very gratifying to my feelings to have had an unanimous vote of thanks transmitted to be from a very large public meeting at this place for my conduct.

I trust my Lord that when you have read this statement that you will be inclined to admit, that under existing circumstances, I could not have acted otherwise.

I have for the last 27 years of my life been most actively employed in this place as a Magistrate for the County, & frequently the only one in it - during which period I have twice been near to losing my life in dispersing a mob, once I had every window in my house destroyed by a lawless rabble.

I am your Lordship's
Ob^t Ser^t WH Newbolt D.D.

Magistrate for the County of Hants

The Rt Hon^{ble}
Lord Melbourne

John Ingram Lockhart wrote to Lord Melbourne from Sherfield House to report his concerns about the deficiency of acting Magistrates in the lower half of the Hundred of Thorngate.³²⁹

My Lord,

I beg to state for your Lordships information, that in the lower half Hundred of Thorngate Hants there is a deficiency of the acting Magistrates on an area of about forty miles square.

C. B. Wall Esqr	MP attending Parliament
James Blunt Esqr	old & very ill & infirm
George Lovell Esqr	eighty years of age

I am next acting Magistrate but it is impossible for me to extend my efforts over a space or tract of Land reaching from Romsey to Andover in one direction.

The resident Gentlemen in the above half hundred of Thorngate are

Not Magistrates	{Sir Richard Pleshett K ^t of Mottisfont House
	{The Rev ^d Dooley St John of Mottisfont
	{Rev ^d Mr Barker of Longparish
	Francis Bailey Esqr Tytherley & Lockerly House
Joseph Tomkyns Esqr Broughton	

During the sittings of the Special Commission not a Magistrate will be left in his district all except the Clergy are summoned on the Grand Jury. I feel the Labourers will rise again at Broughton demanding twelve shillings instead of ten lately conceded to them, one of the principal Inhabitants of Broughton is now with me and states that they were now deliberating whether they shall make a request for the aid of military stationed now at Winchester, he is to send me an express tomorrow, and as it is supposed if they assemble again it will be on Monday next. I shall take steps to prevent it by assembling such of our special constables as are sworn in (some mounted) & join the special Constables at Broughton and disperse the rioters if any.

Broughton has a Population of 900 souls - is an open village in an open country.

I am my Lord
Your Lordships
most obedient
& faithful Servant
J.I. Lockhart

Sherfield House Decr 10 1830

Right Honble
Lord Viscount Melbourne
&c &c &c

My Lord I beg leave to add that Sir Wm Stentherle Mr Eyre Mr Shorley & Col. Balkley, who are of the Romsey petty Sessions, are (consistantly?) occupied in restoring public

³²⁹ TNA – HO52/7 f204-205

tranquillity but all of them live at a much greater distance from the tract of Country alluded to than myself. This tract comprises the Parishes of Michelmersh Mottisfont Lockerly East & West Tytherley Broughton Shorebridge Winterslow & Clatford. Mr Bethel Cox a magistrate resides at Quarley but that is in Wilts & we shall lose him during the Special Commission as a grand Juryman

The inhabitants of Christchurch assembled today to devise some means of employment for the labouring poor during the winter. The Reverend William Francis Burroughs, vicar, presided. It was recommended that land should be rented by the parish, on which labourers should be employed; and that owners and occupiers should let portions of land at a reasonable rent, to such cottagers as have not gardens. Approbation was expressed of the plan adopted by the Select Vestry of adequately remunerating the poor employed by the parish for their labour, rather than giving them a limited subsistence. A subscription was entered into to supply fuel at a reduced rate; and it was resolved that any attempt to fix a rate of wages would be worth nothing, as different arrangements are often made, even between individuals in the same parish; but it was hoped that, in all cases, sufficient would be given to remunerate the poor man for his labour. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Earl of Malmesbury for his valuable assistance.³³⁰

George Hollis wrote to Lord Melbourne from Winchester to draw his attention to a new publication entitled "Common Sense" which he believes should be drawn to the attention of the Attorney General.³³¹

Winchester
10th Decr 1830

My Lord,

I trust that I shall be pardoned for this Intrusion on your Lordship, when, in Times like the present, every loyal Subject's Attention must be drawn to the seditious & dangerous Attacks on the Happiness & Welfare of the People by a most Licentious Press. If your Lordship should not have seen it before, I beg leave to point out for your Observation a most seditious and dangerous Publication under the captivating Title of "Common Sense" the first Number of which was published on Saturday the 20th ulto by H. Poplett N^o.8. Prince's Street, Barbican; and which contains generally such sentiments as must loosen if not breach the Bonds of Society; and particularly the one in the 3rd Page, with the Signature R} and the one that follows it in the 4th Page.

To the former, I think that the Attorney General should have his Attention called, and that he will see the Author of it to be punishable.

The Writer, or Writers, in this paper must be Persons of the basest and most dangerous Character, and are most likely and deeply engage in the wicked and destructive Acts that have been for some Time past, and still are pursued; and I beg leave to submit to your Lordship, that it may be worth the while to find this Printer's Price to discover who they are, I have again to apologise for this Intrusion; and, I have not the Honor to be known to your Lordship, to state that I have been upwards of 20 years undersheriff of the County, and am well known to Lord Palmerston. I have the Honor to be

My Lord

*Y^r Lordship's
faithful & obedient Servant
Geo. Hollis*

P.S. I had the Honor to address 2 Letters to Sir Rob^t Peel, a very short Time before the Disturbances broke out in this County, the Approach of this I saw; and one of my Suggestions that of placing the Arms of the Militia in safety, was adopted.

These Letters may, probably, have been handed over to your Lordship.

If your Lordship cannot meet with one of the Papers that I have referred to, I will send the one that I have

*The Right Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Melbourne
One of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State &c &c*

³³⁰ Hampshire Chronicle, 13 December 1830

³³¹ TNA – HO52/7 f198-200

Saturday, 11th December

The following prisoners have been committed to the County Goal during this week: William Langford, for stealing a portmanteau-case, at Martyr Worthy; Charles Bryant, for breaking a threshing machine, at Droxford; John Trimming, for compelling the Reverend Mr Cobbold to sign a paper, purporting that he would take but a certain sum annually for tithes at Selborne; Charles Guyatt, for attempting to steal fowls at Mitcheldever; Charles Goddard, for stealing four bushels of barley at Alton; John Cain, for a riot at Stockbridge; John Brown, for the same offence and extorting money at Stockbridge; Joseph Dennett and Thomas Scoates for the same offence at Stockbridge.³³²

The work of charity in providing coals for the poor is commencing. At Millbrook, this week, a liberal collection having been made by Mrs Captain Bligh and Mr W. Cobden, the poor of that parish to the number of 200 and upwards, will each be supplied with eight or nine bushels of coals. The example will doubtless be generally followed.³³³

The Isle of Wight appears to have resumed its usual peace, with not the least appearance of any riot. Two people have been taken into custody, on suspicion of having set fire to the hay-rick on Hunny Hill, belonging to Mr Tucker.³³⁴

To prevent any misconception the Magistrates of the Andover Division have, this week, had an address printed and circulated, in which they declare that they have no authority to fix a scale of wages, their power being limited to receive complaints from labourers out of employ, and to relieve the aged and infirm, and children whose parents are not enabled, by reason of insufficiency of wages, to maintain them. The Magistrates recommend the allotments of small parcels of land, at easy rents, and express a desire, in their private capacity, to give assistance as mediators between the occupiers of land and labourers, when called on without tumult and disorder. They will never cease to recommend to landlords and clergy, as well as occupiers, to unite in making such sacrifices as will better enable the poor to enjoy the necessities of life.³³⁵

Sunday, 12th December

John Ingram Lockhart, of Sherfield House, wrote two letters to Lord Melbourne today. In the first he expressed again his concerns that as every magistrate for the County had been summoned as Grand Jurors for the opening of the Court on the 20th December he feared this could lead to further disturbance.³³⁶
My Lord,

I had the honor in my last to mention to your Lordship that I believe every Magistrate in this County will be summoned on the Grand Jury, for nine o'clock on Monday the 20th instant. I fear that the absence of so many Gentlemen from their ordinary discharge of their duties as Magistrates will afford the discontented an opportunity to more disturbance by way of diversion in their respective Parishes in favour of Parties in Gaol, & with a view to their rescue – if a portion of the Magistracy could be discharged immediately on Monday from their attendance as Grand Jurors, I think it would be a very desirable arrangement.

*I am My Lord
Your Lordship's*

most obedient & faithful Servant

J. I. Lockhart

*Dec 12 1830. Sherfield House
Romsey*

*To
The Right Honourable*

³³² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 13 December 1830

³³³ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 December 1830

³³⁴ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 December 1830

³³⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

³³⁶ TNA – HO52/7 f202

*Lord Melbourne H. M. P S. of State Home Department
&c &c &c*

In his second letter Mr Lockhart enclosed a letter he had received from Phillip Emmott of Broughton, which had been written on 12th December.³³⁷

My Lord,

I enclose a letter from Broughton. Mr Shenley & myself will proceed to this village by day light tomorrow morning with such a force as to put down all resistance – the discontent of these men arisen from these impudent concessions which your Lordship so justly condemns – the farmers have not been able to carry into effect the forced agreement for 12^s. per week for weekly wages.

I shall inform your Lordship of the result of our proceedings tomorrow.

I remain your Lordships

most faithful & obedient Servant

J I Lockhart

Sherfield House

Romsey

Hampshire

The Right Honourable

Lord Viscount Melbourne

*H.M. P. Secretary of State
for the Home Department*

Sherfield House

Dec 12. 1830

(Letter sent to Mr Lockhart by Philip Emmott of Broughton and enclosed in Mr Lockhart's letter to Lord Melbourne sent on 12th December.)

Broughton Dec 11th 1830

Dear Sir,

On my arrival home last evening I found by my Son there was every probability of a rising of my Labourers Monday morning. This morning I saw the Assistant Overseer, & Mr Boxom largest Farmer & Churchwarden, who both corroborated what my son inform'd me last night, of a rising Monday morning. We are of opinion that your attendance here on Monday morning would have very beneficial effect, & we should feel much obliged by your riding over & assisting us in your Magisterial capacity as you was so kind yesterday to say you would if danger was apparent, of which I have no doubt whatever. If we had an active resident Magistrate near, the men would not have dared to threaten another rising, look into your neighbourhood, there I found all quiet, through Tytherley, Lockerly, Sherfield, & Wellows, where your influence extended, Broughton on the contrary where there is no Gentleman to over awe them, is in a worse state than almost any other Parish, your attendance on Monday. I am convinced will put all right, we have 40 Special Constables sworn in, & staves made for them all

I remain

*Dear Sir
Your obliged humble St
Philip Emmott*

Monday, 13th December

A number of publications, relating to the labourers and the riots are advertised in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, dated 13th December 1830. They include, *Look before you Leap, or a few words from a Clergyman in a disturbed district to his Parishioners; Are Tithes a Burden to the Farmer?; A Plain Statement of the Case of the Labourer, for the Consideration of the Yeoman and Gentlemen of the Southern Districts of England; and Considerations on the Present State of the Peasantry of England, with Suggestions for the Improvement of their Condition* by Arthur Octavius Baker, Easton, near Winchester.

Preparations have been made in Winchester for the reception of the three judges, who will occupy the same bench. The prisoners for trial, are numerous, 220 at the latest count, and the offences of an aggravated nature. Every disturbed

³³⁷ TNA – HO52/7 f206-210

district, from where the prisoners have been committed, will be separately placed, and the numbers be included in the same indictment, which will expedite the business of the Assizes, which otherwise would have been protracted to a considerable length. The Magistrates, unto whom was delegated the task of investigating the various offences, have been engaged during the whole week. Great pains have been taken to discover the incendiary at Barton Stacey, but so far no positive clue has been obtained whereby that object could be effected.³³⁸

A copy of the Petition sent by the owners and occupiers of land and tithes in Hambledon to Mr John Fleming to present to Parliament on their behalf appeared in the Hampshire papers this week.³³⁹

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain
and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.*

*The Humble Petition of the Owners and Occupiers
of Land and Tithes in the Parish of Hambledon,
in the County of Hants,*

SHEWETH,

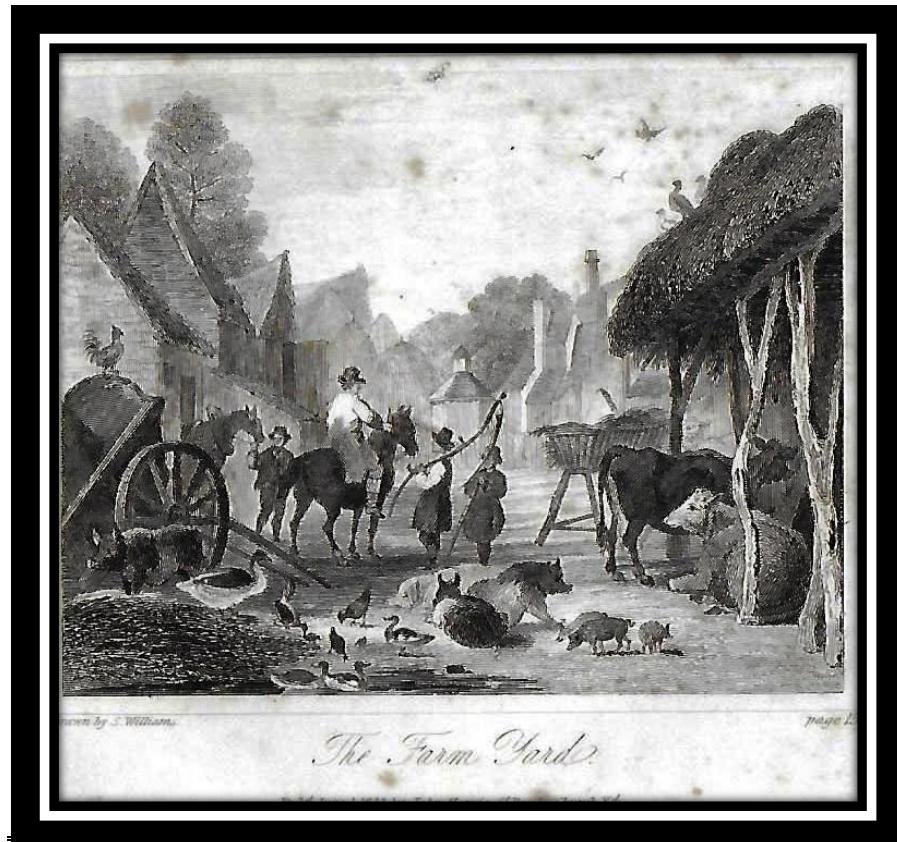
THAT the Labourers, who have for many years been reduced to a state too miserable for honest and laborious men to bear, have now, being unable to endure their sufferings longer, risen and demanded an augmentation of wages; that the Farmers are unable to comply with their demand without utter ruin to themselves, because the heavy taxes on the necessaries of life take from them the means of paying adequate wages; that the tax on malt, hops, tea, sugar, soap, candles, and many other things, augment the Labourer's expenses, and render high wages necessary to his existence and that of his family; that if these taxes were taken off, the Farmer would be able to pay wages sufficient to restore peace and good will with those he employs; that, therefore, your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to repeal the above named taxes, and all others that press on the necessities of life; and if others must substitute in their stead, to tax property and income, on a graduated scale, so that the burthen of taxation may fall on those who are able to bear it.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

<i>Thos. Butler</i>	<i>Henry Kennett</i>	<i>J. B. Cotman</i>
<i>Wm. Higgins</i>	<i>J. Goldsmith</i>	<i>Wm. Clewer</i>
<i>R. G. Richards</i>	<i>Wm. Horn</i>	<i>John Foster</i>
<i>John Bligh</i>	<i>Thomas Hatch</i>	<i>James Hatch</i>
<i>J. Foster, jun.</i>	<i>Samuel Martin</i>	<i>John Jarman</i>
<i>H. Hammond</i>	<i>J. Goldsmith, jun.</i>	<i>James Horn</i>
<i>Edward Hale</i>	<i>Wm. Newman</i>	<i>Thos. Merrett</i>

³³⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

³³⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 13 December 1830



24. The Farm Yard
 (The Farm. A New Account of Rural Toils and Produce)
 Jefferys Taylor, 1834

At the tithe audit held this week for the parish of Steep, near Petersfield, a reduction of 20 per cent. was required by the occupiers of land. The clergyman offered an abatement of 5 per cent., but this not being deemed sufficient to meet the exigencies of the times, the farmers returned without partaking of a feast provided on the occasion, or paying their tithes. A petition to the Legislature, praying for a revision of the Tithe Laws, was numerously signed. ³⁴⁰

Tuesday, 14th December

At about six o'clock this morning a wheat rick, containing about 15 loads of threshed wheat, belonging to Mr William King of Fullerton, in the parish of Wherwell, was discovered to be on fire. It was almost totally destroyed and is thought to have been the act of an incendiary. It seems that yesterday morning two genteel looking men, in a gig, passed through the village, and returned in the evening, a few hours before the fire was discovered. ³⁴¹

Wednesday, 15th December

Captain John Thompson wrote to Lord Melbourne, from Longparish, with information relating to the two Mason brothers who are now in custody at Winchester. He also enclosed a copy of a letter he had written to Lord Melville on the 10th November, together with a copy of the post script of a letter written by Robert Mason. ³⁴²

Longparish December 15th 1830

My Lord,

It has just come to my knowledge that two persons by the name if Mason (whose residence is at Bullington) are in custody at Winchester for being concern'd in the late

³⁴⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 13 December 1830

³⁴¹ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 20 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

³⁴² TNA – HO52/7 f233- 238

Riots, and as I think it possible that the enclos'd copy of the postscript of a letter might aid the prosecution of one of them by bringing forward Thomas Alexander (of this parish) to state the nature of the contents of the letter to which the postscript was attached.

I have the honour to enclose it as well as the copy of a letter I felt my duty to address to my Lord Melville as far back as the 10th of November, to which letter his Lordship did not think fit to reply.

I have only to add that the Robert Mason therein name'd is not a shoemaker but that he is a man of dissolute habits without being of any particular calling.

Your Lordship will perceive that my letter to the late first Lord of the Admiralty was dated the 10th of November. The riots took place here on the 19th of November.

I have the honour to be with great respect my Lord

Your Lordship's most obed^t Servant

Jn^o Thompson

Captain Royal Navy

To The Right Hon^{ble}
Lord Viscount Melbourne

Longparish Nov^r 10th 1830

My Lord

As I consider it to be the duty of every officer in the pay of H.M. Government to make a tender of his services in the present state of affairs. I take an early opportunity of respectfully addressing your Lordship not only as first Lord of the Admiralty. But as one of His Majesty's Ministers, to say that I am ready at a moments notice to serve my Country as a Sailor, a Soldier, or a Citizen.

Although this part of the Country is in an apparent state of quiet, I have reason to believe that the lower orders, (and some above the lower orders) are in a state ripe for any thing.

Attempts have been made in this parish to get together a meeting to petition the King for a redress of grievances, hitherto without effect, but as a specimen of what has been attempted, I enclose your Lordship the copy of a postscript to a letter, which I have in my possession, what the letter itself might have been I can only guess, but the person who wrote it I know something of and the one to whom it is addressed I also know, the former a shoemaker living at a neighbouring village, and the latter a person without any particular calling, and a ready tool to assist the disaffected.

I will not trespass further on your Lordships time by noticing the inefficient state of the civil power in this part of the Country as it would better come from those more competent to judge of it

I have the honor to be

&.

Jn^o Thompson

Captⁿ R.N.

To

The right Hon^{ble}
Lord Viscount Melville

(Enclosed copy)

Yours &c.

Rob^t Mason

P.S, since I wrote the above I have saw and talked with two persons who say "Bullington, Barton, and Sutton has sent a Petition, and why not Longparish, Hurstbourne and Wherwell send another." I think as much, to be sure if we had all signed one, one journey and expence would have served but what is expence? Why I would engage to carry a Petition and deliver it at St James's for 30 shillings, and to a place like Longparish what is that? If you do send one pray do not let Church property escape your notice. There is the church which cost Longparish I should think nearly 1,500£ yearly: yes and there is an old established Chaple which I will be bound does not cost 25£ annually. For God sake ----

(and here it becomes illegible it is addressed to Mr Alexander
Longparish)
Copy of the postscript of a letter in the possession of Captⁿ Thompson

Thursday, 16th December

The following people appeared at the Petty Sessions held at Romsey today: Thomas Stockley, beer retailer, at Mottisfont, for keeping open his house at improper hours, was fined 40s. George Porter, for assaulting Richard Southwell, at Ower, was fined £5. John Moody, for riot and obtaining 2 sovereigns from the Rev. Thomas Penton, at East Wellow; Charles Forder and Isaac Offer, for rioting and breaking Mr Box's machine at Broughton, were committed for trial. ³⁴³

During the night, a farm at Strathfieldsaye, the property of the Duke of Wellington, in the occupation of Mr J. Goddard, was discovered to be on fire, and was shortly, with other property to a large amount, entirely destroyed. Two strangers were seen about the premises at dusk. Considering the times, it seems strange that they were not taken into custody. The burnings appear to be the work of political incendiaries, to harass Government in their measures, and create such ends as will answer their own diabolical purposes. ³⁴⁴

Friday, 17th December

Farnham Castle, Dec. 17, 1830

DEAR SIR, - I request you will inform the parish officers and others interested in the relief of Upham and Durley, that I shall be willing to grant portions of such parts of the waste of the Manor of Bishop's Waltham, as may be within the tythings of Upham and Durley, respectively, to be placed in the hands of the trustees, for allotments to the poor, under certain conditions which will be hereafter specified; provided it appears after such inclosures, shall have been made, sufficiency of Common will remain for those who have rights of Herbarry and Turbary within the Manor.

I earnestly recommend this proposal to the early consideration of your two parishes; and, should it be accepted, I shall be ready to carry it into immediate execution, so far as depends on me, on your signifying to me the number of acres, on a rough calculation, of common land within the parishes.

I would suggest that it is extremely desirable, where practicable, to select portions of waste for cultivation in different parts of the parish, that the allotments may be as near as circumstance will allow, to the cottages of the poor whose benefit they are intended.

I am, &c.

G. WINTON.

The above letter appeared in the Hampshire Chronicle, on 27th December 1830.

Saturday, 18th December

The arrangements in the County Hall are now complete for the reception of the Learned Judges appointed to hold the Winchester Special Assizes, which will commence at nine o'clock on Monday morning next. This afternoon their Lordships will arrive in Winchester, accompanied by the High Sheriff, under a double escort of

³⁴³ Hampshire Chronicle, 20 December 1830

³⁴⁴ Hampshire Advertiser, 18 December 1830

javelin men, and a large body of special constables, constituted of respectable inhabitants, and immediately open the commission. Tomorrow they will attend Divine Service at the Cathedral.

The Calendar of Prisoners is now complete, and it appears there are 298 prisoners for trial. The trumpets have sounded for assembling the javelin men – the special constables are assembled – and the High Sheriff is preparing to meet the Judges, who are expected to arrive at three o'clock. It is said that the Attorney-General, Mr Gurney, and Mr Dampier are retained on the part of the Crown; and Mr Missing for the county. In consequence of several of the indictments containing charges of misdemeanours only, and the number of cases which will be defended by Counsel, the proceedings are expected to occupy a long time.. A portion of the ordinary prisoners have been removed to the Bridewell, which will be placed under a strong military guard. The most aggravated cases will be tried on Monday, before all the Judges, after which their Lordships will preside in different courts, for trial of the minor offences.

Complaints have been received, in a letter from Lord Melbourne to the Magistrates, of the ineffective state of the Winchester city police. It would seem he has been woefully misinformed; for in addition to the usual authorities appointed by the Corporation, and the night-watch of the pavement Commissioners, there is a body of at least 300 special constables, including all the most respectable citizens, well armed with staves, and organized in divisions of 50 each, under proper officers. The divisions are numbered: and a card, on which is printed the constables number, has been delivered to every man, and by the new arrangements made, they can all be called into action in a very short space of time. So formidable is their appearance, and so precise and orderly their movements, that the Duke of Wellington is reported to have said, at a recent meeting of the County Magistrates, that soldiers were superfluous in a place so well protected by its own inhabitants. The internal strength of Winchester, civilly speaking, has never been greater, at least in modern times, and depredations were never less frequent within the walls than at present. Colonel Mayne, superintendent of the London new police, has just been down to assist in organizing the civil forces in the city, and a meeting of the whole posse is to take place today, for the purpose of carrying his suggestions into effect, and making arrangements for the ensuing week.³⁴⁵

Four companies of the 47th regiment Light Cavalry marched into Winchester today, from Portsmouth, and will remain during the Special Assizes.³⁴⁶

This afternoon Mr Baron Vaughan, Sir James Parke, and Sir E. H. Alderson, the Judges named in His Majesty's Commission to hold a Special Assize for Hampshire, arrived in Winchester, accompanied by the Right Hon. W. Sturges Bourne and Richard Pollen, Esq. Commissioners, G. P. Jervoise, Esq. High Sheriff, and the usual retinue. At the extremity of the city the procession was met by a numerous body of Special Constables. Their Lordships proceeded to the castle, where the Commission was opened in the usual form.

The prisoners charged with various offences during the late riots exceed 300, who will be brought to trial during the ensuing week. Many are charged with crimes of a very serious nature. The most complete and efficient arrangements have been made, so as not to occasion the attendance of the witnesses before the day they will be called to give evidence. The Fordingbridge case stands first on the trial list, and the others follow in due order. The Counsel on the part of the Crown are – The Attorney General, Mr Sergeant Wilde, and Mr Follett. For the County – Mr Dampier and Mr Missing.

The Duke of Wellington will arrive on Monday, and a large number of Magistrates and County Gentlemen will of course be present. His Grace the Lord Lieutenant is known to have expressed his approbation, in the strongest terms, of the methods recommended by Colonel Mair to organise a truly constitutional Guard, and thereby, as far as possible, to obviate the necessity for calling in military aid; and therefore it is presumed that a general recommendation will be given to establish

³⁴⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 20 December 1830

³⁴⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 20 December 1830

divisions of Special Constables throughout the county, by inviting householders of respectability to enrol their names, under chosen leaders. ³⁴⁷

With a view to save expence to the county, and loss of time to the witnesses against the several prisoners to be tried at the Assizes next week for offences arising out of the late riotous and tumultuous assemblages of labourers in this county, it is arranged that the trials of the prisoners for offences committed in each particular district or division in the county, shall take place, as near as may be, on certain fixed days in the week, of which the prosecutors and witnesses have had notice, and are to attend accordingly. ³⁴⁸

The following report appeared in today's edition of the Hampshire Advertiser.

RELIEF TO THE POOR OF DIBDEN. – In consequence of the orderly conduct of the labouring poor in the parish of Dibden during the late disturbances, a liberal subscription was entered into by the inhabitants to give them a feast, in acknowledgement of their praiseworthy behaviour; and on Saturday morning all the women of the parish had a quantity of meat and bread distributed to them in proportion to the number of their respective families; and in the afternoon the men, to the number of about 60, sat down to an excellent dinner of beef and plum pudding, and a liberal supply of ale. The principal farmers and the minister of the parish attended during the dinner, and several gentlemen of the neighbourhood visited this happy meeting in the course of the evening, which was spent with much good and grateful feeling. – In this parish the plan of allotting plots of land to the industrious poor has been adopted, and a piece of land besides has been taken to give employment to those who may be out of work. ³⁴⁹

The neighbourhood of Basingstoke is now perfectly quiet, and every soldier is withdrawing from the town. A great many people in the town have been warned that they are to serve as jurymen at the next Sessions, and on the Special Commission at Winchester on Saturday, for the trial of the rioters taken in the county. Much dissatisfaction exists, as to the partial manner in selecting jurymen from the town, - some people who are liable never having been warned at all, - while others have been put to the expence and inconvenience every two or three years, and in one instance a person who is now warned twice within two years. Measures are in progress to endeavour to get this irregular mode remedied; and it would be well if all who have been, or are, thus similarly situated, would join in the undertaking, and thus save themselves expence and inconvenience, which would be trifling if borne by all. ³⁵⁰

George Shedd and John Naish, Esquires have, much to their credit, given away a large quantity of wearing apparel, shoes, bedding, &c. to the people of East Cowes and the neighbourhood; and at Christmas they intend giving away coals. ³⁵¹

At the Petty Sessions held at Fareham today the Magistrates, having been applied to for their opinion as to wages that would be proper to give to agricultural labourers, recommended that able and efficient men, according to their ability and willingness to work, should have 10s. to 12s. per week; from 18 to 21 years of age, 7s. 6d. to 9s.; 15 to 18 years of age, 4s. or 5s. to 7s. A moderate reduction of the above, if working on the road, on parish account, in which case tools should be provided for them by the way-wardens, taking care they are properly marked or branded to prevent misappropriation.

At the same Sessions, two men who had been apprehended as mixing with a party of 40 or 50 others, in the parish of Titchfield, were fully examined thereon, and on their expressing sorrow for their conduct, were discharged on their own recognizance, in the sum of £40 each, to be of good behaviour for the future, after being distinctly impressed with the unlawfulness of such conduct, by which they had made themselves liable, if convicted, to transportation for seven or fourteen

³⁴⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 20 December 1830

³⁴⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

³⁴⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

³⁵⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

³⁵¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

years. They were told that such was not the way to get redress for any grievances, which, on a proper representation to the Magistrates, would be attended to and relieved as far as they consistently could be. They were then required to pay the expenses of 10s. which had been incurred, which they did, and then they were discharged, after promising to attend to this admonition.³⁵²

Sunday, 19th December

John Fleming, Esquire, wrote the following letter to the Reverend Mr John Ford, of Romsey, in which he laid out his proposals for his tenants.

Stoneham Park, 19th Dec., 1830.

MY DEAR SIR, - Having always endeavoured to promote the welfare of my tenants, and allowed reductions commensurate with the altered value of agricultural produce, I flattered myself I had established no slight claim to their confidence, and little expected so unusual a proceeding as the appeal addressed to me from the public vestry of your parish. Willing, however, to believe that it was not intended to express either distrust or disrespect, I most readily renewed my promise to continue such abatements as the price of agriculture produce demanded; and, with this view, have since ascertained the average of the markets, and consulted those whose knowledge and experience entitle them to be considered the most competent judges of farming rents and tithes: the result is, that my rents, having been calculated when the price of wheat was £18 per load, and the average of the last year only amounting to £15 12 8, the proper and equitable reduction will be found to be 12 ½ per cent. This, however, is only half the amount which I am given to understand is thought necessary, and is expected, by the parish; and as the application is founded upon the plea of enabling the occupiers to afford employment and more adequate wages for the maintenance of the numerous poor in their parish, it is an object I have so long and anxiously desired, that, far from scrutinizing too nicely the reasonableness of the demand, I shall be delighted by any personal sacrifice to have the power of promoting so good, so humane, and so proper and necessary undertaking. I hope therefore, as you deputed to communicate to me the resolutions of the vestry, that I am not taking too great a liberty in requesting you to inform your parishioners, that my Steward will be instructed to allow an abatement of 25 per cent. at the approaching audit, to all my tenants, in the parish of Romsey, who consent to the following regulations, founded upon the resolutions already adopted in the parish of Romsey ; -

1st. - To employ such numbers of the labourers as may fairly be allotted, in proportion to the sum assessed for the parish rates, and calculated upon a census of the whole labouring population.

2nd. - To pay those employed (as already determined by the vestry); -

Able bodied labourers, between the ages of 18 and	
45, if married	per week 12s
Ditto Ditto if single	10s
Inferior labourers, between 45 and 60	9s
Infirm labourers above 60 years of age	6s
Boys under 14	3s
Ditto, between 14 and 16	4s
Ditto, between 16 and 18	5s

Or to supply the respective labourers with task work on the usual payments.

3rd. - To make an earnest recommendation, on advancing the wages of able-bodied unmarried labourers, that they shall secure their future happiness and respectability by becoming members of the County Friendly Society as full assurers in the 3rd class; or, if already members of any other society in which the same benefits as the County Society are not provided, that they insure not less than 4s. a week for their comfort and support in old age.

4th. - To afford every cottager from one quarter of an acre to one acre of land, according to the extent of his family, if practicable, situated at no greater distance than a quarter of a mile from his cottage, at such moderate rent as may be paid for the adjoining lands.

³⁵² *Hampshire Telegraph*, 13 December 1830

The greater portion of these regulations were, some years since, adopted in the parish of North Stoneham, and the effect was, immediately to reduce the poor's rates one half; and, at the same time, to render the population peaceable, orderly, happy, and contented. I am induced to hope, therefore, that a similar system would be productive of the same happy results in the parish of Romsey, and shall indeed be gratified if it proves in my power, in any degree, to promote them.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,
The Rev. J. Ford, Romsey.

JOHN FLEMING ³⁵³

The Attorney General and Mr Sergeant Wilde arrived in Winchester this afternoon, and this evening they had a consultation with the other gentlemen who are retained for the occasion. ³⁵⁴

Sir Thomas Baring wrote to report that an efficient Police Force was now forming at Winchester. He also suggested it was desirable that the Prisoners sentenced to transportation should be removed immediately. ³⁵⁵

Sir.

I am happy to say that the letter to the Mayor of Winchester has produced a very good effect and I hope with the assistance of Col^l Mair who is now at Winchester that an efficient and permanent Constabulary force will soon be organized both in the City and throughout the County. I feel uncertain whether in my letter to Lord Melbourne I mentioned for his Lordship's consideration a measure which suggested itself to the magistrates as desirable to be adopted viz the instantaneous or speedy removal from Winchester of all the prisoners upon whom sentence of transportation may be passed as I fear there will be a very large number upon whom this punishment will be inflicted. The Judges came to Winchester yesterday and the trials commence tomorrow I have not heard whether they will pass the sentence upon the prisoners as they are tried or leave the sentences to the last day; but if the former course is pursued it might be advisable to send them away in small detachments rather than in a body to their destination.

*I have the honor to be
Your most obed^t
Tho Baring*

Stratton Park
Winchester
19. Decr 1830

The early discovery of a fire in a pig sty at Cliddesdon prevented it from communicating to other property, and fortunately saved the loss of thousands of pounds. ³⁵⁶

Monday, 19th December

The first meeting of the new Lymington Troop of Yeomanry took place at Lymington Town Hall today, when the following officers were appointed: - Captain, Major Pringle Taylor. Lieutenants, Captains Temple and Rooke. Cornet, Thomas Weld, Esquire. Quarter-Master, Mr S. Belbin. Sergeants, Mess^{rs}. Lowman, Dennett and Wearne. Corporals, Mess^{rs}. Fowler, Seppe, and Cole. All the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood have enrolled themselves as privates. About 60 rank and file have taken the oath of allegiance, and had their arms delivered to them. The first review of the Corps will take place on Monday the 3rd January. ³⁵⁷

Today's edition of the *Hampshire Telegraph* praised the conduct of James Winter Scott, Esquire, of Rotherfield Park. It seems he has but a small part of his estate in hand, and is employing one half of the peasantry of the whole parish; and in making his selection, he has chosen those men who have the greatest number of

³⁵³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830

³⁵⁴ *The Morning Herald*, 21 December 1830

³⁵⁵ TNA – HO52/7 f210-211

³⁵⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830

³⁵⁷ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830

children; the whole family being supported by him, independent of all parochial assistance. In addition to this munificent conduct, he a short time since called a meeting of his tenants, and promised if they would advance their labourers' wages to 2s. per day, he would allow an abatement in their rents equal to this additional expenditure, although the rents are very moderate, having, since the purchase of the estate, been several times reduced, to enable the tenants to meet the low prices, unfavourable crops, and seasons of past years. ³⁵⁸

Tuesday, 21st December

At a meeting held this evening at the Town Hall, Romsey, in accordance to notice from the Reverend J. Ford, who had been requested by John Fleming, Esquire, to communicate to his tenants his intention of instructing his steward to make, at the approaching audit, a reduction of 25 per cent. Upon certain conditions, which were stated by the Reverend Ford.

Present at the meeting were – Mr W. Tarver, in the Chair; Mr R. Withers, junior; Mr John Withers; Mrs Smith; Mr James Fryer, Mr Cooper, Mr Scovell, Mr Fox, Mr Thomas Pope, and Mr John Bennett.

It was resolved, - That Mr Fleming's proposition to employ such numbers of the labourers as may be fairly allotted, in proportion to the sum assed for the parish rates, and calculated upon a census of the whole labouring poor, *be agreed to*.

2. That the following scale be adopted for the payment of wages : -

Per week.

Able-bodied labourers, between the ages of 20 and 50, <i>married</i>	12s
Ditto Ditto <i>single</i>	10s
<i>Inferior</i> labourers, between 50 and 60	9s
Infirm ditto, <i>above</i> 60	6s
Boys, between 12 and 14	3s
Ditto, between 14 and 16	4s
Ditto, between 16 and 20	6s

Or to supply the respective labourers with task work.

3. That the proposition of John Fleming, Esq. that able-bodied unmarried labourers, who are not members of any other Benefit Society, be expected, on receiving an advance of wages, to join the County Benefit Society, in the *third class*; and that those labourers who are members of other Benefit Societies, without assuring an annuity in old age, be expected to assure in the County Society, for payment of *four shillings* per week, after the age of 65 years.

4. That the allotment of land for cultivation by labourers, be adopted in cases where practicable.

That the thanks of the meeting be voted to the Rev. John Ford, for the satisfactory manner in which Mr Fleming's communication was made, and for his trouble on the occasion.

Signed for the Meeting,
WILLIAM TARVER, Chairman ³⁵⁹

The Reverend Jonathan Asbridge, Rector of Eversley, at his audit held today, returned 10 per cent, from his tithes. This reduction was the more generous from the tithes being small before. ³⁶⁰

Wednesday, 22nd December

Today, J. R. Keele, Esquire, the Mayor of Southampton, presided at a meeting at the Guildhall, convened for the purpose of forming a food and fuel society. The opinion of the meeting was much divided upon the most desirable means to be adopted for carrying the objects of the Society into full effect. It was at length, however, determined that the Society should be formed, and that the fund to be raised by public subscription should be placed under the management of a committee. A committee was appointed, consisting of the Mayor and magistrates, the resident clergy, the ministers of all denominations having congregations in the town,

³⁵⁸ Hampshire Telegraph, 20 December 1830

³⁵⁹ Hampshire Chronicle, 27 December 1830; Hampshire Telegraph, 27 December 1830

³⁶⁰ Hampshire Advertiser, 1 January 1830

and others. One half of the fund to be applied for the purpose of providing useful labour for the poor, and the remainder for the purchase of Food and Fuel, which is to be re-sold to the poor at reduced prices. The subscriptions are to be raised under three separate heads, viz. Food and Fuel – Employment – Food and Fuel and Employment. Subscribers are to be at liberty to recommend to the committee persons for the relief of this charity; books are to be opened at the Banks and libraries, to receive subscriptions. About 100 guineas were subscribed before the meeting separated. The meeting was not numerously attended. ³⁶¹

During the night a hay-rick, near Sandford, Isle of Wight, was set on fire by some incendiary, which fortunately from the state of the wind, proceeded no further. Had it been in the opposite quarter, much more property must have followed the wicked designs of this diabolical act. ³⁶²

Thursday, 23rd December

Despite the number of hours spent each day by the Judges under the Special Commission of Assize for the county, it has been found impracticable to dispose of the business at so early a period as was first contemplated. Since Monday two Courts have been opened for the trial of the prisoners, and this evening their Lordships came to the determination of suspending further proceedings, after Friday evening, until Monday morning. One of the Judges will proceed to Salisbury, on Monday, and having opened the Special Commission for Wiltshire, will return here, to assist his Learned colleagues in clearing the extremely heavy calendar. An express has been dispatched to Salisbury, to communicate the arrangements to the magistracy, the gentlemen summoned on the Grand Jury, and the different local authorities in Wiltshire. The Grand Jury are requested to attend at twelve o'clock on Thursday, at Salisbury, when one of the Judges will see them sworn in, and proceed to charge them on the nature of their duties. ³⁶³

The first muster of the new corps of Yeomanry, raised by John Mills, Esquire, took place on Bickerley Common today, when the arms and accoutrements were delivered, and the oath of allegiance administered. The following commissioned officers have been appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, viz. – John Mills, Esquire, Captain; G. Pocock, Esquire, Lieutenant; Earl of Normanton, Cornet. The other appointments, by the troop, are as follows: - Mr William Critchell, Trumpeter; Mess^{rs}. Neale, Sharp, and Critchell, Sergeants; Mess^{rs}. Pitt, Chissel, and Jones, Corporals. An invitation was given by Captain Mills to dine at the Town Hall, Ringwood, on Tuesday next, which is now fitting up for the occasion, and will be appropriately decorated. ³⁶⁴

The following appointments have been made to the Fordingbridge Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry. – Mr Eyre Coote, Esquire, M. P., West Park, Captain; Edward Hulse, Esquire, Breamore, Lieutenant; James Cock, Esquire, Fryern Court, Cornet; Mr Hannen, Fordingbridge, Quarter Master; Mess^{rs} Skinner, Rawlence, and Burt, Serjeants; Mess^{rs} Blashford, Fowler, and Pargeter, Corporals; Mess^{rs} Quinton and Barter, Trumpeters. ³⁶⁵

At Droxford today, before the Magistrates, Mr James Chiddell, of Shedfield; and Mr Thomas Pink, of Durley, applied for compensation for the damage they had severally sustained, in the destruction of their threshing machines, by mobs, during the late riotous assemblages. The cases were fully proved, but the Magistrates conceived that the Acts of the 7th and 8th Geo. IV. under which the application was made, did not authorise them to award compensation for the destruction of threshing

³⁶¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

³⁶² *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830

³⁶³ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

³⁶⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

³⁶⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

machines. The matter, however, was adjourned for further consideration, and to afford the applicants time to take the opinion of counsel upon the point.³⁶⁶

The following letter written today by James Winter Scott of Rotherfield Park, appeared in the *Hampshire Chronicle* dated 27th December 1830.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COUNTY NEWSPAPER

Sir, - The paragraph which appeared in your Paper of the 20th inst. alluding to the arrangement lately made in this parish with regard to labourers wages, was, no doubt, written with the best intention; but, from the great dislike which many persons have to see their names in print, may possibly have a contrary effect to that which was intended. My short experience in those matters would not authorise me to trouble you with many observations, but justice to my poorer neighbours requires me to disclaim the merit you attribute to me, which is with greater propriety due to them. I have certainly always considered the system of paying able-bodied labourers out of the poor rate most impolitic on one side, and most degrading to the other, and have for some time been endeavouring to get rid of it in this parish. When, however, several interests are to be consulted, such an object cannot be effected at once, and I may be in some measure indebted to the occurrences of the last two months for having accomplished it now. In very few instances do those in my employment receive more, and in some cases less, than upon the old system they might have been entitled to; but there is this difference, (I hope a very important one to most Englishmen,) they now feel that they are receiving the full reward of their industry; before they must have felt themselves dependent on charity. The extra sum I may expend in an increase of wages will be nearly covered by the reduction of the poor-rates, and, at all events, will be most amply repaid by the consideration that it may be the means of infusing a spirit of independence into a most useful, and in many instances meritorious, class of society. At all times, but especially at such a crisis as the present, a little attention to the condition of the peasantry is, I am sure, repaid with the fullest interest; and as a reward to my parishioners, as well as an example to others, it is but just to say, that throughout the late disturbances, notwithstanding our vicinity to a very lawless district, and the consequent plea of bad example, not one man was seduced from his employment, but all came forward with the greatest readiness to be sworn as special constables.

I must add my testimony to that of many others, that the plan of allotting a little land to each cottager is attended with great advantage to both parties. Besides adding to the comfort of a cottage in a variety of ways, it gives him and his children habits of industry, and keeps them out of mischief. A man who had anything to lose is not often a revolutionist, and to a labourer who generally lives from hand to mouth, a well stocked garden and a fat pig, which is to support his family for half the year, is a stake of some consequence. In matters of this nature, country gentlemen can unquestionably do a good deal to improve the present condition of the peasantry.

I am, &c.

J. W. SCOTT

Rotherfield Park, Dec. 23, 1830. ³⁶⁷

Romsey market was held today, but in consequence of the Assizes at Winchester, was very thinly attended.³⁶⁸

Friday, 24th December

One troop of the 5th Dragoon Guards, commanded by Captain Hampton, arrived at Alresford today, from Brighton, where they will remain until further notice.³⁶⁹

A guard of Royal Marines, under the command of Captain Humphrey Moore, was yesterday embarked on board the male convict ship *Eliza*, (Captain Groves), now lying at Spithead. This ship is to receive on board all rioters who may be sentenced to be transported who are now on trial in the different counties, under the Special Commission granted by his Majesty, without their being allowed to associate with

³⁶⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1830

³⁶⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

³⁶⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830

³⁶⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

the felons now in the hulks. The ship is destined for Sydney, New South Wales. The ship will take 224 men, who will be placed under the medical care of Mr William Anderson, Surgeon R. N. and Superintendent. As well as Captain Moore, the guard consists of Lieutenant Lewin, and 39 non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Marines. This ship must remain some time longer, as a great many will probably go by her who have not yet been put on their trial. It is to be hoped that the Government, or the several parishes, will send out immediately all the families of these misguided men; such a step will at once relieve the several parishes of so many paupers, and will be of service to the colony.³⁷⁰

Today the *Eliza*, convict ship, arrived in Portsmouth from London, and will wait until the termination of the Assize, to take those that may be transported for the late riots.³⁷¹

Mr Robert Sanders, brewer, of East Street, Southampton, a respected townsman, gladdened the hearts of upwards of forty industrious poor families, by distributing through his butchers, a good portion of the best ox beef to each family this evening.³⁷²

It is understood that Government have accepted the services of the Andover Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Thomas Assheton Smith, Esquire., and that the following appointments have been made by ballot: - *Lieutenant*, Ralph Etwell, junior, Esquire; *Cornet*, William Iremonger, junior, Esquire; *Quarter-master*, Mr Wakeford; *Sergeants*, Mess^{rs}. Bailey and Evans; *Corporals*, Mess^{rs}. Courtney, Wheeler, and Dowling.

It is understood, that the inhabitants of Andover have it in contemplation to purchase, by subscription, land sufficient to let to all the labouring poor of the parish, having families, each individual to hold about a quarter of an acre, and being allowed the first year's rent by way of encouragement. It is said, that rewards will be bestowed on the most industrious tenants. The design is admirable; may its success be commensurate with the benevolence of its projectors!³⁷³

The following notice dated 24th December, appeared in the *Hampshire Chronicle* on Monday 27th December.

TO JURORS AND OTHERS

NOTICE is hereby given, - That the *Special Commission of Assize* is ADJOURNED to MONDAY the 27th DECEMBER Inst. and all Jurors, and others summoned to attend such Assize, are strictly enjoined and required to be and appear at the Castle of Winchester, *precisely at Nine o'clock* in the forenoon of the said 27th day of Dec. Otherwise they will be severely fined.

DUNN and HOPKINS.

Dated this 24th of December, 1830

Saturday, 25th December

Today their Lordships, Mr Baron Vaughan, Mr Justice Parke, and Mr Justice Alderson attended divine service at the Cathedral, and, after hearing a sermon appropriate for the season, preached by the Very Reverend the Dean, received

³⁷⁰ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1830. NOTE: On 6th February 1831 the convict ship *Eliza* sailed to Hobart Town, Tasmania, not Sydney as reported in the papers. On board were a total of 224 men, including 33 from Hampshire

³⁷¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830

³⁷² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

³⁷³ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

Sacrament. In the afternoon their Lordships dined with the Reverend George Thomas Pretyman, at his residence in the Close.³⁷⁴

This morning a hay rick, of about 7 tons, belonging to Mr Jolliffe of Apuldurcombe Park Farm, on the Isle of Wight, was discovered to be on fire, and was totally consumed. It is reported to have been the act of an incendiary.

In consequence of the inhabitants of Brading, Isle of Wight, refusing to comply with the order of the magistrates, to have special constables sworn in to preserve the peace in case of a riot, a body of military was immediately ordered from Albany, they are quartered on all the tradespeople and publicans of the town. Sir William Oglander, Baronet, of Nunwell House, has, according to annual custom, given away bread and beef to the poor of Brading parish, as well as clothing and blankets.³⁷⁵

Monday, 27th December

A plan has been submitted by Colonel Mair, and approved by the Grand Jury, and other gentlemen present, for the organization of a Civil Constabulary Force in the parishes throughout the county, on a similar plan to that established, on the recommendation of the Colonel, in various parts of the West of England. It is proposed to divide the county into districts, to appoint a superintendent for each district, and a leader for every 25 special constables.³⁷⁶

The County Representative, John Fleming Esquire, has given £100 to the poor of the city of Winchester and suburbs which will in the ensuing weeks be distributed in coals, a most comfortable relief at this very inclement season.

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral have given £10 to the Reverend Thomas Westcombe, in aid of the fund for the relief of the poor of Preston Candover. The poor of Preston Candover and Nutley returned their respectful thanks to George Purefoy Jervoise, Esquire, to the Very Reverend, the Dean, and to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, for their liberal donation of blankets and clothing.

Lady Mildmay, with her usual benevolence, has given £50 to the Mayor, to be distributed, at his discretion, amongst the poor of the city.

The fifty four families of East and West Aston, in Longparish, have returned their most grateful thanks to Mr Leach, of Longparish House, for his bountiful supply of beef for a Christmas dinner.

The Reverend Henry Dampier, Rector of Crawley, has made an unsolicited reduction in his tithes of 15 per cent.

The Reverend Charles Gower Boyles, Rector of Buriton and Petersfield, has sent a circular to all from whom he receives Tithes to inform them, that it is his intention to allow twenty per cent. from the composition due to him at Michaelmas last. The circular states "that he views with much pleasure the kind feeling that now prevails to benefit his poor parishioners, by raising the wages of the agricultural labourers, and with a view to assist the farmers in meeting this increased expense, he makes the above deduction." If a reduction of rents and taxes in an equal ratio follows, the farmer will then be enabled to live, and benefit his poor parishioners.

Petitions are getting up in Froxfield, and other parishes in that neighbourhood, to Parliament, which after pointing out as the reason of the peasantry rising, "the oppressive weight of the Taxes," they pray for a repeal of those which press most heavily on the poor, an effectual Reform of the House of Commons, with the protection of the ballot, an abolition of all sinecures, useless places, and unmerited pensions, and a necessary reduction of the Civil List.³⁷⁷

The Reverend Mr Joah Furey, of Fordingbridge, at his late tithe audit, without any solicitation, has returned 10 per cent, to his parishioners.

Most of the farmers in the neighbourhood of Fordingbridge have advanced the pay of their labourers, as Mr Coote and other landowners have handsomely come forward and promised to meet the wishes of their tenants.

³⁷⁴ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 3 January 1831

³⁷⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830

³⁷⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

³⁷⁷ *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830

A nightly watch has been established in Fordingbridge since the late riots. Four of the inhabitants do the duty for the night, and go through the town.³⁷⁸

The occupiers of land in the parish of Amport, near Andover, have established 12s. as the weekly wages to able labourers above 21 years of age, and 9s. for those above 18, and have done away with head money, as it is called, to large families. Cottages are to be provided, rent free, with a small piece of land, and a portion of fuel during the winter. These means, it is hoped, may restore that feeling which formerly made the peasant ashamed to resort to the overseer for subsistence.³⁷⁹

It has been thought right to issue a Special Commission for the trial of the rioters in Dorsetshire. It will be opened at ten o'clock on Monday the 10th of January, which being done, their Lordships will attend divine service, and immediately afterwards proceeds to the Courts, when the business will be instantly proceeded with.³⁸⁰

Thursday, 30th December

The Christchurch troop of Yeomanry, under the command of Lord Fitzharris, met in the Barrack Yard, and elected their officers and non-commissioned officers. Captain Duff was chosen Lieutenant, and A. Rose, Esquire, Cornet. The troop is formed into three divisions, of which T. Daw, Esquire, George Aldridge, Esquire, and Mr Best, were chosen Sergeants; and A. Palmer, Esquire and Mess^{rs} G. Belbin and Hicks, Corporals. His Lordship gave a most sumptuous dinner at the Hotel to the troops.³⁸¹

The Special Assizes terminated today, far more severely for the prisoners than was ever contemplated by themselves or the public. Six unfortunate men are to expiate their offences by their blood, numbers are to be banished, some forever, and some for terms of years, and the remainder of those convicted are doomed to various periods of imprisonment and hard labourer. A great number were discharged on their own recognizances and others without being put upon their trial. Many of them were tried several times on different indictments for offences committed on the same day, in the same society, and under the same excitement. The public feeling is decidedly against the wholesale sacrifice of life denounced in the cases above alluded to, and a petition is now in course of signature, praying the six men now under sentence of death may be reprieved, and transported for life. All of them express the utmost contrition for their conduct, and the example would surely be equally effective, as regards the only legitimate object of all punishment, and far less revolting, if their sentences were commuted to perpetual banishment, instead of offering them up, a bloody sacrifice to laws scarcely known, and ill understood, for offences committed under circumstances of unheard of excitement; in the majority of cases, without deliberation, motive, or malice, and in total ignorance of the dreadful consequences, immediate or remote, of the acts committed. The petition will no doubt be numerously signed, and it is to be hoped that his Majesty's servants will lend a favourable ear to such an appeal from the sympathy and humanity of the public for who they officiate.

The New Ministry are endeavouring to sift to the bottom the cause of the late disturbances in this and neighbouring counties, and for this purpose they have sent W. E. Tallents, Esquire, to attend the route of the Special Commission, to ascertain how the various individuals tried had been employed, at what wages, and if in actual distress. To obtain this information more accurately, the Magistrates of the counties who may have committed any of the rioters to prison, have been called on by the Clerk of the Peace, Mr Woodham, to give what particulars they can of the parties they have committed.³⁸²

31st December, 1830

³⁷⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18 December 1830

³⁷⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830

³⁸⁰ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

³⁸¹ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1830

³⁸² *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1830

At 10 o'clock today the Judges left Winchester, for Salisbury, under the usual escort of javelin men.³⁸³

PART II: THE TRIALS

Then to Winchester we was sent,
Our trial for to take,
And if we do have nothing to say,
Our counsel we shall keep;
And when the Judge he did begin
I'm sorry for to say,
Some they transported for life
And some they cast to die

Chorus – Oh mob, such a mob
Never was seen before,
And if we live this hundred years,
We never shall see more.

Part of a song entitled ‘The Owslebury Lads’, appears in *The Painful Plough*. Selected and edited by Roy Palmer

³⁸³ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1830

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Bulpitt, Henry 26	Fryer, James 145	Keens, Richard 36	Pragnell, A. 161	Webb, George 41
Bulpitt, Charles 31	Fulford, John 49	Kelsey, Wm. 211	Primer, Wm. 2-8	Webb, Wm. 44
Bundy, S. 268	Fussell, James 209	Kerby, Charles 175	Prior, George 228	Weeks, John 40
Bundy, Henry 165	Gale, Henry 239	Kimber, John 78	Prior, G. sen. 274	Webb, John 136
Burbage, Wm. 123	Gibbs, T. 129	Kinchin, Wm. 291	Prior, T. jun. 280	Webb, Thos. 167
Burgess, Wm. 32	Gilbert, David 76	Kingshott, J. 298	Pumphrey, Jas. 2-0	Wells, Henry 16
Burgess, Jesse 164	Giles, James 178	Kircher, Rich. 191	Quinton, Sam. 50	Wells, Henry 35
Butcher, Izaac 169	Gilmore, John 64	Kneller, James 300	Rampton, Rd. 27	West, Joseph 86
Butcher, John 157	Glasspole, Jas. 160	Knight, Geo. 9	Read, Charles 77	West, Henry 102
Cain, John 232	Gold, John 60	Knight, John 297	Reeves, John 293	White, John 81
Camis, James 287	Goodall, T. 83	Lane, Richard 134	Richardson, T. 290	White, James 125
Cannings, J. 197	Goodall, John 218	Lane, Wm. 135	Robinson, T. 244	Wiggens, Mark 34
Carter, George 151	Goulding, Jos. 142	Lawrence, Jos. 106	Robinson, Dan. 309	Willis, Eli 152
Carter, Jos. 221	Grant, James 103	Lawrence, Geo. 201	Rogers, William 5	Wiltshire, Jacob 97
Carter, George 195	Grantham, W. 182	Leader, James 236	Rogers, Henry 66	Windybank, D. 310
Cavell, Henry 70	Green, Thomas 63	Lush John 240	Rose, William 3	Winkworth, W. 226
				Witcher, Wm. 189

Monday, 20th December 1830

Winchester has been a scene of great bustle and activity since early this morning in preparation for the first day of the Special Commission. All manner of people have been arriving in the city, from magistrates and county gentlemen, to the wives, families and friends of the prisoners. Many of the latter are to be found in the vicinity of the goal where they wait in the hope that they will catch a glimpse of the men as they leave goal on their way to the Court. Most of them appear in great distress, and it is a painful sight to see so many apparently respectable people in such a situation. An immense number of county Magistrates arrived during yesterday, and in the night; and are now nearly filling the Court, which has been fitted up with great care and attention to the convenience of those who are here on business. The reporters have received every assistance from Mess^{rs} Hopkins and Dunn, the Under Sheriffs for the County, who have had seats put up for them in one of the best situations in the Court, so that they can obtain entry through the door by which the Magistrates enter, without being subjected to the inconvenience of pressing through the crowd.³⁸⁴

At 9 o'clock the magistrates and the reporters from the various journals were allowed into the court. At 10 o'clock precisely the three Judges entered the Court, attended by his Grace the Duke of Wellington, the Right Hon. William Sturges Bourne, and Richard Pollen Esquire, as Commissioners, and George Purefoy Jervoise, Esquire, the High Sheriff. The Judges were in their full robes.³⁸⁵

At the same time the court was opened to the general public and in no time at all was very crowded. Mr Baron Vaughan presided with Mr Justice Parke seated on his right and Mr Justice Alderson on his left. The other Commissioners, Mr Sturges Bourne and Mr Richard Pollen, were also present. The Commissioners were followed in by the Duke of Wellington who is Lord Lieutenant of the county. The court having been formally opened the following gentlemen were sworn in as grand jurors:-

The Right Hon Sir G W Rose, Bart. MP, Foreman of the Jury.
Sir Henry Joseph Tichborne, Bart.
Sir Charles Hulse, Bart. MO.
Sir William Heathcote, Bart. M.P.
Sir Graham Eden Hamond, Bart. CB.
Sir Thomas Baring, Bart. M.P.
Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart.
Sir John Walter Pollen, Bart. M.P.
Sir Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, Bart.
Sir Joseph Sydney Yorke, KCB, M.P.
Sir James Fellowes, Knt.
Sir Henry Wright Wilson, Knt.
Sir J Theophilus Lee, Knt.
John Fleming, Esq. M.P.
Peter Rainer, Esquire
John Hanbury Beaufoy, Esquire
Thomas Thistlethwayte, Esquire
John Hornby, Esquire
John Morant, Esquire
Henry Coombe Compton, Esquire
Robert Sheldon, Esquire
Walter Long, Esquire
George Collins Poore, Esquire

³⁸⁴ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 21 December 1830; *The Times*, 21 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, include more information, in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1)

³⁸⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser*; *The Morning Herald (London)*

The oath having been administered, Mr Baron Vaughan then proceeded to address the Grand Jury, in a solemn and impressive manner.

'We are assembled by virtue of an extraordinary Commission, which his Majesty has been advised to issue, for the purpose of exercising the criminal judicature of the country, at a season of the year not usually devoted to such solemnities. In approaching the discharge of the grave and important duty confided to me, and to those to whom I have the honour to be associated, I must be permitted to express the peculiar satisfaction I derive from observing so full and truly respectable an attendance of the Grand Inquest at this alarming crisis. The alacrity with which you have obeyed the call to assist in the suppression and punishment of the acts of outrageous tumult, violence, and rapine, which have recently agitated your county, evinces a zealous attachment to the institutions under which we have the happiness to live, a firm determination to uphold them, and an earnest and anxious desire, both by your exertions and example, to cherish and promote a spirit of obedience to the laws. Every reflecting mind must be sensible of the necessity there exists for a speedy investigation of the offences imputed to the numerous prisoners in your calendar, in order that those whose innocence shall be apparent, may be restored to liberty, and that the punishment of the guilty, treading close upon the heel of the offence, may induce the peaceable members of the community to rely with confidence upon the laws of their country for the protection of their persons and property, and for the vindication of their wrongs. An unlawful and riotous assembly acquires additional strength and courage every hour in which it is suffered to triumph unchecked. Its numbers increase, its demands are raised, and when once they have violated the law, experience teaches that the misguided are easily seduced into further acts of aggression, until they are at last betrayed into the commission of the most atrocious crimes. It is hardly necessary to speculate on the causes from whence that spirit of tumult has arisen which has recently disturbed so many parts of this kingdom. It is said to have originated from the severe distress of the lower orders. To a certain extent no doubt it may be so, and every man possessed of the feelings of common nature, must deeply lament it, and endeavour to alleviate it (as you, Gentlemen, no doubt have done, and will continue to do), by every means which PROVIDENCE has placed within your power. Yet it is to be feared, that there are persons who, for the basest purposes, have greatly exaggerated the pressure and extent of the evil, and instead of attempting to mitigate it, have used it as a means of carrying their own wicked designs into effect. The object of such men is to dissolve that bond of mutual kindness which ought to unite the various classes of society for the common benefit of all; to represent the rich as the oppressors of the poor, and to instigate the uninformed to excesses, which cannot ultimately succeed, and which, if they could, would be as destructive to themselves as to those against whom they are directed. One of the means employed in order to captivate the labourer, and to engage him in tumult and crime, has been to persuade him that the use of machinery occasions a decrease of wages, and consequently, that it must of necessity operate injuriously on the lower orders of the people. But this, as it seems to me, is taking a very limited and erroneous view of the subject. Threshing machines facilitate the operation of extracting the corn from the ear, and perform it more effectually than manual labour, whereby the produce is increased, the expense of preparing and bringing it to market reduced, and, consequently, the price of this essential article of life in some degree at least diminished. Besides, the same argument which justifies or recommends the destruction of the threshing machine would also apply to the abandonment of the use of the flail, the spade, the hoe, the axe, or any other, even the rudest instrument, by which agricultural labour was abridged or rendered more effective; and if this right were conceded to the agricultural labourer, what reason can be assigned for denying the exercise of a similar right to those who are employed in the fabrication of cloth, linen, cotton, or any other article wrought in the various manufactures of the kingdom? And if all were to act upon these supposed rights, and machinery to be prohibited altogether, can anyone doubt what fatal consequences must result to the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing classes of this great kingdom? But, admitting the low rate of wages to labourers in husbandry to be a just and legitimate subject of complaint, will employment be procured to the ruin of the farmer, or wages be raised by the destruction of the property of those, who are required to furnish the one, or to pay the others? I forbear to enter further into a question, which it is not within our province to as ministers of the law to discuss. The office of the Judge is to declare, expound, and execute the law. It may be sufficient, therefore, to observe that, *it is the undoubted right of every subject of the kingdom, to employ his capital and to conduct his business, whether engaged in agriculture,*

commerce, or manufactures, in such manner as he may think most conducive to his own interest, unless where the wisdom of Parliament has controlled him by legislative restrictions. He has the unquestionable privilege of availing himself of his own discoveries, or an agreement, or purchase, of the discovery of others; and no reason can be assigned why threshing machines should not be protected by law, as much as any other species of property. Nor is it easy to discern the difference, in moral turpitude, between the act of destroying the one, for the purpose of advancing the private interests of the offender, and the felonious taking and appropriation of it to his own use. Without discussing, therefore, any questions of political economy, which are beside the more immediate and direct object of our present inquiry, and dismissing further consideration of the question how far the use of threshing machines bears with severity upon the agricultural labourers, it must never be forgotten in this place that they are protected by express legislative enactments, to which I shall have occasion to advert more particularly hereafter. If individuals have reason to complain of any violation of the law by which their personal liberty has been infringed, their personal security endangered, or their private property injured, their course is to appeal to the ordinary tribunals of their country for redress. If they feel themselves aggrieved by a state of society which subjects them to privations or injuries for which the laws at present afford no remedy, and which they persuade themselves they ought not in justice to endure, the Legislature alone is competent to reform the law if it works partial injustice or private wrong. But it can never be tolerated in any country which professes to acknowledge the obligations of municipal law, that any man or body of men should be permitted to sit in judgement upon their own wrongs, or to arrogate to themselves the power of redressing them. To suffer it would be to relapse into the barbarism of savage life, and to dissolve the very elements by which society is held together. I pass to the more direct object of a charge to a Grand Jury, which is to assist them in the application of the law to such cases as may be expected to occur in the course of their deliberations. It, therefore, becomes my duty to offer to you some observations upon the present state of the criminal laws with reference to the various bills of indictment which are likely to be laid before you. The capital felonies will probably be reduced to four several heads: - 1st. such as arise out of the Statutes passed for the prevention and suppression of riotous and tumultuous assemblies; 2nd. The crime of arson; 3rd. Robbery from the person; 4th. Robbery or stealing in dwelling houses. To which may be added other felonies not capital – viz., 1st. The sending of threatening letters; 2nd. The destruction of or damaging with intent to destroy or render useless threshing machines, or any machine or engine prepared for or employed in any manufacture. In calling your attention to the present state of the law, as it relates to the several offences to which I have alluded, I would make one general preliminary observation applicable to every class of them. Having carefully examined the depositions upon which the various commitments in the calendar are founded, there is reason to suppose that many of the offences imputed were committed, not by one or a few individuals, but by a number of persons congregated together, and forming one general tumultuous assembly. Under such circumstances, the criminality would not be confined, or attached exclusively to the particular individual whose hand may have committed the felonious act; all who were present at the time, forming part of the same unlawful assembly, acting in concert with each other, and giving aid, assistance, or encouragement, to the immediate agents, by their arms, voice, gestures, or even by their presence alone, if concurring in the same unlawful enterprise, are equally partakers of the guilt, and alike amenable to the laws. Nor let it be imagined that the law is in this respect justly exposed to the imputation of unreasonable severity, for without such aid and presence, and the show of numbers calculated to produce intimidation, the single individual, or the few more immediately active, might not have had the courage to attempt the enterprise, or might have failed to accomplish it. Upon this subject I address myself with a warning voice in the language of friendly admonition and caution to all who may hear or may become acquainted with what is now passing within these walls, to avoid the peril to which they may be exposed by heedlessly associating themselves with those by whose evil and wicked intentions they may be inadvertently betrayed into crimes which can be expiated only by a sacrifice of life.'

The Learned Judge then went on to draw the attention of the Court to the statutes which partially repealed earlier Acts under the 7th and 8th Geo. IV., c.27, relating to the demolishing and pulling down of buildings &c. and the Riot Act, in some cases substituting other and enlarging provisions in place of them.'

Referring to the Riot Act, he said, 'This Act leaves in full force the clause which makes it a capital offence for 12 persons or more, being unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, to remain or continue so assembled for the space of one hour after proclamation made in the King's name to disperse and depart peaceably to their habitations – a measure, surely, of humane precaution, calculated to arrest the steps, and to stay the arm of the rioter before he has proceeded to the full accomplishment of his criminal designs. Many persons have fallen into the error of supposing, that because the law allows one hour for the dispersion of a mob to whom the Riot Act had been read by the Magistrates, that during that period the civil power and the Magistracy are disarmed, and the King's subjects, whose duty it is at all times to suppress riots, are to remain quiet and passive. The language of the Act does not warrant any such construction, nor could such have been the intention of the Legislature. The civil authorities are left in possession of all the powers with which the law had previously invested them; and if, after the proclamation is read, and before the expiration of the hour, attempts were made to perpetrate any felonious outrage, it would be the duty of every person to endeavour to stop the mischief, and to apprehend the offender. The same statute of 7th and 8th George IV., also continues in operation the provisions which authorise the seizure of such persons, and which constitute it a capital offence, wilfully and knowingly to obstruct, or in any manner to oppose, hinder, or hurt any person beginning or going to make such proclamation, whereby such proclamation is prevented from being made.'

Although the Gaol Calendar does not include anyone charged with arson, Mr Baron Vaughan spoke at some length on the subject.

As a great many of the capital offences in the calendar related to robbery Mr Baron Vaughan spent some time on this class of case.

Addressing the Jury on the subject, he said, 'You will, as far as I am able to judge from the depositions, find that the robberies have been perpetrated by tumultuous mobs, armed with offensive weapons, traversing the country and requiring money, victuals, drink and other articles, sometimes under the pretence of alms or contributions, to relieve some real or supposed grievance. If such cases be presented to you, it will be important to inquire whether the owners parted with their money or goods as a free and voluntary gift, or were induced to do so through fear and the reasonable apprehension of violence excited by menaces and threats, or by their numbers and alarming demeanour. The fear of injury to the person is that which is commonly excited on the commission of this offence. But it is enough if the fact be attended with such circumstances of terror, - such threatening by word or gesture, - as, in common experience, are likely to create an apprehension of danger, and induce a man to part with his money or goods for the safety of his person, his house, his family, or his property. And it is not necessary that actual fear should be strictly and precisely proved, as the law, in *odium spoliatoris*,³⁸⁶ will presume fear where there appears just ground for such presumption. Under the circumstances above stated, not only they who actually receive the money or the goods, but all parties aiding, assisting, and concurring with them in the same unlawful design, are guilty of this crime. Having concluded my observation upon the present state of the law as applicable to the capital felonies which you will probably have occasion to consider, I shall occupy but a small portion of your valuable time in addressing myself to the consideration of the two remaining offences – firstly, the sending of threatening letters and secondly, the destruction of machinery. Upon the subject of threatening letters, there are now two statutes only, the 4th of George IV., c.54, and 7th and 8th George IV., c.29, to which it can be necessary to refer for an exposition of the law relating to them. By the former Statute it was enacted, "That if any person shall, knowingly and wilfully, send or deliver any letter or writing, with or without any name or signature subscribed thereto, or with a fictitious name and signature, threatening to kill or murder any of his Majesty's subjects, or to burn or destroy his or their houses, outhouses, barns, stables, stacks or corn or grain, hay or straw, or shall procure, counsel, aid, or abet the commission of the said offences, he shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported beyond the seas for life, or for such term as the Court shall adjudge, or be imprisoned for any term not exceeding seven years, and kept to hard labour." By a former Statute of the 27th Geo. II., c.15, the same offence was subjected to the penalty of death; but the Act being thought to severe, the latter statute, after reciting the expediency of affixing to the same crime a lesser degree of punishment, retains the offence in the very terms contained in the former Act, but reduces the punishment of death to transportation.

³⁸⁶ NOTE: *Odium spoliatoris* in law means 'all things are presumed to the prejudice of the despoiler'

The only remaining class of offences upon which I propose to trouble you with any observations, relate to the destruction and damage of machinery, and I would willingly spare you the irksome task of listening to topics with which I know many of you to be intimately acquainted, if I were not persuaded that you would cheerfully allow me to constitute you the organ by which the judicial authorities may be enabled to give greater publicity and circulation to the law of the country, as recently recorded upon the rolls of Parliament. The 4th section of the Act, passed in the 7th and 8th of Geo., c.30. for consolidating and amending the laws of England, relative to malicious injuries to property, contains provisions framed for the express purpose of protecting threshing machines, or any other machine or engine, whether fixed or moveable, prepared for or employed in any manufacture whatsoever, with the exception of other manufactures specially exempted from the operation of that section. It enacts that any person who shall unlawfully and maliciously cut, break, or destroy, or damage with intent to destroy, or to render useless, any threshing machine or engine, whether fixed or moveable, prepared for, or employed in, manufacture whatsoever, except the manufactures therein specially exempted, shall be liable to be transported for seven years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years. And, although the epithet "maliciously" is used in describing the offences, the statute expressly declares it is not necessary, in prosecutions founded upon this Act, to satisfy a Jury that the offender was instigated by malice towards the owner of the property damaged or destroyed. I have stated that machines or engines used in particular manufactures (viz. of silk, woollen, linen, or cotton goods, or goods of any of the materials mixed with each other or with any other materials, or any frame-work knitted piece, stocking, hose, or lace) are exempted from the penalties of the 4th section – not because the Legislature conceived it might be expedient to withdraw its protection from them, but because the third section has visited with consequences still more penal (extending to transportation for life) the malicious destruction or damage with intent to destroy and machinery belonging to those several manufactures. Let me, therefore. Before I quit the subject, entreat the many ignorant and deluded, who may have been seduced and ensnared by the acts of the few more wicked, with whom they may have associated, to remember that Parliament (to whom alone is confided the sacred and paramount duty of framing, and, if expedient, of reforming the laws) has so recently as within the last four years recognised the justice and necessity of protecting, by severe punishment and penalties, the threshing machines, which in this and in other counties riotous and tumultuous assemblies have been conspiring to destroy. I have read, with as much care and attention as was consistent with my judicial engagements in other Courts, the several depositions, upon which the various commitments in your calendar are founded, and I am not aware that I have omitted to bring under your consideration any provisions, whether of the Common or Statute Law, which are likely to be called here into operation by the commission we are commanded to execute. I will, therefore, say a few words upon the nature of one species of the proof which may be offered in support of the several bills which are about to be presented to you. Probably it may be thought requisite to substantiate the charges against the persons accused of being concerned in these offences, that the testimony of accomplices should be resorted to, which is sometimes found necessary, in order to prevent crimes of the blackest dye from escaping punishment. Dark and dangerous designs are rarely disclosed, except to those who consent to become partakers of the guilt, and are, therefore, seldom brought to light without their aid and assistance. But such evidence is always to be received with suspicion and reasonable caution, requiring to be carefully watched, and deliberately weighed. Its competency cannot be disputed; but its credit must depend upon the confirmation it may derive from less impure and suspected sources. An accomplice by the acknowledgement of his guilt degrades and detracts from his own personal character and credit. Nevertheless, if such testimony were rejected as inadmissible, that distrust and fear of being betrayed by their associates, which now operates as one of the most effectual restraints against the commission of crimes, would have the effect of banishing from their minds all fear of being brought to punishment through the instrumentality of their confederates in guilt. It must, however, be remembered that the credit of such testimony never fails to undergo the severe scrutiny of two tribunals before the guilt or innocence of the accused is finally pronounced upon. Should such testimony be offered to you, you will expect the confirmation of some material circumstances of their narrative, by other and less exceptionable testimony. I have thought it right to give you very full extracts from the Statute-book, of the present state of the Laws as applicable to the various offences in your calendar, in order that the less enlightened part of the community may know that

if firmly and fearlessly executed, they have made ample provision for their prevention and punishment. I would willingly hope that this melancholy catalogue has not been shown by any want of the most prompt, resolute, and uncompromising exertions of the Magistracy and Gentlemen of property and influence in every department of the county, to put down at once, and with a strong hand, the very first indications of riot and tumult. Be assured there can be no compromise or capitulation with crime. The first concession to numbers tumultuously assembled in breach of the law, serves only to excite a keener thirst for plunder, and to increase the spirit of resistance to the constituted authorities of the land. It may produce a momentary suspension (cessation I cannot call it) of hostilities with the almost certain and speedy return with augmented numbers and increasing fury to further acts of outrage and aggression at a more convenient season. I cannot conclude this address without expressing that the country may safely rely at this momentous crisis on the vigilance and attention with which you will discharge the duty of examining with care and anxiety the different charges which will be brought before you. As the grand inquest of the country, you are, by our constitution of Government, placed, as it were, in the centre between accusation and conviction, to hold the balance even for the suppression of private malice on the one hand, and promotion of public justice on the other; and I am persuaded you will not allow your indignation at the outrages which have been committed to excite any prejudice in your minds, when weighing the evidence against each individual accused, and deciding upon his participation in the crime imputed to him. Having discharged the duty which has assembled you together at this unusual season of the year, and having returned to those parts of the county where you reside, your earnest endeavours will be exerted to restore peace in your neighbourhood, and to convince those who are liable to be seduced from their duty by the arts and delusions of wicked and designing men, of the fatal consequence of yielding to evil solicitations, or engaging in any disturbance of the public peace. It is of the highest importance to the good order of society, that all classes of person throughout the realm should be taught by the awful lesson which may be afforded here, that whatever notions may be falsely entertained of the power of a riotous multitude, armed for rapine and plunder in defiance of the law, their success and triumph can be for the day only. That the law of the land, founded in wisdom, endeared to us by long experience of its benefits, and consecrated by time, must ultimately be found too strong for its assailants. That those who deride and defy its power, and continue in arms against it, will in the end be subdued by it, or compelled to submit to its justice, or to sue for its mercy. Gentlemen, I have done; I have been much gratified by your attention to me. You will retire to your chamber, and proceed to despatch the important business which awaits your deliberations.³⁸⁷

Mr Baron Vaughan's address had lasted just over an hour.

While the Grand Jury were examining witness upon the first indictment, Mr Baron Vaughan said it had been intimated to him that the Jurymen had been refused admission to the Court, and even that, in some instances, money had been taken. 'This is extremely improper, and I desire it might be inquired into. Jurymen have a right to be in Court, and the doors should be thrown open.'³⁸⁸

At 12 o'clock, the foreman of the Grand Jury, Sir G W Rose, accompanied by his fellows, came into Court and a true bill was returned against James Thomas Cooper and 13 others for riotously and tumultuously assembling at Fordingbridge on the 23rd November, and destroying machinery belonging to Mess^{rs} Thompson and others.

The prisoners were placed in the dock in three rows.

In the front row were James Thomas Cooper, aged 33, a dark complexioned, middle sized man; George Clarke, aged 20, a tall young man dressed in a carter's frock; Joseph Goulding, aged 23; George Moody, aged 23, and John Fulford, age 50; in the second row were William Webb, aged 21, a tailor by occupation and dressed in a smart blue coat with gilt buttons; Samuel Quinton, aged 26; William Newman, aged 22; Joseph Arney, aged 26 and his brother William Arney, aged 27; in the third row were Henry Eldridge, aged 23; John Kimber, aged 35; Charles Read, aged 34; and Charles Hayter, aged 53, who has only one arm. The indictment was read over to them, and they all pleaded *Not Guilty*.³⁸⁹

³⁸⁷ *The Morning herald (London)*

³⁸⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser; The Morning Herald (London)*

³⁸⁹ NOTE: The name of 18 year old William Sutton appears in the Calendar of Prisoners indicted for this offence. The prisoner George Moody is not named in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

After the petty jury was empanelled, the Clerk of the Indictments read the indictments. The first count charged the prisoners with having, on the 23rd of November last, at the parish of Fordingbridge, unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, and with having unlawfully, feloniously, and with force demolished and destroyed certain machinery employed in a sacking manufactory, the property of Samuel Thompson and others. The second count charged them with having begun to demolish and destroy it. There were five other counts, stating the same accusation in different ways against the prisoners. In one of these James Thomas Cooper was further charged with having demanded and extorted money. The prisoner all pleaded Not Guilty.³⁹⁰

The Attorney-General then rose, every eye in the Court being riveted on him, he addresses their Lordships and the Jury, 'In the solemn duty which has devolved on me, I will abstain from launching out into extraneous topics, and will restrict myself to the task of detailing to you the nature of the charges on which the prisoners, who are now placed at the bar, are brought before you. I purpose, therefore, detailing to you, in a short opening, the facts of their offences. The Prisoners at the bar are indicted under an Act of Parliament, passed three or four years ago, entitled 'An Act for consolidating and amending the Criminal Law of the country' – a law which is by no means unknown generally. This law apportioned to each offence such punishment as, in the wisdom of the Legislature, it called for; regulating such punishment according to the precise nature and atrocity of the crime. Among those offences which stood forth as the most conspicuous for its baneful tendency, from its being calculated to lead to a breach of the public peace, was that of tumultuously and riotously assembling with an avowed determination to break the public peace, and, most unquestionably, such an object was one not likely to escape the peculiar notice of the Legislature. The parties implicated should not be permitted to escape punishment, because it was obvious to everyone, that if a crowd of persons was allowed to assemble, and having so assembled, declared their intention of committing the destruction of certain property, and in conformation of such declaration commenced destroying any man's property, let it be of what description it might, it was obvious to every individual that the owner of such property held it upon no other tenure than that which was suspected to be caprice, malice, and private, and personal interest of any person, or persons of whatever class the property was; therefore it was plain that unless the law interfered, neither property nor the internal peace of the country could be preserved. I will merely state to the Gentlemen of the Jury, the nature of the offence with which the prisoners at the Bar are charged. It appears that on the day named in the indictment, these men under the guidance of a common leader, committed these acts which in no possible way tend to their own advantage. They proceeded on that day to the destruction of a mill containing machines belonging to certain gentlemen. It will be proved that all these parties, the men at the Bar, were in the mob that made the attack. The offence will be brought home to them. It will further appear that they proceeded some little distance – I do not know how far – under the guidance of a man, one of the prisoners at the bar, named James Thomas Cooper, and that by his directions, and under his superintendence, they commenced the demolition of the factory, and the machinery contained in it. The plan was preconcerted. They had previously stated on the road their determination, for when Mr Thompson, one of the prosecutor's, met them in the road, on their communicating to him their intentions, he remonstrated with them; upon which James Thomas Cooper (of whom he was unable to give any distinct account, for it appears he does not belong to this county, nor did he know what his history prior to this outrage was, but on that day he was certainly seen at the head of this mob, riding on a horse, having evidently taken into his own hands the whole command), was the person to take upon himself the duty of refusing to move off. Mr Thompson told him that the acts they contemplated would have the effect of throwing out of employment, at least, 100 labourers, thereby rendering them unable to procure the necessaries of life. To this Cooper made the answer, that it was useless attempting to dissuade them from their purpose, and that if 500 persons were deprived of work he did not care, as they had determined to effect their object, and it did not signify to them what might be the consequences to Mr Thompson's men, they would, therefore, proceed to their work. The Gentlemen of the Jury will find that very shortly after this conversation, Cooper and his companions, all of whom, though perhaps not equally guilty as to the extent of the moral offence, were parties to the acts, as they, it appeared, deputed this man to act after this time as their leader, for they told him then that he was not to allow

³⁹⁰ NOTE: According to *The Morning Herald* (London) there were five other counts against these men

himself to be interfered with; that they would place themselves in his hand; that, in fact, they would look up to him as their commander, and act as he would think proper to direct. Accordingly you will discover from the evidence which I will produce, that the assemblage, headed by Cooper, went to the mill, and began their operations, during which he frequently pointed out particular objects for destruction, and on any occasion when he saw a relaxation in the efforts of the men, he used arguments for the purpose of instigating them to a renewal of their exertions. They acted entirely under the direction of this man. These facts will not only be brought against the prisoner, but will be proved; and, even if it should not be in evidence that he committed any of the acts with his own hand, yet if it should be shown that he excited the others to a committal of the crimes, and gave instruction which led to that effect, he was equally culpable. Learned Gentlemen, you will have no difficulty in finding on the testimony I will lay before you the whole of these men guilty of the offences with which they are charged, and therefore liable to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, because all who were engaged in the outrage were equally guilty of infringing those laws. It was the assembling of a mob, consisting of considerable numbers, which rendered an unlawful and dangerous termination probable. It will not therefore be necessary for me to prove individual acts, but if I succeed in showing that they were all perfectly conscious of what was going on, and that many of them boasted on a subsequent occasion of the act they had done, you will be bound, in conformity with the oath which you have taken, to find a verdict of guilty. With respect to Cooper, what I will have to do, regarding his culpability, will be to prove that he was present, inciting the others to the committal of those crimes for which they are now placed on their trial. It was stated that Cooper came from a distance of about 20 miles, where he had been before doing mischief of the same nature, and headed these men; and you will find that he had blamed some whom he considered to be remiss in their work, and called on them ‘to proceed, to stick their colours, and to do their work.’ Therefore with regard to this prisoner in particular, he was taking the lead, and thereby rendered himself responsible for the acts of the others. It always appears to me that gentlemen composing a Jury should not have any statement made to them which could tend in the slightest degree to mislead them, I have merely, therefore, given you an outline of the case, leaving it to you to watch the evidence, and see how far it affects the prisoners individually or collectively, so that you might be enabled to say whether they were guilty. It is not because the case happens to be one of an atrocious description, that a Jury are to find all prisoners guilty; but a Jury should carefully and scrupulously examine every point of evidence submitted to them, in order that they might ascertain whether the offence with which the prisoners are charged, is fully and satisfactorily made out, and then to return your verdict of guilty or otherwise. No case has been brought before you, but where it was considered a conviction must follow. I would again beg to call your attention to such testimony as will be submitted to you, because it might be possible that I have misapprehended the depositions, or that my instructions are incorrect, and you might feel yourselves bound to decide contrary to the opinion I have expressed; I will therefore refrain from saying more, than by requesting you pay strict attention to the evidence, and I feel satisfied you will then come to such a decision as will convince the public that you have performed the arduous and ungrateful task imposed upon you, with the utmost impartiality and justice.’³⁹¹

The Attorney General called his witnesses; but before their examination commenced, Mr Baron Vaughan requested Mr Bosanquet to watch the evidence for such of the prisoners as were unprovided with counsel, adding, ‘My learned colleagues and myself will also perform this duty, but we wish one of the gentlemen at the bar to turn his attention to this point also. I am sure that I do not appeal in vain to the charitable feelings of any of the gentlemen I see before me.’

Mr Bosanquet bowed to his Lordship, and immediately undertook the duty assigned to him.

The first witness, Stephen Witt, Esquire was called, and examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde.³⁹²

‘I live at East Mill, Fordingbridge, and I am a miller. I am in the habit of attending Salisbury Market, and on my way there on 23rd November last I saw Joseph Arney, he was scraping dirt, it was about eleven o’clock. I knew him before, and Arney knows me well, as an inhabitant of Fordingbridge. Arney told me if I did not look sharp, the factory would be beat down before I returned from market. No more passed between us. My dwelling house adjoins the factory and I returned home between one and two o’clock in the afternoon. After my return home, and at about four o’clock

³⁹¹ *The Morning Herald (London)*

³⁹² NOTE: According to the *Hampshire Chronicle* the first witness called was the prosecutor’s brother who is not named

in the afternoon, I saw a great mob coming in all directions towards East Mill. Some of them had bludgeons and sticks in their hands and came across the fields. I knew several of the party. I saw Henry Eldridge and Joseph Arney, whom I knew among them, I had spoken to Arney in the morning. The mob went through the factory, Henry Eldridge and Joseph Arney were almost the first who went to the factory, and there were about 200 people altogether. After they entered the machinery of the factory was destroyed. The mill was for the spinning of hemp and weaving of sacks. A great number of the mob went into the factory. I saw Joseph Arney in the factory. I can't say I saw any others whom I knew in it. When I first saw the factory that day, the windows of the factory were all of them nearly whole; but after the mob visited, there were scarcely any unbroken. There was then not a whole pane left. I do not know how they were broken. I saw the mob throw the machinery out of the windows after it was broken. I stood outside the factory and I could hear the noise of the breaking of the machinery. It was very great. The mob was occupied inside the mill for about 40 minutes. There was a great deal of machinery flung out of the window, broken both into small and large fragments. I had not been inside the factory for a fortnight or three weeks. There was a great deal of machinery employed in the factory. It gave employment to about 60 hands or more. I remained outside the factory till the mob came out. When the mob came out of the factory they went away in different directions as they had come, some going across the fields. One of the men was on horseback. I have no doubt that is the man. (He pointed to Cooper). He rode his horse into the factory just within the door, and when he came out he went over the bridge; some others went with him, but some stayed behind. There was no great quantity of machinery thrown out of the windows before Cooper went out of the factory; but before he went away a great deal had been thrown out. When he first came he shook hands with me, and I said, 'For God's sake don't destroy the machinery, because it is a good thing for the parish of Fordingbridge, as it employs so many poor children.' Cooper said he would not destroy it if I gave him some money. I asked him how much I should give him and he replied if I gave him a sovereign he would not destroy the machinery. I took a sovereign in my hand to give to him, but he went away towards the door of the factory, and nothing more was said about money after that – for he went away whilst I was talking to him. I do not believe Cooper saw the sovereign in my hand that I offered him. I saw Joseph Arney destroying the machinery with a stick, or something of the sort. The machinery required force to break it.³⁹³

On being cross examined by Mr Sewell, counsel for the prisoner Cooper, Mr Witt replied, 'It was about four o'clock when I first saw Cooper coming with the mob. He did not carry any stick, and was very quiet in his behaviour. He did not get off his horse when he went into the factory. I did not hear him speak to the people. I did not hear him say anything, only what he said to me. He shook hands with me: he did not tell me where he was going. He said, 'It shall not be destroyed, if you give me some money.' I can't say that when he went into the mob he took measures to prevent the machinery from being broken. I did not hear him give any instructions to the mob when he went into the factory.'³⁹⁴

On being re-examined Mr Witt replied, 'Henry Eldridge was near the factory door when the mob entered. I did not see him go away. As he went to the factory, he had a bludgeon on his shoulder.' On being examined by Mr Baron Vaughan, Mr Witt said, 'It was from my suspicion of their design, not from anything they said, that I supposed the mob were going to demolish the machinery. That was the reason why I asked Cooper not to let the machinery be destroyed.'

Michael Lister Street was called and cross examined by Mr Follett. 'I am an innkeeper, at the *Greyhound*, Fordingbridge. I remember the 23rd November; a mob came to my house at about half past two in the afternoon of that day. Two people came about a quarter of an hour before the others. They were John Fulford, (He identified the prisoner Fulford), and his son. John Fulford came into my house with a piece of bread and cheese in his hand, and said, 'Master, bring me a quart of beer in a minute, at your expense.' I did so immediately. Fulford said he had been out all

³⁹³ This witness appears as Stephen Whitt in the *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Telegraph*, *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, & *The Morning Herald* (London)

³⁹⁴ In the 1841 Census for Fordingbridge Stephen Witt, age 50, Miller & Farmer, is shown living at East Mill with his wife Rachel (nee Street) and family. Stephen Witt, of East Mill Farm was buried at Fordingbridge on 4 May 1849, age 62. His wife Rachel appears to have taken over the running of the farm and mill after the death of her husband. In the 1851 Census Rachel Witt, age 50, is described as a Farmer of 170 acres employing 7 Men & 2 Boys, and a Miller employing 8 men, living at East Mills. Rachel Witt, of East Mill, was buried at Fordingbridge 10 August 1855, age 58

day and all night breaking threshing machines and he was now going to East Mill to destroy it. I said ‘More’s the pity, as it employs a great many poor people.’ Fulford replied, ‘You’ll see it down and destroyed in two hours.’ He then asked me whether the constables were collected together, or any other force and I told him I had not heard or seen anything of the sort, and asked him if they were going to injure any of the inhabitants of the town. He replied that they would not hurt a hair of the head of any of them, but would only break the machines. I asked him what he thought would come after that and he replied they might put him in prison if they could. The mob came up soon after and consisted of about 300 people. I did not see Fulford then. A foreman, who called himself Captain Hunt, was with them – that is the man.’ (He identified Cooper as the person, but said he was much altered). He ordered a pound note’s worth of beer directly. He was on horseback. The mob rushed into my house, opened the cupboard, and took all the eatables that were in the house. Those who rushed into my house had £3 or £4 worth of beer. Cooper came to my house again, between five and six o’clock, after the machinery had been destroyed. When the mob went from my house they went in the direction of the factory. Some of the mob remained at my house drinking after the main number went away. The foreman, the man on the horse, came back with the mob in the direction from Sheppard’s threshing machine factory. That was about a mile from my house. My gates were locked to keep them out and they cried out, ‘Break the gates.’ I begged they would not as my man was out. The foreman came into my tap-room and gave some of the mob some money, I could not say how much, but he took out some silver, and gave it to many. He had not paid me for the beer before they went to the factory, and I said, ‘Which is Captain Hunt? And he replied, ‘Here he is.’ (The prisoner Cooper smiled when he heard this). Hunt’s horse was put in my stable and fed. Hunt remained there with the mob for about two hours. William Webb was there and called himself ‘Captain of my Cellar.’ I never saw him till I saw him drawing my beer. He drew three buckets full.³⁹⁵

Mr Street was asked to point out any others he had seen, and said, ‘There is Mr Kimber. He was at my house after the factory was destroyed, but I saw nothing more of him.’

On being cross examined by Mr Sewell, Mr Street replied, ‘The prisoner Cooper had larger whiskers then than now, considerably. I did not remark on his horse’s bridle, and can’t say whether it was broken or not.’

On being cross-examined by Mr Bosanquet, Mr Street replied, ‘What I mean by calling Webb captain of the cellar is that there was an altercation there between him and another man, and Webb said, ‘If you don’t behave I’ll shoot you.’ The other man said, ‘I can shoot as well as you.’ Webb said, ‘Will you acknowledge me to be your captain?’ The other replied, ‘I will acknowledge you.’ This was in my cellar, when they were taking my beer.’

The prisoner, John Fulford, then asked Mr Street, ‘Did you see me at your house?’

Mr Street replied, ‘Yes, you were the first that came in.’

On hearing Mr Street say, whilst giving his evidence, that he would be able to point out the individual who called himself Captain Hunt, Cooper put himself forward to examine the witness: then, as if recollecting the impudence of which he was guilty, he shrunk back among his fellows, sat still for a minute, then turned side face only to the witness; then, as if accidentally, drew a handkerchief from his pocket and blew his nose with great gravity, and then turned round full upon the prosecutor and stared him in the face. The witness appeared puzzled for a moment, but after wards stated his conviction that Cooper was Captain Hunt.

John Chubb was called and examined by Mr Missing. ‘I live near Fordingbridge, I am a yeoman. I recollect the 23rd November. At about two in the afternoon, a man on horseback, calling himself Hunt, came to my house with 200 or 300 others. Cooper is the man who called himself Hunt. I know some of those there; Joseph Arney and Charles Read were amongst them. They remained in my house about ten minutes. Cooper demanded victuals and drink for his company. I said I had not sufficient to satisfy one fourth of the number. Cooper then demanded a sovereign, and I said I would not give him one. Then Cooper cried, ‘Silence! to the mob, and said, ‘If this gentleman don’t give us a sovereign in two minutes, go to work lads!’ They all left about a quarter after two,

³⁹⁵ This witness is named as Michael Lyster Street in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph*, & *Salisbury, Winchester Journal & The Morning Herald* (London). NOTE: Michael Lister Street, Innkeeper of Fordingbridge died in 1831. The sale of his property was announced in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, 22 October 1831, under the heading of *Greyhound Inn*, Fordingbridge

and went on to the next farm, on the road towards East Mill, which is about a mile and a half from my house.'³⁹⁶

Nothing more came out of the cross-examination of this witness.

James Pope was called and examined by Mr Dampier. 'I was in Fordingbridge on the 23rd November, I live there. I know John Fulford. I saw him on that day at *The Star*, between three and four o'clock. I heard him say to a gentleman who desired him not to beat down the factory, that he would see the guts of it out in two hours. There were several others there at the time, but no crowd. *The Star* is little less than half a mile from the East Mill, and afterwards, at about four o'clock, I went to East Mill, and saw a mob there. I was in front of the mill before the mob got there. Henry Eldridge was the first man who went into the factory. I remained outside. Others went in and got to work directly with sticks and iron bars, and beat all the windows out. This was immediately after Eldridge and the others went in. Some of them hammered away at the machinery; they were inside the factory. I could see through the windows, and saw them beating the machinery. When it was broken some of them threw parts out of the windows, and the best of it they brought away in their hands, and took it away with them to Fordingbridge. I was there all the time. I saw several of the mob come out. I saw Eldridge after this at Fordingbridge, about three hours after. I had a conversation with him. He said he had helped to break 16 machines to pieces that day. He said nothing about East Mill, other than they did not set it on fire, because they would not burn down the mill. I am quite sure it was Eldridge I had this conversation with. I saw a man on horseback at the mill. He called himself Hunt, that is the man, (pointing to Cooper); he was on horseback while the breaking was going on. He went towards Fordingbridge. There were two roads from there, I don't know which way he went. I did not see him do anything, but I heard him cry out 'Liberty! That's all we want,' when he was opposite Street's public house.'

When cross examined by Mr Bosanquet, Mr Pope replied, 'I am a baker. I went to the mill that day because Webb pressed me to go. I did not want to go, but they made me. I got away, but afterwards I came to the meadow in front of the mill, to see what was going on. I did not tell any of them they were doing wrong. I could swear to Cooper among a hundred. I heard Hunt (Cooper) cry out 'Liberty is all we want.' I heard those that came back from East Mill say that they had beaten the factory all to pieces.'³⁹⁷

On being questioned by Mr Baron Vaughan Mr Pope replied, 'I had never saw Hunt or Cooper in this neighbourhood before that day.'

Jonah Thompson was called and examined by the Attorney General. He affirmed to being a member of the Society of Friends.³⁹⁸

'I am brother to Samuel Thompson, the owner of East Mill, which is employed in cleaning hemp and flax, and weaving sacks. On the 23rd November I went out to meet the people. Samuel Marks went with me. We met a large mob of persons, and one on horseback riding at their head. There were, I think, 300 to 500 people present in the mob. I now know the person who was on horseback; that is the person, Cooper. I spoke to him and said, 'My friend, may I ask what you are going to do?' He said, 'We are going to the factory to destroy the machinery,' or words to that effect. I expressed a hope that they would not do it, and they would be all sorry for it when they thought more about it, if they did it. I don't recollect any answer he made, the noise became so great. Cooper said soon after that if I addressed the whole body, I would be heard. I addressed them for about five minutes with a view to preventing any violence. The people became clamorous to go on. Cooper said to them, 'Attend to me,' and waived his hand in the direction of the mill, and said to the mob, 'Let every man stand to his colours, and go on.' I was near enough to hear him quite well. All the people I was surrounded by were armed with large sticks. I saw one man's hand with a saw in his hand. He and three others prevented me from following with Cooper. They

³⁹⁶ This witness is described in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, as John Chubb, a Yeoman at Burgate, near Fordingbridge. In the 1841 Census for Fordingbridge John Chubb age 55, Farmer, is living at Burgate Farm, with his wife Martha and some of his children. *The Hampshire Advertiser* of 26 October 1844 gives notice of the sale by auction of Upper Burgate Farm, 1 mile from Fordingbridge, to be held on 1 November, 'as Mr John Chubb is quitting the farm'.

³⁹⁷ *The Times*, 21 December 1830

³⁹⁸ NOTE: This witness is named as Jonah Thompson in *The Times*, the *Hampshire Telegraph*, the *Hampshire Telegraph & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, but as Josiah Thompson in *The Morning Herald & the Hampshire Advertiser*. His correct name is Jonah Thompson. Jonah & his brother Samuel, the owner of East Mill, were born in Nether Compton, Dorset, the sons of Thomas Thompson, a Schoolmaster, and his wife Ann, a Quaker family

said, 'You shall not ride with our leader.' They said they would knock me off my horse if I attempted riding with him. This was about half a mile from the factory, where I first met them. I said a good deal to them about putting the people out of employ. They said it was no good to talk to them, I must talk to their leader, who was a real gentleman, and they would do what he ordered them to do. This was not in Cooper's hearing. They then went on to the factory, and the whole of the machinery was destroyed. Cooper was near to the mill when the destruction was going on. Once I saw him very near the door. I said to him, if you would blow your horn, I think that might get them away. I heard the horn among the mob immediately after the destruction had ceased, and the men went away directly. Cooper went from the factory on horseback. I cannot speak to any other of the prisoners having been present on the occasion.'

On being questioned by the Court, Mr Thompson replied, 'It appeared to me that the intention of the mob was not to destroy the building, but the machinery only. The machinery was at work half an hour before the mob came. I don't know the value of the property destroyed.'

Having gone over the events of the 23rd of November, the prosecution then called a number of witnesses to identify those who had taken part in the destruction.

Samuel Thompson was called, and said, 'I am the owner of the factory in question. The value of the machinery damaged was about £1,000 – that is the machinery and the premises. The machinery was fixed to the building'

Samuel Wing was called, and examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde, he said, 'I live in Fordingbridge. I recollect the 23rd of November. I was in company with Mr Jonah Thompson, when he went to meet the mob on the 23rd November, and can corroborate the conversation between Mr Thompson and Cooper. In addition Cooper said they had determined to destroy all the machinery, and no money would buy them off. I addressed the mob, and told them how many people would be thrown upon the parish if they broke the machinery. Cooper said they did not care, they had come from 20 miles above London, and were going as far down the country as there was any machinery, to destroy it; he said the greatest part of the men composing the mob were Kentish men, and that they were the most resolute of any mob that was out. I told him Mr Thompson would give them any sum in reason. Cooper struck my hand, which was on the mane of the horse, and directly put his horse more in the direction for the mill. We were speaking on friendly terms, as I had seen him and we had shaken hands two or three times during the day; he was with a mob of 500 people at another place where machinery was broken. They then proceeded to the factory, and I followed them. I saw the same man, Cooper, at the factory, and had some conversation with him there. I was there as soon as the mob. I was the 8th or 9th person there. Cooper was there before me. I believe there were four or five gone into the factory when I arrived. Mr Thompson offered him any money in reason if he would call the men out, but he said he would not. I went into the factory, and found the men breaking the machinery, I should think there were 130 people in the factory; they had sticks and iron from other machines. The machinery was fastened to the floors with screw bolts. I saw Joseph Arney near the door, but I did not see him do anything. I saw Samuel Quinton in the factory, working very hard. I saw Quinton soon after in a chaise, and knew him at once.'³⁹⁹

On being cross examined, Samuel Wing said, 'Cooper appeared perfectly sensible.'

Samuel Marks was called and examined by Mr Follet. 'I lived with Mr Thompson on the 23rd November. I was with him when he went and met the mob. Cooper said that it was no use, even if he would give him £500. He and his men were coming on purpose. 'Come on, come on,' he called. On the mob getting to the factory I saw Cooper ride within the mill door. He afterwards rode up to a man who was not doing anything, and struck him on the head, and said 'D – n your eyes, stick to me, will you.' He then pointed with his stick to the windows, and the man immediately began to break them. I saw George Clarke there, he was standing still.'⁴⁰⁰

On being cross-examined, Marks replied, 'Some of the windows had been broken before this.'

³⁹⁹ NOTE: Piggott's Directory for 1830 lists a Samuel Wing, Boot & Shoe Maker in Fordingbridge

⁴⁰⁰ NOTE: This witness is named as Samuel Marsh in *Hampshire Telegraph, & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, Samuel March in the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald (London)*; Samuel Mark in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, and Samuel Martin in *The Times*. Samuel Marks received a total of £6.15 reward for his part in the discovery & apprehension of some of the Fordingbridge rioters. It is possible that he is the Samuel Marks, age 35, who at the time of the 1841 Census was living in Fordingbridge and is described as 'Foreman of Sail & Cloth Manufactory'. At the time of his son Richard's baptism in August 1829 he is described as a weaver

Henry Groves was called and examined by Mr Missing. ‘I am a labouring man residing in Fordingbridge. I was at East Mill on the 23rd November. I saw Henry Eldridge there. He was breaking the machinery to pieces. He brought out a bar of iron and carried it away with him, and I saw him push out one of the window frames.’⁴⁰¹

On being cross-examined by Mr Sewell he replied, ‘I was not promised by any person that I should not be prosecuted if I gave evidence. I went to assist in getting away things, for fear they would set fire to the mill. I was sent here by a lawyer, Mr Mercer, to give evidence.’

William Jefferys was called and examined by Mr Dampier. ‘I was in Fordingbridge on the 23rd November and present at the destruction of the mill. I saw Joseph Arney knock out a window. He is a journeyman carpenter; he had a stick in his hand, with which he knocked out the window. I was 100 yards away, on the outside of the factory, and I could see Arney within. I saw Cooper there.’⁴⁰²

On being cross-examined, Jefferys replied, ‘The windows through which I saw Arney were a yard and a half high. I saw what was going on within a 100 yards off.’

Eliza Sutton was called, and examined by the Attorney general. ‘I live adjoining to the factory. I saw the people come in great numbers. I know Joseph Goulding; he was breaking some machinery with something in his hand. I was about 10 yards off. Goulding is a carter. I saw him through the window, I had known him before. George Moody was there, but I did not see him do anything.’ On being cross-examined, she replied, ‘I was a good deal frightened at the time.’

Absalom Hockey was called and examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde. ‘I was in the service of Mr Thompson. I can point out William Newman, I had known him before. I saw him standing in the room, but he was not doing anything, and he went out at my entreaty. He had a large stick or bludgeon in his hand. He went out of the factory at my entreaty. I saw a person whose name I afterwards understood to be Quinton, but I cannot swear to him.’⁴⁰³

On being cross-examined, Hockey replied, ‘The stick Newman had was a large stick. It was not such as would have been used for self defence.’

John Hockey was called and examined by Mr Follett. ‘I was at the East Mill factory. I was with the mob when Mr Thompson addressed them. When I arrived at the factory they were breaking the machine to pieces. George Clarke was there. I had known him before. He broke out one of the panes of the window. I also saw Cooper there, he was on horseback. William Webb was with the mob, with an iron bar in his hand going towards the factory, but I did not see him at the factory.’⁴⁰⁴

On being cross-examined by Judge Alderson, Hockey replied, ‘I saw Webb that evening. He was the foreman of the mob, in one place. I saw him afterwards in the evening.’

John Read was called and examined by Mr Missing. ‘I am foreman at Mr Thompson’s. I saw the mob come up. I saw Joseph Arney and George Clarke amongst the foremost going to the mill. They had weapons, sticks I believe. I also saw Cooper there.’

William Marks was called and examined by Mr Dampier. ‘I was servant to Mr Thompson. I saw George Clarke beat out one of the factory windows. He was on the inside of the factory. I also saw Charles Hayter he was beating the machinery to pieces as it was thrown out of the windows.’ On being cross-examined Marks replied, ‘The pieces thrown out of the window were already broken. Hayter had a bar of iron in his hand.’

On being re-examined Marks replied, ‘Hayter said he had brought the iron bar from another factory where machinery had been broken the same day.’⁴⁰⁵

⁴⁰¹ NOTE: This witness appears as Henry Groves in *The Morning Herald (London)*, *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, and as Henry Grove in *The Times*. This witness is not named in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, it simply says ‘Twelve additional witnesses identified the other prisoners as being concerned in breaking machinery’.

⁴⁰² NOTE: This witness appears as William Jefferys in *The Morning Herald (London)*, *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, but as William Jefferies in *The Times*. The evidence of Jefferys is the last to appear in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*.

⁴⁰³ NOTE: Absalom Hockey received a reward of £4 for his part in the apprehension of William Newman

⁴⁰⁴ NOTE: This witness appears as John Hockin in *The Morning Herald (London)*, & *Hampshire Advertiser*, and John Hockey in *The Times*. A John Hockey received a reward of £5 for his part in the discovery & apprehension of George Clarke. John Hockey and Keziah Phillips were married at Fordingbridge on 3 February 1828, in the presence of Absalom Hockey & Eliza Ford

⁴⁰⁵ NOTE: The cross-examination of William Marks appears in *The Times*

James Phillpott was called and examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde. 'I remember the mob breaking the machinery. I saw Samuel Quinton there, and John Fulford. He came out of the door after the machinery was broken. I saw Quinton destroying the machinery. I also saw Henry Eldridge a few yards from the mill. He appeared to come from the mill. Fulford is a sawyer. On the evening of that day I heard Quinton say that he had helped to beat Mr Thompson's factory to pieces.'

Hannah Chadd was called, and said, 'I was present when the machinery was broken at East Mill. I can identify Samuel Quinton as one of the mob coming out of East Mill, also John Fulford, as one of the mob. I saw Quinton destroying the machinery. I also saw Henry Eldridge coming from the Mill after the machinery was broken. Fulford is a sawyer by trade.'⁴⁰⁶

Jane Clark was called and examined by Mr Follett. 'I saw Charles Read breaking the oil cask with a stick. It was outside the factory. The people inside were breaking the machinery at the same time.'⁴⁰⁷

James Cheater was called and examined by Mr Missing. 'I saw John Kimber and Charles Read with the mob at East Mill. They were knocking the machinery to pieces.'⁴⁰⁸

Benjamin Legg was called and examined by Mr Dampier. 'I can identify Charles Hayter as being one of the mob in the mill. I never saw him do anything; he was standing at a window, and waving his hand to the crowd below.'⁴⁰⁹

On being cross-examined Legg replied, 'I cannot say whether he was waving his hand to tell the crowd to stop, or to go on.'

Samuel Wing was re-called. 'I saw Charles Hayter that same evening at the *Rose and Crown*. There were two others present. One of them said, 'I'll be damned if that old man, (meaning Hayter), did not do more with his one arm in breaking the machinery, than any man with his two.' Hayter heard the remark and laughed, and said he had done a great deal. He held up a bar of iron in his hand, and told them that was what he had done it with. It was like part of a spit, but not so long. Hater seemed in liquor at the time.'⁴¹⁰

This closed the case for the prosecution. The prisoners were asked if they had anything to say in their defence.

James Thomas Cooper handed in a written defence, and this was read out by the Clerk of Arraigns. 'I am truly not guilty to the indictment, but as the Jury might not be satisfied with a denial, I will submit to them a simple statement of facts. I must first, however, say, that I stand in a situation of great difficulty, my case having already been prejudged by the very serious misrepresentations which have gone forth respecting me. I have been held up to the public as Cooper, the ringleader of the Fordingbridge riots, as if I was the most notorious character of the country. It is very hard for me to do away with the impressions produced by such statements, or so to place myself before the Jury as if they had heard of me now for the first time. Had I been such a character as I have been so miss-described, those who have got such an array of counsel against me could not fail to prove it. But the Jury will judge from the evidence how little has been proved of what has been stated of me. What was the evidence, - and I earnestly beg that the Jury will judge from that, and from that alone. It certainly was true that I was present at the destruction of the machinery at East Mill, but I was there not by my own will. I regret that, if being somewhat off my guard by liquor, I had been induced to be present even, but I was so against my own inclination. I lived as a servant to Mr Mussell, who kept the *Three Crowns* at Whaddon, and on the morning of the 23rd of November I obtained leave to go a distance of a few miles to take a few sheep or lambs to a Mr Perkins at the *King's Head*, at Redlynch, for a drover, an acquaintance of his. I went on my master's horse. On my return I saw the mobs, which were rioting. They called me Mr Hunt, but I had not so called myself. They seized and broke the horse's bridle and compelled me to accompany them to several places, where they broke machines. I went to Fordingbridge, but took no part in the destruction of the machinery, or in taking money from any parties. I never offered any violence, for I was wholly unarmed. What possible motive could I have had for committing a breach of the peace, being in a good situation, receiving full wages and I did not belong to that class, the agricultural labourer, which was suffering great distress. But if the Jury believe me guilty of this

⁴⁰⁶ NOTE: Hannah Chadd's evidence only appears in *The Times*

⁴⁰⁷ NOTE: Jane Clarke received £3 in reward money

⁴⁰⁸ NOTE: This witness is named as James Chator in *The Times*. James Cheater received £3 in reward money

⁴⁰⁹ NOTE: Benjamin Legg received £10 in reward money

⁴¹⁰ NOTE: Samuel Wing received a total of £5.15 in reward money

charge they must believe that I had committed a capital felony without any object or motive. I also call the attention of the Jury to the fact that I had no money in my possession. In conclusion, I hope the Jury will consider my case dispassionately, and give me the benefit of any reasonable doubt they might have on the subject. It is better that seven guilty men should escape, than that one who is innocent should suffer. I hope also they will give me the benefit of the good character which I will show I have always borne. I call upon you, if you have any doubt on the case, to give me the benefit of it. My life or death, rest on your lips.'

Several of the other prisoners denied the charge altogether. Some pleaded excessive distress as the cause of their entering into the offence; and others threw themselves on the mercy of the Court.
⁴¹¹

When called for his defence George Clarke said, 'It is all false against me.'

Joseph Goulding said, 'It is all false, I was not in the factory.'

John Fulford said, 'I throw myself on the mercy of the Court.'

William Webb, William Newman, and Samuel Quinton, contented themselves with a simple denial of their guilt.

Joseph Arney said, 'I was obliged to go by the mob.'

'I was pressed from my work and obliged to go,' said Henry Eldridge.

John Kimber said, 'I was not in the factory, but was forced to join the mob.'

'I was pressed on the road, and was obliged to go,' said Charles Read.

Charles Hayter said, 'I was in liquor when I spoke about the manufactory.'

The Court said they would not call upon William Arney and George Moody for any defence, as no case had been made out against them.

The prisoner Cooper called the following witnesses to speak on his behalf.

Mr Mussell said, 'I am landlord of the *Three Crowns* at Whadden, in this county. I know the prisoner Cooper. He had lived with me as ostler for the last two months. On the 23rd November a person asked me to allow my man, Cooper, to take some sheep from near the *King's Head* to Redlynch, to Mr Perkins, a place about three miles distant. Cooper went on horseback, he rode my horse. The bridle was broken. He always bore a good character while with me.'

On being cross-examined Mr Mussell said, 'The bridle was not broken when he went, but on the horse being fetched from where Cooper had left it, it was broken. I had no fault to find with him. He did his work well. Fordingbridge is 10 miles from my house. From the *King's Head* to Fordingbridge was out of the way.'

When questioned by Mr Justice Parke, Mr Mussell replied, 'The prisoner is a Wiltshire man. He came to me from East Grimstead. I have known him for 13 years.'

John Perkins was called, and said, 'I know the prisoner Cooper. He came to me with 2 lambs for me to take in for another man. It was a quarter before eight in the morning, on the 23rd of November. He was on horseback. We talked about the mob, Cooper said, 'Farmer, they won't hurt you or me.' I said no, for I had no machinery. I did not see the mob then, for I could not see them from my house. He said he was going to the *King's Head*, as he was in a hurry home. I have known the prisoner seven years, and his father and mother and his family. I always heard he conducted himself as a respectable man; but I don't live near him. We live seven or eight miles apart.'

On being cross-examined Mr Perkins said, 'My house is six miles from Fordingbridge, Mr Mussell's house three or four miles in the opposite direction. Fordingbridge is at one side, and Whadden at the other.'

John Lewis was called, and said, 'I am landlord of the *King's Head* public house. I know Cooper. I saw him between seven and eight in the morning of the 23rd of November. He came to my house after some sheep to take to Mr Perkins. When he left my house, he did not take the road home.'

The only other prisoner to call a charter witness was William Webb, who called Mr Webb, a constable, who said, 'I have known the prisoner Webb for five years, I never found anything against him. He is a tailor, and was living about 35 miles from Fordingbridge.'⁴¹²

Mr Baron Vaughan proceeded to sum up the case to the Jury. 'The case for the prosecution, and for the prisoners, being now closed, it is my duty to call your attention to the nature of this very serious charge, and then to examine the evidence, for the purpose of showing how far the

⁴¹¹ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴¹² *The Times*

prisoners, or any of them, are implicated in this very grave charge. I have laid two of the prisoners out of the charge, there not being sufficient evidence to go to the Jury. It is necessary for you to consider how far the evidence applies to all or any of the other prisoners. The present prosecution is on an act of the 7th and 8th of Geo. IV., which went to enlarge the provisions of a former act, that of the 1st of Geo. I., which made it a capital offence to assemble for the purpose of destroying any buildings – of which it enumerated several, - a capital offence, punishable by death. The act of the late King extended the provisions of the former to machinery. The 8th section of that act was – ‘And be it further enacted, that if any persons, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, to the disturbance of the public peace, shall unlawfully and with force, demolish, pull down, or destroy, or begin to demolish, pull down, or destroy, any church or chapel, or any chapel for the religious worship of persons dissenting from the United Church of England and Ireland duly registered or recorded, or any house, stable, coach-house, out-house, warehouse, office, shop, mill, malthouse, hop-oast, barn, or granary, or any building or erection used in carrying on any trade or manufacture, or any branch thereof, - or any machinery, whether fixed or moveable, prepared for or employed in any manufacture, or in any branch thereof, or any steam engine or other engine, &c., any such offender shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall suffer death as a felon.’ There are two counts in this indictment which brings the offence of which the prisoners stand charged within the meaning of the act, -namely, those for the destruction of machinery, which fact of itself has been put beyond all manner of doubt, the only question for the Jury being, how far the prisoners, or any of them, have been implicated in the destruction of the machinery in this case, by the evidence that has been adduced. The act could not be a severe one, inasmuch as all would admit the absolute necessity of protecting such property as this; but in proportion as it was an act penal in the highest degree, the Jury are bound to look with caution at the evidence, and to see that it bears fully on any of the prisoners before they give a verdict against them. At the same time they will judge how far the clear un-denied testimony of the witnesses affects some of the prisoners; for that some of them were deeply involved in this offence, there could be no doubt. It will be for the Jury, duly weighing the evidence, to see how it bears on each particular prisoner. Now it appears the prosecutor was a person who had a mill, or factory, erected in the parish of Fordingbridge. The machinery appears to be fixed to the floors of the factory; but the offence against the law is the same, whether it is fixed or moveable. The complaint is this that on the 23rd of November there was a very riotous assembly of persons. No man could doubt but it had the appearance of a most riotous assembly, and, beyond all question persons doing it, would fall within the Act, and be subject to the strict penalty of the law, and, in proportion to the seriousness of the penalty so far will you give the prisoners the benefit of any doubt they might entertain of their guilt; and in applying your minds to this subject you will consider whether the case is made out, as to some of them at the least, in the clearest manner. The question will be, whether any, and which, of the prisoners are so circumstanced as to make it clear to your minds that they have offended against the law, and for that purpose it will be necessary minutely to call your attention to the evidence. You have heard it said that these riots arose from distress; but destroying machinery is not the way to make distress less. I fear it is true that there was great distress among the agricultural classes; but yet this is not a reason for committing breaches of the peace.’

His Lordship then went through the evidence with great minuteness. As the Learned Judge proceeded in this course, the Jury were directed to consider the case of each prisoner, and to record their verdicts amongst themselves before the case of the next prisoner in rotation was explained to them.

After summing up the evidence, Mr Justice Parke proceeded to call the attention of the Jury to the defence of Cooper. ‘If you find the account given by the prisoner corresponding with the probability of the case, you will give it such credit as you think fit; but as Cooper did not speak under the sanction of an oath, and as he was likely to make any representation which was calculated to save his life, you will give his story the weight which it deserves, but no more. He told you an odd story about some sheep, which he had to drive to field early that morning. According to his statement he had only 300 or 400 yards to drive his sheep, and yet he had gone two or three miles out of the way in driving them. Besides, from the witness which Cooper called, it appeared that he had these sheep to drive early in the morning, and that this mob was not assembled till late in the afternoon. It appeared that Cooper came from the neighbourhood of Downton, and yet one

of the witnesses had sworn that Cooper had stated that he had come from 20 miles above London, and that he was going below, to destroy all the machinery that he could. Now what was Copper's object in saying this, if he was acting honestly? What occasion had he to represent himself as coming from the Kentish men, the most resolute men, as he said, in the world, - if he had only peaceable objects in view?

The learned Judge dwelt upon these topics for some time, and then said to the Jury, "The time has at length arrived, in which it is your duty to form your opinion as to the guilt or innocence of each prisoner. You have heard the nature of the charge. The first question, therefore, on the evidence, is reduced to the question of demolishing fixed machinery in this mill of Thompson's. That was the charge. And as one of the questions on this indictment is as to the demolition of the machinery there, by a riotous and tumultuous assembly, I must say, that as to that question, I think that there can be no doubt. The only questions, therefore, for the consideration of the Jury are, how many of the prisoners, and which of them, or are any of them implicated in this charge? The clearest way of coming to a decision will be to consider each charge separately. I will therefore ask you, was James Thomas Cooper justly charged with demolishing, or with assisting to demolish, this machinery?"

Mr Justice Parke then gave a summary of the evidence affecting this prisoner, and stated that a cloud of witnesses implicated Cooper in the charge, if those witnesses were worthy of credit. He continued, "You will therefore say whether Cooper is guilty of the charge or no. If you would like to turn around in your box and decide among yourselves whether Cooper is guilty or not, perhaps it would answer the ends of justice better: you will not, however, give me your verdict until the completion of the case against all the prisoners, but you will, perhaps, make a memorandum of your verdict in every case, to prevent any confusion arising as to the guilt or innocence of the respective prisoners."

At this point the Jury turned around, and decided their verdict as to Cooper, but did not declare it. They then told the learned Judge that they had made up their minds as to Cooper.

Mr Justice Parke then proceeded to call the attention of the Jury the circumstances affecting George Clarke, John Fulford, William Webb, and the other prisoners.

At the conclusion of this, the learned Judge addressed the Jury, "There is no occasion to address any further observations upon the case to you. I will, therefore, only call upon you to declare your verdicts."

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against James Thomas Cooper, George Clarke, John Fulford, Samuel Quinton, Henry Eldridge, Charles Read, Charles Hayter, and Joseph Arney, and a verdict of *Not Guilty* against Joseph Goulding, William Webb, William Arney, John Kimber, George Moody, and William Newman.⁴¹³

No sentence was pronounced against the prisoners found guilty. The verdict was delivered at ten minutes past nine o'clock. When the verdict of guilty was declared against Cooper, he was seen to turn round and smile at Clarke, his fellow prisoner. The prisoner Cooper is a middle sized man, of a peculiarly heavy, sullen, and ferocious aspect. He is said to be a gipsy, and the dark brown hue of his complexion renders the supposition very probable. He has not the slightest appearance of a labourer in husbandry, and his dress is that of a London mechanic of the better order. George Clarke is a fine, tall, active young man, with a countenance which exhibits great determination, without the slightest mixture of ferocity. There is, however, a strong expression of cunning in his eye. He is dressed in a carter's frock, and with that degree of smartness which generally indicates a rustic Lothario. He conversed freely with Cooper during the trial, and betrayed no sense of danger of his situation. The other prisoners, with one exception, were all in the dress of agricultural labourers, and exhibited no marks of distress in their personal appearance. The old man, Fulford, seemed to take intense interest in all parts of the evidence which affected him, and displayed it by leaning prominently over the bars of the dock whenever his name is mentioned. Webb is dressed in a smart blue coat with gilt buttons, and had the appearance of a gentleman's valet out of place.

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It has been shown on good authority that Cooper's case has been much exaggerated. So far from being an emissary from the London or Kentish men, (as was asserted) he has been for years resident in or near East Grimstead, Wiltshire, his native place where his family still live. His

⁴¹³ *The Times*. NOTE: According to the *Hampshire Chronicle* all the prisoners were found Guilty

⁴¹⁴ *The Times; Hampshire Advertiser*

character and conduct have been unimpeachable till the recent elopement of his wife, to whom he was much attached, since which he has become quite an altered man, careless of his character and prospects, and seeking refuge in drink and low society: but he never committed any offence to the injury of others till his participation in the recent disturbances, which no one in the neighbourhood accuses or suspects him of having joined by any previous concert with the mob, or malice against those attacked, almost all the parties being unknown to him till the very commission of the outrages.⁴¹⁵

Mr Justice Park announced that in order to speed up the trials the Nisi Prius Court would be opened up tomorrow and he would sit there. The Court was then adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

The names of 345 men appear in the goal calendar and the majority are charged with very serious offences including riot, robbery, destroying machinery in factories and iron works, destroying threshing machines and other farm machinery and of course the pulling down of the poorhouses at Headley and Selborne. Despite the number of fires there have been in the county no one is charged with arson. It is also worth noting that, with one or two exceptions, nearly all those charged are from Hampshire or the adjoining counties and that all the offences took place between the 19th and the 26th of December.

The prisoners may be placed in the following classes. – 101 for riotously assembling together and breaking machines; 106 for riotously assembling and extorting money; one for stopping Lady Lethbridge's carriage, and committing highway robbery; one for robbing a clergyman; several for pulling down poor-houses; one for threatening to set fire to a dwelling house; one for compelling a clergyman to sign a paper, agreeing to take a certain sum annually for tithes, being much below the value; and the remainder for riot and divers acts of assault and violence.⁴¹⁶

⁴¹⁵ *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴¹⁶ *The Morning Herald (London)*

Tuesday, 21st December 1830

Crown Court

Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Alderson took their seats in the Crown Court at nine o'clock this morning. The Duke of Wellington was also on the Bench.

Nine prisoners were placed at the bar, five of these had appeared yesterday, James Thomas Cooper, John Fulford, Charles Read, (all convicted yesterday), John Kimber and William Newman, (acquitted yesterday), Aaron Deadman, aged 30, John Philpott, aged 22, George Philpott, aged 16, and Charles Shepherd, age 26. The two Philpot's are not related. They were indicted for having riotously and tumultuously assembled at Fordingbridge on the 23rd November and feloniously destroyed machinery, the property of William Sheppard, at Stuckton, near Fordingbridge. All of the prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*.⁴¹⁷

The Attorney General stated the case to the Jury. 'The prisoners are charged with pulling down building called East Mill, at Fordingbridge, and with destroying machinery – acts which tended to reduce the rich man to a beggar, and to throw working people out of employment, and perhaps place them on the parish for the rest of their lives. The prisoner Cooper appears to have been at the head of the mob, managing and directing them. I will lay the evidence before you, to which I beg you will give your anxious attention.'

The first witness, Samuel Wing, was called and examined by Mr Missing. 'On the 23rd November last, at about four o'clock, a large mob came to East Mill, at Fordingbridge. I saw Cooper there. I spoke to him about his conduct. He said he came from about 20 miles above London, for the purpose of destroying the factory and all machinery, and that the greater part of the mob were Kentish men, and were the most resolute mob out and that they were going across the fields to Sheppard's, of Stuckton, to destroy the machinery. Cooper appeared to exercise authority on the mob in every sense of the word. He was on horseback. The mob went on a direction towards Sheppard's.'

Richard Blachford was called and examined by Mr Dampier. 'I am servant to Mr Sheppard, of Stuckton, who is a millwright. He makes threshing machines, and machinery of different descriptions, wheels and drums, riggers, arms, and gudgeons; he makes them for sale. I know Mr Thompson's factory for making linen. My master had a lathe which he used in his business; the wheel of the lathe is moveable; the other part is fixed. It was in my master's shop on the 23rd, and was in work a few days before; it was in a very good state. I had the charge of the shop that day. In the evening, between five and six, a large concourse of men came into the shop. Fordingbridge is a mile from our shop. There were about 100. I saw one man on horseback. They came into the shop while I was there; they said that were come to break the machinery to pieces. Many of the mob said so – not one in particular. It was quite dark, so that I could not see very well. They beat to pieces a great many iron wheels which Mr Sheppard had for his own use. They were for sale, and were fit to go into new machines. They did not break any machines, as the machines were not at home. They beat the lathe to pieces. My master lets out threshing machines. I was in the loft while some of them were throwing down the patterns. I heard a noise down stairs; they did as much as they liked; nobody interrupted them. There was no one but myself to take care of the shop. When I came down from the loft, 20 minutes after, the lathe was broken, and several shelves pulled down.'⁴¹⁸

⁴¹⁷ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 22 December 1830; *The Times*, 22 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1)

⁴¹⁸ This witness appears as Richard Blatchford in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, & *Morning Herald (London)*, and as Richard Blachford in the *Hampshire Advertiser*. NOTE: A Richard Blachford & Elizabeth Read were married at Fordingbridge on 28 May 1829. In 1851 Richard Blachford was a Master Boot & Shoemaker, living in the High Street, Fordingbridge, employing 4 men & 2 boys

On being cross examined, Blachford said, ‘I had seen the lathe every day, and it was fit for use. I always leave the wheel on. The wheel was on it on the 23rd November. I am quite sure the wheel was on when the mob came.’

On being cross examined by the Court, Blachford replied, ‘The lathe is for turning iron spindles, pulleys, and other wood work; it had not been used for three or four days as we had no work for it.’

Thomas Hicks was called and examined by the Attorney General. ‘I saw the mob come to Stuckton, headed by a man on horseback. I would know him if I were to see him again. That is him, (pointing to Cooper). I told him it was of no use his coming, for the family had left. He called himself Hunt, and said he wanted to see Mr Sheppard, but he did not give me a reason. He said he was determined to have some money. I said he would not have money, and begged him not to set anything on fire, but destroy the machinery. Cooper addressed the mob, and they went into the workshop, and when I went into the workshop one machine was broken. The lathe was fit for work before the mob entered, but it was destroyed on their quitting. I know John Fulford, and saw him on the premises with the rest of the mob. I know Aaron Deadman, I also saw him on the premises. I spoke to Cooper in the front of the house, but they were at the back. I also know John Philpott. John Kimber and Charles Read were there while the destruction was going on, but I did not see them do anything.’⁴¹⁹

On being cross examined, Hicks replied, ‘Mr Sheppard is a maker of machinery. I saw the machinery when it was broken. I do not know the names of the parts of the lathe. I was not well acquainted with the machinery.’

Joseph Miller was called and said, ‘I was at Mr Sheppard’s, at Stuckton, on the 23rd November. I saw nearly 200 men there. I am sure William Newman, George Philpott, Aaron Deadman, and Charles Shepherd, were there. I saw Newman and Philpott in the shop; each of them had a stick, and was beating the machinery. The others were in the yard breaking the things to pieces. All the mob were about the place. About 50 were in the shop. I worked in the shop and I know the lathe. I saw it the same day they came in. It was in a fit state for work, and after the mob left, the wheel and centres were beat all to pieces. It will not be of use again. It was used for making all kinds of mill gear. I saw James Shepherd there, but he is not among the prisoners at the bar.’

George Shepherd, a young lad, was called and said, ‘I know William Sheppard’s millwright shop, and I was there on the 23rd November, when the mob was there. I saw those in the shop breaking the machinery. I know Aaron Deadman, he was in the store not far from the shop. He had a lighted candle in his hand, pulling about the boards, pushing them on one side, as though he was going to get up to destroy the patterns.’

Pointing to Aaron Deadman, Shepherd said, ‘That is Aaron Deadman, who was there with the candle.’

William Sheppard was called and said, ‘I am the millwright whose shop was entered by the mob on the 23rd November. The lathe was fit for use at a minute’s notice. It was used for turning all kind of mill-work, mill-spindles, machinery, and mill-gear, and was used by me in my business. I cannot carry out my manufactory without it.’⁴²⁰

John Chaffin Dowdley was called and said, ‘I reside at Stuckton, and I was at Mr Sheppard’s shop on the 23rd November. I saw Cooper first at the front of the shop, and then I saw him ride through the yard and into the shop.’

George Frampton was called and said, ‘I was at Mr Sheppard’s when the mob came. I saw George Philpott there; he had a stick in his hand and was taking a very active part in breaking the machinery.’

Thomas Bacon was called and said, ‘I know Charles Read. I saw him on the 23rd November at Mr Sheppard’s. I told him Mr Sheppard was not there. Read then said to the mob, ‘Come on lads, and we’ll break the house down, and Mr Sheppard in the middle of it.’ I went into the house and took them eight or nine buckets of cider.’

⁴¹⁹ NOTE: No other witness evidence is given in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph*, or *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, although the witnesses are named in the *Hampshire Telegraph & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴²⁰ NOTE: Piggott’s Directory for Fordingbridge 1830 give the following description – Sheppard William, Engineer and Millwright, Stuckton

John Wood was called and said, 'I was at Mr Sheppard's on the 23rd November when the mob came. I saw John Fulford there. He was near the front of the house with a stick in his hand. He was not doing anything.'

On hearing this Fulford came to the front of the dock and addressing himself to Wood said, 'It is a shame for you to say this, for I could not have taken any part in the affair. I was not there.'

To which Wood repeated that he had seen him there.

James Philpot was able to identify Charles Read as one of the mob.⁴²¹

Charles Hickley said he had seen John Philpot with an iron spindle in his hand.⁴²²

This closed the case for the prosecution.

The prisoners were called for their defence. James Thomas Cooper said that he had nothing to say except that he was innocent. John Fulford denied being there and the others all said they were innocent. The following witnesses were called to speak on behalf of the prisoners.

George Philpott called John Pinhorn to speak for him, who said, 'I have known George Philpott all his life. He worked as a labourer for my father who is a bricklayer. He has always conducted himself properly and had always borne a peaceable character.'

William Sheppard, the proprietor of the premises spoke for John Philpott saying that he had known him from his infancy and believed that he had been led into this act inadvertently and that the same could be said for George Philpott.

John Perkins and a witness named Brown spoke in favour of John Fulford, giving him an excellent character of quiet, respectful and orderly conduct.

Hannah Philpott was called and said, 'I am the sister of the prisoner John Philpott. On the 23rd of November I was on my way to see my sister who worked at East Mill, going by way of Mr Sheppard's. It was at Mr Sheppard's that my brother joined me. We were standing together when the mob arrived. Two men approached and told my brother that they would knock him to the ground if he did not join them. They took hold of him, and drew him away with them. He went with them but soon after came out and gave me some of Mr Sheppard's tools for safe keeping. I took the tools to Mr Sheppard the following morning. I did not recognise the men who had pressed my brother; they are not among the prisoners in the Court.'

Mr Shepherd was recalled and said that some of his tools had been brought to him the morning after the factory was attacked but he did not know who had brought them.

Mr Justice Alderson proceeded to address the Jury. 'You are called upon to decide on a case which will involve the lives of the nine prisoners at the bar. The question is of such importance that you will require the strongest evidence of guilt of the prisoners. You will discharge your duty faithfully and fearlessly.'

His Lordship summed up the evidence against James Thomas Cooper, and desired the Jury to consider that first, but not to state to what conclusion they had arrived until the whole of the case was finished. He addressed the Jury, saying, 'You are called upon to exercise an important duty in deciding on this charge, which affects the lives of eight or nine individuals, you will therefore require proof to be most conclusive before you come to a decision.'⁴²³

His Lordship then went through the evidence as it applied to each prisoner in turn.

After a short deliberation, the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against James Thomas Cooper, Aaron Deadman, George Philpott, Charles Read, and William Newman, and *Acquitted* John Kimber, John Fulford, John Philpott, and Charles Shepherd.

Charles Shepherd, who had just been acquitted in the last case, George Webb, aged 23, John Weeks, aged 28, John Newman, aged 33, John Slade, aged 45, and Henry Eldridge, who was convicted yesterday, were then placed at the bar, indicted for having, on the night of the 23rd November, riotously assembled and demolished some iron gates; and also with having, by threats and menaces, endeavoured to extort money from Mr Eyre Coote, of West Park; and further, with assaulting Mr Eyre Coote, with intent to obtain money.

The Attorney General briefly stated the case. 'The prisoners at the bar were charged with feloniously demanding money by menace, and assaulting Eyre Coote, Esquire, of West park, with

⁴²¹ NOTE: This witness is named as George Philpott in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830

⁴²² NOTE: This witness is simple named as - Hickly in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, as J. Hickley in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, & as Charles Hickley in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴²³ *Hampshire Chronicle*

a view to committing robbery. The mob had attempted to attack the house on the night of the 23rd of November, and at two o'clock on the following morning a mob, consisting of 50 or 60 persons, broke down the lodge gates, armed themselves with some of the iron railings, and marched in a body to Mr Coote's mansion, where they were met by that gentleman and his servants, who had stationed themselves under the portico to receive them. On being asked what they wanted, the reply was, 'money or victuals', which were refused.'

The Learned Gentleman then called on the following witnesses.⁴²⁴

James Henning was called and said, 'At about 12 o'clock on the night of the 23rd November the mob first made their appearance at the farm, and at about two o'clock on the next morning they came again in increased numbers and approached the house. At this time my master had taken his station under the portico with Mr Dawson, John and James Woodrow, Mitchell, Wheble, and myself. When the mob came up, Mr Coote said, 'What do you want my lads?' They replied money. Some one of the mob then said – 'Up with your arms,' or irons. Some had bludgeons and some had irons. One of the men advanced towards Mr Coote, and pushed him back, as if he wanted to pass through the door. On seeing this James Woodrow seized a man.'⁴²⁵

George Evans was called and said, 'I am servant to Mr Eyre Coote. On the night of the 23rd November about a dozen men came. Another mob came about two in the morning of the 24th. Before that I went down to the lodge gate. About four or five men came and said they would go and beat the house down or have money, and if they had not a sufficient number, they would go back and get more. I did not know who they were. About ten minutes later I heard other people coming. They came up to the house; there were about forty or fifty of them. My master, Mr Eyre Coote, John Woods, James Mitchell, David Webb, Mr Dawson, and James Woodrow, were then under the portico; two or three of the men came under the portico. Mr Coote said, 'What do you want, my lads?' Someone said 'Money.' And also, 'Up with your arms or iron.' They had irons and bludgeons in their hands. One of them pushed Mr Coote towards the door. James Woodrow took one of them. They had a scuffle, and some of the mob were taken. All the prisoners were taken then but George Webb; they were the nearest to the portico. I took John Weeks; I was down in the field between two and three o'clock. I was going after one who got away and I met Weeks coming from the house as I was returning to it.'⁴²⁶

James Woodrow was called and said, "I am gamekeeper to Mr Coote. I know the lodge; there are iron gates to it. After the second visit on the night of the 23rd, I heard a great noise in the village of Rockwood; I also saw a fire there. I heard a hammering at the iron gates of the lodge at about two o'clock in the morning. I was on the watch. I went with four others to the lodge, and saw people near. The gates were broken to pieces. I concealed myself under the walls of the lodge. I heard the men say they would go to West Park. They then went a little way into the park, and stopped. One said, 'Will, come on; I will go back after them.' And they went back to the village. I went to Mr Coote's house, and in a few minutes I heard some people coming from the lodge. They were making a great noise. I told Mr Coote what had happened, and he and the others put themselves in a line under the portico, upon the steps. The mob was coming very close to the portico; there appeared to be about 40, or perhaps more. They said in a loud voice, 'Keep up your irons.' I saw a body of men come under the portico. One man appeared to take the lead, and advanced towards Mr Coote, apparently with the intention of striking him. I jumped up and seized the man. Charles Shepherd is the man. I did not perceive that he had anything in his hand. A scuffle ensued directly after, between Mr Coote's party and the mob. There were nine taken and laid on the ground. John Slade was one; he threatened me, and said he would mind me. He was then on the ground. The mob were so near as to touch each other. There was a quantity of iron bars picked up afterwards in front of the portico."

On being cross examined by Mr Poulter, Woodrow replied, 'They were all armed with swords and sticks. It was dark.'

On being cross examined by Mr Justice Alderson, Woodrow replied, 'The prisoners were part of the nine taken.'

⁴²⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle, Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴²⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*. NOTE: The witness Henning does not appear in any of the other newspapers. A James Henning, age 85, was buried at Fordingbridge on the 4 November 1862, address given as Union

⁴²⁶ NOTE: The *Hampshire Advertiser*; *The Morning Herald* (London) name those under the portico as – Mr Eyre Coote, John Woods, Mitchell Webb, Mr Dawson, and James Woodrow

David Moncrieffe Mitchell was called and after corroborating the material facts stated by the other witnesses, said, 'In the scuffle I knocked a man down, and afterwards with his stick knocked an iron bar out of the hand of another man. This man seized his stick, and I succeeded in throwing him on the ground; he then drew from under his frock a hammer, with which he struck me a blow on the head, which stunned me. The man was afterwards knocked down by one of Mr Coote's servants.'⁴²⁷

James Mitchell was called and said, 'I was on watch on the morning of the 24th of November. I saw the gate was broken to pieces. Several persons went through the gate. Some person was encouraging the others to come on from the village. Five or six came through first. One said, 'We'll be d – d to hell if we don't go to West Park, and have either the house down or some money.' I went on the house, and about 40 or 50 men came up; they said keep your arms or your irons up. Mr Coote said, 'Well, my man, what do you want?' The man answered, 'Money.' Mr Coote said, 'Money you shall not have.' The man put his hand up towards Mr Coote either to strike or push him back. I was a little in advance of the others. I knocked one man down, but he got away. I then went to an out-side man who had an iron bar in his hand; he was going to strike me with it, but I knocked it out of this hand; he then laid hold of my stick which I let go and I seized him by the throat. I got him down, and he pulled out this hammer and struck me on the head with it. The man attempted to get up but David Webb knocked him down and I took the hammer. I saw the nine men secured in the hall. John Slade and Henry Eldridge were two of them. Some of the mob cut my hat through.'

David Webb was called and said, 'I am servant to Mr Coote. I was under the portico at the time the mob came. They said, 'Up with your irons, and break in the door.' Mr Coote went down one step, and asked what they wanted. They said, 'Money, and money we shall have.' George Webb, Henry Eldridge, Charles Shepherd, and John Slade, are the men whom I saw in the hall, I picked up three irons close to the house, one was a crow bar, and another an auger.'

Mr Eyre Coote was called and said, 'The mob came up, making a great noise, and crying out. One said, 'Up with your irons, and break in the door.' I saw all the prisoners in the hall; they were afterwards put in a wagon, under the charge of constables. I found pieces of the iron gate near the house; some pieces belonged to machinery.'

Several pieces of iron railing and iron spindles were produced in Court.⁴²⁸

Lieutenant Massey Dawson was at Mr Coote's when the mob came and was able to corroborate the evidence given by Mr Coote and his servants as to the expressions used.

Stephen Whitts was able to identify the prisoner.

This closed the case for the prosecution. The prisoners were called for their defence.

Charles Shepherd said that he had been walking home on the evening of the 23rd when he was pressed to join the mob. He had gone to Mr Coote's but intended no mischief and had done none. George Webb said that he was coming down the Park, doing no harm, when he was struck and taken into custody.

John Weeks said that he had been pressed by the mob. John Newman, John Slade, and Henry Eldridge all said that they were innocent, they were merely there, but did nothing.

Slade and Eldridge called Sir Charles Hulse to speak for them. Sir Charles Hulse said, 'I have known both the prisoners 10 years, they are both good workmen. I know nothing against them. Eldridge was in my employ at the time.'

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the evidence pointing out that to demand money by threats, or menace, or violence with intent to steal it was a felony, punishable with transportation for life. He also said that the prisoners were lucky that Mr Coote had not handed over any money to them as then the charge would have been a capital one and their lives would have been forfeited. He concluded by saying, 'If even a farthing had been received under these circumstances, the lives of the prisoners would have been forfeited if they were found guilty.'

⁴²⁷ Note: This witness is named as David Moncrief Mitchell in the *Hampshire Chronicle*. & - Mitchell in *The Morning Herald (London)*. At the time of the 1841 Census David Mitchell age 40 was living at West Park Farm, Rockbourne, with his wife Mary and children, his occupation is given as Farmer. He is still living at West Park Farm in 1851, but his occupation is now given as Gardener, and he is named as David Moncriffe Mitchell, born in Scotland. David Moncrieff Mitchell and Mary Alexander were married at Rockbourne on 27 April 1827

⁴²⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*

The Jury consulted for a few moments and found all the prisoners *Guilty*. They were immediately called up for judgement, except for Eldridge who has already been convicted on a capital felony. Before passing sentence Mr Baron Vaughan observed, ‘The prisoners have been convicted on the most satisfactory evidence ever offered in a Court of Justice. By a recent alteration in the law, a demand of monies by threats, menace, or violence, was a felony, to which the Court in its discretion might award the punishment of transportation for life, and in this case it is highly necessary that the penalty should be inflicted in its fullest extent. It is not to be endured that a gentleman’s property should be assailed at the dead of night, and his repose disturbed by a lawless mob, armed with instruments which might have appalled stouter hearts than Mr Coote’s, for the purpose of extorting money from him. It is fortunate for the prisoners that the prosecutor did not yield to their demands, for if a single farthing had been obtained the offence would have been capital, and the lives of the prisoners would have been forfeited. The public are highly indebted to this gentleman for the exemplary courage he displayed in resisting the demands of an outrageous mob; he has set an example worthy of general imitation. It is necessary, in cases of this kind, to act with the greatest severity; for, if these things are permitted, there would be no security – indeed we could hardly suppose we lived in a civilized country, for one would imagine such a state of things could not exist where people professed to be civilized. The law has invested the Judge with a discretionary power, but I would feel that I had disgraced the station which I have had the honour to hold if I allowed the slightest mitigation of punishment, or any hope of its alleviation.’⁴²⁹

His Lordship then sentenced the prisoners to transportation for life.

John Kimber, who had been tried and acquitted yesterday, was then placed at the bar. He was charged with extorting the sum of 2s 6d from Jane Perry, her property. The Attorney General stated the case, saying that it was another part of the Fordingbridge riots and that in this case the money had been taken from a poor woman who had no means to resist the threats made to her. Jane Perry was called, but in answer to the first question put to her answered that she was a married woman and that her husband was still alive. As the indictment had stated that the money was hers the charge would not hold up and Kimber was *Acquitted*.⁴³⁰

All the prisoners in the next case had already appeared on other charges. John Kimber was put in the dock again along with James Thomas Cooper, John Fulford, John Philpot, Charles Read and Aaron Deadman. The charge was one of extorting, by threats and violence, the sum of £1 3s 6d from Thomas Hicks, on 23rd November. This was yet another case to have arisen out of the Fordingbridge riots.

Thomas Hicks was called and said, ‘I was in Sheppard’s house, in Stuckton, on the 23rd of November. A mob came up. All six prisoners were there. Cooper said he wanted to see Mr Sheppard. I told him he could not see him. Cooper said he must have money. I asked him what he wanted, and he said he would have two sovereigns, but three would be better. I told him, if he was determined to have money, I would give him what I had. He asked how much I had. I said a sovereign and a few shillings. He said, ‘I will have that.’ I took out my purse and gave it to him and he counted it. He spoke to the mob and they went away. I was induced to give the money through fear of bodily harm, seeing so many round me. I am son-in-law of Sheppard, and was in charge of the house. I was afraid of injury being done to the house.’⁴³¹

Mr Justice Alderson pointed out what constituted a robbery in law said, ‘I apprehend that taking money from the person of another against his will is robbery. If the prisoners had come up to this place for the purpose of breaking machinery, and then one of their body, without any co-operation or consent of the others, should commit another felony, the law would not consider the guilt as extending to them all. All the evidence in this present case is against Cooper, and in an effort to clarify the point of law I will refer to two cases which I think are applicable to many of the present cases. The first relates to a case of the riots among Cornish tanners, when Symons came with 70

⁴²⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁴³⁰ NOTE: This case is not reported in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Chronicle*, or *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, according to the *Hampshire Telegraph* ‘John Kimber was convicted of assaulting and robbing Jane Perry of half a crown.’

⁴³¹ NOTE: Thomas Hicks was married to William Sheppard’s daughter Maria

others, and insisted he would destroy the mow of hay if he was not given money. The man gave them a crown, and this was held to be robbery. In the other case, involving riots in London, a boy knocked at the door and said ‘God bless your Honour, give something to the mob.’ The man told him to get away, which he did, and said he would fetch his Captain. The mob afterwards met the man, and said, ‘This gentleman is always generous; give us something.’ The man asked how much and they said half a crown, and he gave it to them. This case is similar to those cases. There is no evidence against the others.’

The Jury found James Thomas Cooper *Guilty*, and *Acquitted* the rest.

William Webb, aged 23, and William Arney, aged 27, were placed at the bar charged with breaking and destroying a threshing machine, the property of Josiah Jerrard, on the 23rd November. Both prisoners had been tried and acquitted yesterday on another charge, and both said they were innocent of this crime.⁴³²

The Attorney General stated that this was an indictment under the Act which subjected the prisoners to seven years transportation.

Josiah Jerrard was called and said. ‘I am a farmer. My machinery was burnt. I saw William Arney near my house.’

William Barker was called and said, ‘I recollect Mr Jerrard’s machine being burnt by a mob in a field. I saw William Arney getting wood for the purpose from Mr Jerrard’s farm yard. The prisoners were both there during the burning.’

James Moody was called and said, ‘I saw the machine destroyed. They first broke it to pieces, and then burnt it. I saw William Webb there. He was not doing anything; but I heard him style himself Captain twice.’

Richard Hobbs was called and said, ‘I saw William Arney with some small pieces of board, which he carried to the fire, where the threshing machine was burning. He brought more wood and put it under during the fire.’

Mr Baron Vaughan then briefly summed up the case.

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against both prisoners, and they were ordered up for sentence. His Lordship addressed the prisoners. ‘You have been convicted of breaking, destroying, and burning a threshing machine; and I am glad to take this opportunity of stating publicly that this was an Act passed for the protection of property which deserved protection as much as any other, and which Act I approve. It is not to be allowed that in this country persons should be prevented from using their own property as they please. In this case it did not appear that the prisoners had anything to do with it, one being a tailor, and the other a carpenter. Neither of you were labourers, and could not therefore, plead that your distress arose from the supposed use of those machines. It is the duty of those who administered the law to take care to see this kind of property protected. You have been convicted upon clear evidence, and it is necessary to put the law in force, and you should be held up as an example to others of the danger of committing such acts.’

His Lordship then sentenced the prisoners to seven years’ transportation.

William Webb was then charged on two cases of robbery but as the crown offered no evidence on either charge he was *Acquitted*.

A fresh bill of indictment was sent up to the Jury regarding the case of extortion from Jane Perry. John Kimber was indicted for assaulting, extorting, and robbing Jane Perry of half a crown, the property of John Perry.

Jane Perry was called and said, ‘I live at Rochford. On the 23rd of November John Kimber and another man came to our house, and the other man said, ‘Give us money, or we will bring 500!’ Kimber was present when this was said. They each had a stick. I gave them half a crown, because I was afraid they would bring in more to rob the house. As soon as I gave them the money they went away. It was 12 o’clock at night. The other man came into the room where I was sitting. My husband was not at home. He is a farmer.’

Kimber declared he was innocent but the Jury found him *Guilty*. There was another indictment against him for a similar offence.⁴³³

⁴³² NOTE: The prosecutor in this case is named as Josiah Gerrard in *The Morning Herald (London)*

⁴³³ *Sherborne Mercury*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *The Morning Herald (London)*

William Sutton, age 18, was indicted for assaulting William Mercer, and robbing him of four penny pieces, his property, on the 23rd November. Sutton was part of the mob that had roamed Fordingbridge all day.

William Mercer was called, and said, 'I live at Fordingbridge. I am clerk to Mr Baldwin, an attorney. A mob came to my house on the 23rd November. Sutton and three others came up between 10 and 12 o'clock at night. Sutton said to my wife, if she did not give them money they would set the house on fire; he then broke one of the windows. I was outside the door, and my wife locked herself in. They struck the door eight or nine times, and broke one of the panels. They felt my pockets; I had some copper, which I took out of my pocket, and they snatched it from me. They then went away; Sutton and another remained; they wanted money too. The other three were grown up. There had been a great mob all day. I saw some other persons coming, and I drew a sword, and told him if he did not go away, I would run him through, and then he went away.'

James Day was called to speak for Sutton, 'Sutton worked for a farmer and was paid 1s 6d a week, and his food, and was always a steady boy when sober.'

A person who the prisoner had lived with was called, and said that he had never had a better servant.

Mr Mercer was re-called, and said, 'The prisoner was very much intoxicated when he came to my house.'

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the case, and the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty*, but recommended Sutton to mercy. A judgement of death was recorded.⁴³⁴

George Clarke, age 20, and Edmund Charles Nutbean, age 18, were indicted for riotously assembling on the 23rd November, and with force demanding money of William Mercer, with intent to steal the same, and taking by force from the said William Mercer 3d, his property.

Mr William Mercer was called, and said, 'I live at Fordingbridge, and I saw the prisoners at my house, between 3 and 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd of November. A mob of 200 or 300 went by, and these two came to the house and knocked on the door, which I opened; they demanded victuals and drink. I gave them victuals, but told them I had no drink, and then they demanded money. They said they would have money, or would set my premises on fire. One had an iron bar, and the other a bludgeon. I refused to give them money, and they called to the mob, 'Here, here, come back.' I saw some of the mob coming back, and then I gave them 3d, and told them to order some beer at *The Greyhound*, and I would pay for it. I did so because I was afraid of the mob returning and putting their threats into execution. They did not appear to be in liquor. They live about 6 miles from Fordingbridge.'

The Jury found both prisoners *Guilty*, but begged to recommend them to mercy on account of their youth.⁴³⁵

George Steel, age 18, was indicted for assaulting Joseph Neale, at Fordingbridge, on the 23rd November, and robbing him of 1s.

This was yet another case of the Fordingbridge mob at work.

Joseph Neale was called, and said, 'I saw two men at a cottage opposite my house, knocking at the door. The prisoner was one of them. He had an iron bar on his shoulder. They came up to me, and Steel said, 'We must have some money.' I walked away and Steel followed me. I turned around and gave him a shilling, as I was afraid he would use the bar. They were a little in liquor, and there was a mob in the same street at the same time.'

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against Steele.⁴³⁶

The last case in this Court today was that against Joseph West, aged 24, who was indicted for assaulting and robbing Benjamin Welch.

⁴³⁴ *The Times*, 23 November 1830; *The Morning Herald* (London), 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴³⁵ *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *The Morning Herald* (London), 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph*;

⁴³⁶ *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *The Morning Herald* (London), 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Hampshire Telegraph*

Benjamin Welch was called, and said, ‘The prisoner came to me, with other persons, and said that they must have money. I gave them some money, for I was afraid they would injure me, as I had been threatened by other parties that same evening. The prisoner did not use any threat.’

Mr Justice Alderson said, that he thought this would not do and desired the Jury to *Acquit* the prisoner, which they did.⁴³⁷

Nisi Prius Court

Mr Justice Parke, the Right Honourable William Sturges Bourne, M.P., and Richard Pollen, Esquire, two of the Commissioners, took their seats in the Nisi Prius Court at nine o’clock this morning, but were not able to start the business of the day until 25 minutes past ten owing to the late arrival of several of the witnesses.

Joseph Mason, aged 31, Robert Mason, aged 24, Thomas Berriman, the elder, aged 52, Joseph Carter, aged 45, James Pearce, aged 40, William Winkworth, aged 43, Thomas Baverstock, aged 19 and Isaac Hill, the younger, aged 26, were capitally indicted with having, on the 19th of November last, in the parish of East Stratton, feloniously made an assault on one Francis Calender, and put him in bodily fear, and feloniously stolen from his person ten sovereign, his monies. The prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Mr Sergeant Wilde then proceeded to detail the outline of the charge against the prisoners. They were indicted for having obtained a sum of money from the prosecutor, when under the influence of terror. ‘The evidence I will submit to you will be such as to require your closest attention, in order that you are able to satisfy yourselves as to the extent of each of the prisoner’s culpability. The duty you have to perform will consequently be very arduous. I entreat you to discharge from your minds much of that which you have learnt prior to coming into Court, which may in the slightest degree prejudicial to the prisoners. I will prove that although the whole of the prisoners did not receive the money, they were all engaged, and were aiding and abetting.’⁴³⁸

Mr Francis Calender was called and said, ‘I am steward to Sir Thomas Baring, and live at East Stratton, about a quarter of a mile from Sir Thomas Baring’s house. On the 19th November I remember a mob coming to my house about 12 o’clock. There might have been from 800 to 900 persons there. I was in the house, and first saw the mob coming up to my house in the front in the road, which comes up from the public road. I went out to them, and they had just commenced to break some threshing machines, which were close by. There was corn mill, and after the machinery was broken, the mob came back to my house with me, and, in the first instance they demanded £5 from me. Only one of the men made this demand. Joseph Carter was standing by at this time, and it was Thomas Berriman who demanded and received the money. The remainder of the mob were standing all around the house. At first I refused to give the money, but they again demanded £10, as before it was Berriman that demanded the money. Berriman said they wanted and would have the money, and on my refusing to give it to them, they said they would smash the windows. I then went into the house and brought out 10 sovereigns, and I gave them to Berriman, who cried out, ‘£10, £10;’ and the mob, having given three cheers, went off. I was afraid that if I had not given the money, they would not only have destroyed my house, but they would have gone and destroyed Sir Thomas Baring’s house. This was the reason I gave the money. The mob then went to East Stratton. They had bludgeons, hammers, and pieces of iron in their hands. I know William Winkworth. The mob did not go up to Sir Thomas Baring’s, but to the public house in the village. Winkworth is a shoemaker and constable. I know the two Masons. I do not know where they live. I gave them money fearing they might go and damage Sir Thomas Baring’s mansion.’

When cross examined by the Court, Mr Calender replied, ‘Sir Thomas Baring was in London at that time, and I took care of the property during his absence. Sir Thomas left servants in the house to take care of it, but I had the superintendence of the property. The house I live in is Sir Thomas Baring’s. I gave the money lest they should smash my windows, as well as from the fear of their going to Sir Thomas’s mansion. I cannot say whether Berriman had any weapon in his hand, but I think Joseph Carter had. The greater part of the mob was armed with bludgeons, sledge hammers, and various weapons of some sort. Berriman said, ‘We must have £5,’ when he demanded the

⁴³⁷ *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁴³⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*

money in the first instance. Then he said that they must have £10 if they were not to go to Sir Thomas's house. When they went away, they did not go to Sir Thomas's, but to a public house in the village.'

William Nation was called and said, 'I am employed as clerk by Mr Calender. I remember a mob coming on the 19th November last, about 12 o'clock. There were from 800 to 1,000. They had sticks, sledge-hammers, and diverse weapons. I heard Berriman speak to Calender. Berriman was with the mob at the time. Joseph Mason, Joseph Carter, and James Pearce, were with him. I did not know them before, though I had seen William Winkworth. I passed the younger Mason, (Robert), but he was not close to the rest of the mob; but Joseph Mason, Joseph Carter, and James Pearce were close together, and the remainder of the mob was round them. I did not see Winkworth at the farm, but at the public house. I saw Thomas Baverstock in the mill connected with one of the machines. The mill was about 40 yards from the house, forming part of the premises. There must have been 40 or 50 with Baverstock in the mill. I had known Baverstock for three or four years. When Berriman held up his hand, and told them to come on when he was going away, they went with him. After the machinery had been broken, some of the mob said, 'We have done our work well, and now we will get paid for it.' I heard someone ask for £5; but Berriman said, 'No, £10.' Calender said that it was an extraordinary demand. Berriman said it was none too much. Calender then said, 'Are you going to take the money?' and Berriman then came within the wicket and took the 10 sovereigns. I heard someone in the mob say, before the money was given, that they would smash the windows, and that they would go to the house. I saw 10 sovereigns given to Berriman, and he then waved his hand, and said, 'Come along.' There were then three cheers given, and they went off to the village to the public house, and I followed. I placed myself at the cellar door. Joseph Mason and Joseph Carter spoke to me; the latter told me to keep an account of the beer that was drawn. I did so, and made out the bill by order of Joseph Mason, who gave me some paper for that purpose. Joseph Mason then gave me £5 to pay for it. I saw Joseph Carter, Joseph Mason, James Pearce, and William Winkworth, in the public house. Winkworth collared me after I had received the £5, and said that, unless I went on with the mob, he would not go. Pearce laid hold of me on the other side, and must have heard what Winkworth said, 'That is the landlord, let him bide.' When Winkworth said he would not go on, he was in the road. It was before he collared me, but it was after we had got to the public house. Pearce held up a stick at me, and said, 'No more to be drawn.' No more beer was drawn after this, and the mob went off. I saw a paper before Joseph Mason, but I did not hear what it was.'

On being cross examined, William Nation said, 'I was close to Mr Calender when the money was given to Berriman. Joseph Mason was close to Berriman when the money was given. Robert Mason was not so near, but was certainly near enough to hear the conversation between Berriman and Mr Calender, because I passed him between the mill and Mr Calender's house; he was coming towards the house. I do not think he had a stick in his hand. Joseph Mason gave one £5 note at the public house and five sovereigns to pay for the beer. I should think at least 500 or 600 took an active part in breaking the machinery. Winkworth was himself collared when he collared me; and it was then he said he would not go on unless I went with him. I saw Baverstock in the Mill."

When questioned by Thomas Berriman, Mr Nation replied, "I heard you say – no £10."

When questioned by the Jury, Mr Nation replied, "I did not hear Berriman say anything about going to Sir Thomas Baring's house. Berriman came within the gate to receive the £10. It was not, that I know of, in consequence of a request by anyone. I did not hear a request made."

William Bridger was called, and said, "I am bailiff to Sir Thomas Baring. I remember the mob coming on the 19th November. I was there at the time. The mob began by breaking the machinery, which having concluded, they said they should want to be paid for their work. I saw Baverstock; he was assisting to destroy the machines. I asked them what money would satisfy them. They said they should want a good deal, as they had done a good deal of work. They said they would want much more than £1, and I told them they must settle with Mr Calender if they wanted more than that. They then went up to Mr Calender's, I went with them. It is only about 30 yards. When they got there, some called out for £5; but others said that would not do, they must have £10."

Mr Bridger then went on to confirm Mr Calender's testimony.

Henry Cropp was called and said, 'I was at Mr Calender's on the 19th November with the mob. I had been with them for some hours before. I was pressed into going. I had been to Mr Dear's and Mr Twitchen's with them, where the machines were broken and money obtained. I can confirm

the evidence of the other witnesses regarding the proceedings at Mr Calender's. After we left the public house we went into a meadow, the money was divided between the parishes, and I received 2s.6d. Joseph Mason, Joseph Carter, and Isaac Hill, the younger, were there.⁴³⁹

On being cross examined, Henry Cropp replied, 'I was not pressed by either of the prisoners. I and many others, had been pressed to join the mob, I was not told that it was their intention to break machinery or to demand money when I was pressed. I did not hear the conversation between Berriman and Calender. I did not break any machines, but stood with a number of others looking on. I did not see the Masons at Mr Calendar's, but I saw Carter. My brother, who was also pressed, gave me half a crown, I did not complain. I was taken into custody, and put in Winchester gaol for three or four hours. I did not hear any evidence given against me. I told the Magistrates that I had received the half a crown. I was then told that I must come here to give evidence. I expect by so doing to save myself.'

On being re-examined, Henry Cropp said, 'The first place I saw Hill was at Mr Dear's. I went home when I left the gaol.'

James Dear was called and said, 'I live at Weston, and I live with my father, who is a farmer. On the 19th of November I saw a mob, about nine o'clock, at Mr Paine's, Borough Farm. William Winkworth and Isaac Hill, the elder, were amongst the mob. I went to Mr Paine's. The mob afterwards came to my house; they had told me they would come. When they came there I saw Robert Mason and Joseph Carter; the former was in the barn, and Carter at the house door when they demanded money. The mob then went to the Sheep-house Farm. Mr Calendar's is about two and a half or three miles from my house. Joseph Mason, William Winkworth, Thomas Berriman, and Joseph Carter were at this farm. The mob had sticks and sledge hammers, and one had a bar of iron. Joseph Mason had worked for my father at one time. The Masons are not labourers but gardeners, and rented three or four acres of land of their own.'

On being cross examined James Dear replied. 'The mob broke one machine at our farm; another mob joined that which was at Mr Paine's farm. As I was overseer I thought it my duty to go and hear what their intentions were. There were several farmers with me, to see what was going on, so as to be able to make preparations at home.'

James Wickham was called and said, 'I remember the mob on the 19th of November. I knew the Masons before that day. They occupy considerable land as gardeners; they are not labourers; they are above it. I saw Cooper between seven and eight o'clock in the morning with the mob. They came to my house between three and four o'clock. James Pearce and Thomas Berriman were with the mob then. My house is about six miles from Mr Calendar's.'

On being cross examined James Wickham replied, 'Joseph Carter has worked for me for a number of years; six, or eight, or ten years. He lives in the same village as me. He is a quiet peaceable man. Joseph Mason I have known for some time. He is a quiet man.'

Mr Justice Parke then called on the prisoners for their defence.

Joseph Mason said, 'Around 60 or 70 men had gathered in Bullington and I had been compelled to go with them, but I was not with the mob at Mr Calendar's.'

Robert Mason said, 'The day before the 19th of November, as I was at work in the garden with my brother, a large mob came down to Bullington and desired me to go with them' At first I refused, but they said if I did not, I would have a warm bed. I was therefore, compelled to do so, fearing that if I did not, I would lose what little property I had, and feeling at the same time, that my life would not be safe. In consequence, I joined the mob.'

Thomas Berriman and Joseph Carter said they had no defence to offer. James Pearce and Isaac Hill, senior, both said that they had been pressed to join the mob.

William Winkworth said, 'On that morning, I had gone up to the housekeeper of Sir Thomas Baring, and told her that the mob were coming there, and in consequence, she offered me £5 to keep them away.'

Mr Justice Parke told the Jury that, as there was no evidence to affect Thomas Baverstock, they might dismiss him at once.

A considerable number of witnesses were called to speak to the character of the prisoners.

Enos Diddams spoke for the two Masons, Joseph Carter and James Pearce. 'I have known the two Masons for ten years. They are peculiarly honest, sober, peaceable and industrious men. I have

⁴³⁹ This witness is named as Henry Crop in the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald* (London), and states that Robert Carter was there, presumably this should be Joseph Carter

known Carter for 17 years, he is a peaceable man. I have known James Pearce for 13 or 14 years, he is a quiet man. I saw one man pressed at his own gate, at about nine o'clock in the morning of the 17th November. I am more particularly intimate with the two Masons, because we belong to the same choir. In consequence we sometimes met twice a week at a private house. There was a meeting within the last two months held at the *Swan Inn*, at Sutton Scotney, at which I and the two Masons were present. The meeting was to get up a petition to the King. There were 40 or 50 people present. I saw the Masons on the 19th November, after their return from Mr Wickham's.'

On cross examination Diddams said, 'I am a shoemaker by trade. I knew the Masons by being members of the same choir with them. We had in consequence several meetings to sing at private houses. We have also had meetings in public houses. Our last meeting was on Saturday, the 13th of November. There were a few of us met at The Swan, at Sutton Scotney. Ten of us met that night. Joseph Mason was there; but not Robert Mason. I never was at any meeting with them before, except last Michaelmas at night, when we agreed upon a petition to the King. Both the Masons were present at that meeting.'

A gentleman called Wickham also gave the Masons an excellent character.⁴⁴⁰

Mr Justice Parke then proceeded to sum up the evidence. 'There are seven persons, Gentlemen, against whom there are charges of robbery, and before I state to the nature of the law of robbery, I will repeat the request very properly made by the Learned Counsel for the Crown, and beg you to dismiss from your minds any previous impression prejudicial to the prisoners, and that you will also set on one side all remembrance of the recent disturbances which have been so prevalent in this county. By that means you will be enabled to find your verdicts according to your oaths, upon the evidence which is adduced before you alone. There are two points for you to inquire into – first, whether the evidence is such as to convince you that the robbery has been committed, and then if so, by whom, whether by all the prisoners before you, or by any one or more of them. The crime of which they are charged is, that of robbery, which is generally improperly termed highway robbery, because the legal definition of the crime is a felonious taking of any sum of money. It is not material to prove that actual personal violence has been used, because it is the same in the eye of the law, if it is shown that a person of ordinary courage has been induced to part with his money from the influence of fear created by threats, or threatening gestures, or expressions. It also appears to me that any person, a servant, being left by his master in possession, for its safety, of property, acquires a temporary interest in it, and, therefore, in the event of his giving it up, or any portion of it through fear, it seems, I say, that the parties compelling this delivery up of the property is guilty of the crime which comes under the law. To prove this it is necessary to show that the property so given up is parted with when under the influence of fear. The case of Mr Calendar, therefore, requires that you should be satisfied on this point, and it is for you say whether you consider the robbery to have been effected under such circumstances. It appears that these persons with others had, on the 19th of November, been going about from place to place, having in view one common object, that of breaking machines; but this offence is not included in the present indictment, it being only for a robbery. I will, in the first place, state to you the evidence of Mr Calendar, generally, and then point out to you the way in which it affects the prisoners collectively and individually.'

The Learned Judge then went through all the testimony, and adopted the same course as in the trial yesterday.

At the conclusion, the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against Thomas Berriman, the elder, and James Pearce, and *Acquitted* Joseph Mason, Robert Mason, Joseph Carter, William Winkworth, Isaac Hill, the younger, and Thomas Baverstock.

On delivering the verdict against Berriman, the Foreman begged to call the attention of the Court to one mitigating fact in the prisoner's case. It was that, after he had received the money, he prevented the mob going to Sir Thomas Baring's house; and, with regard to Pearce, they strongly recommended him to mercy on account of his good character. The Jury had, he observed, found him guilty with reluctance.

Mr Justice Parke said he would make a note of the recommendations,

⁴⁴⁰ *The Times*, 22 December 1830

William Winkworth, aged 43 was again placed at the bar along with Henry Cook, aged 19, Isaac Hill, the elder, aged 62, David Champ, aged 21, and John Kear, aged 29. They were capitally indicted for having, on the 19th of November last, at the parish of Mitcheldever, feloniously made an assault on one William Pain, and put him in bodily fear, and having feloniously stolen from his person one gold sovereign, the monies of the said William Pain.⁴⁴¹

The prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Mr Sergeant Wilde conducted the case for the prosecution, telling the Jury that this case was the first which arose out of the assembling of the 19th November, Mr Pain's being the first farm to which they went. They went there between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, where they demanded an increase of wages, making altogether 2s per day, to which Mr Pain, after considerable remonstrance, agreed to give.⁴⁴²

The following witnesses were called.

Mr William Pain was called and said. 'I live at Borough Farm, Mitcheldever, and I am overseer of the parish. I recollect a mob coming to my house between eight and nine o'clock in the morning of the 19th November. I went out to them, and they said that they wanted an advance of wages, 2s a day, and the machines to be broken. I remonstrated with them, and begged them not to break the machine. I told them that I had never used it, except on most urgent occasions, and never to the disadvantage of any man's labour. Some of the older men had agreed with this but the younger men, David Champ, Henry Cook and John Kear among them, had already started to break the machine. I told them of the impropriety of their conduct, but they cried out that, 'It would end in blood,' and that, 'it should not end there – it had not come to the worst.' Isaac Hill had called me aside and suggested I take an old fool's advice and give them some money in order to get rid of them. Believing Hill's advice to have been given as a result of the genuine concern he felt at what else the mob might do, I gave Hill a sovereign, the men had previously broken my machine.'

Mr Sergeant Wilde proposed calling a witness to prove that Hill's advice had been anything but friendly. An objection was raised at this and before making a decision Mr Justice Parke left the Court to consult the other Judges. On his return he stated that they were of the opinion that the examination should go ahead but added, 'If Mr Sergeant Wilde cannot carry this case any further than he has hitherto done, the evidence would not support a conviction.'

Mr Pain continued his evidence, 'I gave the money to Hill, as I feared the mob would go into my house, and commit some depredations. I had that morning given beer to the mob, after which they had, I thought, gone away to work, but after a short time they returned, it was then that Hill called me aside. I agreed to advance their wages to 2s. a day.'

On being cross examined Mr Pain replied. "I gave the money in consequence of the advice given to me by Hill."

Mr Pain was able to identify all the prisoners as having been among the 100 people that had come to his farm on the 19th November.

William Pain, son of the last witness was called, and was able to confirm his father's testimony. James Dear was called and said, 'The same mob who had been at Mr Paine's had come from my father's farm on the same day and a threshing machine had been broken and money demanded. Isaac Hill and Henry Cook had both been present, but neither of them had demanded the money. I had also been at Mr Dowden's and had seen him give Hill a sovereign.'

Other witnesses were called and were able to identify the prisoners as having been with the mob. The prisoners declined saying anything in their defence, with the exception of Isaac Hill, who said, 'I advised Mr Paine to give the money, because I was afraid the mob would proceed to violence. I was not in want of it myself, and therefore I could have had no other object.'

Mr Justice Parke summed up the evidence, and after a short consultation, the Jury *Acquitted* all the prisoners.

The Court was adjourned at seven o'clock this evening and will open again at eight thirty tomorrow morning.⁴⁴³

⁴⁴¹ The *Hampshire Advertiser* states that the assault was on 'one Richard Paine, and put him in bodily fear, and stolen from his person two sovereigns'; the *Hampshire Telegraph* states that the assault was on William Pain, as does the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴⁴² *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴⁴³ According to the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald* (London) the Court adjourned at half past six

Wednesday, 22nd December 1830

Crown Court

Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Parke, sat this morning in the Crown Court, and Mr Justice Alderson presided in the Nisi Prius Court. Those prisoners who had already been tried have been classed according to the districts in which the riots have taken place, so that witnesses, who identified several of the prisoners, might not be unnecessarily detained, and the trials, therefore, have not been with relation to the magnitude of the offence. Several of the heaviest charges have therefore yet to be brought forward.⁴⁴⁴

Thomas Gregory, aged 32, and Richard Beckingham, aged 26, were placed at the bar, indicted with having on the 23rd November last, at the parish of Quarley, with divers other persons, to the number of 70, riotously assembled together and destroying a threshing machine, the property of Richard Bethell Cox.

The prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*. The Attorney general stated the case for the prosecution.

Richard Bethell Cox was called, and examined by Mr Follett, 'I live at Quarley. On the 23rd November last, at 8 o'clock in the morning, I recollect a mob of 30 or 40 people coming to my house. I had a threshing machine that cost me about £50 or £60. I saw it in a good state only two days before the mob came. I had taken it down previously, in consequence of the apprehension I felt, as a few days before a mob had been in the adjoining village. When the mob came, they went to the machine, which was in the field. I did not see them break it; but I have seen it broken into 40 different pieces, and rendered quite useless.'⁴⁴⁵

Joseph Lane was called, and examined by Mr Dampier, 'I am bailiff to Mr Cox. At about 8 o'clock in the morning of the 23rd November, I saw 30 or 40 people proceeding to the house of Mr Cox. There were many of them armed with bludgeons and sticks. I saw them go to the field where Mr Cox's threshing machine was, and break it all to pieces with sledge hammers. I saw Richard Beckingham in the mob. He struck the threshing machine with a sledge hammer, and broke it to pieces. I saw Thomas Gregory there too. I saw him put down a stick, take up a sledge hammer, and knock off the great wheel. Gregory is a carpenter, and Richard Beckingham a labourer.'

Joseph Lane was cross examined by the prisoners' counsel, but nothing was elicited to shake his testimony.

Thomas Blake was called, and said, 'I saw the two prisoners knocking the threshing machine to pieces.'⁴⁴⁶

The prisoners said nothing in their defence but Thomas Gregory called his sister, to speak on his behalf.

Lucy Gregory was called, and said, 'I was at breakfast with my brother on the morning of the 23rd of November, at about six o'clock, when a number of men had come to our house. Two or three men came in and took my brother by his arm and pulled him out of his chair, and said, 'D – me, come along with us.' They put his hat on his head, and obliged him to go with them, the other men stayed outside. Our house is nearly three miles from Mr Cox's.'

The Attorney General recalled Mr Lane, and in answer to a question put to him, Mr Lane replied, 'Gregory was very active in the destruction of Mr Cox's machine and nobody appeared to be controlling him in any way.'

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the evidence and the Jury found both the prisoners *Guilty*. As there were other charges against Gregory he was removed from the bar

⁴⁴⁴ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830, *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* 27 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 23 December 1830; *The Times*, 23 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, and in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

⁴⁴⁵ The *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning Herald (London)* name the place where Mr Cox lives as Morley

⁴⁴⁶ Note: This witness is named as Thomas Blake in *The Times*, and Thomas Lake in the *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning Herald (London)*. A Thomas Blake was buried at Quarley on 31 January 1837, aged 66

Mr Baron Vaughan then passed sentence of the Court upon Richard Beckingham. ‘You, Richard Beckingham, have been very properly convicted on the clearest and most satisfactory evidence of having destroyed a threshing machine, belonging to Richard Bethell Cox; and it is fit and necessary that the public should understand the law relating to such offences will be administered with effect. The legislature has thought fit within the last four years, to protect by special enactment this species of property, and it is as deserving of protection as any other species, and therefore, when the law which protects it is violated, the offender must take the consequences. I am sorry to know that you have been already in another gaol in this county for other offences. You are here, however for this offence only. It is necessary to show the public that this system of breaking machines must be put an end to. You are a single man, I understand, and were at the commission of this offence in receipt of good wages, and therefore you have no pretence, or excuse, to offer for what you have done. The law has given to the Judge discretion to adjudge such offenders as you to the punishment of transportation of seven years; and I feel that I should abuse the trust reposed in me if I did not let the law take its full extent against you. I therefore sentence you to be transported for seven years, to such parts beyond the seas as his Majesty, by the advice of his Privy Council, may determine.’⁴⁴⁷

Thomas Gregory was then placed in the dock again and indicted for having on the 23rd November last at Quarley, assaulted Joseph Lane, and feloniously demanded of him one sovereign, at the same time and place as laid out in the last indictment.

Gregory pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Joseph Lane was called again and said. ‘On the 23rd November, in the morning, I met the mob in the streets of Quarley and Gregory was at their head. I asked him what he was going to do. He said they were going to destroy all machinery, by order of the magistrates. The mob then went and broke Mr Cox’s machine. After they had broken Mr Cox’s machine Gregory demanded money from me. When I refused to give him any, he said they would go to Mr Cox’s house. I was fearful they would do so, and destroy some cast iron machinery that was there. I asked him what they were in the habit of receiving, and I heard someone say, ‘A sovereign’. I do not know that it was Gregory that said this. I asked them who their money-taker was, and they said a man called Rose. I handed over a sovereign to Rose, and he held it up to the mob. As soon as they saw it they gave three cheers. Gregory called for silence after that, and they were all silent. He told them not to set fire to any house, and to prevent fire if they could. After that they went away.’

On being cross examined Mr Lane admitted that Gregory was not violent in the way he conducted himself.

Mr Lane’s testimony was confirmed by Mr Edwards.

In his defence Gregory said that he had been pressed to join the mob.

In summing up the case, Mr Justice Parke stated. ‘It is not necessary to constitute in this offence that the money should be taken by force; but, if a person was induced to give money from fear of violence, that was all the law required.’

The jury found Gregory *Guilty*.

Mr Lane was recalled, and in reply to a question said, ‘Gregory admitted to the magistrates that he had been receiving 18s a week as a carpenter.’

In reply to a question from Mr Pollen, Mr Lane stated, ‘Gregory had been a carpenter to Lord Winchester.’

Sentence was not passed on this prisoner.

George Hopgood, aged 30, and Jacob Wiltshire, aged 22, were indicted for having, on the 21st day of November last, at the parish of Vernham Dean, with several other persons to the number of 100, riotously assembled together, and with threats demanded and received of Darius Bull one and a half sovereigns of the current coin of the realm, the said Darius Bull having paid the same under the fear of injury either to his person or his property.⁴⁴⁸

The prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Darius Bull was called, and examined, ‘On the 21st of November, at eleven o’clock at night, the prisoners and a large number of other persons – from 100 to 150, came to my house, many of them having bludgeons. We heard them coming and went to meet them. I asked what they wanted;

⁴⁴⁷ *The Times*, 23 December 1830

⁴⁴⁸ According to the *Hampshire Advertiser* Darius Bull was robbed of one sovereign

they said money – five sovereigns. I told them I would not give them so much – that it was a very improper time of night - and I asked them to come again in the morning. They said they would not go away without money. I then handed over the gate of the lawn, to two or three of them, half a sovereign each. Wiltshire was then called forward by the mob to take the money. I then put in his hand one sovereign. The mob said that was no use; but they must have the whole money. They were then very clamorous. Hopgood then jumped over the palings by my side. The mob became very impatient, and began to beat my brother and his friend over the head. I was intimidated by this, and gave Hopgood a sovereign and a half, so that they had altogether three sovereigns and a half or four sovereigns. The mob then broke the palings and rushed in, and said they would pull down the house if they had not the five sovereigns. I told them I had no more money. I was very much alarmed.'

When questioned by George Hopgood, Mr Bull replied, 'I do not know that you asked me for anything.'

In reply to the same question put by Jacob Wiltshire, Mr Bull said, 'I do not think you asked me for anything.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Bull replied, 'Wiltshire was called on to receive the money, and I gave it to him.'

William Wilkins was called, and said, 'I saw the two prisoners in the mob. George Hopgood is a journeyman carpenter and Jacob Wiltshire is a labouring man. Hopgood showed me the sovereign and a half in his purse.'

The prisoners said that Wilkins had begun the mob, and carried a lantern, and the money was all spent on victuals and beer, of which Wilkins partook.

John Pinniger and Hiram Bull were able to corroborate the testimony of Darius Bull.

Jacob Wiltshire called on Darius Bull to speak for him, Mr Bull said, 'The prisoner has worked for us many years, and always bore a very good character.'

Wiltshire told the Court that he was obliged to go with the mob.

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the case, and the Jury found both the prisoners *Guilty*.

William Smith, aged 20, Jacob Turner, aged 22, and James Annalls, aged 19, were indicted for having, on the 19th of November last, at the parish of Barton Stacey, with divers other persons, riotously assembled together, and feloniously assaulted one William Courtney, and put him in bodily fear, and stolen from him four half crown coins and five one shilling coins, the monies of the said William Courtney. The prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*.

In his opening address the Attorney General told the Jury that they must try to put out of their minds any connection between the prisoners and the fires that had occurred in Barton Stacey.

William Courtney was called, and said, 'I am a farmer and maltster at Newton Stacey. On the 19th November, Friday, about half past 10 at night, about 20 or 30 men came to my house, making a great noise. They said there were 1,500 coming. They had bludgeons in their hands. One man said, 'We want some refreshment or money.' I asked where they came from. They said from Bourne, 10 or 12 miles off. I held up the candle and saw Annalls and Turner. I knew them both by sight before, and I believe Smith to be one I saw. Annalls said, 'Look at the light over the hills,' I looked but there was no light there. He also said they wanted a sovereign. I said I would not give them one. He said he would have that or more. All the others could hear what he said. I asked them where they had been. He said the party had been breaking 10 or 12 machines, and had taken a good deal of money. I offered them five shillings; they said that would not do. Annalls said, 'Come on, we'll have a sovereign, or more.' Annalls and Smith then came into the house. Annalls said, 'Come on, behind,' and the whole advanced forward. I offered them fifteen shillings. One man said, 'Let us take it,' Annalls said, 'No, we'll have a sovereign.' I gave Annalls or Smith the money, as they were standing together. Both were looking at the money as it was being counted; and during this time, a sort of pointed dirk fell from one of those two men. It was through intimidation that I gave the money. About an hour and a half after, there was a fire in the direction they had pointed. I saw the flames. Some barns and ricks were burned that night, about a mile and a half off, at Sir Henry Wright Wilson's. I could see to read from the light of the flames.'

Jacob Turner said, 'You said take fifteen shillings.'

James Annalls said, 'We are innocent, every one of us.'

Hobbs, a servant to Mr Courtney was called, and said, 'I saw the prisoners at my master's house. Annalls had a piece of iron in his hand, about three feet long. I thought it was a square piece. I saw Mr Courtney give Annalls fifteen shilling. I saw Turner in the middle of the mob. I only saw Annalls in the house.'

Hobbs then gave a similar testimony to that given by his master, concerning the money. Leonard Lywood was called, and said, 'I live near Mr Courtney. I can identify Annalls and Turner, as being in the mob that came to my house that same night. They demanded money from my maid. They said they would have 15s, which they had just had at another house. Turner said, "Come out, and we will show you a light over the hills." There was a fire that night at Sir Henry Wright Wilson's. I asked whether they intended to burn property. Some of the mob said, "No; we do not wish to burn property." I believe Turner and Annalls to be labouring men.'

Jacob Turner said he was not guilty.

Mr Justice Parke said, 'There is a discrepancy in the evidence of Hobbs, as what he says now varies from the statement he had made in his deposition before the Magistrate.'

Sir Thomas Baring was shown the deposition made by Hobbs, and said that was his hand writing. The deposition of Hobbs was then read, in which he said that Annalls and Smith came into the kitchen, whereas he now said that Smith did not come into the house.

It was then said that there was another witness for the prosecution. It appeared, however, that he was an accomplice and the Judge said it was too late.

Mr Justice Parke then proceeded to sum up the case.

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners.

Joseph Blatch, aged 20, James Manns, aged 24, Thomas Green, aged 22, John Ellis, aged 23, Isaac Manns, aged 19, John Gilmore, aged 25, John Whitbread, alias John White, aged 29, William Stanford, alias William Stanmore, aged 23, Thomas Goodall, aged 30, Thomas Beckingham, aged 30, Charles Faye, age 22, George Myland, aged 28, John Goodall, aged 27, and William Shepherd, aged 23, were placed at the bar charged with having on Saturday the 20th day of November last, at the parish of Upper Clatford with divers other persons, to the number of 300, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, and then and there feloniously and wilfully pulled down, demolished and destroyed several machines there fixed, and used for the purpose of casting iron, and also certain other machinery used for making and manufacturing ploughs and other articles used for husbandry purpose. There were various counts in the indictment laying the same offence in different ways.⁴⁴⁹

The prisoners all pleaded *Not Guilty*.

The Attorney General addressed the Court, saying, 'It is most painful to open this case, for the prisoners at the bar are in the prime of life, and stand charged with a crime which affects their lives. I believe however painful the detail of my proofs might be, they will convince everyone who pays the slightest attention to them, that the guilt of these prisoners is undisputable. If the evidence does not bear out the charge against the prisoners, God forbid that anything I might say should have any weight. I will, therefore, confine myself, as I have done in every other case, to the slightest detail of the circumstances. It was on the 20th of November, that Mess^{rs} Tasker, who have a factory near Andover, had reason to apprehend from the disturbed spirit which pervaded the country that violence was intended against their manufactory. They therefore sent their servants into Andover to collect information of what was going on there. Their servants met with the prisoners on the road proceeding to carry into execution the scheme of destruction of which Mess^{rs} Tasker had received some previous notice. The servants of Mess^{rs} Tasker remonstrated with the rioters as to the measures which they were going to pursue. They made efforts to turn them from their wicked purpose; they shut the gates of the factory to give security to it; but the security which the gates affected soon yielded to the efforts of such a mob. They entered into the premises, and proceeded after great efforts to the utter destruction of the machinery. That this point was achieved, there can be no doubt. That all the parties included in the indictment participated in that offence, I verily believe; but if they did not God forbid that I should say anything which is calculated to excite an unfair prejudice in your minds against the prisoners. I only call upon you to give an anxious investigation to these proceedings which you have bestowed upon the other cases which I have

⁴⁴⁹ NOTE: Charles Faye is named as Charles Payne or Paine throughout the account of this trial in *The Morning Herald (London)*

submitted to your consideration. Perhaps when you see so many men charged with this offence, you might be inclined to think that it is a conspiracy formed by the agricultural labourers to destroy machinery, which diminished the value of their labour; but it was no such thing, and the prosecutor is entirely at a loss for the motives which induced so many individuals to unite in destroying a factory which could inflict no harm upon the labourers employed either in agriculture or in any other occupation. They said that smiths and carpenters, and everybody were injured by it, - that they could not live for it, and that therefore the factory must come down. No other duty now devolves upon me other than to call the witnesses, who might identify the different parties implicated in the transaction.⁴⁵⁰

Robert Tasker was called, and examined by Mr Follett. 'I and my brother William are manufacturers of agricultural machinery at Clatford, about two miles from Andover. We wrought in cast-iron. Our factory is called the Waterloo Foundry. The principal machinery we use in making agricultural machinery is a water wheel, a pressing machine, a crane, and lathes. The greatest part of our work is done by hand; we employ a great many labourers. I was at home about 4 o'clock on the 20th November, when the principal mob came. A little before that time all our machinery was perfect. I saw the mob coming towards the foundry. I did not speak to them, nor was I near enough to identify the parties. I was not in the factory when the mischief was done. This was Saturday. I did not go into the foundry until the following Tuesday. I then found the machinery all destroyed, broken and rendered useless and spoilt.'

Mr Tasker then went into a very detailed account of the injuries done to each part of his machinery. He then continued, 'Besides this, injury was done to the machines which I had been making. I hope the damage done will be under £1,000. Perhaps the machinery damaged would not be more than £300. The building also was injured. All the windows were beat in and the roof knocked off, and some of the walls knocked down. The machinery was not in use on Saturday morning. I ordered my men to lay off work, apprehending that from the spirit abroad there might be mischief done to the factory, and I thought it advisable not to have much fire about.'

On being cross examined, Mr Tasker replied, 'I am quite sure that this machinery is not exclusively mine. It was originally mine it now belongs to my brother and me jointly. He paid me a sum of money for a share in the business and in the machinery. We are partners. The lathe was employed the previous day.'

On being cross examined by the Court, Mr Tasker replied, 'Part of the water-wheel was destroyed. The lathe was put out of a working state. They were damaged so much that it was impossible to use them. It would be worthwhile to repair them. All the cast iron was broken. £20 or £30 would put the water wheel into repair. We have partially repaired the lathe, so that I can do a little work with it. The crane is not yet repaired, but from £15 or £20 would make it as good as ever. Its original cost was £60. The crane was not pulled down, some of the lathe was. They were so fixed that it would have taken more than a day to have pulled them down. They could have broken the heavy parts of it without such instruments as the millwrights use in fixing them up. They could not have destroyed them as much as they did if they had not had sledge-hammers. They did as much towards the destruction of them as they could with such instruments as they had. In five or six hours they might have done more injury to it, but not much more.'

Edward Walter Blunt was called, and examined by Mr Dampier. 'I am a Magistrate for the county, and was at Andover on the 20th November last. I was sitting as a magistrate with Sir Lucius Curtis. There was a mob then in the town; but these prisoners were not part of it. I know the prisoners John Gilmore and William Shepherd from their having been before me. I saw them both on the 20th November at Andover; they came into the Justices' room in rather a violent manner, and when Gilmore and Shepherd had entered, with three others, Gilmore put his back against the door and said that no more should enter, saying "There's enough in already." There was a large mob pressing to get in at the door. Sir Lucius Curtis spoke to Gilmore, who appeared to act as their leader. One of the others was John Goodall. I heard of the mob intending to go to Tasker's that day.'⁴⁵¹

On being cross examined, Mr Blunt replied, 'Agricultural labourers often come into the Justice-room, but not artisans of Andover, who belong to a special jurisdiction. A labourer from Clatford might very properly come to see us. I never saw Gilmore before that day. I do not know that he is a labourer of Upper Clatford.'

⁴⁵⁰ *The Times*, 23 November 1830

⁴⁵¹ NOTE: Mr Blunt's evidence is not mentioned in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

Charles Mason was called, and examined by the Attorney General. 'I am servant to Mr Blunt, and was with him at Andover on the 20th November. I went with the mob about 11 o'clock in the morning. I was forced to go. I went with them to different places, but not into Tasker's mill. I went with them to Mr Tasker's mill. They were going on violently. They had sticks and bludgeons with them. I remained with them from 11 to 3 o'clock. I think there were about 300 present. Gilmore was one of them – he had a stick in his hand, he held it over my head and compelled me to go with them. He continued with the party as long as I did, and longer. I know that Isaac Manns was with the party. He had a stick. I know no others of the prisoners. They were going about with violence to different places.'⁴⁵²

John Howell was called, and examined by Mr Follett. 'I am foreman at Tasker's factory. I received some information respecting the factory on the evening of the 19th, in consequence of which the factory was closed the next day. I went to Andover on the 20th to see what the object of the mob was. I found a large mob armed with bludgeons, gathered about the *Upper Angel Inn*. I went there with two or three of our men. I saw Isaac Manns, James Manns, and John Gilmore, in the crowd. I spoke to a man named John Price, who told me it would be a bad job before it was all over. I went down the street, and James Manns followed me; he asked me if I was not foreman. I said I was. He said the foundry should come down. I endeavoured to dissuade him, saying that the foundry did nobody any harm, and that they might have whatever they pleased, if they would desist. He went away and made no reply. After this conversation I returned to the factory, and got there about half past three; shortly after I heard an alarm of the mob coming. I went down Clatford-road to meet them. I met them about a quarter of a mile from the foundry. James and Isaac Manns were at the head, and someone carrying a flag; I believe Charles Faye to be that man; he bore a pick-axe also. They were all marching three deep. The men were generally armed with bludgeons of wood or with irons. There were 300 or upwards. I had ordered the gates to be locked before I left the factory, and they were locked. I met the mob and endeavoured to persuade them not to go on. Someone said, 'Tasker was ruining everyone – carpenters, blacksmiths, wrights, weavers, and everyone.' I said it hurt no one. I don't recollect that any answer was made to that. I addressed Isaac and James Manns, Isaac was inclined to stop. I pressed him to stop, but someone behind cried out, 'We must go on, and it must come down.' The only thing that I could do was to push on to the gate of the factory. The front of the mob got there before me. They were shaking the gates, and ordering them to be opened. I endeavoured to persuade them to desist, by telling them they should have what they liked. I saw Faye, with his pick-axe, make an attempt at the base of the left hand pillar. I said nothing to him, for there were two or three persons between him and me. Isaac Manns gave me a push and said, 'Stand out of the way, and let me come to the lock.' He raised his bludgeon, and with one blow knocked the lock off. The folding gates then opened to the right and left, and we all went in together. The mob began to destroy as soon as they entered, some changing their bludgeons for better tools, which they found in plenty lying about the yard. They began first with the flasks, in which we cast our tools, they knocked the handles and the bars off. I made my way into the foundry as best I could, they were breaking into the yard very fast. Some of the mob were in there before I got in. The first man I saw there was breaking the crane with a piece of iron. I went and looked at him, right and left, to know him again. The next man I saw was Thomas Green, he picked up a piece of a flask, and flung it through the windows. I ran out of the foundry, and told our men to take care, if they did not stand out of the way, their friends would knock their brains out. They were then flinging at the foundry windows, both from the inside and from the outside of the factory. I then left the foundry, and went into the yard, where the mob were very busy. There were many men in the yard dealing out destruction. When I went back into the factory, and saw John Ellis; he was not doing anything. I spoke to him. He said it was a bad job. I said, 'It is, can't you stop it?' He replied, 'What will you give?' I replied, 'Make your charge, whatever you like.' He gave a signal, 'A hoy! A hoy!' They ceased work for a moment. He then told them they might have what they liked, if they would but stop. Some of them were offended by this and said, 'Go to work, no money will stop us.' I don't know who said this. They went to work again. I don't know what became of Ellis just then. I saw him again in the yard, and said, 'Can't you stop this?' He was inactive. He said he had tried, but could not do so. He made

⁴⁵² NOTE: According to Charles Mason's evidence in the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald* (London) there were 400 present in the mob. Charles Mason's evidence does not appear in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

another signal, and they stopped for a moment. He addressed them again. They said, 'No money shall stop us.' The cry came principally from the Pictoes, who are not in custody. They went on again with the destruction. This took place in the yard. There were a great many both on the outside and on the inside of the factory. What Ellis said on the outside was heard by those who were inside, for they stopped work. I returned into the foundry, and saw a man standing near the water-wheel, with his hands in his breeches pocket, opposite the frame of the water-wheel. He said, 'I wonder where the water-wheel is, I have not seen it yet.' He told those under his command to search for it. The men then dispersed, and went in search of it. They found the wooden enclosure and broke it down. They then set to work on the water-wheel, and broke several parts of it. They destroyed the starts, made of cast-iron, and bent the paddles, made of wrought iron. They were at the wheel nearly three quarters of an hour. Ellis told me afterwards that he struck the water-wheel only once. The whole of the mob were employed in destroying cast iron rollers, machines for the plough, and various agricultural machines. I went home to see if my family were safe. I saw the greatest part of them afterwards, but could not identify them. They came to my house, which is about 50 yards from the factory. Joseph Blatch was one, and William Shepherd was another, he had a prong of iron in his hand. When they came they demanded beer. I said that I could not give it them, for I had no more than what I got by hard labour, like themselves. I spoke to Blatch, and asked him to get them out of the house. He said, 'So I will.' He gave a signal, and said, 'This is a poor man with a large family and we ought not to trouble him.' They then went away and I saw no more of the mob that night.'

On being cross examined Mr Howell said, 'My house is part of Mr Tasker's premises. I did not see Blatch at the foundry. It was owing to his exertions that my house was not plundered. He did his utmost to protect my property. John Gilmore proposed searching my house for beer, but Blatch prevented him. I never knew Faye before. If men were pressed into the mob they had no occasion to work.'

Mr Baron Vaughan here intimated to the counsel for the prosecution that they ought to examine this witness, who was foreman of the factory, as to the state in which the mob left the machinery. 'It is necessary to see whether the machinery was destroyed or whether it was only damaged so as to be rendered useless. This is an important distinction, as in the 7th and 8th of Geo IV., c30, s. 4, it was enacted 'that if any person should unlawfully and maliciously cut, break, or destroy, or damage with intent to destroy, or to render useless, any threshing machine, or any machine or engine employed in any manufacture whatsoever, every such offender should be guilty of a felony, but not of a capital felony.' The 9th section of the same act rendered it a capital felony whenever any person riotously and tumultuously assembled together, demolished , pulled down and destroyed, or began to demolish, pull down, or destroy, any building or erection used in carrying on any trade of manufacture, or any machinery employed in it. It therefore is material for the prosecution to show very clearly the state in which the machinery was left; for if it shows that the mob had only damaged the machinery with intent to render it useless, this indictment will not serve for that offence.'⁴⁵³

Mr Justice Parke added, 'One of the questions in this case clearly should be, firstly, whether the machinery was destroyed, or secondly, if it was not destroyed, whether thee as a beginning to destroy. It is competent for the parties to show that they damaged the machinery, not with intent to destroy it, but with intent to render it useless; and it is therefore incumbent on the prosecution to carry their evidence further than they have hitherto gone.'⁴⁵⁴

On being re-examined by Mr Follett, Mr Howell said, 'I went into the factory next morning. The screw and wheel of the lathe were broken. The lathe itself is all iron. The pin is wrought-iron, and the rest cast-iron. It was in the same state when my master saw it as the mob left it. The same instruments that broke the screw would break the bed. They could have done more damage to the crane with the instruments they had. They might have broken the cheeks. They damaged it so as to render it useless. It must have new cast-iron pinions and gears. I saw them at work at the crane with a bar of iron. The water-wheel was left useless.'

On being cross examined, Mr Howell replied, 'They told us they had worked as hard as they could that night, but they would come again on Monday and finish the job. I heard that said by one man after midnight. It was too dark for them to do more mischief that night. Nothing was done to

⁴⁵³ *The Times*, 23 December 1830

⁴⁵⁴ *The Times*, 23 December 1830

prevent their coming on Monday. In the afternoon of Monday a military force of Lancers came to Andover.'

On re-examination, Mr Howell replied, 'Andover is not a town where the military are usually quartered.'

Thomas Howell was called, and said, 'I am a journeyman at the factory. I saw Isaac Manns there. I told him if he would not do any mischief, there were plenty of sovereigns and drink. He said they came with the intention of having the foundry down, and they would have it down. No money would stop them, and if it were put up again, they would have it down again. I saw James Manns in the crowd. I saw George Myland inside the furnace house. He was beating the furnaces with a piece of iron he had. I saw Thomas Green in the yard; he was beating flasks with a piece of iron. John Gilmore said, 'D – n their eyes, no money, go to work.' I knew Thomas Beckingham. I saw him in the yard. He was close to me when I spoke about the sovereigns. He said that they had not yet found the wheel. I saw William Stanmore close to the outer gates, as they were going away. He said there was a gatepost standing, he would be d – d if it would not come down. I told him he might as well let it alone, and he left off. I asked him what good, he thought might come of all the mischief they had done. He said, 'Perhaps Mr Tasker would rather they had done what they had done, than have his farm set on fire.' I knew Thomas Green; he was there, he is of no trade. Thomas Beckingham is a tailor. Isaac Manns is a labourer; so is John Gilmore, he had been a soldier; William Stanmore is a labourer; James Manns works in a tan-yard.'

Moses Brown was called, and said, 'I saw Isaac Manns force the gates. I saw Charles Faye carry the flag. I saw George Myland beating different things in the foundry, and I saw Joseph Blatch there.'

Thomas Wind was able to identify the Isaac and James Manns, Green, Gilmore, Ellis, and Blatch as being in the mob.

Stephen Shepherd was called and identified the prisoners John Whitebread and Thomas Goodall as being very busy during the destruction of the machinery, and added, 'Whitebread struck me violently, and damned me, saying that I was one of the spies.'

Edward Allen was called and said, 'I saw William Shephard knocking down a wall. He had a spong in his hand, Also saw James Manns and John Whitbread there. I believe that Thomas Goodall has always borne a good character.'

Several more witnesses were called, including Thomas Butcher, Thomas Wilde, James Hill, H. Wakeford, H. Potter, who were able to identify various prisoners. They were also able to corroborate the evidence of the former witnesses.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

The prisoners were then called for their defence. Several of the men said that they had been pressed by the mob.

John Ellis said, 'I was ordered into the factory by John Howell.'

Mr Howell was called again and denied this.

Thomas Goodall said, 'Shepherd, the principal witness against me, stated in a deposition before the magistrates that I had been one of the first to enter the factory, and to assist in destroying everything, now he is saying I did nothing at the factory.'

Shepherd's deposition was read and it was as Goodall had said. Shepherd was examined and said that he could not recollect it.

Joseph Blatch called three witnesses to speak on his behalf, William Green said, 'I live near Andover. I have always known Blatch as a very industrious young man, he is a labourer.'

Mr Alexander said, 'I have been acquainted with Blatch for four years and he has always been a very steady sober man.'

William Charlton gave him a similar character.

Thomas Evans spoke on behalf of four of the prisoners. 'I have known Thomas Beckingham for 14 or 15 years and he has always borne a good character, he is a tailor. I also know John Gilmore, he is a labour, he has always been considered a steady man; and I also know James and Isaac Manns, they are both men of good character.'

A witness for George Myland said that he had spoken to Myland on the morning of the 20th November and he had expressed a fear that he might be pressed by the mob. He had been attending to his master's horses, and wished he would send him some other way.

Other witnesses were called and they gave many of the prisoners' excellent characters.

Mr Baron Vaughan then proceeded to sum up the case to the Jury. ‘It is my duty to make you understand distinctly the nature of the charge for which the prisoners now stood at the bar are accused, and a dreadful sight it is to see so many as fourteen at the bar. It is a prosecution at the suit of Mess^{rs} Tasker, the owners of certain buildings and machinery. The indictment charge is, that on the 20th November certain persons riotously and tumultuously assembled together, and being so assembled, demolished and pulled down certain machinery, being in a building of theirs, and employed in a certain manufacture. The first count applies to the total demolition of the machinery; the second count charges them, not with the actual demolition, but a beginning to destroy. This an offence created by an act of Parliament passed in the 7th and 8th Geo. IV., c 30, which very much extended the provision of a former Act, and by this particular clause it protected machinery by a very severe penalty, for persons convicted of this offence were subject to the punishment of death. Here the question is, whether there was a riotous assembly of persons, and whether these prisoners constituted a part of that assembly, and whether they did begin to demolish and destroy the machinery in question. My first object is to address your attention to the evidence itself. You have it in evidence that Mess^{rs} Tasker carried on this manufacture at Upper Clatford, and on the 20th November they were visited by a large mob of persons; that their machinery was then in perfect order for working, and that the offence of beginning to destroy it was at that time committed. I will give you the particular words of the Act, which are, ‘If any person riotously and tumultuously assembled together, should with force demolish, pull down, or destroy any building, &c, or any machinery, whether fixed or moveable, employed in any manufacture, every such offender be guilty of felony and should suffer death.’ The question is whether these persons did demolish, or begin to demolish, any machinery employed in any manufacture. The evidence went on to state the situation of the premises and machinery; - that a mob came, and then the acts of violence were shown. You are to be satisfied that there was a beginning to demolish – an intention to destroy – this machinery. It is not necessary that this intention should have been actually accomplished; if they began their violence with the intention to demolish, it will bring the offence within the Act; but it will not do if they only meant to damage it; but you must be satisfied that it was their intention to utterly destroy it. In order, therefore, to simplify the case, you will first consider whether a body of persons riotously assembled together, having an intention to destroy this machinery; you will consider this question first, without any relation as to the particular parties committing the offence. Having decided this, I will then proceed to sum up the evidence as it relates to the prisoners at the bar.’

The Jury, having considered a few minutes, said they had made up their minds.

His Lordship then went through the evidence as it affected each prisoner separately, the Jury making up their minds upon each individual’s case. The whole having been gone through, the Jury returned the following verdicts: -

Joseph Blatch, James Manns, Isaac Manns, Thomas Green, John Ellis, John Gilmore, William Stanmore, Charles Faye, George Myland, and William Shepherd, *Guilty*. ⁴⁵⁵

John Whitebread, Thomas Goodall, Thomas Beckingham, and John Goodall, *Not Guilty*;

The verdicts were not delivered until five minutes before 12 o’clock at night. The summing up had lasted three hours. Most of the prisoners are fine young men. ⁴⁵⁶

Nisi Prius Court

Mr Justice Alderson presided in the Nisi Prius Court today.

Mr Sergeant Wilde and Mr Missing conducted the cases for the prosecution.

The Court opened at half past eight.

Charles Pain, aged 22, James Cook, aged 28, John Keens, aged 18, Charles Bulpitt, aged 25, John Bulpitt, aged 23, John Batten, aged 21, George Clark, aged 25, James Baker, aged 20, and Henry Bulpitt, aged 20 were put to the bar, charged with having on the 22nd November last, at the parish of St Lawrence Wootton, with divers other persons unknown, unlawfully assembled together, and

⁴⁵⁵ NOTE: Charles Faye is named as ‘Charles Hay or Payne’ in *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December

⁴⁵⁶ *The Times*, 2 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830.

then and there made a great riot and disturbance, and also with having feloniously stolen from the person of William Lutley Sclater, two sovereigns, his monies.⁴⁵⁷

No Bill was found against Henry Bulpitt.

One of the Jurors, on being called on to take the oath, begged to be excused, as he came from the neighbourhood where the prisoners had been committed. The Juror was excused.⁴⁵⁸

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case to the Jury. ‘On the 22nd November, the prisoners, with a large number of other men, went to Tangier Park, near Basingstoke, where they demanded money from William Lutley Sclater. In consequence of the intimidation which their numbers, and their general appearance was calculated to inspire, they were able to obtain the money they demanded.’

William Lutley Sclater was called, and said, ‘I live at Tangier Park, near Basingstoke. On the 22nd November, at about half past two o’clock, I was standing within my garden gate, when I saw a large concourse of persons coming from the direction of Manydown, the residence of my nearest neighbour, Mr Wither. When they arrived near the house the foremost of the mob stopped, and then they came on in closer order. There were about 30 in the first lot. The rest came straggling on, covering a space of about 100 yards. They were armed with sledge-hammers, sticks, and iron crowbars. I should think there were about 150 altogether. They stopped at my gate. When I asked them if they had any business with me, one of them said, ‘Yes, we must have a little satisfaction from you.’ I then asked from whence they came. They said, ‘From all parts.’ I said, ‘If you were of my own parish I should know how to speak with you.’ I said this as I had attended at a meeting of farmers, when it was agreed to raise the wages according to the times. They then said, ‘That is nothing to us – we must have something to assist us in the business we are now about,’ or words to that effect. I said they would have nothing from me. On hearing that, one of the men, the prisoner Charles Pain, (he identified him), said, ‘Then we must go to work.’ He had a sledge-hammer in his hand. The gate was immediately opened by some of the mob, and they were rushing in, but were stopped by a messenger who came up to me from my neighbour, Mr Wither, at Manydown, and begged them to wait until he had spoken to me. His name was John Lilleywright. He told me what had taken place at Manydown. About 30 or 40 then came within the gateway. I said to them, ‘You had better mind what you are at, for there are soldiers coming.’ Several voices cried out, ‘We don’t care for the soldiers; we can die but once.’ And one of them said, ‘The soldiers will not fire on us.’ One of the men went forward to my front door with a sledge-hammer lifted up. At this moment the mob observed my gardener and under gardener, on a bowling-green the other side of the house. Several voices cried out, ‘Press them, press them.’ They left the front door to chase these men and I followed. A struggle ensued between my men and some of the party. When they had taken my men prisoners they turned round to me and again asked me for satisfaction, and said they must have the same as they had had at the other house, two sovereigns. The demand was made in a loud and resolute tone of voice, by several. One of the men, who had a trumpet, said he would blow it, to collect the others. He looked first at me and then at the others, and said, ‘Shall I blow the Trumpet?’ Presently someone cried out, ‘Surround him.’ Immediately they formed a ring around me. I then said I had no gold in my pocket, but I could get some if they would let me out of the ring. They did so, and I retired to a short distance, and turned round and said, ‘There are two sovereigns in my pocket; if you will have them, you must take them out.’ They said, ‘No, you shall give them to us.’ They then surrounded me closely, and lifted up their sticks. One of them, Pain, I think, was the man who stood before me with his hammer raised over my head. There was more than one hammer. I then pulled out two sovereigns, and held them in my hand for some time, whilst I was talking to them. Presently I felt myself hustled from behind, and the money was knocked out of my hand, and several voices cried out, ‘He has dropped them.’ Several hands were instantly stretched out and they were picked up, but I cannot say by whom. The party who were immediately about me, the 30 or 40 who came into my garden, gave a cheer, and went away. Charles Pain, James Cook, John Bulpitt, John Keens, John Batten, and George Clark, were part of the 30 or 40. I had never seen them before, that I know of. They were about me a full half hour, and I had ample opportunity to recognise them. I thought, from the manner

⁴⁵⁷ NOTE: Henry Bulpitt’s name is not included among those charged with this offence in the account in the *Hampshire Advertiser* or *The Morning Herald* (London)

⁴⁵⁸ *The Morning Herald* (London)

in which the mob demanded the money, and rushed towards the house, that they were going to break open the door, and I gave them the money in consequence.⁴⁵⁹

On being cross examined by Sir George Grey, who appeared for Charles Pain, Mr Sclater replied, 'I had no communication with the mass of the mob. The money fell out of my hands. I did not give it to them. I felt that I must, ultimately, give them the money to get rid of them. The prisoner Pain was standing just before me.'

Alfred Dennett, Mr Scalter's gardener, was called and was able to corroborate his master's testimony. He was also able to identify James Baker as one of the men near his master. 'Baker had a hammer in his hand. There were several had hammers and bars in their hands, but I cannot say which of them. Baker was one of the men who came down and laid hold of me.'⁴⁶⁰

Richard Bradley, who is also in the service of Mr Scalder, confirmed his master's testimony. 'James Baker and Charles Bulpitt were among the mob. The former had a sledge-hammer and the latter a stick in his hand. Not one of the prisoners lives in the same parish as Mr Sclater.'

William Lawes was called and said, 'I am a carpenter. I remember the mob that went to Mr Sclater's on the 22nd of November. I saw them first at about 11 o'clock at Worting, about a mile and a half from Mr Sclater's. I was at work up stairs, and they came up to me and made me go with them. George Clark, James Baker, and Charles Pain, were amongst the mob. Pain had a sledge-hammer in his hand. Some of the others also had hammers, and some sticks. At least seven or eight had hammers, and almost all of them had sticks. They forced me to join them. Before I went with them one of them took my hammer, and said, "This will suit us very well." We went first to Parson Wallington, who lives at Worting. We were there about a quarter of an hour.'⁴⁶¹

Mr Sergeant Wilde asked, 'Did you get anything there?'

Sir George Grey objected to this question.

'Where an assembly of this kind was got together, what they said in any other place before they came to the prosecutor's, was evidence of their intention,' said Mr Justice Alderson. He continued, 'This was the subject of an objection yesterday, the whole of the judges had considered it, and this was their unanimous opinion.'

Sir George Grey replied, 'I do not dispute the point, or attempt to disturb the decision of yesterday. I made to objection only to the form of the question, the answer to which might raise a prejudice in the minds of the Jury.'

Lawes continued, 'The coachman of Parson Wallington brought out, I believe, half a sovereign, and they said, "That is not enough for us." The servant was sent back, and returned with 5s more, and gave it to some of the mob. The mob had increased after I joined it. Anyone in the mob might hear the observation. After this we went to Lady Waldo's, about 50 yards further. I don't live in Worting, I was at work there when the mob came. I live in Basingstoke, 2½ miles from Worting. I saw Lady Waldo and two maid servants. They were in doors. Some of the mob went to the house. I saw a man of the name of Farmer, who is not here, with his head in at the windows. They said they wanted money. I did not see who put up the windows. Charles Pain went up to the door with a sledge-hammer on his shoulder. Some of the mob said that Lady Waldo or her servants must be quick, or they must go to work. I did not see the money, but I saw the old lady with her purse. Just after this they cried out that they had 27s, and gave a cheer, and went to Mr Hill's, who, they told me, gave them 30s. Some of the party went to Dr. Warren's, and on their return they said they had brought a bill for them to get something to eat and drink. We then went to Mr Taplin's, where they asked for £5, but could only get £2. The mob said they had done their work, and wanted to be paid for it. By their work the meant 'breaking machines'. We then went to Wootton, and two or three other places, and at each place the money was talked about loudly in the mob, and they gave an hurrah when they got it. One of the mob received the money, and kept it for the rest. I don't know his name. We went to Mr Sclater's. At Mr Wither's we got two sovereigns. We obtained money at each place we went to. The demands for money were made loud enough for all to hear, and an hurrah was generally given on getting it. I saw Pain very close to Mr Sclater. I understood Pain to say that he had not taken the money out of Mr Sclater's hand,

⁴⁵⁹ NOTE: In the *Hampshire Telegraph* the only evidence is given by Mr Scalder, & Manydown is named as Manadown. No witness evidence is given in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴⁶⁰ NOTE: None of the evidence given by the following witnesses appears in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁴⁶¹ NOTE: William Lawes, a Carpenter, aged 40 was living in East Street alias Goat Lane, Basingstoke at the time of the 1841 Census

but that he had touched his hand and it fell out, and that he had taken it up. Pain was one of the men who divided the money at night.'

On being cross examined, Lawes replied, 'I took my hammer from the man who had taken it off my bench where I was at work, and, under the pretence of putting it into my pocket, I slipped it behind the bench. I received 1s 6d at night. I, as well as three or four others who had been pressed, made several attempts to get away from the mob, but they would not let us go. I spent the 1s 6d that evening in drink. I was not taken into custody, and gave information voluntarily.'

This closed the case for the prosecution.

When asked for his defence, Charles Pain said, 'Lawes has spoken falsely. I have no one here to speak to my character.'

James Cook said, 'I was pressed, and carried no illegal weapon, and touched nothing.'

John Keens said the same, as did John Bulpitt, who added that he had received no money. John Batten made no defence. George Clark said that he had carried no unlawful weapon, nor had he received any money. James Baker and Charles Bulpitt both said the same.

No witnesses were called to speak for the prisoners.

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the evidence, and after having explained the law, proceeded to point out those parts which affected the prisoners as a body and individually.

The Learned Judge observed, 'I have noticed that, for the purpose of evading, as they thought, the laws, the prisoners had said they would not take the money from Mr Sclater, but that he must give it to them. Now this was an attempt at an evasion of the law which must at all times fail, because it was sufficient proof in the eye of that law to show that the money was obtained, although it was given by the prosecutor, by fear created by such appearances of violence – threats, for instance – as would operate on the mind of any man of common feelings. It would, therefore, be for the Jury to say how far the evidence affected the prisoners, first as a body, and then separately. They formed a part of a large assemblage, collected for an unlawful purpose; and it will be for the Jury to say whether they are satisfied of the guilt of the prisoners upon the evidence they have heard; if not, they should give them the benefit of any doubt which might arise in their minds, and acquit them. From the evidence it does not appear that these men were actuated by a desire to have their wages raised – though this would have been no excuse whatever for such an assemblage – but they had not even this pretence for coming together. Their whole object seemed to be to take advantage of the fears which their numbers excited, and to obtain money from the influence of those fears.'

The Jury consulted together for a short time and returned a verdict of *Guilty*, against Charles Pain, James Cook, John Keens, John Bulpitt, John Batten, George Clark, James Baker, and Charles Bulpitt, the prisoners all appeared to be agricultural labourers.⁴⁶²

William Bolter, the elder, aged 60, George Over, aged 24, William Grantham, aged 36; James Blackman, aged 36, and George Coleman, aged 22, were put to the bar, charged with having, on the 20th November, in the parish of Martyr Worthy, made an assault on Sir Henry Rivers, Bart., put him in bodily fear, and stolen from him four bank notes of the value of £5 each.⁴⁶³

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case to the Jury, and said that they would find it very similar to the last one, a large mob going about with the intention of receiving money under the intimidation of their numbers. 'I will therefore only call witnesses to prove the guilt of the prisoners.'

The Reverend Sir Henry Rivers was called, and examined by Mr Missing. 'I reside at Martyr Worthy. On the 20th of November I was at home with my family on that evening, about a quarter before seven o'clock. I had watched the mob from four until six o'clock, when I lost all sound of them. They had been in the parish of Easton, close to my property, for an hour and a half, but having lost all trace of them I sat down to dinner. In the middle of dinner I was told they were there. I went to the door, opened it and inquired what they wanted. I saw about 300 or 400 I should think. They said they wanted money, and having been told by them that there were a very large number of them, I gave them £20. Those near the door had hammers in their hands. I asked

⁴⁶² NOTE: Most of the newspaper reports refer to one of the victims as 'Lady Waldo'. It would seem she was in fact Mrs Hannah Waldo, the widow of Peter Waldo Esquire who had died, and was buried at Worting in 1803. Hannah died at Worting in 1842, at the age of 99, and was buried beside her husband. In *The Morning Herald (London)*, she is called Lady Waldan, and it also says they went to Mrs Hill's not Mr Hill's

⁴⁶³ NOTE: Bolter is named as Boulter in some newspaper reports, but Bolter in the Calendar of Prisoners. James Blackman is not named for this offence in the *Hampshire Telegraph*; no evidence is given for this case in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

who was to receive the money, and one of them came from behind and took it from my hand. They expressed a doubt whether there was so much, I gave them all I had, £20. In consequence I ordered a candle to be brought for them, to see that the amount was as much as I had told them. Some the mob then examined the notes, and afterwards appeared satisfied that it was £20. The mob then went away from my door. I felt convinced that if I had not given them a sum of consideration, that they would have done me as much damage by breaking my windows, and doing further damage in the neighbourhood. The notes I gave were for £5 each, of the Bank of Knapp and Co., of Winchester. The mob gave three cheers when they got the money, and then went away.'

A number of Sir Henry's servants were able to corroborate his evidence.

Robert Fisher, Sir Henry's gardener, was called and said, 'This was on the Saturday evening, and as the mob was leaving, a man cried out, 'Silence!' which having been obtained, the same voice exclaimed, 'Are you agreeable to meet on Monday morning?', and several voices answered yes, I did not hear anyone say no. The prisoner William Bolter was there. He is a labouring man who I have known for upwards of 20 years. George Over, who is a bricklayer, was also there, I have known him for many years. William Grantham was also one of the mob on this occasion; he is a labourer and I have known him a long time. James Blackman was also there, he is a labourer and I have known him as long as the others. George Coleman, with whom I am well acquainted, was also present. When the mob left Sir Henry Rivers' they separated; one half went one way and one half another. They had been counted by one of the mob first, and as he counted them they were divided into two parties. The prisoners were some of those who were counted out, I saw them. I did not hear anything said as to what places these two parties were to go to; but one party went one way, and the other party went in another direction.'

William Brice and said, 'I had been at my work on the day in question, and I was pressed by the mob to join them. None of the prisoners were those who had pressed me, but I saw them all during the course of the day. We went to the houses of several gentlemen, where we received money, before we went to Sir Henry Rivers. I heard some of the mob say that they had got money at Mr Watkins's. At Mr Bayley's they got 25s. We went to Mr Short's where we got two sovereigns. Then we went to Mr Davison's, where part of a machine was knocked to pieces, and we got one sovereign. We went to Mr Dainty's and got some money but I did not hear how much. We next went to Mr White's and broke his winnowing machine, but they did not get any money there. I continued with the mob until after dark, and left them at Easton before they went to Sir Henry Rivers', but I met them afterwards at the *Bat and Ball* public house, where the money was divided out by a man of the name of Moses Freemantle. The five prisoners were all there, but I did not see them take any money. I did not see Freemantle with the mob, he was sitting in the public house when we came in. After they received the money at some of the places the mob shouted. There must have been 100 or more in the mob. I joined the mob at about one o'clock.'

Moses Freemantle was called, and said, 'I live at Easton. On the 20th November I was at work at Avington, I saw the mob round Mr Baker's house, and afterwards I saw a mob coming out through the Reverend Mr Dainty's gate. I should say there were between 200 and 300. I was not near enough then to recognize any of the men. About six o'clock I went to *The Bat and Ball* public house, and as I was coming out, to go home, I and my shopmate heard the mob shouting. They came to the public house. The prisoners, whom I had known for years, were some of them. I saw George Over with some money in his hand. He then put it on the table, and I was asked if I would count it, there was £19 3s 6d, and calculate what it would be per head. I said I would if I knew how many heads there were. They counted 52 heads. The prisoners were among those counted. I divided the money into 7s each. There was then some balance left. There were some boys among them, some got 2s 6d and some 3s. There was then a sum left, which went to pay for the beer they had. I heard it said that Sir Henry Rivers had given them £20. Two of the notes they gave me to divide were, I think, of the Winchester Bank. One of them was of Littlehale's Bank, and there were eight sovereigns and some silver. Eight shillings were shared by each man.'

When cross examined, Freemantle replied, 'I am certain that the prisoner Bolter was present.' George Coleman called out from the dock, 'Freemantle was not asked to divide the money, but had forced himself into it, and he shared with all the rest.'

Edward Mullins, one of the men who had been pressed into the mob, told how they had divided into two parties as they left Sir Henry's. One party had gone to *The Bat and Ball* public house, and the other half to *The Cart and Horses* public house.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr Justice Alderson then called upon the prisoners for their defence.

William Bolter said, 'I have nothing to say.'

George Over said, 'I never received any money from any gentleman, or any person, except that which Moses Freemantle gave me. I have nothing else to say.'

William Grantham said, 'I never received money of any person. I never asked or touched any money. I was pressed to go.'

James Blackman said, 'I never, received any money. I never touched any of the machines to injure them, nor did I get any money. I was pressed away from my work, and was compelled to go against my will.'

George Coleman said, 'The only money I received was from Freemantle. That is all I have to say to it.'

The following witnesses were then called to speak for the prisoners.

Thomas Bolter was called, and said, 'I am related to the prisoner William Bolter. I am his nephew. I am an illegitimate child. I remember of the 20th of November seeing my uncle join the mob. I live at the *New Inn*, which is in a village two miles from Martyr Worthy. My uncle came down to the inn to mend his hook, which he had broken. The mob came in while he was there, and one of them said, "Oh! Here is Master Bolter, I'll be d – d if he shan't go with we." My uncle then made no answer. The mob called for some beer, and afterwards my uncle was made to go away with them. I do not know the name of the man who told my uncle he must go they were strangers to me. When my uncle told them he would not go, that he had come down to sharpen his hook, they said, "If you do you must look sharp." They then took my uncle with them, I took care of his hook.' On being cross examined, Thomas Bolter replied, 'It was about one o'clock. I took the broken hook from my uncle before he went.'

Henrietta Bolter was called, and said, 'I am the daughter of William Bolter. I remember when the mob were before Sir Henry Rivers' house. I saw my father that evening. I heard three cheers given there. My father was at our own door, about 100 yards from Sir Henry Rivers' house. He stood upon the threshold of the door. He had been there at least ten minutes. He left me directly after this. The door of the house was never shut while he was there.'

Mrs Harriet Grantham was called, and said, 'I know the prisoner William Bolter. I live next door to him. When the mob was at Sir Henry Rivers' cheering, I saw him go into his house, and he was coming out again just as the cheering took place.'

On being cross examined Mrs Grantham replied, 'I am the wife of William Grantham, one of the prisoners. I was at home the whole of that evening. I heard the cheering, which attracted me to the door. I saw Bolter when the mob was passing my house, as they were going towards Sir Henry Rivers'. Bolter then came up to his own door and went inside.'

Edward Parker, and said, 'I am a farmer, I have known William Bolter for 34 years. He has always borne an excellent character. He works for me as a woodman. I remember him breaking his hook on the morning of the 20th November, when he said he should go and grind it. I believe he was been forced to join the mob when he went out to grind his hook. He had broken it as we worked together. William Grantham is another of my workmen, he has always behaved well. Blackman has worked for me all his life. He is a very good character.'

Mr Thomas Parker, the son of the last witness, was called, and said, 'I was at work in the barn with Grantham and Blackman, at the time they were forced away by the mob. The men who came were all strangers to me. They said their party was weak and they must get stronger to do any good, and that Blackman and Grantham must join them. The men refused to join, but the mob threatened to force them, and immediately told them to shut the barn doors and come along. The prisoners objected; but the mob, showed them their sticks, and said, "You see what you have to expect if you do not." The prisoners continued to object, but were ultimately compelled to go with them. The men then desired me to draw them some beer. I objected, and said it was hard to draw beer for so many, and they said they would not call all the men up. One of them blew a horn. My father eventually gave them 5s to get rid of them, rather than to draw all his beer. Before they left one of the mob told me I would not see the men again until they had done all they had to do, and they

warned me to be ready, as perhaps they might need my assistance on Monday. I have known both Grantham and Blackman from my infancy, they are as quiet, orderly and inoffensive men as I ever knew; there could not be better. They have always been very sober and honest, and have been good in their general conduct.'

Edward Parker was recalled and he gave James Blackman an excellent character, calling him an honest, well behaved man as ever came about a house.

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the case and pointed out the evidence as it related to each man. He addressed the Jury, 'You will have to weigh first the testimony which has been given against the prisoners, and at the same time, you ought to take into your consideration the evidence which has been submitted to you in their favour. In the case of the prisoner William Bolter, it will be for you say what degree of credit is to be attached to the statements made by Bolter's daughter and Mrs Grantham. These statements were in perfect accordance – that is, they were not at variance with probability. They both say that at the time the cheers were given Bolter was at his own door, then undoubtedly, though he might have been with the mob before, and have joined them after, so as to be in time to be counted out as the witness Fisher stated, he was entitled to an acquittal; for unless he was present and consenting to the taking of the money from Sir Henry Rivers, what he did before or after, though it might afford ground for suspicion against him, would not be sufficient to establish his guilt under this charge. With respect to the evidence given of the good character of two of the prisoners, and of the fact of their being pressed, I will take this opportunity of saying, that no pressing was a justification of a man's continuing with a mob and joining in the commission of illegal acts, unless it is shown that such pressure was forcible and continued. It was the duty of any men who were pressed, as these men appear to have been, to have made their escape as speedily as possible, and to have returned home. They were, in consequence of not doing so, equally guilty with the others, because they continued to go from place to place with them, with a knowledge that what was going forward was unlawful, and had in the evening been counted out to go to one of the public houses to receive a share of the spoil which had been collected at the different houses during their progress in the day. It has been proved further, that they had gone to *The Bat and Ball*, and had received the money. The question of character cannot affect the guilt of the parties, although it might weigh in mitigation hereafter. You have unfortunately seen during these trials, that the offenders of the laws were not confined to the poor and destitute, but that men who were well off in circumstances – that is, received good wages, and of previous excellent character – had connected themselves with the lawless multitude. I will, however, leave the case in the hands of you, the Jury. Feeling that you will find such a verdict upon the evidence, as will satisfy your own consciences and the ends of public justice.'

The Jury retired, and after a short time asked if the witness Robert Fisher could be re-called.

When re-called, Fisher was asked by the Court, at the desire of the Foreman of the Jury, how he could have distinguished the features of the prisoners on a dark night, when he was on one side of the hedge and they were at the other.

Fisher replied, 'I have known all the prisoners for many years, and am well acquainted with their persons; besides, one of the party in the lane had a candle, by the light of which I was able to distinguish all the prisoners. I have no doubt whatever that they were all present.'

The Jury again turned round in the box, and after consulting together for a few moments, returned a verdict of *Not Guilty* against all the prisoners.

This verdict was received with evident surprise by the learned Judge as well as most of those present in the Court, which was exceedingly full.

Charles Pain, aged 22; James Cook, aged 28, John Keens, aged 18, John Bulpitt, age 23, Charles Bulpitt, aged 25, John Batten, aged 21, William Wareham, aged 25, George Clarke, aged 25, and Richard Rampton, aged 25, were then put to the bar. The majority of these men had been capitally convicted earlier this morning. They were charged this time with having, with divers other persons unknown, unlawfully assembled, on the 22nd of November, in the parish of St Lawrence Wootton, and created a great riot and disturbance, and with having feloniously stolen from the person of Harris Bigg Wither, Esq., one sovereign, his property.⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁶⁴ Richard Rampton is named as Richard Rampson in the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald (London)*

All the prisoners at the bar, apart from Richard Rampton and William Wareham, were capitally convicted this morning.⁴⁶⁵

The prosecutor, Mr Harris Bigg Wither, here addressed the Court. 'I hope I am not doing that which is wrong, in begging to know whether the prisoners have any Counsel, because if they have not, I hope the Court will have the kindness to appoint one of the Learned Gentlemen I saw round the table to defend them, and I will willingly pay whatever charge might be made.'

Mr Saunders said he was retained for the prisoner Pain, and would be happy to watch the proceedings for the others.

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case to the Jury. The facts of the case were very similar to those of the first case tried today.

Mr Harris Wither, junior, was called, and said, 'I was at my father's at Manydown, in the parish of St Lawrence Wootton. I remember that on Monday, the 22nd of November, about 150 men came to my father's house. Most of the mob had weapons. Charles Pain and John Batten had sledge hammers. I went out to them when I saw them coming. When I met them they were just entering the back gates. I had seen about 50 men in the morning when I was out hunting, and expected them to come to us. My father led the mob round to the front of the house, where they said they wanted money. I spoke to Pain and Batten in particular. They said they had come for money. I told them we had not any to give them. They said they must have some. My father was close by. I remonstrated with them, and told them they were acting wrongly. Pain said he would have money. We were then hustled up against the door; the mob had become violent, and when they found we would not give them any money. Pain said, "Now to work my boys," and the hammers and sticks were held up, as if to do some damage to the house. My father then went in, and I begged them to be quiet, that my father had gone for some money. One man said they wanted £20. My father offered them some money that he had in his pocket, and told them to take it, and they said, "No, you must give it to us." The mob then became violent, and our coachman persuaded my father to let him give the money, which he accordingly did, in my father's presence. My father said he would never give them money, but if they wanted it his servant must give it to them. I was talking to Batten, and told him that we had raised our wages. He said that did not signify. They must have some money. I told him that he ought to go to his own parish, and not come to us. The mob remained with us about twenty minutes. I can identify, in addition to Pain and Batten, John Keens, John Bulpitt, and Richard Rampton. I did not know them. I should think all the conversation must have been heard by the men who were at our house.'

On being cross-examined Mr Wither said, 'I do not think the majority of the mob were there from curiosity.'

James Lillywhite, coachman to Mr Withers, was called, and said, 'I saw the mob at my master's house. I went to them in consequence of what my mistress said to me.'

Lillywhite went on to corroborate his master's evidence, and added, 'My motive for advising my master to give them money was, that I was afraid they might come and do some damage in the night. Pain and Keens were close to my master. James Cook was one of those at the door. I saw John Batten, George Clarke, and Richard Rampton also. I have known Clarke for about four years.'

Harris Bigg Wither, Esquire, was called, and said, 'I live at Manydown. The mob came into my park when I was walking there. I could have escaped them, but I thought it to be my duty to meet them. This was at the back of the house, and, by my request, they went round with me to the front, where I remonstrated with them. They said, "We have the law in our hands now. The gentlemen have had it long enough, it is our turn now." I said, "Take care, the law will be too strong for you." Someone said, "This won't do, we have too much to do, we want your assistance." After some further remonstration I went in and got some money.'

Mr Bigg Wither went on to corroborate the testimony of his son, and added, 'I gave my permission for my coachman to give the men a sovereign, because I was afraid, not for my personal safety, but for the safety of my house.'

One being cross examined, Mr Bigg Wither replied, 'I certainly gave the money, by the persuasion of my coachman, I think that the door or my windows would have been broken if I had not given it.'

When cross examined by the Court, Mr Bigg Wither replied, 'I did not give the money voluntarily.'

⁴⁶⁵ Hampshire Telegraph

John Chandler, a servant to Mr Bigg Wither, was called, and identified all the prisoners, except James Cook and John Batten, as having been at his master's on the day in question, adding, 'Pain held a sledge hammer over my master's head. Richard Rampton had been a waiter at *The Star*, in Andover.'

William Lawes, who had been called as a witness in a former case, was called again, and stated that he had been compelled to join the mob. He was able to identify Charles Pain.

This closed the case for the prosecution and the prisoners were called for their defence.

Charles Pain, said, 'The last witness, William Lawes, had received his share of the money which we had obtained. He had come into the room at the public house where the others were sitting round the table, and had demanded his share. The witness Chandler is a false swearer; for at Basingstoke, when we were before the Magistrates, he swore to two men who were discharged, and as he had sworn falsely against those men, he might as well swear away anyone of our lives.' John Chandler, was called and re-examined, and said, 'The men alluded to were discharged because I could not swear to their identity.'

The other prisoners all denied having received any money, and said they had not carried any weapon.⁴⁶⁶

In summing up the case, Mr Justice Alderson said, 'This is the third of those unfortunate cases which you have had to try at these Assizes. I have before defined to you what robbery is in the eye of the law. I will now only add, that it is not necessary, in proof of the charge, to make out that the party from whom the property was taken was in actual fear, it will be sufficient to show, that there were circumstances which, in the mind of any reasonable man, would raise an apprehension that danger would accrue to his property or person if the money were not given.'

The Learned Judge then went on to point out, that from the evidence, the money given by Mr Wither, was not a voluntary gift. He continued, 'If you believe that the money was given, at the suggestion of his servant, in the belief that if it had not been given some injury would have been done to his property, then you must come to the conclusion that it was a robbery. If you believe that Mr Wither was in no fear of danger to his person or property, and that the money was given as a voluntary gift, then no crime was committed by anybody, and you will have to enquire no further. If, however, you believe that a robbery was committed, then your next inquiry will be, which of the prisoners, if any of them, are implicated in the commission of this offence.'

Mr Justice Alderson then detailed the evidence as it applied to each of the prisoners, and left it to the Jury to say how far the crime had been brought home to them.

In conclusion, he observed, 'If you entertain any reasonable doubt, it is your duty to give them the benefit of that doubt; but if you have no such doubt, you owe a duty to your conscience and your country, not to acquit men of whose guilt you are satisfied.'

The Jury considered for a few moments and then returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners, but recommended George Clarke, John Keens, James Cook, Richard Rampton, William Wareham and Charles Bulpitt to mercy. Mr Wither intervened here and recommended all the prisoners to mercy.

The Judge ordered up Rampton and Wareham for judgement and addressed them saying, 'Richard Rampton and William Wareham, your lives will be spared. You have been convicted only once, and the circumstances of your case make it a fit one for recommendation to mercy; but the cases of the other prisoners who have been twice convicted of a capital felony are too serious for me to take upon myself to hold out any hope to them that their lives will be spared; but let me say to you, Rampton and Wareham, that your punishment will not be a light one. Public justice requires that you should not be allowed to remain in this country any longer. In your cases I think I may take it on myself, without consultation with my learned brothers, to say that your lives will be spared; but the other cases are of such a nature as to require serious consideration. I cannot hold out any hope to them.'

The prisoners were then removed from the bar, apparently not greatly conscious of, or not much affected by their awful situation.⁴⁶⁷

⁴⁶⁶ The evidence relating to this case only appears in *The Morning Herald*, 23 December 1830. It is only mentioned briefly in *The Times*, 23 December 1830 and no evidence is given in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴⁶⁷ *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*

William Bolter and George Over, who were both tried and acquitted earlier today, were placed at the bar again, this time they were charged with having, on the 22nd day of November, by threats, taken from William Twitchin of Itchen Abbas, one sovereign, his property.⁴⁶⁸

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case briefly. It appears that the prisoners, had, with many others, gone to the house of Mr Twitchin, and after having broken a threshing machine, demanded money from him, and were given a sovereign.

In his evidence, Mr Twitchin identified both of the prisoners as having been among the crowd which had come to his house.

As it appeared that Mr Twitchin had not parted with the money through fear, but had given them the money to get rid of them

The Jury, on the advice of the Learned Judge, *Acquitted* both the prisoners.

Mr Justice Alderson addressed the prisoners saying, ‘Let me say to you both, that you have had a very narrow escape. You, George Over, in particular, have had a most narrow escape. It was stated on a former trial, that the mob, of which you were one, had separated on the Saturday on the understanding that they would meet again on the Monday. It now appears that you did meet, and we see for what purpose. It is very probable that if the Jury who tried you on the former charge had been aware of this circumstance, they would have given a verdict very different from that which has been recorded. Let me now earnestly implore you to take warning by your very narrow escape, and by the fate which awaits your associates in those guilty outrages, and most cautiously avoid them in the future. When persons in your situation of life once begin proceedings like these, they do not know the dreadful results to which they may lead. Let me now, as your best friend, once more give a warning, and keep away from such acts in future.’⁴⁶⁹

William Bolter, who had just been acquitted, and George Coleman who had been tried and acquitted with Bolter earlier, were placed at the bar charged this time with having, on the 22nd November, robbed John Dagwell of 5s.⁴⁷⁰

Mr Dagwell, who is a miller in very humble circumstances, in the parish of Martyr Worthy, was called and said, ‘A mob came to Mr Twitchin’s house on the 22nd November. I was there at the time, and on seeing me one of the men said, ‘Here is Dagwell, the miller, let us have a sovereign from him.’ I replied that I was a very poor man, and wanted a sovereign as much as they did. The prisoner Bolter said, ‘Yes, Dagwell is a poor man.’ One of the others said, ‘Then we will let him off for a crown.’ I told them I did not have any money, but I borrowed 5s from Mr Twitchin, and I gave them the money. They then went away.’

The Reverend Mr Wright, a magistrate, was called, and said, ‘I, together with 70 men to assist me, had met up with the mob. I ordered them to disperse and when they did not, I took the prisoners, along with several others, into custody and the prisoner Coleman made a confession, I cautioned him as to the consequences of this confession.’

Coleman’s written confession was then read, in which he acknowledged that he had been with this mob on the 22nd and also with the mob when they had taken the £20 from Sir Henry Rivers, and that he shared that money. Coleman had been tried and acquitted on this charge earlier in the day. Mr Justice Alderson left the Jury to decide whether a robbery had been committed and added that it was fortunate for Coleman that his confession had not been produced at his previous trial. The Jury considered their verdict for a few moments and returned a verdict of *Guilty* against both prisoners.⁴⁷¹

William Burgess, aged 25, Peter Norman, aged 27, Mark Wiggins, aged 19, Henry Wells, aged 26, Richard Keens, aged 34, and Charles Bulpitt, aged 25, were indicted for having, on the 23rd November, at the parish of Monk Sherborne, with divers others, feloniously stolen from Thomas Chandler, three sovereigns, his property.⁴⁷²

⁴⁶⁸ NOTE: The prosecutor in this case is named as William Twitchin in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, the *Hampshire Telegraph* & *The Morning Herald (London)*

⁴⁶⁹ *The Times*, 23 December 1830

⁴⁷⁰ George Coleman is named as H. Coleman in the *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning Herald (London)*. No evidence in this case is given in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁴⁷¹ *The Times*, 23 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴⁷² The Calendar of Prisoners & *The Morning herald (London)*, 24 December 1830, both state that these men stole one sovereign from Thomas Chandler; according to the *Hampshire Telegraph* three sovereigns were stolen

In his evidence Thomas Chandler identified William Burgess as the man to whom he had given the sovereigns, which he received from the female servant for that purpose, in order that he might get rid of the men without them doing any damage to the house. The men had demanded £10, but after considerable remonstrance Mr Chandler had induced them to be satisfied with three sovereigns.⁴⁷³

The evidence having been gone through, Mr Justice Alderson said that as there was no evidence affecting either Wells or Bulpitt, they must be *Acquitted*.

The Learned Judge then summed up the case and the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against William Burgess and *Acquitted* Peter Norman, Mark Wiggins, and Richard Keens.

William Southwell, aged 30, was charged with having destroyed, with divers others, a toll-house and gate at East Dean and Tytherley.

The Jury found the prisoner *Guilty* of a riot, and he was sentenced to imprisonment in the Bridewell for three calendar months, and to be kept to hard labour.⁴⁷⁴

The Court adjourned at nine o'clock this evening and will reopen at half past eight tomorrow morning.⁴⁷⁵

⁴⁷³ *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴⁷⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830

⁴⁷⁵ *The Morning Herald*, 24 December 1830

Thursday, 23rd December 1830

Crown Court

Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice James Parke took their seats on the bench in the Crown Court at 9 o'clock this morning and the Court was opened.⁴⁷⁶

John Whitebread, Thomas Goodall, Thomas Beckingham and John Goodall, who had been acquitted yesterday evening, were put to the bar again, charged with having been engaged in pulling down Mr Tasker's factory. No evidence was given against them and they were again *Acquitted*.

Aaron Harding, aged 41, John Cobb, aged 27, William Hoare, aged 39, Thomas Hoare, aged 36, Henry Bone, aged 31, John Newland, aged 39, William Bicknell, aged 23, Benjamin Smith, aged 23, Robert Bennett, aged 16, and John Trimming, aged 25, were put to the bar and charged with having along with a large mob, riotously assembled on the 22nd November, in the parish of Selborne, and feloniously and with force began to demolish the poor house of the said parish. There were other counts in the indictment charging this as the house belonging to the overseers and guardians, or visitors of the poor of the said parish.⁴⁷⁷

The Attorney General opened the case.

The Reverend William Cobbold, was called, and said, 'I am vicar of Selborne. On the 22nd of November I saw a large mob of persons coming in a riotous manner towards the workhouse. I saw Aaron Harding, John Trimming, and William Bicknell among them. I went out to them and asked them what they wanted. They said they wanted to turn out old Harrison, who is one of the guardians of the poor, and was at the time living at the workhouse. I said I feared that they were going to do some harm, and pull down the poorhouse, but they declared they had no such intention. While I was talking to them Harding came down. Trimming said they meant to do no harm. Harding said that the labourers' wages must be raised to 12s a week. I told them that there could be no objection to that, as it was very reasonable. Harding then said, 'We must have a touch of your tithes too; we think £300 a year quite enough for you - £4 a week is quite enough.' Trimming said, 'Yes, £4 a week is quite enough.' When I told them I would never descend to that, Harding replied, 'You shall, and we'll pay you a visit presently.' This was in the morning. I went home. Soon after I heard horns blowing, and looking out I saw a crowd of 300 or 400 persons, coming along with flags. They halted at my gate. I then went to them, and saw Harding, Trimming, Newland and Cobb. I said, 'My friends, what do you want?' Cobb and Harding said, 'We are come to lower your tithes, for we think £300 a year is quite enough for you.' Harding added that they were going to old Harrison's, but that I must stay until they returned, or it would be the worse for me. Most of the mob then went away towards the workhouse. The rest remained near my house. I then went towards the workhouse, and on my way I met 10 or 15 people running towards me. Some of them cried out, 'For God's sake, Sir, run, for the men are bent on mischief.' I then ran back.'⁴⁷⁸

On being cross-examined, Reverend Cobbold replied, 'I did not see the crowd go to the workhouse. They went towards it.'

Mary Harrison was called, and said, 'My husband lived in the workhouse and was one of the guardians of the poor. At about nine o'clock in the morning of the 22nd November I saw a large

⁴⁷⁶ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 27 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830; *The Times*, 24 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, and in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

⁴⁷⁷ NOTE: The prisoner Trimming appears as Joseph Trimming in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, & *The Morning Herald (London)*; as John Trimming in the *Hampshire Chronicle* & *Calendar of Prisoners* & simply as J. Trimming in the *Hampshire Telegraph* & *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*. The prisoner Bicknell appears in the as William Bicknell in the *Hampshire Chronicle* & the *Calendar of Prisoners*, simply as W. Bicknell in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, & as William Brecknell in the *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning herald (London)*

⁴⁷⁸ *The Times*, 24 December 1830

mob coming to the house; a horn was sounded, and the people rattled tins. Cobb and Harding came up first, and asked if Mr Harrison was at home. Cobb said, 'We are come to give you warning to quit your premises before night.' Harding said, 'Directly.' The passage was full of people. I and my daughter went out in consequence of what the mob said. When they were in the garden the mob said, 'D – n your bloods, be off, or we'll kill you.' I heard the pots and pans in the house being broken. I and my daughter got over the garden hedge, and shortly after observed a volume of smoke and a flame of fire issuing from the kitchen chimney. When we left the workhouse all the windows were broken. I saw Trimming in the mob. Harding, Cobb, and Trimming, are labourers.'

Ann Harrison, the daughter of the last witness, corroborated her mother's testimony.⁴⁷⁹ Edward Ticknell was called and said, 'I went to the workhouse that day. The roof was broken, and many of the tiles were torn off. The furniture was beaten to pieces. The windows were all smashed. I did not notice whether the frames were broken. I saw the mob there, some were in the court at the back of it, and some were in the house. I saw a person named John Bennett, putting out a fire. I did not see the fire. It was put out before I came. I saw Bennett throwing water on the place. I saw the prisoner John Newland in the crowd. He was blowing a horn, and had the flags. I don't recollect that I saw either of the Hoares there. I did not see Henry Bone there, but I saw him opposite Mr Cobbold's house. Many of the mob had sticks. Robert Bennett had a sledge hammer.' On being cross-examined, Ticknell replied, 'There were many looking on as well as myself. I might have been taken for one of the mob as well as another, but I went there to assist. I did not notice Newland as having a stick.'⁴⁸⁰

James Debenham was called, and said, 'I live in Selborne. I went to the workhouse at nine o'clock in the morning; there was a mob there, destroying the windows and furniture with sledge-hammers and sticks. Part of a feather bed, and other furniture, were pulled upon the fireplace burning. If the fire had not been put out, I think there would have been great danger. It was in the kitchen downstairs. Some of the mob were breaking tiles. One said he would be d – d but he would have the place down. He was knocking the boards of the house down. I was struck on the head by a man, who said, 'D – n your eyes, I'll give you a pill.' I struck him, and I then received a blow on my head with a stick. It was Henry Bone who struck me. He said, 'D – n your eyes, I'll knock your brains out.' Others said, 'D – n him, kill him.' There were 50 or 60 persons. I received another blow. I saw Henry Bone, Thomas Hoare, William Hoare, and John Newland, in the mob. I saw Benjamin Smith breaking a bedstead to pieces with a stick or sledge. He said he would knock the place down.'

Thomas Hunt was called and said, 'In my opinion the mob followed Debenham, thinking there would be a fight. I went into the workhouse. I found the doors and partition in the house broken. One of the doors had been taken off the hinges. It had been put on the fire, and was much burnt. The windows were casements, with iron bars. The glass and leads were broken, and two or three of the iron bars wrenched out of their places. The shutters were broken down.'

Nathaniel Davis, a constable was called, and said, 'I had Robert Bennett in my custody. He told me all he had done was to break the boards from the windows of the workhouse.'

Henry Eden was called, and said, 'The night before the riot Harding told me that he would not go to work for a day or two, as he had very particular business to attend to. I heard him say there would be no more workhouse – no more harvesting – no more Gilbert – and no more Gilbert's acts. He told Mr Cobbold to go up the street, and see what a company he had there. He also said, if Mr Budd attempted to take anyone out of their company they would destroy him, and if anyone was sent to prison they would pull the gaol down, and if Harrison had been at the workhouse they would have pulled him to pieces.'⁴⁸¹

The Attorney General closed the case for the prosecution after the examination of several witnesses.

Mr Poulter said that the evidence was not sufficient to prove that it had been the mob's intention to demolish the building.

⁴⁷⁹ The testimony of Mary & Ann Harrison appears in *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830, but not in *The Times*

⁴⁸⁰ *The Times*, 24 December 1830

⁴⁸¹ *The Morning Herald*, 24 December 1830. No evidence in this case appear in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

After having called the attention of the Jury to the evidence, Mr Justice Parke said, "There is some evidence of the mob having begun to demolish; whether there was enough to prove the intention to destroy the building, will be for you, the Jury, to decide."

All the prisoners declined saying anything in their defence apart from John Newland, who put in a written paper in which he stated that on the morning of the day in question he had been pressed to go by the prisoner Harding, and obliged to go from his work. He was present at the attack on the workhouse, but took no part whatever in that affair, save that of having held the flag for about five minutes for a man while he went to take a glass of ale. He also blew the horn once at the desire of some of the men. In the evening he was knocked down by some of the party for not having taken an active part at the workhouse. He had got some beer that day which affected his head, which a small quantity would do, as he had a wound in his head while on service abroad. He was so much in liquor that on that night he slept in the fields. Next morning he got down all wet and chilled to the public house, where he got some more beer, which affected his head so much that he remained all that day (Tuesday) with the mob, and did not know what he was about, and had no recollection of anything till he found himself ill in bed in his own house the day following. He remained at home all that day, but on the next he went to work, and was taken on the Friday. He was very sorry for having joined the mob, and for anything he may have done while in a state in which he did not know what he was doing.

John Hobbs and his wife Mary were called on behalf of John Newland.

A gentleman, who is the paymaster of the North Hampshire Regiment, said that he had never heard anything bad about Newland and that he was sure that if there had been anything against him he would have heard of it in the regiment.

The examination of the witnesses occupied several hours; and there being no case made out against William Bicknell, he was not called upon to plead.⁴⁸²

In summing up the case, Mr Justice Parke stated the act under which the indictment was laid, and which has been often mentioned at this commission, and then he addressed the Jury, 'In order to be satisfied of the guilt of the prisoners under this indictment, you must believe not only that they had begun to demolish the building but that it was their intention to demolish the whole. They might have intended to do an injury to a part of it, but the proof of that injury would not be sufficient, unless from other circumstances in the case the Jury were satisfied that they intended not merely to injure a part, but to demolish the whole. It was shown in the evidence that they had done serious injury to the house, that they had broken doors and partitions, and torn locks, and pulled off tiles; but if this is to be taken as evidence of their intention to demolish the whole, you must then ask yourself what had prevented them for carrying their intention into effect, for it is possible, that if they had had such intention they would not have given it up without an adequate cause. Here there is no evidence of the interference of any military or other force sufficient to prevent them from completing their intention. If, after part of the building had been destroyed, a strong force of military or some other kind had come up to prevent them from going any further, it would be no unreasonable assumption to believe that but for such interposition, they would complete the destruction of the building. As, however, in this case there was no such interposition, and as the mob stopped short of their own accord, when they had done a certain injury, it would probably be safer to assume that they intended at first to go no further than such injury; and if you, the Jury, believe that such was their intention, and no more, you must acquit all the prisoners, for the body of the offence could not in this case be proved. If, however, you believe that the intention of the party was the entire destruction of the house, then the question would be how far the guilt of that offence could be brought home to the prisoners. To support the indictment you must believe that three at least were concerned; for, to constitute a riotous assembly, more than two persons must be concerned.'

The Learned Judge then went through several parts of the evidence as it related to individual prisoners. On the subject of the fire that had been started at the workhouse he observed, that if the destruction of the house had been intended, the fire would probably have been lit in the centre of the room, and not in the chimney as was the case. He wanted the Jury to consider first if the crime, as charged, had in fact been committed. If they were of the opinion that it had not then that would be an end of the case. Should they be of a different opinion then he would call their attention to the part each of the prisoners had taken in the transaction.

⁴⁸² *Hampshire Chronicle*

The Jury consulted for a short time, and returned a verdict that the mob only intended the destruction of part of the property, and not the whole, and therefore found all the prisoners *Not Guilty*.

The prisoners were then remanded to be indicted for the riot.⁴⁸³

Thomas Goodall aged 30, who has been acquitted on two previous charges, was placed at the bar and charged with having extorted by threats and violence, one sovereign, from William Tasker, on the evening of the 20th November, at Upper Clatford.

William Tasker was called, and said, ‘A large mob came to my house on the 20th November. When I heard a knock at the door I opened it, and I saw the prisoner there, with an iron bar in his hand. I asked what he wanted, and he said two sovereigns, and that he would have it. I told him to go about his business, but he said, ‘That won’t do, give us the two sovereigns.’ A blow was then aimed at me. I then gave the prisoner a sovereign. I was induced to do so as I considered myself to be in danger. The mob then left – they were armed.’

A person was called, who gave him Goodall a good character. The Jury found him *Guilty*, but recommended him to mercy, on account of his previous good character.⁴⁸⁴

Mr Henry Pollexfin, aged 26, an attorney was indicted and charged with having, on the 21st November, at Gosport, in the parish of Alverstoke, feloniously written and sent by post, a certain letter, without any signature or name subscribed thereto, directed to John Brett Purvis, Esq., threatening to shoot, kill, and murder him, the said J. B. Purvis.⁴⁸⁵

The prisoner was a most respectable looking young man, 26 years of age, and was dressed in black. Mr Sewell appeared for the defence.

Mr Sergeant Wilde addressed the Jury, ‘This is a case which calls for your most serious attention, both as regards the safety of the public and the personal liberty of the prisoner at the bar. This is a prosecution against the prisoner for having sent a threatening letter, such as you have just heard read from the indictment, to a Magistrate of the county, on the 20th November, at a time, Gentlemen, when you know that the utmost activity was called for from Gentlemen holding that office, for the preservation of the public peace and public property. That the letter, Gentlemen, you will recollect, tells Mr Purvis that, on the night before, a gun had been levelled at him, and further, that his movements were watched, and that he was to prepare for death. Now the circumstance of receiving such a letter, is of the utmost importance, and calculated to excite fear in the breast of any man; and it is also necessary, if possible, to prevent its repetition, because the distress that must ensue to the family of such a man, whether he be a private man, or a man filling a public situation. Mr Purvis was led, from some suspicions he entertained, in consequence of an expression in the letter, to make inquiries which led him to suspect the prisoner as its author. His suspicions being confirmed, he had the prisoner taken into custody. The prisoner is an attorney practising at Gosport, and had, in the month of October, been taken before Mr Purvis, with some other persons, on some charge of disturbance. At the conclusion of the examination, when the prisoner was acquitted, a certain expression fell from the lips of Mr Purvis, in a conversation with another Magistrate, Dr Quarrier. That expression was that they had got five of the delegates. Those words, you will observe, Gentlemen, are used in the letter; and that fact it was which induced suspicion of the prisoner. The letter, Gentlemen, you will find is evidently in a disguised hand, and some of the words are improperly spelled. It appears, however, to have been written by a person who only had recourse to that method by way of diverting suspicion from the real author. The evidence I shall offer to your notice will, I have no doubt convince you of the guilt of the prisoner, as will be of course to the proof of the hand writing. The case is one of the utmost importance, both as regards the public and individual safety. It must be evident that, to be subjected to the misery and wretchedness of living from hour to hour with such a threat hanging over you must call loudly for the adoption of some steps to prevent its recurrence.’

Captain J. B. Purvis was called and said, ‘I reside at Alverstoke, near Gosport. I am a Magistrate of the county. On the 22nd of November I received a letter from my servant. On the receipt of it, I suspected a person from one of the expressions in it. The prisoner, with two or three others, was

⁴⁸³ *The Times*, 24 December 1830

⁴⁸⁴ *The Morning Herald* (London)

⁴⁸⁵ *The Morning Herald* (London)

brought before me and Dr Quarrier. On that occasion the word "Delegates" was used, addressed to Dr Quarrier, in consequence of his saying that there was a body in Gosport who called themselves "the forty thieves". I said I am very glad of it, because we appear to have got hold of the five delegates of the clan. I think this was about the 16th of October. It was said in the presence of the prisoner, who could hear it.'

On being cross-examined Captain Purvis replied, "There was not that I know of any circumstance in the town which had caused much interest. I am positive that the prisoner was there at the time I said this, and I should suppose he must have heard it. There were five or six other persons in the room. I did not know the prisoner before that occasion. I have never seen him since. The reason I suspected him, was, the expression, "five delegates," in the letter. There were other persons in the room, but they were not strangers, who might have heard the expressions; they were constables and the Magistrate's clerk. I did not see the other parties who had been brought up with the prisoner in the room at that time."

The letter was then put in and read. It ran as follows : -

Tyrant! - At seven o'clock last evening the muzzle of a gun was levelled at your heart, and in one moment your soul would have been in hell, but your momentary impulse in starting as the gun was aimed at you, I lost the present opportunity, and must wait another. Tyrant! Prepare to meet your GOD, your life is short, and your death certain, if it can be at a post or lamp-iron - it is your merit to exalt such a pitiful fogger as you are, as your house is not worth blowing up, or we would have done it last night: 5 delegates as call them - 3 at Gosport, and 2 at Portsea, have sworn on Bible to your death, first chance, so you are watcht in all your movements by order of a Committee. (Seal).

Sworn	"A. B. O
Nov. 20, 1830	"C. D. O
"E. F. O	
"G. H. O	
"I. J. O	

"Captain John B. Purvis, Navy, on Road, near Gosport."

Mr James Hoskins was called and said, 'I am an attorney at Gosport. The prisoner served his clerkship with me. This letter is in the handwriting of the prisoner. I should think it is the disguised hand. It is my firm impression that it is his. I have not seen him write for these five or six years.'

On being cross-examined, Mr Hoskins replied, 'It sometimes happens that a person's writing alters. I speak from the recollection of his writing when he was with me. It is the general character of his writing. I do not mean to speak positively to it.'

On being re-examined, Mr Hoskins said, 'I am not aware that I have seen his writing since he left me.'

Mr Minchin was called, and said, 'I live in Gosport, where I am an attorney. The prisoner is also an attorney there. I have had frequent opportunities of seeing him write his name. I have known him I should think from his infancy. I have received from him papers in his own handwriting. This letter I believe to be written by the prisoner in a disguised hand.' On being cross-examined Mr Minchin replied, 'I cannot say how often I have seen him write, but I was perfectly acquainted with the character of his writing. The only thing I have seen him write since he left Mr Hoskins was a receipt. His signature was of a very different character to his general writing. I remember on one occasion his having a bill of costs against a client of mine for a sum of 70l, on which the prisoner, and I had much conversation, which I think was his writing, but I would not swear to any writing which I had not seen done. I cannot say what else I have seen him write since he quitted Mr Hoskins, besides the receipt.'

Mr F. Howard was called, and said, I am an attorney, and I know the prisoner's handwriting, of the character of which I think I could speak. There are certain letters and parts of words which are like his. I do not know that I have seen him write since 1828. I have seen his writing since. I believe this letter to be in his hand-writing.'

On being cross-examined, Mr Howard replied, 'I have seen the prisoner write in our report book at the Court-house, repeatedly. I may have seen many hand-writings which may be similar to his. This is evidently a disguised hand. There is a similarity in the word "sworn" to his writing.'

It is exactly like the way in which he used to write that word. I have seen the word in his hand-writing to notices of bail.'

On being re-examined, Mr Howard said, 'I have not, that I know of, seen any person's writing which was exactly like the prisoner's. The word "sworn", at the bottom, is the one I mean.'

Charles Welsh was called, and said, I am clerk to the postmaster at Portsmouth. This letter has the postmark on it. It has passed through the post-office. I have never seen the prisoner write, but I have seen him bring letters to the office, and I have a good recollection of the character of the writing of those letters which I have seen him bring, and I should not think that this direction is his writing. It is four or five years since I saw him bring any letters.'

George Edmund Roser was called, and said, 'I am servant to Captain Purvis. I received the letter from the usual postman, and gave it to my master.'

This closed the case for the prosecution.

The prisoner then read the following defence: -

'My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury, - I know not amidst the variety of topics which at once crowd my mind, how to commence that address which it is necessary for me to make in my defence. One consolation, however, cheers me amidst the gloom which surrounds me as a prisoner – conscious innocence of the charge for which I am indicted. When I reflect upon the education I have received, the rank in society which my profession entitles me to assume, contrasted with the painful and degraded situation in which I now stand as a prisoner at this bar – when I see around me my professional brethren, and feel that the result of this day's trial, although it doubtless will be favourable to me, will still leave behind a stigma and reproach which will never be forgotten, I have been almost tempted to contemplate the worst with gloomy satisfaction. In the case of conviction, painful as banishment from all we love must ever be, I should at least be unknown amongst my companions in disgrace; whilst your verdict of acquittal, which my feelings of conscious innocence induces me to look forward to with confidence, will hardly restore me to society, or wipe away the stain which necessarily attaches to the acquitted felon. Gentlemen, my worst enemies cannot desire for my ruin more complete than that in which this prosecution has involved me. But, Gentlemen, I must now address myself to my task, and in making the observations which I feel it necessary to do, think not that I wish to pervert your minds from the evidence; on the contrary, I call upon you to weigh well all the circumstances of this case. Coolly deliberately, and dispassionately dismiss from your minds every idle tale you may have heard, let not my errors be magnified into crime, nor my follies be aggravated into guilt. Let me leave this Court, Gentlemen, perfectly exonerated from the charge of being the author of the letter in question, for rather would I suffer the penalty attached to the offence, if it were possible, and be freed from the imputation, than be freed and the imputation remain. The offence charged upon me, Gentlemen, by this indictment, are of a highly penal nature, one which involves my personal liberty for life – it is a charge, also easily made, and difficult to be refuted; and the law, always merciful and just, requires that it should be established by the unequivocal proof. How then does this case stand? - how does the evidence affect me? The prosecutor, Captain Purvis, tells you he never saw me write in his life, and the only reason he has for believing me to be the author of the letter in question is that it contains an expression which he once dropped in a public Court of Justice, and which he cannot prove that I heard, though I was certainly present, as were also many other persons. But is this sufficient to ground a charge of felony upon? Where is the motive – the inducement? It is pretended by Captain Purvis that I never used a disrespectful, much more a threatening, expression towards him. No. Then, Gentlemen, I appeal to your understandings; is it likely I should have written such a letter to him? I am confident your good judgements will answer not. Then, Gentlemen, what does Mr Minchin prove? That he has seen me write once, and that was Henry Pollexfin. I avow most solemnly that is the only time he ever saw me write; and neither of those words are in the letter, unless, perhaps, the article "The". Is this, then sufficient to justify Mr Minchin to swear that he believes that letter to be my handwriting? Their Lordships will tell you that no comparison to other papers said to be mine can be admitted unless proved to be general. Then, Gentlemen, Mr Hoskins tell you that I was articled to him, and during that time he had frequent opportunities of seeing me write, and becoming acquainted with my handwriting; and that, according to the best of his belief, the letter in question was written by me; but permit me to remark that Mr Hoskins has not seen me write for the last six years; that in the course of such a period handwriting naturally changes. When I entered Mr Hoskins's office I wrote a very

different hand from what I did after I had been in his office a year or two; indeed so very different, that no person would have known them to have been written by the same person. So also Gentlemen, my handwriting at present differs as much from my method of writing when in my clerkship; nor will this be a matter of surprise when you consider I was under a restraint, and obliged, as it were, to write as it pleased my instructor; but when in practice for myself, and not in the habit of making fair copies of deeds, or engrossing, but merely confined to writing letters, or running out promiscuous papers for others to fair copy, my handwriting has become careless, and altogether different from what it then was; can then any reliance be placed upon the evidence of Mr Hoskins, so slight in itself, and grounded on so highly a penal charge? The evidence of Mr Howard, the Town Clerk, is still more slight; he has not seen me write for the last two or three years, and it is certainly doubtful whether he ever saw me write at all. This then, Gentlemen, is the whole of the evidence adduced against me, and permit me to ask how it is that no person has been called on the part of the prosecution who has lately seen me write? Why, Gentlemen, I will tell you – it is because they could not produce any person who was acquainted with my handwriting at the present day, and the character and mode of my present writing, who would for a moment, entertain a belief that the letter in question was written by me. So, you suppose this happened for want of inquiry? No, Gentlemen, the prosecutor is one of the Magistrates of this county, and himself and his brother Magistrates have felt and taken an unusual degree of interest in searching for evidence upon this occasion. Not a stone has been left unturned. My house searched, my writing-desk taken away and examined, and everybody who could be supposed to have any knowledge of me or my writing has been applied to. But is there any evidence arising from this adduced to me? Is the writing-paper in my desk or office produced to correspond with the letter? If it could have been, do you think it would not? Unquestionably it would. Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, have been ransacked for evidence, and if I had been the author of that letter, is it not a singular thing that out of all these places, where I was born and bred up, and lived my whole life, and known by most of the inhabitants, not one single person could be found to give positive and undisputed evidence against me? But no such person could be found. Again, Gentlemen, a very strong and powerful fact, and one that must strike you as quite conclusive of my innocence, is, that Mr Field, a clerk to Mr Hoskins, who was called before the Magistrates on the prosecution, was in the same office with me the whole of my clerkship, and has seen me write repeatedly since, and must of necessity have been a much more efficient witness than Mr Hoskins; he stated that there were two or three words in the first three lines which bore some resemblance to my handwriting , but, with that exception, the whole of the other part of the letter was totally dissimilar, and that, in fact, it appeared to have been written by two different persons. This evidence did not suit the prosecutor, and therefore he was not bound over. Gentlemen, having received a legal education, and, therefore, fully aware of the high penalty attached to the sending of an anonymous letter of this description, is it probable that I should have exposed myself to penalties so severe as those imposed by the laws on offences of this nature? If I had entertained any hatred, malice, or revengeful disposition in my breast, against Captain Purvis, could I not have threatened him personally, in the very words of the letter, in which case he could have only called upon me to find sureties of the peace? Let me also call your attention to the following fact. I received an intimation from Mr Field in the evening, before I was apprehended, that I was in imminent danger, but he would not tell me further, and said he was not at liberty to tell me more. I went home to my house in the country, about two miles from town, and the following morning, after breakfast, about nine o'clock, left my house at Brockhurst to go to my house in town. Did this look like guilt? When I received this intimation, if I had been the author of the letter in question, would it not have instantly struck conviction to my mind, made me naturally conclude I was detected, and endeavour by every means in my power to avoid being apprehended, and escape from the punishment which I should justly have deserved? But, conscious that I had not injured any one, I little expected that this proceeding awaited me, and went as usual to my avocation. Gentlemen of the Jury, I will not occupy your time much longer, and I am sure I shall be excused, under the circumstances, for having trespassed so long. I can hardly believe that, if I did not call one single witness, you would consider that there is sufficient evidence on the part of the prosecution to satisfy you that I am guilty of the charge contained in the indictment. But, Gentlemen, I will call to you several witnesses, who well know my handwriting, and have repeatedly seen me write, even up to the very week of my being apprehended – parties who

understand writing, and can write different hands; and these, Gentlemen, will positively swear there is not a word in that letter which bears the character of my handwriting. When you have heard these witnesses, Gentlemen, I am sure you will, without allowing any doubt to remain on your minds, immediately pronounce me not guilty. I will not detain you one moment longer; but, relying implicitly upon the well-known liberality, upright and honourable conduct of a British Jury, I leave my case in your hands, with a firm assurance that I shall receive, by your verdict, a full and honourable acquittal.'

William Woolger was called, and said, 'I am a mercer at Gosport. I know the prisoner. I went to school with him. I have often seen him write, as lately as within a fortnight or three weeks of his apprehension. I do not know by whom this letter was written. To the best of my opinion, it has no resemblance whatever to his handwriting.'

On being cross-examined, Mr Woolger replied, 'I think the formation of the letters is unlike that of the prisoner. I cannot identify any resemblance between these words and his handwriting. I have frequently of late seen him write, and his writings. Of the latter I have seen a great many. I think I have seen some rules of an Harmonic Society. I cannot say how many times he has shown me the rules which he may have written to these Societies. I have not always been on the most harmonious terms with him, but he was one of that disposition that if I offended him, or he offended me, he would call on me and apologise.'

William Trattle was called, and said, 'I have known the prisoner 10 or 11 years. He has been employed for me, and he has frequently done business for me. I am intimately acquainted with his handwriting. The writing in this letter has not the least resemblance to his handwriting.'

James Tucker was called, and said, 'I live at Gosport, and know the prisoner. I have repeatedly seen him write. I have a perfect knowledge of his handwriting. This letter does not bear the slightest resemblance to his handwriting.'

Robert Bragg was called, and said, 'I am a hatter, at Gosport, I have known the prisoner from his boyhood, and have often seen him write. I cannot trace the smallest resemblance to his handwriting in this letter.'

Mr Justice Alderson then summed up the evidence. "The prisoner is indicted under the 4th Geo. IV., c.54, which enacts "that if any person shall write, and send wilfully and knowingly, with or without a signature, any letter which contains a threat to kill or murder, any person convicted of such an offence is guilty of felony, and is liable to transportation or such term of imprisonment as the Court may deem proper." The offence with which the prisoner is charged is not one of a capital nature, but is at the same time one leading to serious consequences, affecting, as it does, the character, liberty, if not the life, of the prisoner. It, therefore, requires your attention to the proof offered, and you must satisfy yourselves of the guilt of the prisoner before you convict him. With respect to the letter itself, that clearly comes within the provision of the Act. The only question consequently for you to determine on, is whether the evidence is such as to convince you that the prisoner is the party who has sent this letter, and whether it is written by him.'

The Learned Judge then went through the testimony, commenting on its bearings to the question. The Jury Acquitted the prisoner.

Mr Justice Alderson addressed the prisoner. 'I should have been better satisfied if your witnesses, who have spoken on the point of the hand-writing, would have spoken to your character.'

Mr Pollexfin then left the Court out of custody.⁴⁸⁶

William Birch, aged 37, and William Shepherd, aged 23, were indicted for robbing Thomas Bensley of a sum of money.

Mr Bensley was called and said, 'I have a printing establishment in Andover. The prisoners, together with many others, had come to my premises in search of machinery. They found none but asked for drink, saying that if I gave it to them they would not press my men to join them as they had intended. I therefore gave them money.'

One of Mr Bensley's men corroborated his master's evidence.

The Learned Judge addressed the Jury, and said, 'It is the opinion of myself and my Learned Brother, that there is not sufficient evidence to constitute that which the law requires – namely, that the party should be in fear.'

⁴⁸⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 24 December 1830

He therefore directed the Jury to *Acquit* the prisoners.⁴⁸⁷

James Martin, aged 33, William Stroud, aged 37, and John Annetts, aged 38, were indicted for robbing Thomas Child of one sovereign.

Thomas Child was called and said, 'I live at East Woodhay. I saw the three prisoners come to my house, with other men, about 10 o'clock on the 23rd of November. Annetts had a hammer on his shoulder. I went to meet them and ask their business. They said they had called for a little money, if I pleased. Someone said they would not be denied, they hoped I would give them a sovereign. I put my hand in my pocket and gave them one. There was no threat and they were perfectly civil.' Mr Baron Vaughan said that as there was no violence on one side, and no fear on the other, they must *Acquit* the prisoners.

James Martin, aged 33, was indicted for robbing Mrs Jane Asprey of £2, at Sidmorton on the 23rd November last.

From the testimony of Mrs Asprey it appeared that a mob, consisting of between 200 and 300 men, armed with sticks and bars of iron, came to her husband's house, at Sidmorton, during his absence, and the prisoners made a demand of two sovereigns. When asked on what account, he said for breaking threshing machines. Mrs Asprey sent them a sovereign, which was returned with a threat that if the demand was not fully complied with they would un-roof the house. Mrs Asprey then sent out the sovereign and a pounds worth of silver. The men gave three cheers, and departed. The facts were fully corroborated by Mary Taylor, the servant, who carried the money to the prisoner, and also by another witness.

Mr William Shurman appeared on behalf of the prisoner. He gave him a good character for honesty, and stated that he had been compelled to join the mob.

Mr Justice Parke told the Jury that where money was obtained from persons who, under the influence of fear, were induced to comply with the demand, it was equivalent to force. In this, no doubt could exist, if they believed the evidence, that there had been such degree of terror excited as to induce a person of ordinary firmness to yield to its influence.

The Jury found Martin *Guilty*, but recommended him to mercy. There were twelve other charges against Martin, for machine breaking, and extorting money.⁴⁸⁸

John Annetts, aged 38, charged with having robbed Stephen Kent of East Woodhay, of two sovereigns, on the 23rd of November, was found *Guilty*.⁴⁸⁹

William Stroud, aged 37, was put to the bar, charged with having robbed Mr William Baker, of Burghclere, of two sovereigns. The evidence not being conclusive, the Jury *Acquitted* the prisoner.⁴⁹⁰

The Court adjourned at 9 o'clock.⁴⁹¹

Nisi Prius Court

Mr Justice Alderson sat in the Nisi Prius Court again today. William Brackstone, aged 38, and John Allen, aged 51, were charged with having, on the 22nd November, at the parish of Penton Grafton, with divers other persons to the number of 200, riotously assembled together and destroyed a threshing machine and also a chaff-cutting machine, the property of Henry Gawler, Esquire. The prisoners pleaded not guilty.

Mr Sergeant Wilde, having briefly stated the particulars of the case, called the witnesses. Richard Howse was called, and said, 'I live at Penton Grafton. I am bailiff to Mr Gawler. On the 22nd November last I was in the barn, when a mob of about 100 men came to it. They had

⁴⁸⁷ *The Times*, 24 December 1830

⁴⁸⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁴⁸⁹ NOTE: *Hampshire Chronicle* & *Hampshire Telegraph* both name Stephen Kent as the prosecutor. In The Calendar of Prisoner (TNA – HO140/1) John Annetts is also charged with robbing Thomas Child of one sovereign at East Woodhay, on 23 November

⁴⁹⁰ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁴⁹¹ *The Times*, 25 December 1830

bludgeons, hammers, and spears in their hands. John Allen then came into the barn. He had a hatchet with two edges to it. We had a threshing machine in the barn, parts of it having been taken down. The mob destroyed the whole of it, by breaking it to pieces. I did not see the other prisoners there.'

At this point it was discovered that there were two men called William Brackstone in custody, and that the wrong one had been put up.

The Counsel for Brackstone objected to the other man being put up, as it was not the proper course to prove the identity.

The Learned Judge held the objection to be good, and said that it was impossible to convict the Brackstone who was then at the bar for this offence.

The witness then identified John Allen as one of those who had broken the machine.

In his defence Allen said, 'I was pressed to join the mob. I have a large family, 10 children, and I have not sufficient work to support them.'

The Jury found John Allen *Guilty*, and *Acquitted* William Brackstone.

Henry Cook, aged 19, David Champ, aged 21, and John Kear, aged 29, were charged with having on the 19th November, at the parish of Mitcheldever, with divers other persons, riotously assembled together and feloniously destroyed a threshing machine, the property of William Pain.
⁴⁹²

The offence was clearly proved to have been committed by the mob, in which the prisoners were very active.

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against the three of them.

The same Henry Cook, together with Isaac Hill junior, aged 26, was put to the bar, charged with having broken a threshing machine at the farm of Richard Twitchin, in the parish of Mitcheldever. Mr Twitchin was able to prove the commission of the offence, and that the two prisoners were very active in the work of destruction.

In his defence Hill stated that he had not broken the machine, saying that all he had done was to ask Mr Twitchin, very civilly, for the money. Mr Twitchin had given the money and he had thanked him for it.⁴⁹³

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against both prisoners.

William Heighes, aged 30, and Thomas Heighes, age 28, were charged with having, on 24th November last, at Week in the parish of Binstead, maliciously damaged with intent to destroy, a threshing machine, the property of Robert Shotter and Edward Baigent, of the value of £25.⁴⁹⁴ Both prisoners pleaded *Not Guilty*

Mr Shotter satisfactorily proved the case against Thomas Heighes, adding, 'I had previously told the mob that my machine had been taken down, but they persisted in completely destroying it.' Chandler, a servant to Mr Shotter was able to identify the two prisoners. He was one of the mob who had gone to the premises, and he said that the two prisoners had, with a small sledge, broken the iron-work of the machine.

The Clerk to the Magistrates proved that William Heighes was a tithing man.

In summing up the case Mr Justice Alderson observed that the prisoner Thomas Heighes was identified by both Mr Shotter and an accomplice, Chandler, as being very active in the mob, but the presence of William Heighes was only proved by the accomplice Chandler. The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against Thomas Heighes, but *Acquitted* William Heighes.

Mr Justice Alderson told the Jury that he thought they had returned a proper verdict. He then addressed William Heighes saying, 'William Heighes, you have had a very narrow escape, though I agree with the Jury as to the propriety of the verdict which they have just returned, there is still strong reason for suspecting that you were present at the commission of this outrage. You were bound by your situation to protect the peace of your own parish, and yet you were found, or rather

⁴⁹² NOTE: The prosecutor is named as Payne in the *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁴⁹³ The *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning Herald* (London) both name William Twitchin as the prosecutor in this case; the *Hampshire Telegraph* names the prosecutor as - Twitchen

⁴⁹⁴ The *Hampshire Advertiser* names the prosecutors as Robert Shotter and E. Balgent, and does not name William Heighes

you are suspected of being engaged, in breaking it at a neighbouring parish. Your offence, if you had been guilty, would have been visited with the utmost severity which the law attaches to it. I hope that this will be a warning to you in the future.'

John Sims, aged 25, William Sims, aged 54, Daniel Sims, aged 20, and John Tolland, aged 22, were indicted with having on the 22nd November, in the parish of St Mary Bourne, feloniously made an assault on one Mrs Lucy Easton, and put her in bodily fear and danger of her life, and stolen from her person one half sovereign, the money of the Reverend William Easton, her husband.⁴⁹⁵ The prisoners all pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Mr Sergeant Wilde opened the case and told the Jury that it would be necessary for them to pay great attention to this case as it contained 'dangerous consequences to the prisoners on account of the extraordinary violence which they were accused of having displayed'.

William Easton junior was called and said, 'I live at St Mary Bourne, with my father, the Reverend William Easton. I recollect the 22nd of last November. At about eight or nine o'clock of the morning of that day I saw a mob of 200 persons or more coming to me father's house, my father was not well. They carried sticks, bludgeons, pickaxes, and one of them had a draw chain. [This was explained to be a very sharp and formidable instrument used by carpenters.] I saw William Sims, and John Sims in the crowd. I know all the four prisoners, they belong to our parish. Daniel Sims and John Tolland were also there. The three Sims had sticks, but Tolland had not. When they came to our wicket they found it fastened. I went and asked them what they wanted. They said that they wanted to come in. I told them that they should not, but they said they would. William Sims then called for the pickaxes, and with a blow of the pickaxe the gate was forced open. Sims and many of the mob then came in and rushed up to the front door and demanded admittance. They knocked at the door and when they found that no one would open it for them William Sims again called out for a pick axe to break it open. Before the pick axe was brought the mob began to knock the door with their sticks, and presently it flew open. When I got into the parlour I found William Sims demanding money of my mother. My mother said that she could not afford to give it. William Sims then said, 'Money or blood.' She said that she would not give them any. The mob then cried out, 'We are all of one mind; we will have money or blood.' My mother then asked William Sims how much they wanted. He said a sovereign. My mother offered three shillings, but Sims said, 'We must have a sovereign.' My mother said she would never give it. They again cried out, 'We'll have money or blood.' My mother then sent my sister Lucy upstairs for half a sovereign. I then went into the passage to the kitchen, and there I saw three persons surrounding my father. My father was that morning up stairs confined by a cold. I heard Daniel Sims say to my father, 'Damn you, where will your text be next Sunday?' Then I went up to them and said, 'This is too bad; I'll mark some of you for this.' Daniel Sims said, 'You mark me!' and he held up his stick at me. I replied, 'Yes, I'll mark you.' He said, 'No marking.' I said that I would.'⁴⁹⁶

Miss Lucy Easton was called and corroborated the testimony of her brother, adding, 'I saw William Sims in the parlour on the day named. He was calling out, 'Blood or money!' He demanded a sovereign of my mother, and on her saying she had not got one, and could not give it, he replied, 'We must have it, or I will bring 500 more men here tonight.' He again called out, Blood or money.' I said money, mother.' I went up stairs and fetched down a half sovereign, and gave it to my mother. My mother gave it to the elder Sims. The money fell out of his hands on to the ground. When the mob saw that it was only half a sovereign, they said it was not enough, they would have more. My mother then asked William Sims if half a sovereign would not do, and he consented to take it.'⁴⁹⁷

The Reverend William Easton was called, and said, 'I was upstairs when the mob arrived, owing to a cold under which I had been labouring. On hearing the men in the house I came down stairs and found my house in the possession of the men. The first thing that the mob said to me was that they would have their wages raised. I told them to go to the stocks, and there they would see, by a paper fastened on the church that the magistrates had agreed to raise their wages. William Sims abused me very much about a sermon I had preached on the preceding Sunday, and which

⁴⁹⁵ The Reverend William Easton died on the 20th November 1834, age 68 and was buried at St Mary Bourne on 28th November, he had been the vicar of the parish for 17 years.

⁴⁹⁶ *Morning Post*, 25 December 1830

⁴⁹⁷ *Morning Post*, 25 December 1830; *The Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830

he said was against the poor. I denied that it was against the poor, and said that I had always been a friend to them. When I first came down stairs I found my wife at the bottom of the stairs. She was then going to retire to her room, but the mob prevented her. She was so frightened that she could not speak. My wife had been in a very precarious state of health prior to the 22nd of November. In consequence of their violence she has had a return of her former complaint, and was as the doctor says, in a very dangerous state indeed afterwards. She is now I am sorry to say, so ill as not to be able to be here today. As soon as it was known that his wife had given half a sovereign, William Sims cried, 'All out!' and the mob left my house.'

498 The prisoners were then called for their defence.

John Sims said, 'I had gone to Mr Easton about an advance of wages. He had met Mr Easton a few days before, and, in talking of the riots Mr Easton said to me, 'Stick to the farmers for your rights, that is the only way to get them.' Old Mr Easton said this to me in the presence of Thomas Young.'

In his defence William Sims said, 'I went into the house for the purpose of asking Mr Easton some questions. I never asked for money. I never called out 'Money or blood' to Mrs Easton. I never got the half crown from that lady. Mrs Easton put the half sovereign into my hand – I did not take it, I could not close my hand from a complaint I had and it fell upon the ground, and I can call a witness to prove it. I cannot tell who picked it up.'

In his defence Daniel Sims said, 'I did not hold up a stick at Mr Easton.'

John Tolland said nothing in his defence.

Henry Bunce was called on behalf of William Simms. Before he was examined Mr Justice Alderson addressed him and cautioned him very particularly not to answer any question put to him that would endanger his life or liberty. Although repeatedly cautioned on this point the witness consented to be examined.

When questioned Henry Bunce said, 'I was present with the mob both before and after they went to Mr Easton's and whilst they were there. William Sims did not say, 'blood or money.' That expression was used by other persons.'

Addressing Bunce, Mr Justice Alderson said, 'It is now my duty to order you into immediate custody. You were cautioned as to the effect of your answers, and yet you have confessed yourself implicated in this outrage.'

On hearing this Bunce immediately sprung over the bar into the dock with his former comrades, seemingly unaffected by the decision of the Judge.

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the case to the Jury, and said, 'This is a case of a very serious description indeed. I call your particular attention to it, as it was accompanied by circumstances of great aggravation. I hope therefore that you will weigh the evidence with great attention before you pronounce a verdict of guilty, if such should be your verdict against them. If you can only form one opinion regarding it, it is not the consequences which might follow your verdict that ought to deter you from giving it. You have a painful duty to discharge, and must discharge it as becomes your duty to God and your country. You must be satisfied that the money had been taken against the will of Mrs Easton, that it had been taken either by violence, or by apprehended violence to her husband's property, and then that the prisoners were all present aiding and abetting in one common object, before you can give a verdict against them.'

The Learned Judge then went through the whole of the evidence.

The Jury considered for a moment and then returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners.

499 Daniel Payne, aged 21, was indicted for assaulting James Marsh and robbing him of 4s.

The Jury found him *Guilty*, and a judgement of death was recorded against him.

Mr Justice Alderson addressed Payne. 'Your life will be spared but you will leave this country for life and go where you will be a slave.'

The Court adjourned at half past seven and will re-open at half past eight tomorrow morning.⁵⁰⁰

498 NOTE: The state of Mrs Easton's health after the visit by the mob can be found in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

499 *The Times*, 24 December 1830; *The Morning Herald* (London)

500 *The Times*, 25 December 1830

On the arrival of the commission in Winchester the number of prisoners committed for trial was over 300. This evening it was ascertained that not more than one third of that number have so far been tried. It has therefore become necessary for the judges, who can see that they cannot deliver the gaol this week, to determine on the course to be pursued for the trial of the remaining prisoners here, and for the opening of the commission for the county of Wiltshire at Salisbury on Monday 27th December. The three judges consulted together this evening and they have resolved that one of their number will go to Salisbury next Monday, that he will open the commission for the county in the Courthouse, at three o'clock on that day, and that he will afterwards adjourn the Court until Thursday next at 12 o'clock. An express was immediately sent to Salisbury, to communicate this arrangement to the magistracy, the gentlemen summoned on the Grand Jury, and all others who might have business at the said Special Commission; and it was at the same time stated, that, the High Sheriff and other gentlemen of the county would not be expected to meet his Lordship on Monday, but if they thought proper to do so on Thursday, their Lordships would feel honoured. The Grand Jury are requested to attend at 12 o'clock on Thursday, at Salisbury, when one of the judges, will see them sworn in, and proceed to charge them on the nature of their duties. The Judge who opens the commission in Salisbury on Monday, will return immediately to Winchester, and resume his seat for the trial of the Hampshire rioters. Numerous as they are, they are not more than half as many as those who are lodged in the different gaols in Wiltshire, where it would appear that the number of prisoners exceeds 600.

A Special Commission has just arrived in court, directing the three Judges to proceed from Wiltshire to Dorchester, to try the rioters in that county. The commission is to be opened at Dorchester on Monday, 10th January next, at ten in the morning, when their Lordships will attend divine service, and immediately afterwards swear in the Grand Jury and proceed with the business of the Special Commission. There are now upwards of 70 or more prisoners committed for trial in that county. As term commences now on the 11th of January, this arrangement will deprive each of the three courts at Westminster of their full complement of judges.⁵⁰¹

⁵⁰¹ London Evening Standard, 25 December 1830; Hampshire Telegraph

Friday, 24th December 1830

Crown Court

Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Parke took their seats in the Crown Court at nine o'clock this morning.⁵⁰²

This morning the Grand Jury came down with true bills against Mr John Fisher, Mr George and Mr John Atkins, Mr Ewer, and another, all respectable farmers at North Stoneham, for refusing to be sworn as special constables during the late riots. The parties traversed the case till next March Assize, and entered into the usual recognizance for that purpose.⁵⁰³

One of the Jury asked if the Court would not allow them something towards defraying their expenses. Mr Baron Vaughan said the Court had no power to order any remuneration. The Juryman then asked whether there was any fine for non-attendance.

Mr Baron Vaughan said, 'Certainly there is, but I cannot countenance the absence of any gentleman of the Jury.'⁵⁰⁴

Joseph Mason, aged 31, Robert Mason, aged 24, Isaac Hill senior, aged 62, Isaac Hill junior, aged 26, Henry Cook, aged 19, Edward Tarrant, aged 30, Thomas Berriman, aged 52, William Winkworth, aged 43, Joseph Carter, aged 45, David Collis, aged 35, Thomas Prior, aged 20, James Pearce, aged 40, and John Kear, aged 29, were indicted for riotously assembling, and, by threats, extorting £5 from Thomas Dowden, a respectable farmer at Mitcheldever, on the 19th November. The two Masons held respectable stations in life, and Winkworth was a tithingman.⁵⁰⁵

The majority of the prisoners have already appeared on other charges.

In opening the case the Attorney General pointed out that this was the same mob as the one that had attacked the houses of Mr Calendar, Mr Paine, Mr Twitchin and various other farmers. He called upon the Jury to pay particular attention to evidence as it affected Joseph Mason and William Winkworth, saying, 'These men are of a superior education and intelligence and their offence is therefore of a deeper dye than that of many of the rude and ignorant peasantry by whom they were surrounded. They were neither of them engaged in husbandry, and therefore the agricultural distress, which has been pleaded by some of the parties tried before this commission, as a palliation for their misconduct, cannot be pleaded by them. Winkworth, who was a constable and therefore bound to preserve the peace, has been most active in violating it. He had been heard to say that things had not yet come to the worst, and that there would be bloodshed before the end of these transactions, and that he would make the farmers raise the wages of their men, for otherwise he would not be able to get paid for the shoes which he had made for them.'

The witnesses for the prosecution in this case, detailed the same circumstances as were detailed by them on the previous trials, arising out of the riotous and felonious conduct of the mobs which traversed the parishes of Mitcheldever, Sutton Scotney, East Stratton, Wonston, and other villages in that part of the county.

Thomas Dowden was called. 'I am a farmer, residing at Mitcheldever. A mob of 500 persons came to my house about seven o'clock. I met them. Some had sticks, some sledge hammers. I asked them what they wanted. They said, 'We come to break the threshing machines.' They broke three machines which were in the barn. They came to me afterwards across the yard to the house. I saw

⁵⁰² The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 27 December 1830, *Hampshire Telegraph*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 27 December 1830; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830; *The Times*, 25 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, and in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

⁵⁰³ *Hampshire Advertiser*, *The Morning Herald, (London)* 25 December 1830; *The Times*, 25 December 1830

⁵⁰³ *The Morning Herald*, 28 December 1830

⁵⁰³ *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁰⁴ *The Morning Herald*, 28 December 1830

⁵⁰⁵ NOTE: The prisoner Joseph Carter is named as David Carter in the *Hampshire Advertiser*; the prisoner John Kear is name is named as John Kerr in the *Hampshire Advertiser* & the *Hampshire Chronicle*; the prosecutor is named as W. Dowden in the *Hampshire Telegraph*

Cook, Isaac Hill, senior, Berriman, Winkworth (tithe-man of the parish), and Tarrant. They said, 'We must have two sovereigns.' I asked them what Mr Dear had given. They said they had but one from him; but mine was a larger farm, and they must have two from me. I gave one to Isaac Hill, senior. They said they must have two. I said I would get another if they would let me go. I went in doors and got another. Some of them said 'D – n him, follow him; he won't come back any more.' I told them they knew me too well – I should return. I brought back another sovereign and gave it to them. They then called out 'Now for Warren,' (another farm of mine). I told one, if he could prevail on them not to go to Warren, I would give them £5. That person then got them out of the yard. That man said he would manage it, and I gave him £5 (Andover Bank note). Some of the mob saw me give it him. He called Berriman to see if it was a good note. He did this so loud that others might hear him. Berriman said it was a good one, and gave it back to the other man. The mob then went towards West Stratton. I was a good deal alarmed. It was enough to alarm me, seeing so many people come as they did. It was this alarm that caused me to give them money. They cut my wagon cloth, and put it on a stick for a flag.⁵⁰⁶

On being cross examined by Sir J. Grey, Mr Dowden replied, 'I had a very valuable portable threshing machine at Warren Farm. I gave the money to prevent their breaking the machines at Warren Farm. It was not asked for. They did not state they were going to do any mischief there. They took my carters, and compelled them to go. I did not see Winkworth till the mob were nearly out of the yard, and he appeared very unwilling to go with them. He said he would not go unless Witcher, another man, would accompany him. The money was given voluntarily.'⁵⁰⁷

Henry Cropp was called. 'I live at Hunton, I am a labouring man. On the 19th of November, about eight or nine o'clock, some persons (more than 100) came to my father's house, with sticks in their hands. Joseph Mason was with the mob, he is a small farmer. They pressed me; they took hold of me. We first went to Mr Dear's, at Weston. I saw the Hills at Mr Dear's; Joseph Mason was one who went with the mob. There was a machine broken there. I did not see Mason there, I saw him afterwards at Mr Dowden's. I saw Joseph Carter at Mr Dowden's. From Mr Dowden's we went to Mr Twitchin's, and from there to Mr Calendar's, at Stratton, where a machine was broken. Joseph Carter was there. We went from Calendar's to a public house, and the mob was called out into a meadow, where we had some beer. I received 2s 6d at Sutton. I saw both Masons in the mob. A machine was being broken at Mr Wickham's, while the mob was in the meadow. I saw Isaac Hill, junior, and Carter at Calendar's. My brother gave me the 2s 6d.'⁵⁰⁸

On being examined by Sir J. Grey, Cropp replied, 'I continued with the mob the whole day, and did not attempt to leave them. Mason was not in sight of the wicket at Dowden's. I saw Mason in the meadow at Sutton – it was rather dark. The meadow is near the village. There might have been many people of Sutton there who had not been with the mob all day. I heard that money had been divided, but never heard Mason say so. I expected to get off by coming here to give evidence. The mob consisted of about 700 or 800. It was at first only 100, but increased as it went on.'⁵⁰⁹

James Dear was called, and examined by Mr Follett. 'My father's farm is at Weston. I saw the mob on the 19th November at Mr Pain's farm. I heard the mob shouting. I went to see what the mob was doing. There were about 150. I saw Hill, senior, Henry Cook, Thomas Prior, James Pearce, William Winkworth, and James Carter there. I heard Prior say 'It must come to blood.' Cook said "That's what it must come to." Winkworth said 'It's not come to the worst yet.' I went to my father's house, and the mob came there. It is about half a mile from Mr Pain's. The mob told me they were coming, and in about ten minutes they came. I saw another mob coming in a different direction. The mob joined at my father's back yard gate. They broke one machine. I saw Robert Mason in the barn. I saw Isaac Hill, senior, Henry Cook, Thomas Prior, while the machine was being broken. Cook and Prior were taking a very active part. The mob demanded money after they had broken the machine. My cousin gave Carter a sovereign in my presence. Many of the mob who were near the house had sticks, sledge hammers, and one had a pick-axe. The mob then went

⁵⁰⁶ NOTE: In Mr Dowden's evidence given in the *Hampshire Advertiser* he says 'the mob came to my house on the evening of the 19th November'. As well as the three threshing machines he says they broke a horse mill. Mr Dear is named as Mr Deer. After giving the second sovereign he says someone called out 'to the manor', (not Warren Farm as is given in the other newspapers), he then told them he would give them £5 if they could be prevented from going to the manor

⁵⁰⁷ *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁰⁸ *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁰⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*

to Mr Dowden's. I followed, and got to Mr Dowden's first, and gave the alarm. I heard them demand money, and they broke a machine. Many of them said they must have money, two sovereigns, as he had more land than his neighbours. I saw Mr Dowden give Isaac Hill, senior one sovereign. They said they must have more. He went into the house, and they said, 'Follow him,' but they did not. He then gave them another sovereign. I saw Joseph Mason, Joseph Carter, and Henry Cook there. They moved away with the mob. After the two sovereigns had been given I saw Tarrant and Winkworth. They were taking away some of Mr Dowden's carters by force. Some of the mob had them by the collars.'

Thomas Bridger, the bailiff to Sir Thomas Baring was called, and examined by the Attorney General. 'I remember on the 19th November a mob, consisting of about 500, came at 12 o'clock in the day to Sir Thomas Baring's. They had sticks and sledge hammers. They demanded money of me. I went with them to Mr Calendar, of whom they demanded £10, or they would smash the windows. Berriman said if he would give them £10, no harm should be done. James Pearce and Joseph Carter were there. They then went to a public house, where I saw William Winkworth, who said they could have had five sovereigns if they had gone to Sir Thomas Baring's. Two of them said they would go there, but I said that the £10 which Mr Calendar had given them was for the house. They had the beer in the meadow near. Berriman said they should only have half a pint a piece. There was a bill brought for the drink. Joseph Mason was in the room, who gave a £5 note to William Mason to pay it. There were only eight or ten in the public house, the rest being in the meadow. Berriman and Carter were there. The paper that was on the table was left there. I did not learn from any of the prisoners what was on it.'⁵¹⁰

On being cross examined Mr Bridger replied, 'I do not know that Winkworth was commissioned by Sir Thomas Baring's housekeeper. I do not know that Winkworth had been to Sir Thomas Baring's to tell him there was a mob coming.'

William Bishop, clerk to Mr Calendar, corroborated Mr Bridger's testimony.

Laurence Coombs, a shopkeeper at East Stratton, was called. 'I saw the mob about eight o'clock in the morning. They joined another mob going to Mr Dear's. I saw three or four in conversation with Mr Dear; they appeared as if demanding money. The machine was breaking at the time. Dear said he wanted money as much as they did to pay his taxes. I saw Richard Carter. Mr Dear said with an oath that he would not give them any money. The mob said he had money in his house, and they would have it. They then rushed towards the house. I went away to Mr Dowden's, about 40 yards from Dear's house. I saw Joseph Mason and Berriman, it was after the party was moving away, and they were then going towards Mr Dowden's. I went with young Dear to Dowden's. I know John Kear, and saw him between Dear's and Dowden's with the rest of the party. He had a bar of iron on his shoulder. Winkworth was there at the same time. I ran before the mob to Mr Dowden's. I went with Mr Bridger to his house, and the mob came there in about a quarter of an hour. I saw Joseph Mason pay £3 18s 6d for beer. He gave a £5 note and took up the change. It was in the parlour of the inn. I saw a piece of paper lying on the table. I said, 'Did you write this?' He said he did. I asked him if that was my name on the paper and he said it was. When Joseph Mason put the change into his pocket, he said to Berriman, 'Carter will settle by and by.' These three were in the room all the time I was there.'

On being cross examined by the Court Mr Coombs replied, 'Before the mob got to the public house they had a sovereign from me at my own door.'

Charles Brown was called. 'I am carter to Mr Dowden. I was taken by the mob on the 19th November, from my master's farm. David Collis was in the farm yard with the mob and Winkworth also. John Kear was at the backside of the barn. Isaac Hill, senior, was in the farm yard. Tarrant was in the barn, assisting in breaking the machinery. I was forced away by the mob. We went to Mr Bridger and Mr Calendar's, then to the public house, then to Mr James Wickham's, at Sutton Scotney. The mob divided at Mr Wickham's. Money was divided. I received some money at Mitcheldever (John Wise's, a public house) – 1s 6d. David Collis was there in the same room with me. I only saw money received at my master's farm.'

Robert Lawson was called. 'I joined the mob about 10 o'clock, and continued with them until they separated. I saw Cook, Prior, Kear, and Berriman there. Another mob joined and they went to Mr Dear's. I was at Sutton with the mob, and the money (£38) was divided. Berriman was there. I

⁵¹⁰ *The Hampshire Advertiser* names this witness as Henry Bridger

received 2s. It was given to me at Stratton. I did not see any money divided at Sutton. Neither of the prisoners were present at Stratton when the money was divided.'

James Wickham was called. 'I live at Sutton. I was with my father on the 19th November at 4 p.m. when the machine was broken. I saw Berriman and Pearce. They demanded money of me and I gave them a sovereign.'

Richard Twitchin was called. 'I live with my father at Stratton. I saw the mob as I was going to Mr Dear's on the 19th November at about eight o'clock. I saw both the Hills, Joseph Mason, and David Collis. The mob came to my father's a little after eleven. Thomas Prior was then with them. They broke the machine. I then saw Winkworth, Tarrant, and Pearce. Money was demanded of my father, 'Don't be harder with your master than you are with other people,' said Collis as I gave him two sovereigns.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Twitchin replied, 'I did not see Mason at the time the money was demanded.'

James Parker was called. 'I live at Sutton. The mob visited me about eight o'clock in the morning of 19th November. I saw Joseph Carter there. I gave them 5s from intimidation, there being from 100 to 200. I saw them again about four o'clock. They were much more numerous, and among them was Berriman.'

Henry Pain was called. 'I am a farmer residing at Manor Farm, Mitcheldever. A mob came to my house; among them were Isaac Hill, senior, Henry Cook, and David Collis. Some asked for beer, and Hill said 'You had better give us a sovereign.' I gave them some beer, but not any money; they had broken a machine of mine by then. They came again at three o'clock in the afternoon. Prior was there. I gave them one sovereign, but they demanded more, and I gave them another, after which they left.'

William Pain, of Borough Farm, Mitcheldever was called. 'The mob came to my farm. Isaac Hill, senior, Henry Cook, William Winkworth, David Collis, and John Kear were there. I gave them one sovereign and beer. They came again in the afternoon; they were more numerous. I gave them £2. Joseph Carter received one sovereign from me.'

When cross examined Mr Pain replied, 'In the morning they said they would go away if I would raise their wages, to which I consented.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Pain replied, 'The mob remained until they had broken the machine, and received the money. The greater part had nothing to do with breaking the machine.'

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The only new witness called was the Reverend Mr Cockerton, he said, 'I am the curate of Stoke Charity. I first met with the mob early on the morning of the 19th November. They wanted me to accompany them to the house of Mr Dallas. I refused to go with them. There were then about 70 or 80 men assembled. I asked them whether they had seen their masters that morning. They said no. They told me they were going to Wonston to get their breakfast, and when they had done their business there, they would return to Sutton and settle with their masters. They said they hoped to meet me at Sutton. I told them I hoped they would not commit any violence. They said that the only thing they wanted to do was break machinery. I said I hoped they would not as their masters had promised not to work them. They said they would be satisfied with the promise of their masters, for their masters had never disappointed them. They then asked me for a little money. I said I would not give them any, for they were acting very wrong. They said to me, 'You might as well give us a little.' I said that I would not, and I did not give them any. Someone then said, 'Let him pass, and give him a cheer.' I did not pass just then but entered into conversation with some of the men, and endeavoured to dissuade them from their design. They said on leaving me, 'We'll go on to Wonston, and you go to Sutton and talk to our masters, for you can do it better than us.' When I went away they gave me a cheer. I met up with them again at about half past eight in Sutton Scotney; their numbers had increased to 700 or 800. A great many of them at that time had crow bars, sledge hammers, pump handles, and axes, in their hands. Before I saw them the last time in Sutton Scotney, they had broken the machine of Mr Wickham. After that I addressed them along with Mr Newbolt. We attempted to dissuade them from their violent proceedings. Around 220 of the mob were on their way to Bullington to break machinery there. I said it was wrong. Joseph Carter said he would go after them to try and persuade them to come back. He went after

⁵¹¹ *The Morning Herald*, 25 December 1830

the men and all but five or six came back. They broke no more machinery that day, but separated into their respective parishes.⁵¹²

On being cross examined by Sir George Grey, Mr Cockerton replied, 'I think that if they had been met by conciliation or concession in the morning, they might have been dispersed.'

He was then asked by the Court, 'What do you mean by conciliation or concession?'

Mr Cockerton replied, 'I mean by promising them to do what was right and proper, and by raising their wages.'

He then went on to give Carter, Robert Mason and several other prisoners excellent characters. Attempts were made to prove that in the course of the day this mob had raised £39 10s by forced contributions from the farmers.⁵¹³

This closed the case for the prosecution.⁵¹⁴

The prisoners were then called for their defence. Most of them said that they had been compelled to go, with the exception of Thomas Berriman, who said with a smile, 'I went with the rest.'

Enos Diddams was called again to speak to the character of the two Masons, who he had known for many years. He said they were both, industrious, honest, sober, orderly and peaceable men.

On being cross-examined, Diddams told the Court, 'I was at a meeting with Joseph Mason on Saturday, the 13th November. There were ten people present at that meeting. It was a meeting of the middle and lower classes of society to present a petition to the King. It was not a petition to raise wages, to break machinery, or about any other political or Government concern. It was a petition to His Majesty about the poor, praying him to take into consideration the proper means to be adopted for relieving the distresses of the working classes. The sovereign people at that meeting determined to send a person up to present their petition to the King. The sovereign people, (hear a laugh was heard), determined to defray the expenses of the man they sent up, by a subscription of a penny, a two pence, a three pence, or a sixpence each. The sovereign people subscribed 17s to carry the man to Brighton, (another laugh was heard). He was to go as cheap as he could. Joseph Mason was the man chosen to go. He was not to have all the funds of the sovereign people, (another laugh), but was to account for it to the subscribers, and return any surplus.'⁵¹⁵

Several of the prisoners received the most excellent characters.

As no evidence had been produced which affected the prisoner James Pearce, the Judge directed him to be Acquitted.⁵¹⁶

Before the commencement of the summing up, Mr Baron Vaughan intimated to the Jurors who were not empanelled, that as the Court would be adjourned until Monday, they might return to their homes; but their presence would be required on that day, at nine o'clock in the morning.⁵¹⁷ Mr Justice Parke went through the evidence most minutely, commenting on it as he proceeded, having prefaced his remarks by stating that the prisoners were put upon their trial, charged jointly with one offence, and the principal fact of the case would turn on the alleged robbery. In order to find a verdict of guilty, the Jury must satisfy themselves that the money was obtained from the prosecutor against his will, and under the impression of fear. This in law was punishable to the same extent as if force had been used. Having heard the evidence, he left it to the Jury to decide whether there had been such a taking as came within the meaning of the statute.⁵¹⁸

At about 7 o'clock this evening the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against Henry Cook, Joseph Mason, Joseph Carter, Isaac Hill senior and Thomas Berriman, but strongly recommended Mason, Hill and Carter to mercy, on account of their excellent character.⁵¹⁹

Robert Mason, Isaac Hill, junior, Edward Tarrant, William Winkworth, David Collis, Thomas Prior, James Pearce, and John Kear, were *Acquitted*.⁵²⁰

⁵¹² NOTE: Mr Cockerton's evidence does not appear in *The Morning Herald (London)*

⁵¹³ *The Times*, 25 December 1830

⁵¹⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830

⁵¹⁵ *The Morning Herald*, 25 December 1830; *The Times*, 25 December 1830

⁵¹⁶ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵¹⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵¹⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵¹⁹ *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵²⁰ *The Morning Herald*, 28 December 1830

The trial had lasted around 12 hours. The Court was then adjourned until nine o'clock on Monday morning.

Nisi Pius Court

Mr Justice Alderson sat in the Nisi Prius Court again today.

William Farmer, aged 24 was put to the bar charged with having, with divers others, riotously and tumultuously assembled, on the 22nd November, at the parish of St Lawrence Wootton, and by threats and force, and against his consent, obtained from William Lutely Sclater, Esq., the sum of two sovereigns, his property.

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the facts of the case, for which eight men have already been convicted, as they applied to this prisoner. In his evidence Mr Sclater said that Farmer was very like the man who carried the horn in the mob that had come to his house, but that he could not swear to it being the same man.

Other witness were called who said they had seen Farmer with the mob. Colonel Pennington identified the prisoner as the man who had come up to him and said, 'Money wa want, and money wa wul hae.' (will have.)

Farmer said nothing in his own defence.

The Jury found Farmer *Guilty*, and he was immediately called up for judgement.

Mr Justice Alderson addressed the prisoner, 'William Farmer, I will recommend that your life will be spared, but for this outrage you will be sent out of the country, and separated for life from those friends and connexions which are dear to you here.'⁵²¹

Nicholas Freemantle, aged 30, Abraham Childs, aged 48, James Cropp, aged 25, Benjamin Harding, aged 38, Charles Brummell, aged 23, William Primer, aged 34, and James Glasspole aged 30, were charged with having, on the 22nd November, in the parish of Corhampton, assaulted John Watts, put him in fear and bodily danger of his life and stolen from his person one sovereign and three half crowns, his property.⁵²²

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated that this case was committed under similar circumstances to many of the other cases which had come before the Gentlemen.

John Watts was called, and said, 'I am in the service of Walter Long Esquire, I remember between two and three o'clock on the 22nd November, a mob of about 200 or 300 men coming to the house. They were I should think 16 deep, six being in the front line, and they were armed with bill-hooks, hammers, and one man had an axe. Abraham Childs led the body, as an officer would have done. That is the man, (he pointed to Childs). He had a red or coloured handkerchief tied round his body, like a sash. Nicholas Freemantle was there, and was one of those in the front, and Childs gave the word of command, 'Halt, front, fall back.' I was standing on the front step of the door. Freemantle and others came up to me, Childs was not one of these, and asked for Mr Long. I said he was not at home. They said they wanted their grievances redressed, or something of that sort. Freemantle, who was standing close to me, said, 'We want £10 10s, that is our demand, and victuals and drink.' I told them I had no money. They said they must have the money before they left. Many others said this as well as Freemantle, but he said so in particular. Finding they were becoming very desperate, I went into the house and returned to them, having borrowed one sovereign and three half sovereigns from the housekeeper. When I returned I went outside, and ordered the door to be shut. The mob, who had then advanced under the porch, completely surrounded me. I asked, 'Who is the man who will take the money from me?' A man of the name of Benjamin Harding was called, and he came forward and stood immediately before me, and said, 'I am the receiver.' He took the money from my hand. Freemantle was standing by the side of him, with his axe uplifted near to my face. My eye was so intently fixed on Freemantle that I cannot say I can positively swear to Harding. They said, 'That is not enough.' Many said so, but Freemantle in particular, and that they must have £10 10s, bread or blood.' I told them I had no more, and they said, 'That was what they would have, or blood.' Finding them very determined I went into the house and borrowed from Lady Mary Long's maid. When I went out the same man took the money. Whilst I was in the house they were very clamorous, and rang the bell. I cannot positively

⁵²¹ Hampshire Telegraph

⁵²² Hampshire Advertiser, 1 January 1831

swear to Harding, but I think he is the man who took the money. They again said, 'That is not enough, we must have £10 10s.' Freemantle was still holding up his axe. Someone then, Childs, I think it must have been from the voice, said, 'Come back, we can't get more.' Freemantle, and a number of others as well, again said, 'We must have £10 10s, or blood.' I found myself so closely surrounded that I could not breathe, and I asked them to let me pass. This they did, and when I got on the gravel, I looked round to see if I could recognise anyone I knew, but I could not. They then demanded some beer. Seeing the prisoners now I can say that Cropp was one of them, and near enough to hear the demand for beer. Brummell was then about six or seven yards off me. He was also near enough to hear the demand. Glasspole was also there, but about 12 yards from me. He was in the crowd, and I think, but am not certain, Primer was there. He was some distance from me; but I saw him about ten minutes after the demand was made for beer. Before the mob came up, those at the back were straggling behind, but they came up as fast as possible. When the advanced portion of them had come up to the front door, I heard a horn blown. The house stands about one mile from the road, and the mob were standing on the gravel and grass in the front of the house. After the mob had received the money, they demanded a machine, which had been used for making hay. Before they left, they said, 'We shall come 500 strong tomorrow morning, for the remainder of the £10 10s.' When I had pointed out to them where the machine was, they broke it entirely. They then all went away.'

On being cross-examined by Mr Sewell, Mr Watts replied, 'I will swear that the money the housekeeper lent me was her own property. I cannot identify Harding.'

On being cross-examined by the Court, Mr Watts replied, 'Bread and beer were given to the mob through the doorway, and the kitchen window. The mob did not come the next morning. I forgot to say that I had told them if they did we should be prepared for them'

Edward Everills was called, and said, 'I am a gentleman's servant. When the mob came to the house, on the 22nd November, I was there also, and saw the mob when it first came up to the house. I saw Childs come up in the front of them, with a red handkerchief round his body. I heard Childs call out, 'Fall back four deep; there's 1,300 more coming up if they are wanted.' I saw John Watts at the front door at this time. This was said loud enough for Watts to hear. Freemantle went up to Watts and held an axe over his head. I was close to Watts at this time. Freemantle said, 'I demand £10 10s; bread or blood.' At this moment the edge of the axe was towards Watts' head. Glasspole said, 'If you do not let us have it we will pull the house down.' Harding said so also. I had not known either of these two men before. I had at this time a good opportunity of seeing these men, and I can swear positively to them. Glasspole had a bludgeon in his hand. I cannot swear to any of the other men. When Watts went into the house I went in too, and shut the door. The mob began to knock against it with their hammers and bludgeons.'

Mr Everills then went on to confirm the evidence of Mr Watts. He then underwent a long cross-examination, but nothing was elicited to shake his testimony.

Thomas Bennett was called, and said, 'I am gardener to Mr Long. I remember the mob came to the house on the 22nd November. The house stands in a park.'

Bennett went on to corroborate the evidence given by John Watts and Edward Everills, and identify Benjamin Harding, whom he had known before, and Nicholas Freemantle, James Cropp, Abraham Childs, Charles Brummell, and James Glasspole. 'I know Primer, but I cannot say that he was with the mob. I saw Freemantle assist in destroying the machine. All the prisoners are labouring men, with the exception of Primer, who is a thatcher. Harding has a cottage of his own.'

James Stubbington was called, and said, 'I was one of the mob who went to Mr Long's. Some of them were with me by six o'clock in the morning. A gun was fired off as a signal for us to assemble. At three o'clock, one of the prisoners told me this. I was close by Primer when he fired off a gun, as another signal, at seven o'clock. We were soon joined by about a dozen. When we got to Upham Farm there were about 50 men. I did not hear anyone in particular give the orders for halting. We stopped when we wanted a rest. One of the men I did not see till the middle of the day. It was about three o'clock when we got to Mr Long's. Harding was there. Freemantle was there, with an axe in his hand. Cropp was also with us. The man who had the handkerchief round his body was named Abraham Childs, and I think that is the man. I did not know him before; he is a stranger to our place. I never spoke to him. Glasspole and Primer were likewise there. Before we got to Mr Long's we had been to several places, and the last left Brown's, where we had something to take. I did not pay anything. I do not know who paid. I never heard anyone say anything about money'

which had been received at Mr Long's. I went home from Mr Long's. It was understood that we were to spend the money that night. I did not go to the public house, but went home to bed. I saw Primer in the park, at some distance from the house, After he had fired the gun he took it into his house, which was about 200 yards from where the gun was fired.'⁵²³

On being cross-examined by the Court Stubbington replied, 'I heard, in Primer's presence, a person say that Primer had fired off the first gun at three o'clock, and he did not deny it.'

On being cross-examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde, Stubbington replied, 'In the front of Brown's house there was a table onto which Abraham Childs got, and said something which I could not clearly hear, but I know he said something about Mr Long.'

On being cross-examined again but the Court, Stubbington replied, 'We went to six places before we went to the public house. There were about 300 went to Mr Long's, though there were but about 100 at Mr Ross's, the first place we went to.'

This closed the case for the prosecution. The prisoners were then called for their defence.

Abraham Childs said, 'I was pressed and made to go with the others. I was going home to Kilmeston, when I met the mob going to Mr Long's, and they compelled me to join them.'⁵²⁴

Nicholas Freemantle said, 'I have nothing to say, my Lord.'

James Cropp put in a written paper, which, being read by the Clerk of Arraigns, stated that, on the morning of the 22nd November, he and Freemantle were at work at their master's, Mr Ross's, when they were forced away by the mob, who had come for them.

Charles Brummell said, 'I was feeding my master's cows on the 22nd November, when I was forced away, after I had refused twice.'

'I have nothing to say,' said William Primer.

James Glasspole said, 'I was called up out of my bed, and taken away by the mob. I had nothing to do with them.'

Mr Sewell, who appeared for Nicholas Freemantle and James Cropp, then called the following character witness.

Mrs Jane Ross was called, and said, 'I live at Belmore. I know Cropp and Freemantle; they were in our employ on the 22nd November. We sent for them to come on that morning, that they might not be taken by the mob. When the mob came they inquired for the men, who were then drawing up a bucket out of a well, into which it had fallen. I asked the mob to let them pull up the bucket before they went. The men were compelled to go with the mob. Cropp returned the next morning. He has been with us about 11 years, and has been a very quiet and hard working man. Freemantle has been with us about 16 months; he was a very good man in his work.'

On being cross-examined, Mrs Ross replied, 'I heard the mob say something to our men before they went with them; but I do not recollect what it was. I was told that Feemantle did not come to work the next day.'

On being re-examined, Mrs Ross replied, 'I asked the mob to let our two men get up the bucket, in consequence of their demand that they should go with them.'

On being cross-examined by the Court, Mrs Ross replied, 'I do not know what wages the two men were paid, but they were in full work.'

Jane Ryder, a servant at Mr Ross's, was called, and confirmed the statement made by Mrs Ross. Mr William Ross was called, and said, 'I remember the morning of the 22nd November, and was standing at the front door when the mob came up. They said, I think, something about wages. They asked for my men. I had that morning sent for Cropp and Freemantle, who were at work, hedging, to come in, lest they should be made to go with the mob. They wanted my bailiff, but I told them that he was not there, and, if he had been, that he could not possibly go with them. My bailiff had gone out of the way, on purpose that they should not find him. Part of the mob came into the front of the house where I was, and part went behind. I have six men. I think that is four more besides Cropp and Freemantle. Cropp has been working for me this time about four years. He is a most excellent character, and pays half of his master's, with whom he lives, rent. I never wish to have a better young man. I pay the expenses of his defence. Freemantle came into my

⁵²³ Stubbington's evidence is taken from *The Morning herald (London)*

⁵²⁴ NOTE: *The Morning herald (London)* names Childs home as Kimpster

service in October, 1829. He is a very good character and good labourer. He is a married man. His wages were 9s per week. Cropp, who is a single man, had the same wages.⁵²⁵

James Holdaway was called, and said, ‘The prisoner, Glasspole, was in my employ on the 22nd November, and was at work when the mob came and took him away. He is a very good young man, and works hard. He had a ‘task job’ for me at this time, and could earn, I should think, 2s a day, but he must work very hard to do that, and in this job he was obliged to work up to his knees in water nearly the whole of the day. He lives with his mother, and gives her a great deal of assistance.’

George Target was called, and said, ‘The prisoner, Benjamin Harding, worked for me on the 22nd of November. The mob came and compelled him to go with them, He is a good character.’⁵²⁶

On being cross-examined by Mr Sergeant Wilde, Mr Target replied, ‘I went with Harding and the mob to the Reverend Mr Haygarth’s.’

Addressing Mr Target, Mr Sergeant Wilde said, ‘Well, you went there, with your man Harding and the mob, to the Parson’s, did you not, to demand a reduction of tithes?’

Mr Target did not reply, and Mr Justice Alderson asked, ‘Why do you not give an answer, Sir? Did you go with the others to demand a reduction in the tithe?’

‘Yes, my Lord, I did,’ replied Mr Target.

‘The more shame for you, Sir,’ said Mr Justice Alderson. ‘It is very clear now that some of the farmers, and you amongst them, encourage the poor and ignorant labourers to these acts, and then leave them to answer, and to suffer the consequences.’

The cross-examination resumed, and Mr Target replied, ‘I was compelled to go with the mob, and so was Harding. I did not go on with the mob, but returned home. I did not go to a second place. I said. ‘We should be firm in our demands, or we may as well go home.’ We all went in a body. I did not go alone.’

As Mr Target was leaving the box, he was called back by Mr Justice Alderson, who said, ‘Witness, I should advise you to go upon your guard, and be much more careful and particular in your conduct in future, for I am not certain, should the result of this trial cause any of these poor men to forfeit their lives, that you may not have their blood to answer for.’

This was followed instantly by a clapping of hands, which, of course, was immediately suppressed. Mr Justice Alderson continued, ‘It is an awful situation in which you have placed yourself. It is scandalous that such conduct should be adopted by persons of any station, but more particularly by individuals in your rank of society. It cannot be reprobated too strongly. We feel pity for the poor man who is guilty of such an offence when he is misled, but it is shameful that such men as you – men who ought to know better – men whose duty it is to set an example to your labourers by properly maintaining and observing those rules of society which are necessary for the regulation of all civilized countries; - it is shameful – it is abominable, I say, that persons holding your station in that society should be guilty of such conduct. It cannot be wondered at, that scenes of the disgraceful character which have spread themselves over different parts of the country during the last few months, should have been so prevalent, when it is found that they have so bad and disgraceful an example set them by persons to whom they ought to look up for that advice which might tend to their good conduct and improvement. Instead of doing so, we have here an instance of a farmer countenancing their unlawful acts, not merely by accompanying them in their commission, but by exciting them. You first accompanied these men in the commission of one illegal act, and then you leave them to that course which persons who engage in these matters to frequently pursue; when once they begin, they know not where to stop; and you are in some respects answerable for the other crimes in which they engaged after you left them. These unhappy and unfortunate men have been led into a breach of the laws, and, having continued their illegal acts, are left by you to expiate those offences either by their lives, or by loss of liberty by transportation. Your behaviour, Sir, has been most disgraceful. Let me advise you to set a better example in future. You may go.’⁵²⁷

Another witness gave Benjamin Harding a good character, having known him for 12 years.

⁵²⁵ NOTE: William Rose and Jane Matyear were married at All Saints Church Fulham on 9 April 1794, they lived at Belmore or Belmour House, Upham, where William was living in 1841. William Ross died in 1847.

⁵²⁶ NOTE: The witness George Target is named as George Targett in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵²⁷ *The Morning Herald; Hampshire Chronicle*

Captain Jervoise gave Nicholas Freemantle an excellent character. ‘He has lived in my service for some time, and only left it after taking a cottage in another place.’⁵²⁸

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the evidence in great detail, pointing out its bearings as it regarded the case of each prisoner. In the course of his address to the Jury, he animadverted in strong terms on the manifold effects which such conduct as that pursued by the Witness Targett was likely to produce.⁵²⁹

After considering the case of each prisoner separately, the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners, but strongly recommended James Cropp and Charles Brummell to mercy, on account of their very excellent previous characters.

Mr Justice Alderson said, ‘It is a very proper recommendation, Gentlemen, and I will take that it is forwarded to his Majesty.’

Barnard Oliver, aged 37. Henry Wells, aged 17, Richard Hoar, aged 33, Daniel Robinson, aged 19, and David Windybank, aged 21, were then put to the bar charged that they being labourers, with others, conspired and agreed together to demand and extort, by intimidation, for themselves and other labourers, greater wages than they had usually received, and, in pursuance of such conspiracy and agreement, they, and those others, on 22nd November last, at the parish of Buriton, met together in a tumultuous manner, and went about from place to place to the houses of persons who then employed labourers and workmen – namely, to the houses of Thomas Maxwell, a farmer, of Charles Cotton Butterfield, a farmer, of George King, a farmer, and several others, in order to procure higher wages by intimidation, and that they did also by threats and menaces compel several labourers – namely, Robert Ford, Henry Emm, Richard Porter, William Spratt, and Richard Clever, who were then peaceable, and earning their livelihood by labour, to leave their work, and join them in the prosecution of their unlawful designs, to the great damage of such farmers, and also of such labourers who were illegally compelled to leave their work.⁵³⁰

All five prisoners being asked the usual question pleaded *Guilty*, and seemed by their demeanour at the bar to be sorry for the part they had taken in these transactions.⁵³¹

Mr Missing, on the part of the prosecution, said he was instructed, in consequence of the prisoners having expressed contrition for their conduct, not to press his Lordship for a heavy punishment. The prisoners were recommended to the mercy of the Court.

Mr Justice Alderson addressed the prisoners, ‘Prisoners, I hope the mercy, which is about to be extended to you, will be duly appreciated by your adopting in future a quiet, peaceable, honest, steady, attentive, and sober course of life. The offence of which you have just confessed yourselves to have been guilty is one of the most injurious tendency, not only for the farmer, but to those persons like yourselves, who obtain their livelihood by tilling the ground. The offence, however, is one which must be visited with the punishment of the law. The contrition, however, which you have shown for your improper and dangerous conduct, renders it unnecessary that a heavy penalty should be inflicted on you in this instance, and I most earnestly trust that this leniency will have its proper effect on all of you, and I trust your future lives will be such as to warrant my expectations. I find that you three, Bernard Oliver, Henry Wells, Richard Hoar, have been in prison for a month. I shall therefore order you to pay a fine of 6d each, and enter into your own recognizance for your good behaviour for two years. It would be unfair, therefore, as you three have suffered a month’s imprisonment, were I not to adjudge a similar loss of liberty to the other two, Daniel Robinson and David Windybank. You have already been in prison for one week I therefore order you to be kept in prison for three weeks, pay a fine of 6d each, and then to enter into your recognizance for your good conduct for two years.’

The prisoners bowed to the Court, and were removed from the bar, apparently extremely thankful for the clemency shown them.⁵³²

⁵²⁸ *The Times*, 25 December 1830

⁵²⁹ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵³⁰ *The Morning Herald*, 25 December 1830; NOTE: The *Hampshire Chronicle* names the prisoner Oliver as H. Oliver & the prisoner Windybank as D. Windibank. The *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* does not name Henry Emm among the men pressed but does name Henry Ewson

⁵³¹ *The Times*, 25 December 1830

⁵³² *The Morning Herald (London)*, 25 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*

Jeremiah Farmer was charged with having on the 22nd November at the parish of Vernham Dean, with several other persons, riotously assembled together, and feloniously, with threats, demanded and received of Henry Fermor two half crowns, of the current coin of this realm; he, the said Henry Fermor, being put in bodily fear.⁵³³

It appeared from the evidence that a mob had gone to the house of Henry Fermor, in the parish of Vernham Dean, on the 21st November and a winnowing machine had been broken. The following day another mob, of which the prisoner was one, had returned to the house threatening to do more damage if they were not given money. Mr Fermor had handed over the half crowns to Farmer.

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against the prisoner. The Court told the prisoner he would be sent out of the country.⁵³⁴

John Annetts, aged 19, and Thomas Richardson, aged 32, were charged with having on the 23rd November, in the parish of East Woodhay, destroyed a threshing machine, the property of William Childs and taking from his person one half crown.

Annetts was found *Guilty*, and Richardson was *Acquitted*.

Charles Bryant, aged 20, Thomas Smith, aged 32, and Jonathan Woodford, aged 32, were put to the bar charged with having, on the 23rd November, in the parish of Droxford, destroyed threshing machine, the property of James Chidell.⁵³⁵

It seems that the prisoners were part of a large mob that, armed with sledge hammers and axes, had gone to Mr Chidell's and destroyed his threshing machine.

The prisoners were called for their defence.

Jonathan Woodford said that he had been forced to go with the mob. He received an admirable character from three or four respectable people. He is 32 years old, and a widower, with six young children.

Charles Bryant, a lad of about 19, received one of the most excellent characters it is possible for a person to have, from several respectable gentlemen, including the Reverend Richard Baker, of the parish of Botley, who said, 'I have known Bryant from his infancy, he was left an orphan, under very particular circumstances, when only two years old. He had been in my employ, and I have often entrusted him with sums of money, and he has always acted in the strictest honesty.'

The gentleman who spoke for Thomas Smith said that he thought Smith would not have joined the mob if had not been given some beer by a neighbour of his master, this he thought had put him off his guard. He was given a good character.

Mr Justice Alderson, after going through all the evidence, said, 'This is a most painful and unfortunate case, I regret that persons of such high character have been placed in such a situation. The Jury must find their verdict according to the evidence. If you should feel yourselves bound to convict the prisoners, the testimony in their favour would operate with the Court in mitigation of their punishment.'

The Jury found the men *Guilty*, but strongly recommended them to merciful consideration of the Court, on account of their previous good character.

Mr Justice Alderson then sentenced them to a nominal fine and ordered them to be discharged after entering into their own recognizance of £50 each to keep the peace and be of good behaviour. Several respectable gentlemen offered to take Bryant into their employment if he were discharged.⁵³⁶

Thomas Stagg, aged 26, was arraigned for having, on the 24th November, destroyed a threshing machine, the property of Mr John Appleby, of Swanmore Farm, Droxford.

⁵³³ Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1)

⁵³⁴ *The Times*, 25 December 1830; NOTE: This prisoner is named as Jeremiah Tanner in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, there is no person of this name in the Calendar of Prisoners, his correct name was Jeremiah Farmer

⁵³⁵ NOTE: This prosecutor is named as James Chidell in the Calendar of Prisoners, & as William Chidell in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, & simply as Mr Chidell in the *Hampshire Chronicle*. The prisoners in this case are named as J. Annetts, - Woodford, J. Smith, and - Briant in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*. James Chidell of Droxford & Hester Prior of Wickham at Wickham on 29 March 1828

⁵³⁶ *The Morning Herald*, 25 December 1830; *The Times*, 25 December 1830

The case was clearly proved against the prisoner, by the testimony of M. G. H. Appleby, and E. Condick.

It appeared from the evidence that the machine had originally cost £600.

The Jury found the prisoner Guilty.⁵³⁷

A Juryman begged the Court to allow him to go home. He said he had four motherless children at home, who were without means of subsistence. He himself, indeed, had been obliged to borrow money to enable him to support himself whilst he had been in Winchester.

Mr Justice Alderson said, ‘As the junior Judge, I cannot take upon myself to give the permission required.’ He told the man that if he called down at the Judges’ lodgings, he would consult his Learned Brothers on the subject.

The Juryman, with tears in his eyes, said he would be compelled to borrow the money to take him home.

The Judges allowed the poor man to go home.

The majority of the prisoners convicted so far are not yet sentenced, in order (it is presumed), that the punishments may be settled by the whole of the Judges and Commissioners in consultation, except in some few plain cases. It is expected that some severe examples will be made: a great number will certainly be transported for life, and shorter periods, and some it is thought, will suffer death. The Specials Constables of the city have been on duty by divisions at the County Hall, &c. every day throughout the week. No disturbance whatever has occurred.⁵³⁸

⁵³⁷ *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831. NOTE: John Appleby, of Swanmore, aged 67, was buried at Soberton 16 April 1836

⁵³⁸ *Hampshire Telegraph*

Monday, 27th December 1830

Crown Court

The Special Commission resumed again this morning after a break of two days for the Christmas period. Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Alderson took their seats at nine o'clock. The Duke of Wellington took his seat on the bench at the same time.

Mr Sergeant Wilde proceeded to Salisbury to open the Special Commission for Wiltshire, and to adjourn the Court until Friday ⁵³⁹

Thomas Robinson, aged 67, Robert Holdaway, aged 38, Henry James, aged 37, Thomas Marshall, aged 21, William Bicknell, aged 23, James Painter, aged 36, Thomas Harding, aged 32, Matthew Triggs, aged 36, John Heath, aged 45, and Aaron Harding, aged 41, were indicted, charged with having, on the 23rd November, feloniously and riotously, and with force, demolished the poorhouse of the parishes of Bramshott, Headley, and Kingsley, and pulled down the same. ⁵⁴⁰

The Attorney General stated the case for the prosecution to the Jury, from which it appeared, that, on the morning of the 23rd November last, a mob of persons, to the number of about 200, congregated as early as 8 o'clock, and on seeing the Reverend Mr Dickinson, the clergyman of the parish come out of his garden, and go towards the *Bush Inn*, they followed him. A considerable number went into the house after him and, after remaining there for some time, they came out again and returned to the Green. This was what was termed the 'Headley Mob'. Some time after this, a mob, consisting of upwards of 1,000 persons, came up from Selborne, one of whom, the prisoner Henry James, spoke to Mr James Shoesmith, the master of the poorhouse, and told him, that the mob were coming to pull down the house, and that he had better get his things removed. When the mob, which came from Selborne, joined the assemblage on Headley Green, there must have been at least 1,500 assembled. The evidence will show that soon after 11 o'clock the two mobs went down to the poorhouse, the Headley mob leading the way. After detailing the circumstances which the witnesses would be called to prove, the Attorney General said, 'Some of these witnesses are men who had been forced to join the mob, and though forced must be looked on in the light of accomplices. You must listen to their evidence with a certain degree of caution and see that it is corroborated by those to whom no such taint attached. One of the prisoners, Henry James, is a gipsy, and it will be proved that some of the gipsy people had taken away certain items of workhouse property.'

James Shoesmith was called, and said, 'I was the master of the Headley poorhouse. I remember, on the 22nd November, Matthew Triggs and his brother came to me at the poorhouse at 8 o'clock in the morning. Triggs asked to see an uncle of his, named Tuckey, who was in the house. I asked him what he wanted with him, and he said he wanted him to go down to Hollywater (to his own sister's, as he thought there would be a row or a piece of work at the workhouse that day. I said, 'No, I could not spare him; if there was a row I should want him, as he could speak better to the purpose than any other man in the house.' I then gave Triggs and his friends a pint of beer each, and they went away. At 10 o'clock I went about half a mile from the workhouse, where I found about 200 men on Headley Green. They were increasing in numbers every moment. I saw James Painter among them. I remained there about half an hour. Painter is a Kingsley man. I saw the Reverend Mr Dickinson there. Soon after he came out he was followed by part of the mob. I then

⁵³⁹ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 3 January 1831, *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1831; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 3 January 1831; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 28 December 1830; *The Times*, 28 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, and in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

⁵⁴⁰ NOTE: The prisoner James Painter is named as James Paynter in the *Hampshire Advertiser*. & *The Morning Herald (London)*. *The Times*, the *Hampshire Chronicle*, *Hampshire Telegraph* & *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* do not name Thomas Robinson, Thomas Marshall, or William Bicknell among the prisoners in this case, and *The Morning Herald*, does not name John Heath or Aaron Harding. The master of the workhouse is named as Thomas Shoesmith in the *Hampshire Telegraph*

went back to the workhouse, and soon after I got back two or three persons came up, and in a quarter of an hour about 1,000 more men came. Two or three had come to say that a mob was coming. Holdaway was with them. They came up from Selborne way towards Headley; the Headley Green people would come one way. Holdaway was at their head, and I addressed him because I had known him. I said, 'What, Holdaway, are you here?' He said, 'Yes. I mean you no harm, nor your wife, nor your goods, but get them out as soon as you can.' He then said, 'The house must come down.' I told him we had a number of old people in the house, and sick children, bad with a fever. He said the children should be protected, and wanted to know what part of the house they were placed in. I pointed out the room, and he said, 'The windows shall be marked,' I then asked him if he had considered what he was going to do, and he said yes. I then asked. 'Have I given offence; if there is one person to whom I have not done my duty, they should take their vengeance on me, and not on the house.' I saw Mr Eli Smith, a respectable farmer, who had been pressed by the mob, and was at the head of the mob alongside Holdaway. I told Mr Smith I was glad to see him, and he said, 'I have done all in my power to try to dissuade them from doing this, but I have not succeeded.' I have not a doubt that Holdaway heard what he said. While this was going on some of the mob rushed into the garden towards the house. They were called back by Henry James, one of the prisoners. When they had come back James shut the gate, saying, 'No one shall enter her at present.' I then went in doors, and began moving the goods, the mob having gone down towards Headley Green. I removed most of my goods from the house, and in about an hour, at twelve o'clock, the mob returned. I was upstairs. I had pointed out to Holdaway the room in which the sick children were, and my wife and I were with them, when the mob came back, they rushed into every room like a torrent. They came into every part of the house. They began to break the windows and the partitions between the rooms. I saw then among the crowd Henry James; he was coming towards the room where the children were. My wife spoke to him. I locked the door of the room where the children were, and begged James to put a man at the door to prevent anyone from going in. He spoke to a man, and told him to stay there, and he assisted my wife downstairs to the yard. I then went down stairs, and as I was going down I saw James Painter breaking down the banisters of the staircase. I next went into the yard; and having gone out I found it impossible to obtain entrance into the house. The other prisoners were all at work, breaking up the floors, tearing out the windows, and taking down the ceilings. The ceilings and rafters of the upper rooms and garret were pulled down. After that they made their way through to the roof by pushing off the tiles. I should think that from 40,000 to 50,000 tiles were pushed off. I saw Matthew Triggs on the roof; he is a bricklayer by trade. I saw many other men on the roof as well. They were pushing off the tiles and forcing the rafters through the top of the house. I was in the yard at this time. The mob had broken down the gates. I brought out about 30 gallons of homemade wine, which the mob drank. All the windows and frames of the rooms where the looms and spinning wheels were, were demolished, and the whole of the wheels were destroyed, but not much damage was done to the looms. The copper holding about forty gallons, was taken out of the brick work, and rolled into the yard where a number of men began to beat upon it with their bludgeons. I never saw the copper again. The men continued at work till dark. I saw Aaron Harding, as well as many others, he was doing nothing but drinking my wine. I did not know Aaron Harding before, but James Painter had been in the workhouse, he was sitting astride my cask. There were many men and women drinking the wine out of tins and other vessels about the yard. Thomas Harding was there, and got very drunk with the wine. I was obliged to order him to be taken into the house for the night. There was not one room left in the house entire. The children had been removed into the open yard in two beds, covered over and kept from harm all the time. This was done by the mob. They were left there because there was no room in the sick ward as it was quite full with infirm old paupers. It is a separate building, and it was not touched, but of all the rest of the place, not a room was left entire. I had above 40 people in the house at the time. The floors and ceilings were very much injured. The mob was at work for about one and a half hours. They did not all go away in a body.'⁵⁴¹

On being cross examined Mr Shoesmith said, 'Henry James assisted me to remove my goods and to put the goods together in the yard, and in taking my wife down stairs. I believe I thanked him. I don't know where he comes from, he is not a Headley man. I don't know anything of an agreement between the farmers and the Clergymen. I never heard that Holdaway had been

⁵⁴¹ Hampshire Advertiser; Morning Herald (London)

appointed to take a paper round to the Clergymen. The second mob which came up, came up as though from Headley Green. Holdaway was at the head of the mob.'

Eli Smith was called, and said, 'On the 23rd November, about half past eleven o'clock, I saw about 500 or 700 men coming from Selborne, passed my house. They asked me the way to Headley. My house is about three quarters of a mile from the workhouse. They called out to me, 'Go with us.' I was going to a meeting at Headley, and went on with them. As we were going along I heard cries of, 'No Garrison; no workhouse.' Garrison has to do with the workhouse at Selborne. I do not recollect one of the prisoners as being there. When we got to the Headley workhouse, one of them, who was called Holdaway, spoke to Mr Shoesmith. As we were going along, before this, some of the mob said, 'We will have the Headley workhouse down; we will pull it down.' Two or three people said this. I then asked them what they were going to do that for, because there was very good usage in the house, and there were no complaints. I told them there was a fever in the house, and many old people. They said, 'They would have the inside of the house out.' The men went on then, having stopped at the workhouse for a few minutes. We did not come up to the workhouse till after this. After the conversation the mob went on to Headley Green, and I left them. In the course of the day, about three quarters of an hour after this, it must have been past 12 o'clock, I saw at a distance that the house was being pulled down; the roof was bare, and there was a great knocking and much dust flying.'

When cross-examined by the Court, Mr Smith said, 'There was a flag, of red, or red, white and yellow, on a pole. I do not know who carried it. When the mob first appeared I heard a horn blown.'

Mr Earwaker was called, and said, I went on the 23rd November with the mob to the workhouse. I joined them at Hempshott, at about 8 o'clock. Holdaway was with the Selborne men. He had kept a public house. We went to Greatham, and then back again. We went to Headley workhouse. I saw Holdaway there. I did not see him doing anything, but the other men were knocking down and destroying the house. Henry James was there beating the copper.'

On being cross-examined, Earwaker said, 'My master, who is a farmer, in consequence of my having been threatened by the mob, told me to join them. The next morning I told my master what had taken place, and he took me before the Magistrate. Holdaway had a paper in his hand as we went along. Before we went to the workhouse the mob called at several farmhouses.'

When questioned by the Court, Earwaker replied, 'I assisted in destroying the workhouse. I did not do a great deal, but I did as the rest did.'

Richard Rock was called, and said, 'I live at Headley. In November last I was working for Sir James Macdonald. On the 23rd November between 30 and 40 of the Headley mob came after me, and told me they were going to have a civil parish meeting. I went, therefore, with them to Headley Green, when, after some time, I found that they had other intentions. I saw Matthew Triggs there, about 11 o'clock, after the Selborne people had joined them. I should think there were as many at this time a 1,500 or 1,600. I saw Robert Holdaway there. He said, 'All the Headley ones go forward to the workhouse.' A great many men then ran on, and before I got within 200 or 300 yards of the building, there were windows and other things flying about in all directions, enough to frighten a man.'

Here laughter was heard.

Rock continued, 'I saw Holdaway again, about half an hour afterwards, coming back up the lane with several others. I heard some call out, 'Now then, go on to Kingsley.' I cannot say that it was or that it was not Holdaway who said this. I went on to Kingsley with the mob. I saw Holdaway with us, just by Kingsley Green. I saw a paper in Holdaway's hand. I saw Holdaway take money out of his pocket at Kingsley, and count it down on the Green; he then looked round at the parties, and said he hoped he should satisfy all the parishes by his division. I then went away.'

On being cross-examined, Rook said, 'On this day a number of farmers met the Headley labouring men. Holdaway was not there at that time, it was about eight o'clock. Holdaway came up about 11 o'clock, and he and a number of others went into the *Bush Inn* to settle the matter. I saw the Clergyman quitting the house. Kingsley is three or four miles from Headley. I saw Holdaway the second time in Crab Tree Lane. There must have been from 1,500 to 1,700 sometime afterwards.' George Windybark was called, and said, 'I was at Headley on the 23rd of November. When I was at the *Bush Inn* I heard something which induced me to go to the Green; and when I arrived there I observed a very large mob coming up to join those who were on the Green. I should think there

were 800 or 1,000, or there might be more. John Heath was one of the men. I knew him before; he was a journeyman carpenter. I also saw Henry James and Robert Holdaway. Sometime after this a portion of the mob, seeing the Clergyman, Mr Dickinson, go down towards *The Bush*, followed him. Heath said, 'Damn his eyes follow him up.' After they came out of *The Bush* the mob went towards the poorhouse. Before Holdaway came down there a great deal of mischief had been done. He soon cried out, 'Come away, come away; there is mischief enough done. What am I to do with these body of men, I can't control them?' When Holdaway came to the workhouse a considerable portion of the damage had been done. I should think that Holdaway was down there about a quarter of an hour before he called out to them to come away. The mob were taking off the tiles, and throwing the bedsteads, doors, and window frames, out of the windows. When I saw Holdaway come down I was on horseback, looking on. I had rode down by the side of Holdaway to the workhouse from Headley Green; but when we got there I lost sight of him for about a quarter of an hour. The next time I saw him was when I heard him call out for the mob to come away. I went to Kingsley with the mob, because it was on my way home. I left them at that place. The men I saw were Robert Holdaway, John Heath, and Henry James.'

On being cross-examined, Windybark said, 'I went down with the mob, and a stranger might have taken me to be one of them; but he could not say that I was a mobber, because I took no active part. But a stranger might have taken you to be one of them, if you had been there.'

Laughter was heard.

On being cross-examined by the Court, Windybark said, 'Before the mob went down to the workhouse I heard them cry out, 'We must have the workhouse down.' As we were going down Holdaway said the Headley men seemed to be so determined and resolute, that there was no keeping them back.'⁵⁴²

Charles Bennett, who was with the mob, was able to identify John Heath as one of the men who was on the roof of the poorhouse breaking the tiles.

On being cross-examined, Bennett replied, 'After I had been bound over to give evidence, I told Robert Heath that I had been bound over to appear against his brother. He said, 'We had better pay the money between us, which will be forfeited, than that you should appear against him.' I told him that I would rather pay some of the money myself than appear against a neighbour.'

G. Denyear, was called, and said, 'I heard Henry James say that he had given orders to the mob to pull down the workhouse, and that they had attended to his orders. I also heard him tell the wife of the Governor of the poorhouse that he would take care of her things.'

George Elliott was called and identified Matthew Triggs as one of the men who had taken an active part in the destruction of the poorhouse.

On being questioned by the Court, Elliott replied, 'I went with the mob, because they told me if I did not accompany them they would have my head off. My master was standing by, and heard this threat.'

George Tend, Elliott's master, was called, and said, 'I am master to the last witness, I live at — place, Kennington, near London. I am a paper hanger and painter. I was at work with my men at the Rectory house on the 23rd November. The two Triggs were working there as bricklayers. Elliott, the last witness, was with me. Triggs came to me, and said, 'The people want you on the Green.' I could see the Green from the place at which I was standing. I told him, 'I will not go on any consideration, nor should any of my men.' He said, 'Well then, we will come and fetch you.' Triggs went away; but before he could have got half way to the Green, a part of the mob forced their way into the kitchen. At first they civilly said, 'Gentlemen, you must come with us.' I refused, and they became violent, and said, 'We will have your b — y heads off,' and with many other threatening expressions. Elliott was very much alarmed, and said, 'Master, we cannot resist; they will overpower us.' All of them had large bludgeons of tremendous size. I asked them to give me half an hour to consider of it, which they agreed to give, but said, 'If you refuse then, we will burn the Rectory.' I went out to consult Mr Dickinson, and when I did, the mob surrounded me, and said they would murder me if I attempted to get away. I afterwards heard that Elliott went; I did not. Not any of these prisoners were among the part of the crowd, except Triggs and his brother who were with the mob which came to the Rectory about eight o'clock in the morning, and took away their master.'

⁵⁴² *Hampshire Advertiser; Salisbury & Winchester Journal; The Morning herald (London)*

Mr Thomas Sparrow, the visitor of the poor, said that he had seen the workhouse at about 3 o'clock on the 23rd, after the mob had done their work, and he would say that it was completely destroyed. He added, 'The poorhouse belongs to the united parishes of Bramshott, Headley, and Kingsley. I am the only visitor of the poor for the three parishes. The master was appointed every year. It will take as much as £800 to repair the damage. About £200 worth of blankets and other property belonging to the workhouse had been taken away. Very little of it was returned.'

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the prisoners were called for their defence.

Robert Holdaway said, 'What I did was with a good intent. I went about with the mob to prevent them from doing any mischief. I did what I could to prevent them; but did not succeed.'

Matthew Triggs, Henry James, James Painter, and Thomas Harding, declined to say anything.

John Heath said, 'All I have to say, my Lord, is, that Charles Bennett has sworn falsely about me.'

Mr Saunders called Harriett Freeman, as a witness for Robert Holdaway.

Harriett Freeman said, 'I live at Alton, I know Holdaway. I remember Aaron Harding coming to him on 23rd November. He said that he must go with him to Headley. Holdaway went away with Harding. He is a wheeler. I was staying at his house. His wife had been ill.'⁵⁴³

The Reverend William Cobbold was called, and said, 'I am vicar of Selborne. I saw Holdaway at my house, at Selborne, on the 22nd of November. On that day there was a large mob about my house. There were several farmers with them. They came to my house twice that day, about half an hour elapsed between the two visits. I was compelled to sign a paper by the mob, who were in my house for three hours. They said if I did not sign it they would murder me, and pull down my house. I did not hear the farmers appoint Holdaway to go round with the paper to the farmers of the three parishes. I have known Holdaway for eight years. I would rather not say anything about Holdaway's character.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Cobbold replied, 'I am sorry to say that three of the prisoners, Holdaway, Heath, and Harding, are from my own parish. Holdaway is a wheelwright. Heath is a master carpenter, and I should say that he is certainly not in distress. He has a house and a shop. Harding is a labourer in husbandry. I must say – indeed it is but an act of justice to Holdaway to say it – that I consider he saved my life on the 22nd of November, by his influence over the mob.' Another witness spoke of Holdaway as being an honest, quiet, industrious man.

Mr Dann, the Under Sheriff, said, 'I have known the prisoner Holdaway for many years. He was originally a wheelwright. After that he kept a public house for six or seven years. For the last 12 months he has given up that business. I have always known him as a quiet, industrious, inoffensive man, but I have known very little of the prisoner for the last year.'

A person of the name of Cousins, was called on behalf of Henry James, and said that he had never heard anything bad of him.⁵⁴⁴

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the case, and addressed the Jury, 'If you believe the evidence, you can have little doubt that the intention of the mob assembled on this occasion was to pull down the house. They had, in fact, rendered the house uninhabitable, and as one of the witnesses had said, they had completely demolished it. The first question, however, for you to decide, is, whether this was a demolition, or whether they commenced with intent to pull down the house. The next question will be, how far all, or any of the prisoners took a criminal part in that riotous and tumultuous outrage. Indeed, the fact that some of the mob had given warning to Mr Shoesmith, the master of the workhouse, of the intention to pull down the house, and the opportunity given to him to remove his furniture, were, if you choose to believe them, a proof of such intention, and that it was against the house only, and not against the persons or private property of any of the inmates, that they wished, from what cause did not appear, to direct their vengeance.'

The Learned Judge then went on to point out the evidence as it applied to each of the prisoners. He then continued, 'With respect to what I have heard suggested, that persons engaged in such tumultuous outrages as these were urged to them by the pressure of great distress. That there might be, I doubt not, much distress in the country, but so far as I have had the opportunity of judging from these trials, I must say that the parties against whom the greater part of the charges are brought, do not appear to have been involved in distress. Many of them are mechanics in full

⁵⁴³ NOTE: In her evidence Harriet Freeman, the sister of Sarah, Holdaway's wife, says it was Aaron Stacey who came to the house and took Holdaway away. Aaron Harding's wife had been called Sarah Stacey

⁵⁴⁴ *The Morning Herald*, 28 December 1830; *The Times*, 28 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

work, and others were men not suffering from the pressure of the times. Even if the most severe distress exists among the people, it would be no excuse for such outrageous violations of the law as these prisoners are charged with; but even that weak palliation is removed in the cases of some of the prisoners, and of others who have been tried.'

Towards the close of his Lordship's charge, the counsel for Holdaway obtained leave to call two other witnesses, who both gave the prisoner an excellent character.

The Learned Judge then directed the Jury to the leading facts of the case, and said, 'The chief point for the Jury to consider is whether they are satisfied that the accused did either demolish or destroy, or begin to demolish and destroy, the house. From the evidence, and the amount of damage, I think there can be no doubt that this was an actual demolition. The testimony has shown that it was the intention to pull down the building. It certainly was a most barbarous outrage to attack this house, whose inmates were sick persons and children, but the feeling of enmity was evidently not against these, but against the house; therefore the intention was scarcely capable of being questioned.'⁵⁴⁵

Mr Baron Vaughan ending with this observation, 'Every person present and giving a concurrence to such acts as this, is equally culpable in the eye of the law with the others, though his might not be the hand that actually did the mischief.'

The Jury considered together for a short time and returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners.

After delivering the verdict the Foreman of the Jury said, 'My Lord, the Jury have forborne to make any special recommendation to mercy, but they hope your lordships will take any extenuating circumstances in the cases of all the prisoners into your consideration. We have thought it better to leave the matter to your lordships, satisfied that you will give the prisoners the benefit of any such circumstances in their cases.'

Mr Baron Vaughan replied. 'Certainly, Gentlemen, the Court will give due consideration to any such circumstances as those to which you refer.'

This trial had occupied the Court from its sitting until past five o'clock. During the afternoon the Grand Jury had brought down 17 true bills against several prisoners for destroying threshing machines, robbery, and riot.⁵⁴⁶

William Brackstone, aged 38 was charged with having, on the 22nd November, at the parish of Penton Grafton, with divers other persons, to the number of 200, riotously assembled together and destroyed a threshing machine, the property of Henry Gawler Esquire.

It seems that the prisoner had been part of a mob that had gone to the prosecutor's house with the intention of destroying machinery. Some of the men had broken the threshing machine while others occupied themselves with a hay-making machine, which they broke to pieces. The evidence showed that Brackstone had in fact taken part in the destruction of the hay-making machine and not the threshing machine, even though he must have seen what was done by the others. The Jury, not finding that he was actually engaged in the destruction of the threshing machine, returned a verdict of *Not Guilty* on the charge as stated.⁵⁴⁷

James Giles, aged 42, and Thomas Gibbs, aged 25, were indicted for robbing Mr Snow, of Littleton, near Winchester, of a sovereign, his property.

It appeared that while Mr Snow was at church on the afternoon of the 21st November, when he heard that there was a riot in the neighbourhood of his house. He returned home, and found that his house, which he had left locked, had been broken open. A considerable number of persons had entered, and ransacked every place for provisions, but took nothing else. On his arrival home they forced him to give them a sovereign. The prisoners were in this party.

The Jury found both the prisoners *Not Guilty*.⁵⁴⁸

⁵⁴⁵ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁴⁶ *The Times*, 28 December 1830

⁵⁴⁷ *The Times*, 29 December 1830; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*; The *Hampshire Chronicle* notes that the offence took place at Penton Grafton

⁵⁴⁸ *The Times*, 29 December 1830; The *Hampshire Chronicle* names the place this event took place as Littleton, near Winchester; the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* names the prosecutor as Richard Snow and the prisoner Giles as L. Giles. NOTE: Richard Snow died at Isington in the parish of Binstead in August 1836, formerly of Littleton

John Kear, aged 29, Isaac Hill, junior, aged 26, William Winkworth, aged 43, and Henry Cook, aged 19, were put to the bar charged with having assaulted the Reverend Thomas Clarke, put him in bodily fear, and taken from his person the sum of one sovereign and a half, his property. The prisoners were part of the mob that had been going about the Mitcheldever area levying contributions on all who were likely to be intimidated by their numbers. The Jury found them *Guilty*.⁵⁴⁹

Nisi Prius Court

At nine o'clock Mr Justice Parke took his seat in the Nisi Prius Court.

John Nash, aged 31, James Martin, aged 33, and William Stroud, aged 37, were indicted for feloniously and riotously assaulting William Baker, on the 23rd November, at the parish of Burghclere, and stealing from him two sovereigns.

Mr Sergeant Wilde briefly stated the case. The prisoners pleaded *Not guilty*.

Mr Baker was called. 'I am servant to the Reverend Mr Barter of Burghclere Park. On the 23rd November a mob came to my master's house, about half past one. Five of them came to the door. Three hundred were within a stone's throw, breaking machines. I saw the three prisoners at the bar there. I knew Nash and Stroud before. I asked them what they wanted, and Stroud said two sovereigns. I told them my master was not at home, and that I had no money. They said if they did not have it they would fetch their companions and beat down the house. They continued saying they would have it, and if my master had been home they would have had £5. I handed the two sovereigns to Stroud.'⁵⁵⁰

On being cross examined, Baker replied, 'I have known Stroud six months. I am sure he is the man.'

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr Justice Parke recapitulated the evidence, and stated to the Jury the law as regarded this case; which has been given in many of the trials that have taken place at these Assizes.

The Jury found all three prisoners *Guilty*. Nash and Stroud are both sawyers.⁵⁵¹

John Silcock, aged 27, and George Paice, aged 23, were indicted for feloniously breaking and destroying a threshing machine, the property of Thomas Dowden, of the parish of Northington, on the 19th November.⁵⁵²

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case.

John Ailworth was called. 'I am bailiff to Mr Dowden. I was at the farm on the 19th of November, when about 30 men came. It was about one o'clock in the day. They had hammers, bars of iron, and sticks. Some person said 'Come on, my lads, I'll show you the way,' and they then went to the barn, broke through the boards, and got to the threshing machine, which they broke. After the machine was broken I saw Mr Baring. Silcock was there, he went out from amongst the mob, and Mr Baring seized him by the collar, and said, 'You are my prisoner.' The mob pressed forward and rescued Silcock. The mob went through the house and came to the front. Mr Baring said, 'What do you mean by this wanton destruction of property?' The prisoner Silcock replied, 'We break machines wherever we find them.' I saw Henry Cook there.'⁵⁵³

On being cross examined Mr Ailworth said, 'The machine had not been used for ten days.'

The Reverend Frederick Donsotoy was called. 'I was at Mr Dowden's on the 19th of November, when the mob was breaking the machine. I saw Paice breaking the machine with a crow bar; and, I believe, I saw Silcock breaking the machine; but I am sure I saw him afterwards.'

When questioned by the Court, Reverend Donsotoy replied, 'Mr Baring asked Silcock if the working of the threshing machine had ever caused him to be out of employ; to which Silcock replied 'No.' Mr Baring then said 'Why do you want only to destroy property in this way?' And

⁵⁴⁹ *The Times*, 29 December 1830

⁵⁵⁰ NOTE: Neither the *Hampshire Advertiser* nor *The Morning Herald (London)* mention that the money was handed to Stroud

⁵⁵¹ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831

⁵⁵² NOTE: The prisoner Paice is named as George Paice in the Calendar of Prisoners, but as George Pace in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, the *Hampshire Chronicle & the Hampshire Telegraph*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* & *The Morning Herald (London)*

⁵⁵³ *Hampshire Chronicle*. NOTE: This witness is named as John Hayward in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

one of the mob said ‘We break every machine we meet with.’ I saw Paice there breaking the threshing machine, but he was the least active of the mob who were doing so.’
Mr Justice Parke summed up, and the Jury found both the prisoners *Guilty*.⁵⁵⁴

James White, aged 22, Thomas Scammell, aged 22, John Pointer, aged 29, James Moody, aged 33, Alexander Pragnell, aged 25 and William Reeves, aged 30, were charged with having, on the 24th November last, at the parish of East Wellow, robbed John Eastted of one sovereign, his property, and also for breaking his machine.⁵⁵⁵

William Stead, was called, and said, ‘I am a solicitor at Romsey. On the 24th of November last, I met a mob, consisting of 200 persons, at East Wellow, just coming out of Wiltshire. Three or four had hammers, and the rest bludgeons. I saw William Reeves, James Moody, and John Pointer. Moody had a white handkerchief round his hat, and Pointer a ribbon. I asked them what they were assembled for. They told me they were going to Mr Penton’s, of whom they meant to have £5. They asked me for money, but without intimidation or threat, and I gave them 5s. They said it was not enough, and I verily believe it was Reeves who said if I had given them £5, it would have been something. I offered, at their suggestion, to take back the money, but they did not return it. I then went on to Mr Penton’s, but as they crossed the fields, and I went along the road, they arrived there before me. I saw none of the prisoners at Mr Penton’s. I then went to Mr Allsopp’s at Manor Farm, where I saw all the prisoners except Alexander Pragnell.’⁵⁵⁶

Mr Justice Parke addressed Mr Sergeant Wilde, and said, ‘Had you not better prove, brother Wilde, the *corpus delicti* first?’

Mr Sergeant Wilde accordingly told the witness to stand down, and called his next witness.⁵⁵⁷
John Eastted, senior was called, and said, ‘I am a farmer at East Wellow. On the 24th November I saw a mob at Mr Allsopp’s Wellow Farm. They appeared to have come from Mr Penton’s house. I saw James Moody, and spoke to him; he had a handkerchief round his hat. I also saw William Reeves, Thomas Scammell, and James White. I saw part of them leave Mr Allsopp’s. There must have been 200 or more at his house. Some few of them came from my parish, but for the first ten minutes I did not know any of the men. A good many of them remained behind when they saw me. I asked Moody where they came from, and what for. He said they were come to regulate wages and tithes; he said he did not belong to this parish. I told him he had no right here. I said I paid my men on Saturday night, when they did not complain; and if they had any complaint to make, I would hear them. I said if there are men of our parish here let them come forward. Some of them came forward, and said they had no complaint to make. I then desired them to stand apart. I got off my horse and walked among my own men. I spoke to Reeves, and said, ‘You are the landlord of the *Sherfield Hatchet*.’ He said he was, and told me that he had been forced to go along with them. They had met at his house. I asked him if the men had not been drinking at his house all the day before, and that morning. He said they had. I then said to him, ‘What a fellow you must be to go with the mob, and to rob people to support yourself.’ He told me that the mob had paid him for what they had. Scammell is a labourer of our parish, and said they were going to have 12s a week. I said, ‘You rascal, you are not worth a groat a day, and I would not give it you – you lazy fellow.’ James White was there, he had a hammer in his hand, and they said they would break my machine, which is a chaff-cutting machine. I then went home, and about one third of the mob came to my house. My farm is about a mile by road, and half a mile by the fields from Mr Allsopp’s farm. It was the same party, for I could see them all the way. There were about 50 in the first part that came to my house. The remaining part appeared to be waiting for those who were at my house. I saw Alexander Pragnell on my premises. They destroyed my machine. I followed them to Embley, where I had a farm, and went to it, and the mob was gone to Embley House. I went there, and saw the same mob. White asked me if I should want a man to cut chaff tomorrow. I said I should. I then heard him say, ‘I did mean to have a cut at his machine, but I was too late.’ At that time my

⁵⁵⁴ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁵⁵ NOTE: John Pointer is named as John Painter in *The Morning Herald, Hampshire Advertiser, & the Hampshire Telegraph*, and as John Paynter in *The Times*; Alexander Pragnell is not named for this offence in *The Times* or the *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁵⁶ NOTE: This witness is called William Steele in *The Morning Herald, Hampshire Advertiser*, Mr Stead in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, Mr William Steele in *The Morning Herald (London)*, and William Stead in *The Times*, which would appear to be his correct name

⁵⁵⁷ NOTE: Mr Justice Parke’s question only appears in *The Times*

chaff-cutting machine had been broken. Pointer then said, ‘Stop; there is Mr Eastted’s business unsettled yet.’ The mob then stopped, and Pointer asked me for two sovereigns, like Mr Penton had given. I said I could not afford it, and would not do it. He then said, ‘Well, we can work as well by night as by day, and I cannot tell what might happen.’ Many voices said the same. I first offered him half a sovereign. Pointer turned round to the mob, and said, ‘Will you take half a sovereign?’ They said they would not take it. I then asked them if they would go out of the parish if I gave them a sovereign. They said they would. I then gave Pointer a sovereign, upon the understanding that they would leave the parish peaceably. White was present at the time. The reason that I gave them a sovereign was, that I had got them away from my farm at East Wellow, I was afraid, from their talking of working by night, they might return to my premises and set fire to them.’⁵⁵⁸

Mr John Allsopp was called, and said, ‘I am the son of the person who occupies Manor Farm. I saw all the prisoners at the bar at my father’s farm with the mob on the 24th of November. I saw them go to Embley. I saw Alexander Pragnell standing by the machine at Mr Eastted’s while it was being broken.’

Mr Allsopp then went on to corroborate Mr Eastted’s evidence.

Alexander Hogg was called, and said, ‘I am bailiff to Mr William Nightingale, who lives at Embley House. I saw the mob at Wellow Farm in November. That was the first place I saw them. They then went to Woodington Farm, and from thence to Embley Farm. I heard them have some conversation with Mr Eastted. I saw Moody and Pointer there in the presence of Mr Eastedd. I saw James White at Wellow farm.’⁵⁵⁹

On being questioned by the Court, Mr Hogg replied, ‘I heard Pointer say to Mr Eastted that the nights were long, and he could not tell what might happen.’

Jonathan Southwell was called, and said, ‘I keep a cart and horse at Wellow. I went behind the mob to Mr Penton’s, and to Manor Farm. I heard Mr Eastedd speak to his own men. I then went away, but James White and another man fetched me back. White held a hammer over my head, and said if I did not go back he would knock my brains out. I went back. The mob was just going to Mr Eastted’s, and I got behind a hedge and contrived to get away at Woodington Farm, and got home as soon as I could. I saw Moody at Mr Allsop’s, and I saw Reeves there.’⁵⁶⁰

When questioned by the Court, Southwell replied, ‘I was fetched back against my will. I did not say to White I was glad to go back. Scammell and Pragnell are labourers. Moody keeps a horse and cart.’

James White cross-examined Southwell, but every question that he asked was an admission of his being in the mob. His object was to show that the witness, when pressed by him into the mob, said that he was very glad to be pressed, for he had been herded away by Mr Eastted.⁵⁶¹

Mr Curtis was called, and said, ‘I am a solicitor at Romsey. I and Mr Stanley, the magistrate, addressed the mob at Mr Penton’s. I saw all the prisoners with the exception of Pragnell, at Mr Penton’s. They drove us out of the place and went to Mr Allsopp’s, and then across the fields to Mr Eastted’s.’

When questioned by the Court, Mr Curtis replied, ‘Mr Stanley spoke to some of the mob on the right at Mr Penton’s, and I spoke to those on the left. My attention was attracted from hearing an exclamation of, ‘Throw him off his horse.’ I looked round and saw Reeves, who said, ‘Who sent the men to prison yesterday?’ The day before Mr Stanley had committed several rioters. I heard a cry of, ‘Forward.’, and then the mob drove us out of the yard. I quickly turned my horse round when I heard this, and saw White speaking. I believe it was White set up the cry, but can’t swear he was the man. Reeves keeps a public house, he is also a blacksmith. The mob drove us out of the yard.’

William Reeves cross-examined the first witness, to prove that he had seen written in chalk upon the window of his shop, a notice saying, that if he dared to put a shoe on a horse for less than 8d, his shop and house would be pulled down. The witness admitted that such a notice was there.

⁵⁵⁸ NOTE: In the *Hampshire Chronicle* Mr Eastted said he first saw the mob at Wellow Park

⁵⁵⁹ NOTE: William Nightingale, the father of Florence Nightingale, had bought Embley House in 1825, *The Times* names the house as Hemley House and *The Morning Herald* as Emley House

⁵⁶⁰ NOTE: This witness is named as Jonathan Southwell in *The Morning Herald (London)* and Jonathan Sewell in *The Times*; his evidence does not appear in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁶¹ NOTE: The questions put by James White only appear in *The Times*

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, ‘Although all the prisoners were present at the commencement of this riotous assemblage, there is no evidence to prove that Scammell, Pragnell, and Reeves were present at Embley Farm, or at any place visited subsequently by the mob. It is therefore only fair to infer, that those prisoners had left the mob before this robbery was committed. As, therefore, there is no evidence against these prisoners, I shall not call on them for any defence, and you may dismiss their case from consideration, and you must acquit them.’

Mr Justice Parke then called upon the other prisoners for their defence.

James White said, ‘The charge against me is false from beginning to end.’

John Pointer said, ‘I was dragged away in the morning, and several gentlemen will give me a good character.’

Nobody was called to speak to Pointer’s character.

James Moody said, ‘I was pressed. The mob said they would break my horse and cart if I did not go with them. I have got witnesses to prove it.’⁵⁶²

James Aldridge, was called to speak on behalf of Moody. He said he had known Moody for 20 years, and that he was an orderly peaceable man, with a most excellent character for honesty and sobriety.⁵⁶³

Mr Justice Parke summed up the case as it related to John Pointer, James Moody, and James White. The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against John Pointer; and *Acquitted* Thomas Scammell, Alexander Pragnell, William Reeves, James Moody, and James White.⁵⁶⁴

During the course of the morning the Reverend Edward Poulter, a Magistrate for the county, dropped off his seat in a fit. He was immediately carried out of Court, and medical assistance called in. He is the father of the barrister of the name, who travels the Western Circuit. He had just left to go into the other Court.

A short time previous to this, one of the prisoners, who was standing in the dock to be arraigned, was seized with a strong hysterical fit, and was removed from the dock in a dangerous state.⁵⁶⁵

James White, Thomas Scammell, John Pointer, James Moody, and William Reeves, the same prisoners as in the last indictment, were indicted for assaulting and robbing the Reverend Thomas Penton, of East Wellow.

The Attorney-General stated the case, and said that the prisoners produced a paper which they wanted the prosecutor to sign, in which he agreed to lower his tithes, and also to raise wages.

William Stead, the first witness in the last case, was called, and gave the same evidenced as before. The Reverend Thomas Penton was called and proved that a mob came to him on the 24th November, with a paper which was handed to him by James Moody, and which they wanted him to sign. It contained a description of an agreement as to the wages of the labourers, and also as to lowering his tithes. He continued, ‘I refused to sign the paper, and said that, as regarded the wages, I would most likely do as my neighbours did, and that I would arrange with the farmers about the tithes. Moody then demanded £10. I told him I had not £10, nor half of that, for them, and that I would not give any money willingly. Moody then mentioned the names of several parties who had given them £5. I offered £2 to them, and Moody turned round and asked the mob if they would take £2; to which they agreed. Moody then pointed out the person who was to receive the money, and I gave it to that person. I gave the money, from the idea that it was not improbable but that they might destroy some of my property.’

On being cross-examined, Mr Penton replied, ‘I did not see anything threatening about the mob. They behaved very civilly to me. The money was demanded in as civil a manner as it could be made. It was a sort of compulsory demand. Moody said, ‘We are not going to do any harm now, but -,’ he put great emphasis on the word but – and he did not finish the sentence.’

⁵⁶² NOTE: Mr Justice Parke’s summing up and the prisoners defence is not included in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁶³ NOTE: This character witness is named as James Aldridge in *The Morning Herald*, *the Hampshire Advertiser*, but James Eldridge in *The Times*

⁵⁶⁴ *The Morning Herald (London); The Times*, 28th December 1830

⁵⁶⁵ *The Morning Herald (London); The Times*, 28th December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, ‘This case may, in point of law, if it be stretched to its fullest extent, amount to a robbery, but I think, Gentlemen, the better and safer way will be to acquit them.’

The Jury returned a verdict of *Not Guilty* against all the prisoners.

The same prisoners were then placed at the bar, charged with assaulting and robbing Mr Alexander Hogg.

The Attorney-General addressed Mr Justice Parke, ‘My Lord, the evidence against the prisoners is so similar the last indictment, that I do not think it requisite to offer any evidence against them.

The prisoners were accordingly *acquitted*.⁵⁶⁶

Isaac Offer, aged 21, Charles Forder, aged 29, William Noble, junior, aged 20, Henry Gale, aged 17, John Lush, aged 30, and William Kelsey, aged 22, were indicted for riotously assembling at Broughton, on the 21st November, and feloniously destroying a threshing machine, the property of John Box.

John Box was called, and said, ‘I live with my father, who is a farmer. On the 21st November, at half past seven in the morning, a mob came to my father’s house. John Lush and William Kelsey came with them. Lush is a bricklayer. The others are labourers, except Gale. Lush was cutting down some of the wood of the machinery with a saw. Kelsey was assisting in removing parts of the machine.’

On being cross-examined, Mr Box replied, ‘It was partly destroyed then, and finished the next evening. I desired them not to hurt the mill, and they did not.’

On being questioned by the Court, Mr Box replied, ‘The machine was damaged sufficiently in the morning to render it useless. After they had partly destroyed it, and carried it into the field, they went away. I do not think it was worth repairing.’

William Box was called, and said, ‘I was present on Sunday morning when the machine was rendered useless. Kelsey was there on Saturday night, and threatened destruction to the machine.’

William Box went on to corroborate the testimony of the previous witness.

William Sims was called, and said, ‘I am servant to Mr Box. I was not present on Sunday when the mob came. I have not seen the machine. I did not see anyone go into the barn where the machine was.’

John Box was recalled, and examined by the Court, and said, ‘Some parts of the machine were cut with a saw, and some parts broken with a hammer and a pickaxe.’

Mr Justice Parke told the Jury there was no evidence against Offer, Forder, Noble and Gale; therefore they must be acquitted.

John Lush was called for his defence, and said, ‘We asked Mr John Box to allow us to take down the machine, and he open the barn door for us.’

Mr John Box was then re-called, and said, ‘When the mob came on Saturday they wanted to take the machine down then, and asked for a light, but my father said, ‘Don’t do it tonight, for fear of a fire, and I have several ricks near the barn; therefore, if it must come down, if a few of you will come in the morning you can take it down, and I will give you some bread and cheese and beer afterwards.’ There was more damage done than was requisite, and they might have removed it with a saw, and a spanner to unscrew the nuts. The pins were beaten down with a hammer. I saw Kelsey beating the machine to pieces, and Lush was there. Lush made no attempt to prevent them breaking the machine.’

Stephen Judd was called to speak on behalf of Lush and Kelsey, he said, ‘I have known Lush 15 years. He has lived at Broughton all the time, and has borne a good character. I believe I could bring 100 persons forward who would give him a good character. I also know Kelsey, and never heard anything against him.’

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, ‘There are four prisoners at the bar, Offer, Forder, Noble, junior, and Gale against who, for want of evidence, must be acquitted; you have, only, therefore, to consider whether Lush and Kelsey are guilty or not.’

⁵⁶⁶ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Chronicle; Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

The Jury found Isaac Offer, Charles Forder, William Noble, junior, and Henry Gale, *Not Guilty*; and John Lush and William Kelsey *Guilty*, but recommended them to mercy, on account of their good characters.⁵⁶⁷

Thomas Neale, aged 20, George Carter, aged 38, Robert Cooke, aged 23, and George Hopgood, aged 30, were charged with having, on the 21st November last, at the parish of Vernham Dean, riotously assembled together, and feloniously made an assault on one Mary Sargeant, and put her in bodily fear, and stolen from her two sovereigns, the property of the said Mary Sergeant.⁵⁶⁸ The prisoners pleaded 'not guilty.'

Mary Sargeant was called, and said, 'I am a widow. A great many persons came to my house on the 21st November between six and seven o'clock. They had bludgeons in their hands. The first three that came demanded money. I asked them what they wanted. They said a sovereign; which I gave them; and they said they would take care that those who came after should not disturb me. The other men were at the door. Shortly after there was a great rushing at the door. I went upstairs and looked out of the window; they swore at me, and told me to come downstairs and show myself. Some cried silence; others would not hear what I had to say. I went downstairs, and they were breaking my windows. Afterwards they broke in the glass over the door, and then I gave them another sovereign. They still continued breaking my windows. They then went to the back of my house. About 40 or 50 got into my kitchen, but I do not know how. They had sticks in their hands. They asked for more money. I said I had no more for them. They asked for beer. I told them I had not got any good enough for them. They said they would go into the cellar, but they did not know the way. Edward Holmes, the constable, came in. They threw stones into the upper rooms. They went away some time after the constable came. I gave them the money in consequence of being very much alarmed.'

Edward Holmes was called, and said, 'I am a constable of Vernham Dean. Mrs Sargeant's house is in the village. On the 21st of November I went to her house and found a great many persons there. All the prisoners were there. Cooke had a hatchet in his hand. I did not see anything in the other prisoners' hands. Mrs Sargeant was begging them not to use any violence towards her. I asked them to quit the room, when Cook said if I did not hold my tongue he would hit me on the head with the hatchet. Some of the mob said, 'We'll have more money.' I am quite sure that Cooke was the man who said he would strike me. Hopgood said if I said anything he would have my head. I then passed out of the room behind Hopgood, as I was afraid Cooke would do as he said. Mrs Sargeant appeared very much alarmed. Soon after I left, the mob went away. Cooke comes from Chute, about three miles from Vernham. Neale is a labourer; Carter is a blacksmith, and Hopgood is a carpenter.'

On being questioned by Carter, Holmes replied, 'I never heard you speak, nor saw you with any stick.'

William Marchmont was called, and said, 'I live at Vernham Dean, and went to Mrs Sargeant's on the 21st of November, between seven and eight o'clock. I saw Neale, Carter, and Cooke there. I had known them before. Cooke is a labouring man. He had a broad axe in his hand. I saw them in the house, and heard some of the mob ask for two sovereigns of Mrs Sargeant. I saw some of the windows broken. I saw Neale, Carter, and Cooke, in the kitchen.'

On being questioned by the Court, Mr Marchmont replied, 'I heard the mob breaking the windows, and I went to see. I was not with the mob. I did not go into the kitchen, but stood against the door. I stayed at Mrs Sargeant's all the time the mob was there, and then I went home. There was a threshing machine at Mrs Sargeant's.'

Mrs Sargeant was re-called by the Court, and said, 'I had a threshing machine. It was destroyed the next day.'

When questioned by the Jury, Mrs Sargeant replied, 'The door of the kitchen did not appear to have been broken open.'

This closed the case for the prosecution.

⁵⁶⁷ *The Morning Herald* (London); *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*; This case is not reported in *The Times*

⁵⁶⁸ The prosecutor is named as Mary Sargeant in the Calendar of Prisoners, the *Hampshire Advertiser*, *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* & *Hampshire Telegraph*

Mr Richard Fortescue spoke in favour of George Carter, who said he had known him for a great many years, and gave him an excellent character. 'I have known Carter for a great many years. He has been an enemy to himself latterly, by frequenting public houses, but he is not habitual to public houses.'

Mr Fortescue also gave Neale a very good character and said that he had been his shepherd for seven years, but had left that place at Michaelmas last. 'I have since engaged him in chalking. He was at work for me until he was taken up.'

William Wyse also spoke in favour of Carter.⁵⁶⁹

Mr Justice Parke went very minutely through the evidence as it related to each prisoner.

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against Neale, Carter, Cook, and Hopgood.⁵⁷⁰

Jesse Burgess was put to the bar and charged with having, on the 23rd November, at the parish of Droxford, robbed Mrs Charlotte Hawkins of a sovereign.

On the prisoner being placed at the bar, the Counsel for the Crown intimated to the Court that they thought the evidence was not sufficiently strong to convict the prisoner of the robbery, and they therefore consented to his being acquitted.⁵⁷¹

Before the Court rose the Foreman of the Jury asked whether the Court could make the Jury any allowance for the very heavy expenses that were entailed by them for their continued residence in Winchester during these trials. The Court replied that it could do nothing to help the matter. The Foreman then asked. 'My Lord may I inquire what is the amount of fine to which we are liable in case of non-attendance. The reply was that this was entirely at the discretion of the Court but that they could not sanction any neglect of duty by the jurymen. The Jury shook their heads, not satisfied by this answer. It seems that a similar application had been made by a juror in the other court. The juror had applied to be discharged. He said that he was a widower with four children and that he had already had to borrow money from a friend to pay his bill at the inn where he was staying, having used up all his funds. Even if discharged he said that he would have to borrow money to get home.

It would seem that the people of Winchester were looking on the Commission as a God-send and have put up their prices accordingly in order to make as much profit while they can.

⁵⁶⁹ NOTE: This character witness is reported in the *Hampshire Advertiser & Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁷⁰ *The Morning Herald* (London); *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*. This case is not reported fully in *The Times*, it just gives the Indictment and the fact that the Jury found them all guilty

⁵⁷¹ NOTE: This case is only reported in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

Tuesday, 28th December 1830

Crown Court

At nine o'clock this morning Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Alderson took their seats at the bench in the Crown Court.⁵⁷²

Charles Bratcher alias Bracher, aged 30, Robert Cull, aged 33, Henry Bundy, aged 30, John Webb, aged 64 William Lane, aged 63, Richard Lane, aged 33, and Samuel Bundy, aged 21, were indicted for conspiring together and riotously assembling, for the purpose of raising wages, and for compelling others to join them.

The Attorney General, with whom were Mr Dampier and Mr De Grey, on the part of the prosecution, observed that it was essentially necessary that this charge should be brought before the Special Commission, in order to show that the laws must be respected, and to prove to Magistrates, that in the execution of their duty they shall not be insulted with impunity, by persons who may choose to combine for purposes which the law will not allow. These combinations had been accompanied by acts of extreme violence, the ringleaders compelling others to join their riotous assemblage; and in this contagion of ill humour and bad feeling among ignorant persons, it was almost a miracle that blood had not been shed to a very great extent.⁵⁷³

John Cheyney was called and said, 'I am a farmer at Fawley. I was in my fields on the 25th of November, between 10 and 11, and saw three men go to my men who were at work in the fields. I then went to my house, and there I saw about 50 or 60 people assembled. I asked what they wanted. Richard Lane, one of the prisoners, replied that their object was to raise the wages, and to get rid of the assistant overseer, Thomas Fry, of Fawley. Samuel Bundy, Robert Cull, and Charles Bratcher were present, and could hear what Lane said. Lane also said, "Till that was complied with no more work shall be done in the parish." The rest of the men appeared to agree to this. The men had large sticks, and one a bill hook. I followed them to Stanswood, and saw the same prisoners there as at my own farm. It was the same mob. Jonathan Wyatt, who is in my employ, was carting, and the mob called him, he refused to go, but they took him away anyway. Richard Lane, with several others, advanced when I refused to let Wyatt go with them, and one of them swore he would go, and if I did not mind I should go too. Richard Lane caught hold of my horse's bridle, and lifted up his stick, as if he was going to strike me. Wyatt tried to hold himself by the pale, but they dragged him away, he was taken by force. Between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning my horses that were at the plough, came home. All the carters and labourers had gone to work as usual that morning, but in the afternoon all my labourers came home, and all the work was suspended. At this time I paid my labourers 9s a week, I have since advanced this to 12s.'⁵⁷⁴

On being cross-examined by Mr Poulter, Mr Cheyney replied, 'I was the overseer of the parish, and there is a parish cart.'

Mr Poulter then inquired if men and women were not attached to the cart, but Mr Justice Alderson interposed, and asked what that had to do with it.

Mr Poulter replied, 'I wanted to show the cause.'

Mr Justice Alderson replied, 'We did not come here to inquire into grievances, but to decide the law.'

⁵⁷² The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 3 January 1831; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1831; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, 3 January 1831; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 29 & 30 December 1830; *The Times*, 29 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, and in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

⁵⁷³ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁷⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*. NOTE: The *Hampshire Advertiser* & *The Morning Herald (London)* name the assistant overseer as Trig. Thomas Fry was appointed overseer in November 1829 of one of Fawley's districts, by March 1830 he had become a salaried assistant overseer of the poor and was responsible for the payment of relief for the entire parish. Bratcher is named as Richard Bratcher in Mr Cheney's evidence in the *Hampshire Telegraph*. In *The Morning Herald (London)* Mr Cheyney says he followed the men to Hanswood

Jonathan Wyatt was called, and said, 'I work for Mr Cheyney. I was crossing a meadow on the 25th of November. On the right hand I saw about 50 people. They hailed me, and told me to stop till they came up. Many of them said I should go with them. I said, 'No,' and told my horse to go on. They stopped my horse, and said that if I did not stop, they would put a slip round my shoulders. Richard Lane came up to me and asked if I was willing to go. I said I was not willing, but I was obliged. They then advanced towards Mr Cheyney's house. I went into the house and was there about half an hour. Someone sent in to tell me to come out, or they would fetch me. I went out, and went with them to Stanswood. I would not have gone if I had not been obliged. I went to Harding's house, and saw Mr Cheyney on horseback. I came into the yard. The mob saw me, and said I should go with them. I said I would not, and was holding the pales. Someone came and took me off the ground. I saw Charles Bratcher, Richard Lane, and Samuel Bundy, with the mob. Samuel Blundy had a hook, and the others sticks in their hands. I saw William Lane at Stone.'⁵⁷⁵ On being cross-examined, Wyatt said, 'I did not think there was much distress. Mr Cheyney's labourers received 9s per week that was the general rate of wages through the parish. Some had assistance from the parish rate as well.'

John Andrews was called, and said, 'I am a labourer at Stone, near Fawley. I knew Charles Bratcher. On the 25th of November he came to the barn in which I was working and took away my flail, and said I should go with his company. There were almost 50 people. John Webb was one of them. My wages were 1s 6d a day, but I could not get so much at task work. I was forced to go with the company, who said they wanted to raise their pay. I am almost four score years. Bratcher got hold of me and wanted to tumble me out neck and crop. Samuel Bundy kept me.'⁵⁷⁶

On being cross-examined, Andrews said, 'There was a good deal of distress. They told me if my belly was full theirs was not.'

Robert Mowland was called, and said, 'I am a shepherd. On the 25th of November I was at work in a turnip field. A number of men came up. Some of them had slips in their hands, and Samuel Bundy had a bill hook, which fences are mended with. They told me I should go with them. I said I could not. They said I should, and put a slip round my neck. I had a pick in my hand, and Bundy said, 'If you strike I'll chop you with the hook.' They dragged me away, and I asked them to let me speak to my master before I went, as the work was of great consequences. They said I should go with them, and took me away, they dragged me some distance.'⁵⁷⁷

On being cross-examined, Mowland replied, 'I would not have gone if I had not had so much work, as I wished to do everything that was just and right. They were going to the Magistrates meeting. I didn't know much about my taking it in good part. I didn't know whether they were in good humour. I am a single man, and got 9s a week.'

Stephen Toghill Harding was called, and said, 'On 25th November, at about eleven o'clock, upwards of 50 people came to my house. Richard Lane, Charles Bratcher, Samuel Bundy, and John Webb, were among them. They said they would have all my men with them, and inquired where they were. I answered they were at their work. I saw them take Mowland, who was endeavouring to get away. I advised him to go as the mob was so violent.'⁵⁷⁸

On being cross-examined, Mr Harding replied, 'I have never been an overseer. Nine shillings was the common rate of wages for single as well as married men. We are now giving 12s a week.'

John Barnard was called, and said, 'I am gardener to Earl Cavan. A number of persons, about 100, came to me on the day in question. Charles Bratcher, Samuel Bundy, John Webb, and Richard Lane, were among them. I asked what they wanted. They said, 'To assemble to get the men more wages, and that it should be the act of one and all.' They said Lord Cavan's men should go with them; if not by fair means, by foul. They compelled the men to go with them.'⁵⁷⁹

On being cross-examined by the Court, Barnard replied, 'They were receiving 9s a week, and two of them 10s. They did no violence.'

⁵⁷⁵ NOTE: The evidence of Wyatt does not appear in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁷⁶ NOTE: According to the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* John Andrews was 'a labourer, 80 years of age'

⁵⁷⁷ NOTE: This witness is named as Robert Bowden in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, Robert Bowdland in the *Hampshire Telegraph & Salisbury & Winchester Journal* & Robert Broadland in *The Morning Herald*. I have been unable to find anyone of that name in the area, there was however a Robert Mowland listed among those who assisted in the discovery and apprehension of these prisoners

⁵⁷⁸ NOTE: The evidence of Stephen Toghill Harding does not appear in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁷⁹ NOTE: This witness is named as John Barnard in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

Lady Cavan was called, and said, 'I went to the mob in consequence of Lord Cavan being out. I said to them, 'Seeing you are my neighbours and armed; yet, as I am an unprotected woman, I am sure you will do me no harm.' They said they would not. I asked them their object, and they said an increase of wages. I told them the Magistrates were then sitting to see what could be done for them, and requested them to wait a little longer. They said, 'We will wait no longer, but we will meet the Magistrates, and force them to give us what we want.' I said, 'It will be no good.' They said, 'Your Ladyship can do nothing.' I then asked them why they rose at that time, as there was no apparent distress around Eaglehurst; and that the wages were the same as they had been for several years. I have been in several of the cottages, and never saw any appearance of distress. They said that they had been oppressed long enough, and they would bear it no longer. One said he had a large family, and received only 9s for his labour and 3s from the parish, but that he had been told that the 3s was to be discontinued. He had received 3s the last week. I told him that if it was not discontinued he would not be aggrieved, and that he would not benefit his family by idling his time here. He said that he and the rest of them would take care it should be made good to them. I then turned to my own labourers, and said that I hoped none of them would join the mob. The mob said they should come, if not by fair means, they should by force; it should be the act of one and all. They were very civil. John Webb, William Bundy, and Samuel Bundy, were there. Webb did not speak. I asked their names. They said Bundy. They said they would do no harm that day; their object was to collect all the parish, and compel the Magistrates to grant what they wanted. One said he only received 9s a week, and that his labour was worth 12s, and 12s he would have.'

John Munday was called, and said, 'I am a farmer. A mob of 200 persons assembled at about two o'clock. I went out to them, and asked what they wanted, they said higher wages. All the prisoners were there. They wanted 2s a day. They were very tumultuous, and said they did not blame the farmers but the landowners and the Rector. I persuaded them to go home, as the farmers would meet the Magistrates the next day, and that I thought their wages would be raised. They said they would go to the poorhouse, and take a cart that was there, and take old Fry, the assistant overseer, out of the parish. They came across the garden to the pales, and William Lane addressed me, and called me a damn'd rascal, and said if he was near me, he would knock me down, but that he could not reach him. They went on towards the poorhouse, and brought the cart, and said they would break it. It was made to be drawn by men or by horses, and was used to draw different things to the poorhouse. One of the prisoners asked me if I would have the cart drawn by a horse and not by men. I promised a horse should be bought, and they then left the cart alone. They then fell off by degrees, but did not all disperse that night. One of the mob said, 'D – n all about the Magistrates, we will have our own way now.'⁵⁸⁰

The usual wages for a labourer was 9s a week, but some of them had 1s more, and many of them house-rent and fuel. Those that come to the parish for work do not have so much. If they had large families they had also considerable help from the parish. One man earned 1s 11d a day, and had 3s a week from the parish, and he struck for an advance, and he had as large a stick as any of the others.'⁵⁸¹

On being cross-examined, Mr Munday replied, 'They said there had been a woman and a boy drawing the cart. It was a very unpopular thing after it had been noticed in the newspapers. I never knew a woman drawing coals. There was a rope to draw it by. A woman named Stevens had drawn the cart.'

On being cross-examined by the Court, Mr Munday replied, 'There was nothing like harnessing to the cart, or ropes. The wages are now 12s a week.'

Peter Westbrook told the Court that John Webb had formed a ring and called, 'Attention! I give notice and command everyman to assemble tomorrow morning at nine o'clock precisely, at the Post Office.'

This was the case for the prosecution.

Mr Poulter, Mr Sewell, and Mr Saunders then addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoners.

⁵⁸⁰ NOTE: According to the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* it was the prisoner Webb that called him a damn'd rascal

⁵⁸¹ NOTE: The evidence of John Munday does not appear in the *Hampshire Chronicle*. John Munday is named as John Monday in some reports. A John Munday received £18 12s reward for the discovery and capture of the prisoners. John Munday, age 40, Steward, appears in the 1841 census living at Cadland Farm, Fawley

Mr Poulter then addressed the Jury on behalf of some of the prisoners, and said, 'I believe the general object of these men had been to get an increase in their wages because of the great distress that existed in the area. I do not advocate the manner in which they made their demands but these were the persons from which this country has derived great benefit. There had been a long war; and when their country wanted them, did they not answer the call? These prisoners, or their fathers, were a sample of that noble race that, in times of difficulty, fought their countries battles, and carried her renown to the remotest regions of the earth. Those days of war have now ceased, the market for these men is gone, but do not let us therefore turn them away as worthless persons, because there is not now a war in which they may be employed. Do not let us forget the debt of gratitude we owe them. Do not let us depress that noble spirit that has existed in our peasantry. Do not let us destroy the vigour of those nerves which have been put forward for our safety. War may visit this country again, and we may want these men. Do not let us be untrue to ourselves, but support those who have been the admiration and the envy of all countries.'

Mr Sewell's address followed similar lines, and he added, 'If a labourer, with a family of five or six children, received only 9s a week for his labour, and beheld them starving and in great distress, the law of nature became paramount to the law of man. Laws were made for the benefit of society; but society never required that one class should be starving, and others revel in all the luxury of wealth.'

Mr C. Saunders contended that no offence had been committed. 'Persons have the right to meet, to consider of their grievances, and the best way to redress them; in this case there had been no acts of violence, and it was quite clear the people had gone for the express purpose of laying their tale of distress before the Magistrates.'

The learned counsel then proceeded to comment upon the evidence, and the following witness called to speak on behalf of the prisoners.

Joseph Bundy said, 'I am father to one of the prisoner. I remember the people coming to me in the lane, near Lord Cavan's, and taking the men away who were working with me. The men went to Fawley to endeavour to get the Magistrates to advance their wages. I heard the conversation between Mr Munday and the people. Mr Munday told the people the Magistrates were not at home, they had gone to Winchester and there would be nothing done that day; but that they were to come the next day, when the Magistrates would be there, and it would then be settled. He told them that he had seen Mr Drummond, and Lord Cavan that morning, and that Lord Cavan had said, 'If the people come, they are to be told to come the next day. I give my word that the wages will be raised.' I did not hear him say this many times, but he said it more than once. The people were very quiet; they were not riotous; they would not do anyone harm. They took out the parish cart, but that was mostly the boys. I have seen old men, and young men, and boys draw the cart, and I have also seen women draw it more than once, particularly Jane Stevens. The men were in very great distress. Many of the men had only a few potatoes in their bag when they came to work.' The Learned Judge objected to this course of examination being continued, adding, 'It might happen that, through drinking a man might suffer distress.'

On being cross-examined by the Court, Joseph Bundy replied, 'I have seen women drawing the cart several times, particularly Jane Steven, an idiot.'

John Dixon was called, and said, 'Mr Munday told us to come the next day, as the Magistrates were not there. The people went for the purpose of seeing the Magistrates.'⁵⁸²

The Attorney-General addressed the Jury, 'I am glad that the prisoners do not stand before you on a heavier charge, which would, in all probability, have been the case if they had pursued the course they had commenced. I will admit that the peasantry have defended their country, and have been the means of raising her to the proud eminence upon which she now stands and I do not doubt but that the clouds which have lately hovered over this part of this kingdom will soon disperse, and that excellent feeling of loyalty and good conduct which has so long existed in the minds of that industrious body of men will soon return. But it is necessary that the law should be interposed to prevent these acts of violence and disorder which the appearance of Winchester Gaol proves, and must have occurred, as well as to act as a warning to others that a breach of the law will not be suffered. Although I do not consider that with regard to the parish cart, it has been used in an improper manner, still I will dissuade all parish officers from using such a means of employment and not to put their fellow creatures to that kind of work which some might consider

⁵⁸² NOTE: The evidence of John Dixon does not appear in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

as a degradation. It has not appeared that any of these persons were in any distress at all, and therefore they could not urge anything as an excuse for their conduct. If you believe the evidence you have heard, I think you must return a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners.'

Mr Baron Vaughan said that an Act of Parliament had been passed to regulate the differences between journeymen and masters in the manufacturing districts. This Act had been repealed by another, which was confined to those engaged in trade, without relation to agricultural labourers; but the Act said, if any one shall by force attempt to instigate any person to leave his work, he is liable to punishment as a felon; therefore, in his opinion, a combination of agricultural labours to raise their wages was an offence of this description. The laws of the country must be obeyed, and if not strong enough to put down offenders of this kind, we should live in a state of anarchy, and the body of civil society be dissolved.⁵⁸³

The Learned Judge then read over the whole of the evidence, and said the question was whether the prisoners riotously and tumultuously assembled together, and whether they conspired together for the purpose of obtaining an increase of wages, and compelling, by force, certain other parties to join them. 'I strongly object to the advance of a farthing, by concession to the demands of a tumultuous mob. No one feels more for the distresses of the labouring classes than myself, but I never could endure that it could be said I had yielded to them from physical force. In all cases of distress let the proper tribunals be appealed to, and relief will be afforded. I believe there is no country where charity flows in so many streams as in England, nor where a stronger desire exists to relieve the necessities of the poor. The Magistrates have no power to raise the rate of wages; they can only give advice, and have power to make a rate for the relief of the poor.'

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the case, and spoke very highly of the conduct adopted by Lady Cavan. 'Lady Cavan had visited the cottages of all those who lived in her neighbourhood. She knew they were not distressed, and she also felt confident, from her kindness to them, that they would not offer her any injury, and that she therefore went out to the mob and quietly addressed them. I will say that her conduct evinced great spirit, great good sense, and good feeling, and certainly displayed greater courage than was generally found.'

His Lordship then read over the evidence, commenting upon it as he proceeded.

The Jury, having considered for a few minutes, found all the prisoners *Guilty*.⁵⁸⁴

John Webb, aged 64, Samuel Bundy, Josiah or Joseph Cull, aged 28, Henry Cavell, aged 33, Robert Cull, aged 33, Samuel Saunders, aged 34, Henry Bundy, aged 30, Charles Bratcher, aged 30, William Lane, , aged 63, Richard Lane, aged 33, John Butcher, aged 27, and James Dickson, aged 65, were then put to the bar and pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with having riotously assembled and assaulted Lord Cavan and another county Magistrate.⁵⁸⁵

The evidence showed that the prisoners were part of a mob that had assembled in Fawley on the 26th November and made an assault on two magistrates while they were engaged in the execution of their duty.

After some consultation with Mr Justice Alderson, Mr Baron Vaughan addressed the prisoners, 'You have pleaded guilty to an indictment which charges you with the commission of a most serious offence – that of having riotously assembled together on the 26th November, and having made an assault upon two Magistrates, while engaged in the execution of their duty. It is necessary to protect the Magistracy when so engaged, and you have committed this offence under circumstances of considerable aggravation, and it is therefore incumbent on me to pass such a sentence upon you as will be an example to others. His Lordship then passed the following sentences :-

Richard Lane and Samuel Bundy, one year's imprisonment, and to be kept to hard labour; John Webb, Josiah Cull, Robert Cull, Samuel Saunders, Charles Bratcher, William Lane, John Butcher and James Dickson, six months' imprisonment with hard labour; and Henry Cavell, on account of

⁵⁸³ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁸⁴ *The Morning Herald*; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Chronicle*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁸⁵ *The Morning Herald* (London), 30 December 1830. NOTE: *The Morning Herald* (London) names John Butcher as John Bratcher & James Dickson as James Dixon; The *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* names the prisoners Henry Cavell as Henry Covell & John Butcher as John Bratcher

his previous good character, and Henry Bundy, on account of ill health, to be imprisoned three months, and to be kept to hard labour.⁵⁸⁶

Charles Bratcher, William Lane, Richard Lane, John Webb, Samuel Bundy, Henry Bundy, and Robert Cull, were again placed at the bar to receive sentences for the first offence of which they had already been convicted.

Mr Baron Vaughan sentenced them as follows :- Charles Bratcher, Richard Lane, John Webb and Samuel Bundy, to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for six months; and William Lane, Henry Bundy, and Robert Cull, three months' imprisonment, and hard labour. These sentences were to commence at the expiration of the former sentences.⁵⁸⁷

Abraham Childs, aged 48, Richard Page, aged 26, William Whitcher, aged 26, Thomas Smith, aged 32, and William Scorey, aged 52, were indicted for riotously remaining and continuing, with other persons tumultuously assembled, for upwards of an hour after the Riot Act had been read.⁵⁸⁸

The Attorney General addressed the Court. 'One of the advantages of the Special Commission is, that their Lordships, the Kings Judges, should expound the law, that those who were ignorant of it should have it made known to them. By stat. 1 Geo.1, it was enacted, that if, after notice had been given by the Magistrates for them to disperse, persons remained assembled for one hour, they should be deemed felons, and suffer death. This Act was passed for the purpose of preventing persons assembling for unlawful purposes, and the Magistrates' first duty was to demand silence, and then to read the proclamation, which was commonly called the Riot Act, and all persons were then bound instantly to disperse and go home; for, if they remained for one hour they were then declared felons, and liable to punishment as such, and this formed the charge against the prisoners.' The Attorney General then detailed the facts of the case.

Dr Jones was called, and said, 'I am a Magistrate of the county. On the 23rd of November a mob came to my house, at about ten in the morning (Tuesday); they came in a large body – about 250 people. They were armed with bludgeons, sledge-hammers, axes, bill-hooks and clubs. I demanded the reason of their being assembled in that riotous manner, against the peace of the King and the terror of the neighbourhood. Childs said, 'For our lawful rights – to break machines, and to get higher wages.' I observed Abraham Childs with a red and yellow handkerchief about his body, to whom I said, 'I command you, in his Majesty's name, to halt and hear what I have to say.' Childs, who was at the front, said, 'Halt!' which they did. He then said, 'Have you got any machines?' I said, 'You rebel ruffian, how dare you question me?' I told the mob they were on a most unlawful course; if they had any grievances to complain of, that this was not the manner to get them redressed; on the contrary, they would bring greater distress upon themselves by the confusion and violence. I said I had no doubt, if they were really distressed it would be taken into consideration. A voice exclaimed, 'We have waited long enough, we'll wait no longer.' I begged them for their own sakes, to disperse; that if they did not, I expected the military, and then, if they made any resistance, they would be fired upon. I then said. 'I command you in his Majesty's name to disperse, and to keep silence while I make proclamation to that effect.' Child then made a sign, and said, 'On boys, on;' upon which they set up a yell, blew a horn, and moved on. I called out 'Silence' three times, and then read the proclamation called the Riot Act.'

Dr Jones then read from a card a copy of the proclamation which he had read to the mob :- 'Our Sovereign Lord the King charges and commands that all persons, being assembled, immediately do disperse themselves, and peaceably do depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the 1st year of King George I., for preventing tumultuous and riotous assemblies.'

It was then observed that Dr Jones had omitted to say, 'GOD save the King,' which words being part of the proclamation directed to be used by the Act, Mr Justice Alderson considered it such

⁵⁸⁶ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁸⁷ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁸⁸ NOTE: The prisoner William Whitcher appears as William Witcher in the Index to the Calendar of Prisoner, *Hampshire Advertiser & Hampshire Chronicle*, and as William Mitchell in the *Hampshire Telegraph*, *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*; the prisoner Richard Page appears in the Gaol Calendar, but is named as Richard Payne in the *Hampshire Advertiser & Hampshire Telegraph*, *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* & as Robert Payne in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

an omission that was fatal. After a short consultation between their Lordships, Mr Justice Alderson left the Court to consult with Mr Justice Parke.

On his return Mr Justice Alderson said, ‘Although Dr Jones had behaved in a most praiseworthy manner, as he had not made the proclamation in the precise words of the Act of Parliament, having omitted the concluding words ‘God save the King.’ As the law had made it a capital felony for persons to continue assembled in large bodies, it became the province of the Court, on a charge so highly penal, to see the Act of Parliament strictly complied with, and this not having been done, it is our bounden duty to see that justice was done between the King and his subjects. I therefore direct the Jury to *Acquit* the prisoners.

Dr Jones said that he had copied the proclamation from Burn's Justice.

As the trial was stopped *in limine*, the gross assault made upon Dr Jones, by the prisoner Thomas Smith, was not alluded to.

Mr Baron Vaughan expressed his admiration of the firm conduct displayed by Dr Jones, remarking that it was worthy of imitation.⁵⁸⁹

Thomas Smith, aged 32, was put to the bar charged with having assaulted Edward Godden Jones, Esquire, with intent to do him some bodily harm

No evidence being offered against the prisoner, he was *Acquitted*.⁵⁹⁰

James Pumphrey, aged 28, was indicted for assaulting and robbing Sarah Whincop, at the parish of Micheldever, on the 19th November.

Sarah Whincop was called, and said, ‘A mob came to my house on the 19th November. I went to them and saw the prisoner among them. They asked for money, and said they would come again the next day. They had been there in the morning and had done some damage. It was when they returned later in the day that they demanded money. I gave the prisoner 15s, in the hope that would prevent their doing any more injury. When I gave Pumphrey the money, he said he would see to it that no damage would be done.’

John Coombs was called, and said, ‘I found the mob, among whom was the prisoner, at a public house. They were sharing the money which Pumphrey had. Pumphrey said Mrs Whincop’s money was to be spent on beer.’

The Jury found the prisoner *Guilty*.⁵⁹¹

The Court adjourned at seven o'clock.

Nisi Prius Court

Before Mr Justice Parke in the Nisi Prius Court.

Richard Kircher, aged 20, James Horn, aged 18, Henry Hitchcock, aged 19, John Cannings, aged 20, George Marsham, aged 20 and George Lawrence, aged 21, and George Carter, aged 28, were indicted for having, on the 22nd November, at the parish of Itchen Abbas, with divers others, riotously assembled, and made a great noise, to the great terror of his Majesty’s subjects.⁵⁹²

There were fifteen other men in the same indictment, but they pleaded guilty to the charge, and were sentenced to one month imprisonment.

(The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) names the following people, as well as those named above, as being charged for this offence: - Henry Mullins, aged 19, Christopher Hopkins, aged 22,

⁵⁸⁹ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Chronicle*. NOTE: *in limine* is a pretrial motion asking that certain evidence be found inadmissible, and that it not be referred to or offered at trial

⁵⁹⁰ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁹¹ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 183. NOTE: The prosecutor in this case is named as Sarah Wincombe in the all of the newspapers

⁵⁹² NOTE: The prisoner George Carter is not named in the *Hampshire Advertiser* the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* or *The Morning herald (London)*, and the prisoner George Marsham is named as George Marshall in the *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, & *The Morning herald (London)*; the prisoner James Horn is named as James Hare in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*. None of the prisoners are named in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

James Blackman, aged 36, Thomas Cook, aged 30, David Illsley, aged 50, George Pike aged 21, George Hampton, age 25, & Benjamin Oliver, aged 34).

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated the case for the prosecution, and called the witnesses.

The Reverend Robert Wright was called, and said, 'I remember, on the 22nd November, receiving information that there was a crowd of persons assembled in the village of Itchen. I am a Magistrate. When I went down I found a very large mob of persons armed with sledge hammers, bludgeons, and sticks. I asked them what they had come for. They said, 'We're come to break machinery and to demand our rights.' I told them to disperse, or they would have to suffer. This they would not do, and I went to the Duke of Buckingham's, where my men, who had been sworn in as special constables, were on guard, and took them back with me to the village. When we came within 50 yards of the mob, which had now swollen to the number, certainly, of 300 or more, I remonstrated with them for not having taken my advice. They refused to do so, and I immediately ordered the constables to take them into custody. We took 50 of them. While this was going on I observed the men now at the bar coming up, and as we were chasing them we succeeded in securing them. All but one of these men had come from Winchester to Itchen, a distance of four miles the nearest way. The men had all got bludgeons in their hands, and were exceedingly riotous in their behaviour. Prior to this time I had issued my warrants for their apprehension on a charge of machine breaking.'

Mr Wright's son, also the Reverend Robert Wright, corroborated the testimony of his father.

Sergeant Brown, one of the police sergeants, identified Kircher, Hitchcock, and Lawrence.

Mr Justice Parke said that there was not sufficient evidence made out against the prisoners, who had been taken just before they had joined the mob which had assembled for an illegal purpose. In his charge to the Jury, the Learned Judge said, 'There is not any doubt as to the intention of the five persons who stood at the bar; but as they had not absolutely mingled with the mob, they ought, in point of law, to be acquitted of the charge for which they have been indicted. But I must observe that I cannot speak too strongly in praise of the conduct of Mr Wright, as a magistrate, and his son, and I lament that the same manly and unbending disposition of Mr Wright had not been followed, as it would in all probability, from the effect it produced, and have saved the Court from attending to many a painful story, which you, as jurors, have been obliged to attend to and decide upon. Fortunately for the prisoners the activity of a magistrate has prevented a commission of crimes which might have placed their lives in danger. I hope that from the good character given the prisoners that the present proceedings will operate as a guide to their future conduct. They must see, that though the condition of the labourer demands attention, and though he should be considered worthy of his hire, yet no society deserving of the name of civilised, can possibly tolerate such acts as these men were proceeding to commit.'⁵⁹³

The Jury accordingly returned a verdict of *Not Guilty* against the prisoners.

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Court, saying, 'This is proof of what good resolution on the part of an active magistrate would produce, and I cannot help thinking that, if other Magistrates had acted with equal promptitude and determination, most, if not the whole, of the late outrages would have been prevented.'⁵⁹⁴

Arthur Fielder, aged 43, John Tongs, aged 34, John Collins, aged 33, George Palmer, aged 37, and Henry Rogers, aged 26, were indicted for feloniously destroying a threshing machine, the property of James Futcher, of the parish of Mitchelmersh, on the 22nd of November.⁵⁹⁵

James Futcher was called, and said, 'On the 22nd of November I attended a meeting of the farmers, and heard a cry of, 'On to Hall Farm!' coming from outside. There were nearly 100 by the vestry, where the meeting was held. I went and saw some of them running towards my farm. I followed, and when I got up to them they told me they were going to have a smack at my machine. I saw Fielder, Tongs, and Rogers with the mob. They must have heard what was said. The mob had not all arrived at my house then. Fielder said, 'D – n your eyes, pay me the half crown you owe me.'

⁵⁹³ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁵⁹⁴ *The Morning Herald (London); Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁵⁹⁵ NOTE: The prosecutor in this case appears as James Futcher in the Calendar of Prisoners & the *Hampshire Chronicle*, although no evidence is given in this newspaper; and as named as James Fulcher in the *Hampshire Advertiser & The Morning Herald (London)*; The *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* reports that the events took place at Mitcheldever not Mitchelmersh

He had a hammer in his hand. There was a dispute about money, and I told him it should be settled by a Magistrate. Tongs was there, with a hammer in his hand. He is a blacksmith. Collins, Palmer, and Rogers, were also there, with sticks. All the prisoners went to the barn, where part of the machine was – some part was in the rick-house. I had taken the machine down, by the advice of my landlord. It could have been put up again, but they broke it to pieces. When I objected to give Fielder the half crown, I stated that I should not give them anything after the handsome manner in which we had behaved to them in the morning. He held up the hammer to my head, and said if I did not give the half crown I should not sleep again. The meeting of the farmers was relative to the labourers' wages.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Futcher replied, 'I saw only Tongs and Fielder taking an active part in destroying the machinery. I was not there all the time. I saw Rogers by the rick-house door, breaking the machine. I did not see Palmer and Collins take an active part; they were standing there and calling out with the rest.'

Henry Wilkins was called, and said, 'I was at Mr Futcher's when the mob was destroying the machinery. Fielder, Collins, and Palmer were there. I saw Collins with one part of the machine in his hand, breaking another part, by the rick-house.'

Arthur Druce was called, and said, 'I saw all the prisoners at Mr Futcher's. I saw Fielder, Collins, Palmer, and Tongs, breaking the machine.'⁵⁹⁶

Several witnesses were called who gave all the prisoners a very good character.

Mr Justice Parke summed up the case and the Jury found Fielder, Tongs, Palmer, and Collins *Guilty*, and *Acquitted* Rogers.

Several of the Jury then spoke strongly in favour of the good character of John Tongs, who has a wife and five children and up until this time he has always borne an excellent character, and begged to recommend him to mercy. Mr Futcher, the prosecutor, also begged to recommend all the prisoners to mercy.

Mr Justice Parke then ordered that the prisoners who had pleaded guilty to a charge of riot earlier this morning should be brought up, to receive the sentence of the Court.

The prisoners were placed in the dock, and Mr Justice Parke addressed them in a most feeling manner, and pointed out to them, that although they had not committed an act of considerable enormity, it was necessary for the safety of the country, and the preservation of property, that the law should be put in force in their case. He continued, 'Riotous assemblages are illegal, and, in almost every instance, lead to the commission of acts for which the offenders are liable to suffer capital punishment. Fortunately for you, however, in consequence of the prompt and spirited conduct of the Reverend Magistrate (Mr Wright), you were prevented from carrying into effect those designs which, in all probability, would have rendered you guilty of a capital offence. The conduct of the Vicar cannot be too highly applauded, and it is to be regretted that other Magistrates had not been equally prompt.'

The Learned Judge then sentenced the prisoners to imprisonment for one month, (to commence from the date of the Special Commission, so that they have only but about a fortnight's confinement to go), in the Bridewell prison of Winchester, and then to enter into their own recognizances for £50 to keep the peace for two years.

Arthur Fielder, John Tongs, John Collins and George Palmer, and Henry Rogers, were again indicted, along with George Collins, for having feloniously destroyed the threshing machine of Mr Gale. The prisoners composed part of the mob which had gone to Hall Farm, from which place they had proceeded to Mr Gale's, where they broke a threshing machine.⁵⁹⁷

Several witnesses swore to having seen all the prisoners in the barn when the machine was broken. Some of them were engaged in the work of destruction, and took a very active part. The others were looking on.

In his defence John Tongs said, 'I was with the mob, but I was persuaded to join them. I had stayed at home later that morning than I otherwise would have done, as I had a job to do, and

⁵⁹⁶ NOTE: Mr Futcher's reply when questioned by the court and the evidence given by Wilkins & Druce does not appear in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁵⁹⁷ NOTE: An Aaron Gale of King Somborne, received £50 in reward money for information given against George & John Collins, Palmer & Rogers

because I was afraid that I might be laid hold of by the mob. I had no intention of injuring any person.'

The other prisoners said they had been induced to go with their own parish, rather than that they should be pressed and made to go by the Timsbury mob, which they had heard was on the way. They would not otherwise have thought of going.

In his defence John Collins said. 'I had been watching my master's ricks for several nights, lest they should be set on fire. I was there on the morning the mob came and they induced me to join them.'

His master, Mr Futcher, confirmed that this was indeed the case.

Mr Justice Parke summed up the evidence.

The Jury found all the prisoners *Guilty*, but recommended them to mercy, in consequence of their previous good character, and the excitement they were under at the time.

John Hudson, aged 33, Edward Sydenham, aged 21, John Duke, aged 20, William Jenman, aged 21, and George Tadd, aged 21, were indicted for having feloniously broken and destroyed, on the 18th of November, a threshing machine, the property of Gawain Holloway, at the parish of Warblington

Hudson and Sydenham pleaded *Guilty*.

Mr Sergeant Wilde, in stating the case to the Jury, observed that it was one of those, which had so unfortunately arisen out of the late disturbed condition in which the country had been.

Mr Holloway proved that the whole of the prisoners were present, and countenancing the machine breaking. Duke and Todd took an active part.

This evidence was corroborated by a young gentleman of the name of Walker, who proved that Duke and Todd were taking an active part in the destruction of the machine.⁵⁹⁸

Mr Justice Parke went over the evidence, and the Jury found all the prisoners *Guilty*.

John Hudson, Edward Sydenham, John Duke and William Jenman were again placed at the bar, together with James Ford, aged 19, and Samuel Morey, aged 19, indicted with having feloniously destroyed a threshing machine, belonging to Sarah Holloway and others, at the parish of Havant, on the 18th of November last.

The prisoners formed part of the mob which was ravaging this district on the 18th of November, and in its rounds the machine of the prosecutor was one of those which fell under its devastating hand. The evidence showed the prisoners to have been very active in the destruction of this machine.

The prisoners offered no defence. Morey called Mr Arker to speak on his behalf. Mr Arker said, 'Morey was a bricklayer or a bricklayer's labourer. If he worked with a trowel he earned 3s a day, 2s a day if he worked as a labourer. He is a single man and I have never heard anything said against him.'

Another witness stated that Hudson was a carter, Duke a general labourer and Jenman a well digger. They earn from 14s to 16s a week but are not in constant employment.

The Crown declined pressing for convictions against the four prisoners, Hudson, Duke, Sydenham, and Jenman, as they had all either pleaded guilty or had already been convicted of another offence.

The Jury *Acquitted* the above named prisoners, and found James Ford and Samuel Morey *Guilty*.

George Jenman, aged 20, was indicted for feloniously destroying a threshing machine, the property of James Stephens of Castle Warblington Farm, in the parish of Warblington.

It was shown that the prisoner had been very active in breaking the machine. He had also demanded money from Mr Stephens and had threatened to burn down his house if he did not receive it. No money was handed over.

The Jury instantly found the prisoner *Guilty*.

⁵⁹⁸ NOTE: It would seem that the young gentleman in question was David Palmer Walker of Emsworth House – In a letter to the Treasury Solicitor he says – 'I was the only one out of at least 150 witnesses was willing to appear.' He was informed that as the men had been apprehended before the Proclamation offering the reward had been issued, no reward was due to him

William Broadhurst, aged 20, James Ward, aged 22, William Ward, aged 23, Henry Brown, aged 20, and John Payne, aged 28, were indicted for having feloniously, on the 23rd of November, at the parish of East Woodhay, robbed Benjamin Canning of the sum of 8s, his moneys.

Benjamin Canning was called, and said, ‘On the night of the 23rd November the prisoners, with about 20 others, came to my shop, and demanded 10s. It was 11 o’clock at night, and on my refusing to give them the money, they threatened to pull the roof off my house. I told them that I had given money before, and I could not, therefore, afford to give any more. Upon this they said they would pull the house down, and one of them called out, ‘Fire!’ I ultimately borrowed the money because some of them began to knock violently at the shutters, and I gave it to them. All the prisoners were there. They pulled down the gate, before they came up to the house, and called out for bread, beer and money.’

On being cross-examined by the Court, Mr Canning replied, ‘I do not remember that Brown made any demand of money from me. Payne it was who cried out, ‘Fire!’ I do not know who it was that demanded the money. William Ward struck the shutters, and threatened to knock the house down. Broadhurst called out, ‘Bread and Money’, or ‘Bread or Money, as well as others.’

Mr Justice Parke then ordered that the deposition Mr Canning had made before the Magistrates be read out. It was read out and appeared to differ in many points with his statement he had just made.

The prisoners made no defence.

Mr Justice Parke, in his summing up, called the attention of the Jury to the discrepancies in the statements of Mr Canning; and said it would be for them to say what degree of credit they could give to his evidence.

After a short consultation the Jury *Acquitted* all the prisoners, and the foreman stated that the Jury could not rely on the evidence of the prosecutor.⁵⁹⁹

Peter Houghton, age 34, James Houghton, aged 39, Richard Etherington, the younger, aged 20, John Stoneage, aged 49, and John Chalk, aged 32, were indicted for feloniously destroying a threshing machine, belonging to Thomas Pink, at the parish of Durley, on the 22nd of November. Peter and James Houghton are tithingmen in their division.

From their evidence it seems that the prisoners were part of a mob that had assembled in Durley on the 22nd November and it was proved that all, except James Houghton had taken an active part in the destruction of Mr Pink’s threshing machine.

The Reverend Mr Haygarth spoke in very high terms of the characters of the two Houghton’s, and Stoneage. ‘They were all men in great distress, some of them having large families. They were men of the best character, and had always been looked upon as honest and respectable, and they were most regular in their attendance at church. I should not think, on any other occasion, they would not have been guilty of such an act as that for which they are now being tried. During the eight years I have known the parish of Durley, where these men lived, I am happy to say that not one person has been committed to Winchester for any offence, before this case.’

The Jury *Acquitted* James Houghton, and found all the other prisoners *Guilty*, but recommending them to mercy.⁶⁰⁰

William Abraham, aged 26, and William Varndell, aged 31, were indicted for riotously and unlawfully assembling together, with other persons, armed with offensive weapons, at the parish of Wickham, on the 23rd November.

Mr Sergeant Wilde said that the prisoners were charged with having unlawfully assembled, with nearly 200 other persons, armed with offensive weapons, on the 23rd November.

The mob had created considerable disturbance, and notwithstanding the urgent remonstrance of the Magistrates, they refused to disperse, and the authorities after having in vain read the Riot Act were compelled to send for the assistance of a military force before they could induce the mob to separate.

Witnesses were then produced, who identified the prisoners as some of those men who were assembled on the day in question.

⁵⁹⁹ *The Morning Herald*, 29 December 1830

⁶⁰⁰ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830

In his evidence Mr Poore, a magistrate, said, 'on the 23rd November I saw the mob on Shirrell Heath. Many were armed with axes, hammers and hedge stakes, the prisoner Abraham carried a spade. I told them to disperse and they had refused so I had gone to Wickham to get some soldiers. When I returned the prisoners were taken into custody.'

In his defence Abraham said, 'I was going to my work, carrying my spade, when I was stopped by the mob and obliged to go with them.'

Varndell said, 'I was going along with my team, carrying a load of chalk, when I was stopped by the mob and forced to go with them. Twice I had tried to get away but was prevented by the mob.' A witness called on his behalf said that he knew this to be true. 'Varndell's team had been taken home by some small boys. Varndell had always born an excellent character.'

A clergyman was called on Abraham's behalf, and said, 'Abraham has lived in my parish for seven years, he has a wife and a large family of small children.'

Mr Justice Parke summed up the case, and the Jury found both the prisoners *Guilty* of having formed part of a riotous assembly.

Mr Justice Parke, after pointing out to the prisoners the danger of their taking part in any assembly of this description – an assembly having for its avowed object the raising of wages - sentenced Abraham to one month, and Varndell to six weeks' imprisonment, and, at the expiration of that time, to enter into their own recognizance of £50 each, to keep the peace for two years.⁶⁰¹

The Court was adjourned at eight o'clock.

⁶⁰¹ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830

Wednesday, 29th December 1830

Crown Court

Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Alderson took their seats at the bench in the Crown Court this morning at nine o'clock.

John Cobb, aged 27, William Hoare, aged 39, Thomas Hoare, aged 26, Henry Bone, aged 31, John Newland, aged 39, William Bicknell, aged 23, John Trimming, aged 25, Benjamin Smith, aged 23, and Robert Bennett, aged 16, were indicted for riotously assembling before the house of the Reverend William Rust Cobbold, Vicar of Selborne, and compelling him to sign a paper, purporting that he would consent to take a reduced annual rate to £300 for his tithes, much below their actual value; and another count charged them with riot. (Aaron Harding and Robert Holdaway are not included in the charge, having already been capitally convicted.)⁶⁰²

This case had arisen as part of the Selborne mobs activity when the poor house had been attacked. Many of those charged today have already appeared before this Court. The most unfortunate feature of this case is, that though it was for the most part a mob of labourers, there were a number of farmers present, not present as if forced to join, but voluntarily looking on, and who, it appears encouraged the mob in their actions and offered no assistance to Mr Cobbold.

The Reverend Mr Cobbold was called, and said, 'I am Vicar of Selborne. On the 22nd of November, in consequence of something I heard, I left my house, at seven in the morning, about 50 yards away, I saw not more than seven or eight assembled, among them were two or three of my own labourers. I heard them say they were going to pull old Harrison out of the workhouse. Soon after I saw Aaron Harding join the men, and say they must have 12s a week. I said I saw no objection, as I paid my labourers at a higher rate than was paid in the parish, some had 14s, and in addition a cottage and garden. Harding said, 'We must have a touch of your tithes.' I treated this as a joke and said he must be aware that I had been very kind to the poor, particularly to his family, and that if he reduced my income I could not continue it. He said the tithes must be reduced to £300 a year; that was quite enough, and according to their regulation, adding that £4 a week was quite enough, to which Trimming agreed. I said 'You've a large party today.' Harding said, 'Yes, come and look at them.' I said, 'I shall not consent to have my tithes reduced.' Harding said, 'The farmers have undertaken to raise our wages, and we have undertaken to reduce the tithes.' I went into my house, and at nine o'clock I heard a horn and saw I saw two flags, and a mob of 300 or 400. I saw John Cobb, Aaron Harding and Robert Holdaway. Cobb was very drunk, and he took a very violent part. They again repeated that their object was to raise their wages, and to reduce the tithes to £300 a year. Harding said, 'We shall now go and turn old Harrison out first, and then come back to you – stop till we come back, or it will be the worse for you.' The greater part then went off, blowing a horn. About 50 or 100 remained, so that they could watch my movements. I talked to them quietly for about half an hour. I heard something, and went towards the workhouse, and met a person running in great fear, he warned me to take care of myself, as the mob were coming back and bent on mischief. I ran back to my house, where I waited till the mob came up, Cobb, Trimming, and Harding were with them, pressing against my gate. I asked what they were about. Cobb said, 'You must lower your tithe to £300 a year.' Harding repeated the same in a very violent manner. I said they could not be in earnest. Several farmers came to me, but they merely looked on tamely; one was the High Constable. I asked him to assist me; he said he could do nothing as it was no use to resist the mob. Hori Hale, a farmer, said, 'For God's sake agree to their terms, or you'll be murdered, and your house pulled down.' At last I found it necessary to submit. Mr Hale then called out to them that I would agree; they said they would have it in black and white, and cheered. I sent Henry Eade, a churchwarden, into the house to draw up an agreement, which he

⁶⁰² The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 3 January 1831; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1831; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 & 31 December 1830; *The Times*, 30 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from The Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

brought out, and I signed it. The mob asked the farmers, about ten of them, to witness it, which they did.'⁶⁰³

Mr Baron Vaughan asked, 'Have there been no indictments against these farmers.'

Mr Dampier replied, 'No, my Lord.'

The Reverend Mr Cobbold, continued, 'The contents of the paper were then read to the mob, who formed a circle, after it was read they gave three cheers. They then said they required a copy of it, and Eade made a copy. The original was left with the farmers; there were as many as ten farmers present. After the paper was signed the mob wanted money, which I refused, they then wanted beer, which I told them they should not have. One of the principal farmers proposed that I should let them have £2 worth of beer and put it down in the poor-book. I said, 'Do as you like.' Mr Bridger, head farmer of the parish, went towards the public house to order the beer, which was carried to them in buckets. The bill since brought in to the guardians was £3 16s. They then went away, after having remained three hours. They had conducted themselves in a particularly violent manner; and I signed the paper from a conviction that if I did not do so they would pull my house down.'

Mr Henry Collyer, bailiff to Mr Cobbold, confirmed the testimony of his master, and was able to recognise six of the prisoners as being part of the mob, and said, 'Mr Cobbold said he must sign the paper to save his life. I gave the original paper to farmer James Bridger.'⁶⁰⁴

James Deadman was called, and identified Benjamin Smith, William Bicknell, John Newland, Thomas Hoare, William Hoare, Henry Bone, and Robert Bennett, as being among the mob. 'I saw Benjamin Smith acting with violence at Headley workhouse, and Bicknell with a large stick in his hand. Henry Bone struck me with a stick.'⁶⁰⁵

John Newland was the only prisoner to make any defence and as on the previous occasion he stated that he had a drink and that, since he had been wounded in the head while on service abroad, even a small amount of drink had affected him.

Sergeant Allsop was called, and gave John Newland a good character, and said, 'I knew him in the Hampshire Militia. He received a wound in his head in the army.'

The Reverend Mr Cobbold, said, 'The prisoner John Newland is a very quiet inoffensive man, except when he has been drinking.'

When questioned by the Court, Mr Cobbold said, 'Three hundred pounds is not one half the value of the tithe.'

Edward Fitt, the farmer who Benjamin Smith worked for, was called, and said, 'I am a farmer at Selborne. Benjamin Smith has worked for me all his life. He always did his duty and is a quiet, honest man.'

Mr Baron Vaughan spoke to Mr Fitt, 'I hope you are not one of those farmers who were present exciting the mob to make the demand on the clergyman?'

Mr Fitt replied, 'My Lord, I was present at Mr Cobbold's when the mob was there.'

'Sir, you ought to be ashamed of your conduct,' said His Lordship. 'You who, from your station, should know better, first incite these poor men to commit a very serious offence, and then you appear here to give one of them a character.'

In answer to a question from the Attorney General, Mr Fitt replied, 'I was one of the farmers who signed the agreement as a witness.'

To which Mr Baron Vaughan replied, 'Then Sir I must tell you that you may consider yourself very lucky that you are not standing in that dock, charged with this offence. I think you merit it as much or more than any of those poor men who now stand before me. It is really disgraceful to see such a transaction as this by men in your condition.'

The Attorney-General addressed Mr Baron Vaughan, 'I think it right, my Lord, to state that in another case in which Mr Fitt was a witness his evidence did not agree with his deposition; and, perhaps, therefore, your Lordship will not allow him his expenses.'

Mr Baron Vaughan spoke to Mr Fitt again, 'I understand you were active in endeavouring to prevent the mob doing violence at the workhouse. That is in some way redeeming of your conduct

⁶⁰³ NOTE: The farmer is named as Mr Hale in the *Hampshire Chronicle* and as Mr Hill in *The Morning Herald (London)*

⁶⁰⁴ NOTE: Mr Cobbold's bailiff is named as Henry Heath in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁶⁰⁵ NOTE: This witness is named as Mr James Debman in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

on this occasion, but it was well for you and the other farmers who were present at that meeting, and who signed the agreement, that they have not been indicted for their conduct.⁶⁰⁶

Mr Baron Vaughan summed up the case, and observed to the Jury, ‘The present case is one of the most serious offences you have had to try, compelling by force and threats a clergyman to give up a portion of his tithes; and the worst part of the case is, that in this illegal act the mob were incited by persons who should have known better. Those farmers, to their disgrace, had entered into this sort of understanding with the labourers – ‘We will undertake to raise your wages, but you must undertake to obtain a reduction of the tithes’ – had as little right to take that course, as they had to urge the same mob to go and take the money out of the clergyman’s pocket. No less than 11 prisoners are charged under this indictment, although nine only appear at the bar. Robert Holdaway and Aaron Harding, having already been capitally convicted, it is not necessary that they should be again arraigned for a minor offence. It appears to me from the alarming facts disclosed during the trial, to be the most serious one which has come under the consideration of the Court. The Rector or Vicar of a parish is as much entitled to his tithes as any other person is to the possession of his property, and whatever opinions may be entertained on the subject, until the Legislature should see fit to make an alteration, all are bound to conform to the law in its present shape. It is not to be endured that persons in the situation of farmers should set the example of resistance, and lend themselves to this disgraceful proceeding. With respect to the proof offered in support of the indictment, I think it impossible that the Jury can shut their eyes to the fact that a compulsory agreement for a reduction of tithes has been clearly proved, and that persons of a superior station have countenanced the act. Now the moral guilt of any of these individuals was not less than that of those just tried for the crime of robbery. I am not aware that any indictments have been preferred against those who were instrumental in exciting these persons to acts of outrage and riot; but would caution them against running into extreme peril by pursuing such conduct, and hope, after what has transpired in Court today, that they will in future be restrained from it by a sense of moral right or moral wrong; that they will at least feel they have placed themselves in a situation of imminent peril, by giving encouragement to proceedings of this kind. I cannot help saying that I very much regret not seeing some of the farmers at the bar.’⁶⁰⁷

His Lordship then went through the whole of the evidence with great minuteness.

After a short consultation, the Jury returned their verdict, finding John Cobb, William Hoare, Thomas Hoare, Henry Bone, John Newland, John Trimming, and Benjamin Smith, *Guilty*, and William Bicknell, and Robert Bennett, *Not Guilty*.

Mr Baron Vaughan then sentenced John Cobb, William Hoare, and Thomas Hoare to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, and kept to hard labour, for two years; Henry Bone and John Trimming for one year. The cases of John Newland and Benjamin Smith had circumstances of extenuation in them, in consideration of which, the Court would give them a mitigated punishment – namely, that they be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for six months.

He concluded, ‘I hope this will prove a warning to those who had instigated these persons to act in this unlawful manner.’⁶⁰⁸

Robert Mason, aged 24, who had already been tried and acquitted several times on other charges, was put to the bar, charged this time with having, on the 18th November, along with several others, assembled round the house of the Reverend James Jolliffe, at Barton Stacey, and by threats and violence obtained 5s from him.

The Attorney-General stated the case and proceed to call the witnesses.

The Reverend James Jolliffe was called, and said, ‘I am Curate of Barton Stacey. On the 18th of November a mob, of around 80 persons, came to my house at about 12 o’clock. Some were armed; some came into the court. I was at the door of my house. I was apprehensive they would force their way into my house. Mason asked for meat and drink in a commanding tone. I said, ‘You know I am only a curate and cannot give you much.’ He said, ‘You have more than we have, and you must give us something.’ One of them said, ‘You have it, and we want it. We have been living on potatoes long enough, and we must now have something better.’ The others said, ‘We must have 5s.’ They insisted on having something. I then gave 5s. Mason was with one of the people I

⁶⁰⁶ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶⁰⁷ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁶⁰⁸ *The Morning Herald, (London) 30 December 1830; Hampshire Advertiser; Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

gave it to. I gave the money because I was fearful they would break the windows, and force their way into the house. After I had given them the money they went away. I have no threshing machine. I live in the vicarage house, and do not farm. Mason does not live in my parish. They said they had lived long enough on potatoes – they came for something, and would have something. This was before I gave them the money. The prisoner rents a piece of land in an adjoining parish.'

Mason then questioned Mr Jolliffe, 'Mr Jolliffe, I ask you, did you know me to be guilty of one dishonest act in my life?'

'Never,' replied Mr Jolliffe.

'Or any breach of the peace?' continued Mason.

'Never,' was the reply again.

In answer to other questions put by the prisoner, Mr Jolliffe replied, 'I have known the prisoner for ten or twelve years. He has always borne the character of an honest man. He used to attend one of the churches, of which I am curate, as a musician. The pathway by which the mob came went past my door. I did not see him when the mob first came, but I did see him before I gave the money. He had a large stick in his hand.'⁶⁰⁹

John Courtney was called, and said, 'I live in Barton Stacey. On the 18th of November a set of persons, among whom was the prisoner, came to my house, between one and two o'clock, in a body. They demanded money or beer. They said they usually got half a sovereign. I gave them half a sovereign. The prisoners back was towards me. I never saw his face, but I am sure it was him. He has always borne a good character. He eats pigs and keeps a cow. He is not a person in distress.' Leonard Lywood was called, and said, 'I am a farmer at Barton Stacey. I saw the prisoner at my house with a large mob on the 18th of November. He was in the midst of them. I asked them what they wanted. They said they wanted their wages raised, and asked if I had a machine. I said I had. They said it must come down. I said I should not take it down, but I dare say they would do as they pleased. They replied, they were determined to do away with machines and scythes instead of reaphooks. They must have money. I said I would give them 5s. They said they must have a sovereign. I told them I would give them 10s, and no more. Some said they would take it. They ordered my labourers to come out. I gave a man 10s. It appeared to me to be overwhelming force. I told them I had no power against a mob.'⁶¹⁰

In his defence Mason said, 'The mob had passed my door and I was compelled to join them. I went with them to Mr Jolliffe's, thinking that as clergymen were more in the habit of speaking than the others, Mr Jolliffe might address the mob, and induce them to depart. I solemnly assure the Jury that I had gone to the house of Mr Jolliffe without any dishonest intention. I have always been an honest man, honest I am, and honest I shall continue to be. As to my being present on this occasion, it was the result of accident, and no more. I was compelled to join the mob. The stick I had was put into my hand by some one of the mob. I have no more to say but this - that the fact of my being there is not, of itself, a proof of any guilt; and, I may add, that if the Learned Counsel who has painted my case to you in such colours, had been in the road with a smock-frock on, instead of a gown, and a straw hat, instead of a wig, he would now be standing in this dock, instead of being seated where he is, for the mob had whippers-in, who would not allow a single person to leave. I have never committed a dishonest act in my life, an honest man I have always been, an honest man I still am, and an honest man I shall ever continue.'

Mason called some witnesses to speak on his behalf.

Enos Diddams, a shoemaker was called, and said, 'I have known the prisoner more than 10 years. He has always been an honest, industrious, and peaceable man.'

James Wickham was called, and said, 'The prisoner is a gardener, and occupies a bit of land.'

William Wickham, a farmer, was called, and gave the prisoner an excellent character.

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the case and, left it to the Jury to say, whether the prisoner was there by his own will or by force.

After consulting for some time the Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty*, but strongly recommended him to mercy, on account of his previous good character.⁶¹¹

⁶⁰⁹ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Advertiser; Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶¹⁰ NOTE: According to the *Hampshire Telegraph* this took place at the house of Mr Courtney

⁶¹¹ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle; Hampshire Telegraph; Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

William Skelton, aged 30, Joseph Mabey, aged 33, William Rogers, aged 35, William Rose, aged 24, Henry Cook, aged 27, Edward Doling, aged 25, and John Harding, aged 26, were indicted for breaking a threshing machine, the property of William Henry Lintott, of Warren Farm, near Baddesley, in the night of the 22nd November.⁶¹²

Thomas Bright was called, and said, 'I live at Warren Farm, near Romsey. I know Skelton, Doling, and John Harding. I saw William Skelton with a mob of 100 persons on the 23rd of November. They came to the farm in the dead of night, I was in the road when they approached, expecting them. They were lively, having had some beer. They came all round the house. Skelton was more free than the rest. He demanded some victual and drink. They broke a threshing machine to pieces. Skelton did nothing to the machine; he was some distance from it. The mob desired to have the machine shown to them. Skelton was near enough to hear. They made me get a light to take into the barn.'

William Hancock was called, and said, 'I am Servant to Mr Lintott, at Warren Farm. I was in the Grove when the mob came. I saw Skelton and Rose among them. The mob asked where the threshing machine was. Skelton was pushing the mob, and had a large stick in his hand.'

John Cholescomb was called, and said, 'I was with the mob. I was enticed away, and went with them. There were about 100. Several of us went and knocked at Bright's door, and asked for a light, and where the Machine was. A woman came to the door and said it was in the barn. They went and found the door locked; they returned and got the key, and went into the barn with large sticks and began to break the machine. I could see them do it. I saw Skelton, Rose, Rogers, Doling, and Harding, in the farm yard, at the door, when someone asked for the key of the barn. The prisoners all had large sticks in their hands.'

On being cross-examined, John Cholescomb replied, 'I was taken up, but I did not tell this till after I had been in custody.'

Josh. Bettridge was called, and said, 'I am a labourer. I was with the mob. I know William Rose, Doling and Cook. They were with the mob against the barn. I was six days in gaol.'

Mr Baron Vaughan said, 'This is a case of Suspicion only; some of the prisoners were there, but they had not been seen breaking the machine.'

The prisoners were, therefore, *Acquitted*.⁶¹³

John White or Whitebread, aged 29, was charged with breaking a threshing machine at Upper Clatford, on the 19th November, the property of Joseph Wakeford, he was also charged with beginning to break the machine.

Joseph Wakeford was called, and said, 'In the afternoon of the 19th November the threshing machine was broken by a mob. They cried, 'Down with the machine.' The iron wheels were broken.'

William Robinson was called, and said, 'I am a constable at Andover, and was sent for to Mr Wakeford's, where I found a large mob of persons. As soon as I got through them I seized the prisoner. I saw him striking the wheel with a large stick before I got to him. I asked why he did it. He said, 'D – n your eyes, what's that to you?' I knew this man, and therefore I took another I did not know to the gaol; and shortly after the prisoner, at the head of a large mob, came and attacked the gaol, and we were obliged to let the other man go.'

Thomas Shurmer was called, and said, 'I went down to Mr Wakeford's with a Magistrate. When I got there I saw the prisoner on the platform of the machine, with a pickaxe, and afterwards with a stick, breaking the machine. I got on the platform. The man who was rescued called himself Sir something, and said, 'He would be d – d if every machine should not be destroyed.' He has not been heard of since. He was a perfect stranger, and said in gaol that he came from Sussex. White was the most active in effecting the man's escape.'

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the case, and the Jury found the prisoner *Guilty* of breaking the machine, with intent to destroy it.

⁶¹² Note: The prisoner Edward Doling is named as Edward Dowling in the *Hampshire Chronicle*; neither John Harding nor Joseph Mabey are named in the *Hampshire Chronicle* for this offence. The offence took place on the night of 22nd or early morning of the 23rd November

⁶¹³ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830. No evidence is given in the account in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

Mr Justice Alderson then sentenced the prisoner to seven years' transportation.⁶¹⁴

Joseph Hall, aged 30, William Webb and Arthur Fielder, aged 43, were put to the bar charged with various robberies, but as a conviction had already been returned against them on minor offences the Attorney General considered that public justice had been sufficiently satisfied. The Crown therefore offered no evidence against them and they were acquitted of these charges.

Mr Baron Vaughan stated to them that they were under great obligations to the Crown for the lenity shown them.⁶¹⁵

John Gold, aged 29, William Astridge, aged 43, and Thomas Bennett, aged 23, were then put to the bar and charged with a robbery. As the principal witness for the Crown in the case, Cassandra Hankey, was indisposed the Attorney General felt he was justified in asking that these prisoners be remanded to appear at the next assize. They were entered into their own recognizance for £40 each to appear when called.⁶¹⁶

John Moody, aged 24, William Burbage, aged 50, and John Delacourt, were put to the bar charged with riot. They pleaded *Guilty* and judgement was not pressed against them. They were discharged on their own recognizances. The Court told them that if they conducted themselves well in the intervening period they might not be called upon, but if they committed any breach of peace the judgement passed would be very heavy.⁶¹⁷

William Baker, aged 40, John Payne, aged 28, Thomas Hussey, Charles Frome, and James Alderman, were indicted for assaulting and robbing Mrs Jane Povey, wife of William Povey at Highclere, on the 23rd November.⁶¹⁸

Jane Povey, the wife of William Povey, of Highclere, was called, and said, 'On the 23rd November, at about four or five in the morning, the mob came to my house. I was up, being alarmed by the noise of a horn. My husband was gone out to look round Mr Arundell's farm, to whom he was bailiff. The five prisoners were among them. A man demanded two sovereigns. I told him I had none. They did not speak so loud as I do now, and the prisoners were further from the man who spoke than I am from the Jury-box.' (The Jury were complaining that they could not hear the witness). 'The men then went towards a threshing and winnowing machine, which was broken that morning. They afterwards came back again. The prisoners were with them. A man demanded a sovereign and said if I did not give it him he would knock the house down. The prisoners were very near to him. He was standing a little in front. There was no one in the house besides myself and children, and my father, who is very infirm.'

On being cross-examined by the Court, Mrs Povey replied, 'William Baker, John Payne, and Thomas Hussey, are labourers. I had a candle, and could see them, though it was quite dark. I spoke to William Baker. He said he was sorry to see me so much frightened. I also spoke to Frome. I brought out some bread and cheese. The bread was thrown back. Baker said, 'Don't rob the woman,' and he said he would try and set them away. I never heard anything against him.'

In his defence William Baker said, 'I was pressed out of my bed about an hour before. My wife said I was not at home, but they would not be satisfied.'

He is a good looking man, and wept during the time he was making his defence.

John Payne made the same defence.

Charles Frome said, 'I was pressed. I was taken before a magistrate, and bound to keep the peace. Mrs Povey had not at that time made a charge against me.'

⁶¹⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*.

⁶¹⁵ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December 1830

⁶¹⁶ NOTE: The prisoners John Gold is named as John Gould in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁶¹⁷ NOTE: The prisoner John Delacourt appears as John Delacour in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

⁶¹⁸ NOTE: In the *Hampshire Advertiser* the prisoners are accused of robbing Jane Povey, wife of William Povey at Highclere, and the prisoner John Payne is named as John Paine. In the *Hampshire Chronicle* the prisoners are accused of robbing Mrs Jane Povey, of Highclere, of a sovereign & some provisions. In the Calendar of Prisoners William Baker is accused of robbing Anna Povey of one sovereign, the monies of Joseph Povey at East Woodhay, and Burbage and Moody are accused of taking money and beer from Sarah Bailey at Mottisfont. Joseph Povey, a widower, and Anna were married at Highclere in 1826

Mr Justice Alderson summed up the case and the Jury *Acquitted* all the prisoners. It seems there was reason to believe that the men had been compelled to join the mob from Kintbury.⁶¹⁹

Henry Cook, aged 19, was indicted for breaking a threshing machine, at Northington Down Farm, and for striking Mr William Bingham Baring, Esquire, with a sledge hammer, with the intent to murder him, and was further indicted for a common assault.

The Attorney General briefly stated the case to the Jury, and called Mr William Bingham Baring. ‘On the 19th of November a mob of about thirty or forty persons proceeded from Stratton towards Northington Down Farm. Some of the men had sledge hammers, and others had sticks. They told me that they were going to Northington Down Farm to break a machine. On learning this I went back to obtain assistance from The Grange, and returned with 25 persons to the farm. When I arrived there I was told that the machine had already been broken. I saw the mob standing near Mr Dowden’s house. I got off my horse, went forward and expostulated with them. While I was doing so, one of the mob said, ‘I did not know Mr Baring was good to the poor.’ Shortly after that I then called for their spokesman, and John Silcock came forward, and said, ‘We have broken this machine, and intend to break all the others.’ I made him repeat these words several times, and then collared him, and, before I could turn round, I was knocked down from behind by a blow between my shoulders, on the collar of my coat, it was given by some heavy instrument, and I was incapable of bearing up against, and I sunk under the blow instantly, and lost my senses for some moments. On recovering, I found myself in the arms of one of my own men, who had come forward. The mob were still there. I could not swear to the person who gave the blow. I should add that the prisoner, Cook, had never seen me before, and, therefore, could not have had malice towards me, but it must have been done in the heat of the moment.’

William Tibble was called, and said, ‘I was at Northington Down Farm on the 19th November, I went with Mr Baring. There were a great number of persons there, and Mr Bingham Baring was there. I saw Cook come up with a sledge hammer on his shoulder. I saw the sledge hammer rise, and immediately fall, but could not see any hand, or where it fell. As soon as I saw the hammer drop, I saw George Harding lay hold of Cook, and I ran and did the same.’⁶²⁰

George Harding was called, and said, ‘I went with Mr Baring to the farm. As soon as Mr Baring collared the man, I heard several of the mob cry out, ‘Go to work!’ I saw a man with a sledge hammer, and heard him say, ‘God damn you, get out of my way.’ He raised the sledge hammer with both hands, and knocked Mr Bingham Baring down. He struck the brim of his hat and the collar of his coat; and when Mr Baring was down the man lifted up the hammer as if he was going to strike again. I said, ‘You blackguard rascal, will you hit him again?’ I struck him under the ear with my fist, and seized the hammer. I should think the hammer weighed at least six pounds, the handle was about two feet six inches long.’

The Reverend Robert Wright was called, and said, ‘I am a Magistrate. The prisoner was brought before me in the gaol. I told him of the charge, and told him not to say anything that might injure him. He said this, which was taken down in writing.’

Cook’s statement was read out.

‘I was the person who knocked Mr Bingham Baring down with the hammer; and the reason I did so was because a man behind me said he would knock me down if I did not.’

The prisoner Cook is a labourer.

Mr Wright produced a large quantity of sledge hammers which he had taken from the rioters on the Monday following (22nd November), at Itchen. These rioters had been with the mob when Mr Baring was assaulted. One of the hammers was recognised by George Harding as similar to the instrument with which Mr Baring was assaulted.⁶²¹

Mr Frederick Baring was called and said, ‘I saw the machine at Northington Down Farm, before the mob went there in the afternoon. I saw the machine was broken.’

⁶¹⁹ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 30 December 1830; The prisoner James Alderman is named as James Haldimand and Charles Froome as Charles Troome in the *Hampshire Chronicle*; John Payne is named as John Payne in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

⁶²⁰ NOTE: This evidence does not appear in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, and the witness is named as William Tibbett in the account in *The Morning Herald (London)*, & *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*, and as William Tibbell in the *Hampshire Chronicle & Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶²¹ *Hampshire Chronicle*; *Hampshire Telegraph*. NOTE: The Reverend Wright’s evidence and Henry Cook’s statement do not appear in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

Cook was asked what he had to say in his defence, he replied, 'I beg Mr Baring's pardon.'⁶²²
Mr Baron Vaughan went through the evidence and in summing up the case explained the acceptance of the term 'malice aforethought' as the law regarded it
The Jury found the prisoner *Guilty* of the assault, with intent to murder.⁶²³

Mr Justice Alderson passed sentence upon the following prisoners, who were placed at the bar: - John Allen, David Champ, Thomas Heighes and John Hopgood, convicted of breaking machines - seven years' transportation; Thomas Stagg, for a like offence, 18months' imprisonment, and to be kept to hard labour; John Smith – 12 months' imprisonment, to be kept to hard labour; Jonathan Woodford and Charles Bryant – three months' imprisonment.

John Baker, James Crew, Thomas Bishop, and William Summerbee, were all found guilty of extorting 40s from William Longman, at Leckford. William Baker, John Annetts, James Cooper and William Watts were indicted for destroying a threshing machine the property of John Fosbury, at Burghclere. Watts was found *Guilty*, all the others *Acquitted*.⁶²⁴

Nisi Prius Court

Mr Justice Parke took his seat in the Nisi Prius Court this morning.

William Adams, aged 35, William Barnes, aged 42, John Hoare, aged 19, James Fussell, aged 20, William Boyes, aged 24, John Boyes, aged 50, and Nicholas Freemantle, aged 30, were indicted for having feloniously robbed Moses Stanbrook, at the parish of Owslebury, on the 23rd November, of a £5 note of the bank of Knapp and Co., his property.

Mr Sergeant Wilde stated that the prosecutor in this case was in the employ of Lord Northesk. The robbery had been committed under similar circumstances to those which they had so frequently heard during these proceedings.

Moses Stanbrook was called and said, 'I am in the service of Lord Northesk, who lives at Rose Hill, in the parish of Owslebury. I was there on the 23rd November between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. I heard a great noise, and on going upstairs I saw a large crowd of men, around 150 – the foremost of whom were William Adams, and Nicholas Freemantle, each of whom had an axe, William Barnes, John Hoare, and William Boyes had a small axe each, I think. I went to the door, and Adams being nearest, I asked him what all that noise was about. He said, 'Have you not got some machinery?' I said, 'No, we have only an old winnowing machine, which is of no use.' Adams said, 'Well we must have that.' After some other conversation, John Boyes, who is not at the bar, came forward, and putting a paper into my hand, which he desired me to sign, it was an agreement to give the labourers two shillings a day. I did so. Then Adams, and some of the others demanded money. I should think all the prisoners were near enough to hear the demand. I told them, 'My Lord was not at home, and that if I gave them any money, it must be out of my own pocket, as I could not charge his Lordship with it.' Someone called out, 'We must have five sovereigns.' I said, 'I have not so much.' They said, 'We must have it.' There were two of the maid servants standing by me, to whom I had previously lent some sovereigns, and from them I then obtained three sovereigns and a half, and offered them, with the one I had in my hand, which made four sovereigns and a half, to the mob; but they said, 'No, that will not do, we must have five; we got that at Mrs Long's, and must have as much from you.' I said, 'Who asks for that sum?' Someone answered, 'One and all.' I then asked if a £5 note would do? Some said yes, and some said no; but they afterwards agreed to take it. I asked who received it, and they pointed out Freemantle. To him I gave the money. The mob then gave three cheers, and said, 'Now for the machine.' I should think that there were as many as 150 men present. I had previously heard a horn blow. Most of the men had weapons. When I first asked them what they wanted, some called out, 'Mutiny.' They told me that they had broken other person's machines, and that they would break mine. When they called out, 'Now for the machine,' I said if they would persist in going round to the barn I would go round and meet you.'

⁶²² *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁶²³ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*; *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶²⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830. NOTE: Thomas Heighes is named as Thomas Hayes in this report & the *Hampshire Telegraph*

On being cross-examined Mr Stanbrook said, 'John Boyes is a farmer in the parish, and farms his own land. He put the paper into my hand. The paper which I signed I read enough of it to see that it was an agreement to raise the wages to 2s a day. I do not know that he had signed it himself. As soon as I had signed the paper I gave it back to John Boyes, and saw nothing more of him. I did not understand from him that he meant anything more than that I should agree to pay more wages. I did not see him come up.'

A paper was handed to Mr Stanbrook who said, 'That is the one I signed, and which was put into my hand by John Boyes.'

The paper was then put in and read. It ran :-

(COPY OF AGREEMENT.)

We the undersigned are willing to give 2s. per day for able bodied married men, and 9s. per week for single men, on consideration of our rents and tithes being abated in proportion.

(Signed.)

The paper had been signed by about a dozen names before Mr Stanbrook affixed his signature.

On being re-examined, Mr Stanbrook replied, 'When John Boyes went away; he turned in a direction away from the mob.'

Grace Lock, one of the female servants, confirmed the testimony of Mr Stanbrook, and added, 'Having received the paper from Mr Stanbrook, John Boyes went and stood in the crowd, about two yards off. It was Adams who particularly said we must have five sovereigns, and it was Adams who had pointed out Freemantle as the receiver of the money, and in doing so said, 'He has been the receiver all day.' I did not see John Boyes in the yard. Barnes is a carpenter, and is clerk of the parish.'

On being cross-examined Grace Lock replied, 'The mob said, if Mr Stanbrook would not give them money, they would break the windows. If John Boyes had gone away, he must have been pushed through the crowd.'

Moses Stanbrook was recalled, and said, 'We paid 9s a week, but the parish allowed but 8s. That paper is the one I signed, and which was put into my hand by John Boyes.'

Mr Stanbrook then said, 'Most of the farmers whose names were attached to the paper were working their own land.'

William Rist, a lad in the service of one of the farmers, was called, and said, 'On the morning of the 23rd November, Fussell and Hoar had come to me, wanting me to join them. When I refused they took the horses out of my cart, and compelled me to join them.'⁶²⁵

Another witness, a labouring man, proved that Fussell, Hoar, and Freemantle, had forced him to go with them. He also said, 'John Boyes had gone with the mob to several houses, we had obtained money at Mrs Long's, farmer Smith's, Deacon's, Lownde's and Deacle's. At Mrs Long's we got five sovereigns. More than one or two men had talked of the money there. They said they wanted £10. I went with the mob, of which the prisoners formed part, to many places, beginning at Marwell, until they came to Owslebury Down, where the money was divided – it made 2s each.'

Mr Joseph Pledger was called, and said, 'I am in the service of Mrs Long, of Marwell Hall, as butler. I remember the mob coming to us on the 23rd November at about 11 or half past. I saw William Adams, Nicholas Freemantle, John Boyes, and James Fussell. John Boyes brought a paper to me, and said he wanted Mrs Long to sign it. Several of the men had axes. I carried the paper to Mrs Long. This is the paper. Mrs Long signed it, and I carried it back. Mrs Long had signed it on the other side as an 'occupier.' When I gave it to Boyes he looked at it, and said she must sign on the other side 'to lower her rents.' I then took it back again to Mrs Long, at first she refused to sign it on that side. She ultimately did sign it, and I took it back again. Boyes then asked if Mr Lowndes was in the house, and on my telling him that he was, he asked me to take the paper for him to sign it. When I brought it back again Boyes said, 'It is all right,' and went away into the crowd, and might have gone away, as I did not see him anymore. As soon as he was gone the mob demanded victuals and money.'

Mr Pledger then went through, in great detail, the circumstances as they had occurred, and as they were given by him on the trial in which Mrs Long was the prosecutrix.

On being cross-examined, Mr Pledger replied, 'I had known John Boyes for some time before the 23rd November. I never saw him again on that day after I gave him the signed paper.'

⁶²⁵ NOTE: This witness is named as W. Rist in *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830

One of the labourers who had spoken to John Boyes' being with them was recalled by the Court, and said, 'John Boyes only presented the paper for signatures. I did not see him present when the money was divided, but he was within sight when the money was given at Lord Northesk's. His Lordship's house was the last we went to on that day. The men were drawn up in a line to receive the money. I cannot say that Boyes received any of the money.'

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the prisoners were called on for their defence.

William Adams said, 'In the first place, my Lord, I was at work on the morning of the 23rd November, when I was called away by some of the mob, and, as I was chopping wood, I took my axe with me. When we got down, there were, I should think, 100 more assembled, who were breaking Mr Deacle's machine, which was in a field. Mr Deacle afterwards told us where to go for money, and ordered us to go and demand it at the places he named.'⁶²⁶

Mr Sergeant Wilde told the Judge that Mr Deacle was indicted on a separate charge.

Nicholas Freemantle said, 'Mr Deacle ordered me to go with the mob and demand £10 from Mrs Alice Long. He also told me to go to Mr Lowndes, as another person, and demand money.'

John Boyes said, 'I was going, on the morning of the 23rd of November, with some sacks to be mended, when I heard a great noise being made by the mob, who were breaking a machine at Mrs Smith's. I, therefore, went down to the premises, where I found upwards of 100 men. Almost as soon as I got there, Mrs Smith sent out to say she wanted to speak to me. She told me she was afraid the mob would do more injury than they had already effected unless something was done. Mr Deacle and Mrs Smith and I then composed that paper, which they signed as well as myself, in Mrs Smith's parlour. Mr Deacle then asked me to go round to the other farmers, for the purpose of getting them to sign the paper. Mrs Smith said she hoped it would appease the wrath of the mob, and induce them not to do any more injury, and hoped they would be told of it. In consequence of this order, I took the paper and went round with the mob until we got to Owslebury Down, where we found a party of men from Upham and Waltham, all of whom declared their intention of sharing the money. After this I left the mob and went to Mr White, who was standing about 150 yards off. At every place I went to, as soon as the paper was signed, I went away from the premises, and I never saw one farthing of the money received by any individual, nor did I hear any one ask for money. As soon as the paper had been signed at Rose Hill, I went away, and turned to the left, which leads from the house. This Moses Stanbrook can tell your Lordship. After the mob had separated about an hour and a half I went to a public house, where I saw, amongst 40 or 50 men, and a person of the name of Phillips, who owed me £2, with whom I had some conversation upon the subject. Before I left the room some of the mob said, 'We will meet again tomorrow.' I said, 'No, no; you have done too much already, and you may before that time, be in prison.' Some of the men then expressed a determination of going to work again, instead of joining any more mobs. I then went home with Phillips, and saw nothing more of them.'

James Fussell was called, and said, 'I have not anything to say.'

William Barnes was called, and said, 'On the morning of the 23rd November I was at work at Mr Young's, when I was called away by some of the mob. I refused to go; but they said, if I did not, there were men coming who would force me to join them. I therefore went, but went with a determination of not assisting in any of their depredations. On arriving at the Down I left them.'

John Hoar was called, and said, 'I have nothing to say.'

William Boyes said, 'I was forced to join the mob, who told me, if I did not, they would come back, and I should suffer for it. This threat my wife, who was standing by, heard.'

The Counsel for the prisoners then called the following witnesses to speak as to the character of the prisoners.

Mr Thomas White, a farmer at Bishop Stoke, was called, and said, 'I have known John Boyes 40 years. He farms his own land. He has always borne a most excellent character. The labouring men at this time were receiving 8s a week. William Boyes is also known to me, is a very honest and orderly young man, the two men are not related.'

John Boyes was out on bail, but he surrendered himself today. William Boyes'

Charles White said, 'I have known John Boyes since I was a child. He has always been a good honest man. On the 23rd November John Boyes came to me on Owslebury Down, and asked me

⁶²⁶ NOTE: Mr Deacle is named as Mr Dagle in the *Hampshire Telegraph*; as Diggles and Dagle in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

to sign a paper, which I did. This was about 150 yards from the mob. John Boyes might have heard the wrangle, as I did, on the division of the money. He said he would have nothing to do with the matter.'

James Vence gave William Boyes an excellent character.

Caleb Houghton was called, and said, 'I have a farm at Owslebury. I have known John Boyes as long as I can remember. He is a downright honest man.'

The Reverend Charles Maberley, was called, and said, 'I have known James Fussell for three or four years. He is a very well disposed young man, and exceedingly unlikely, I should have thought, to have joined any illegal act. He labours under a very great disadvantage from not having any occupation. I consider he joined this mob from inadvertence, and without thinking what their acts might lead to. I also know William Barnes, with whom I constantly come in contact. He is a very good character, and I never heard anything which could tend to his disadvantage.'

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, 'You will have observed that the evidence affects the several prisoners in a different degree. One of them is not in the same situation of life as the other men, holding, as he does, a higher rank – a higher station in society. Most of the prisoners are labourers, whilst John Boyes, it has been proved, is a farmer, farming his own land. You have not only heard by the evidence the part he took on this day, but you have also heard from himself the motives for his conduct on that occasion. The object he stated he had in view was that of inducing the landlords to reduce their rents, and the Clergymen to reduce their tithes. Now this conduct is grossly improper and blameable. He was going about to attain his purpose, and to extort, by the presence of this mob, the signatures of the various landlords and Clergymen to the paper. The prisoner was culpable to a very high degree, but it will be for the Jury to say whether the evidence is sufficient to satisfy you that, in addition to the object just named, he had been present for the purpose of aiding and abetting in the extortion of the money. If you are not satisfied on that point, you cannot find him guilty on the indictment. If you have a doubt, you will give him the benefit of it.'

The Learned Judge then went minutely through the evidence, and pointed out those parts which affected each of the prisoners.

After some consideration the Jury found William Adams and Nicholas Freemantle *Guilty*, and *Acquitted* the rest of the prisoners.⁶²⁷

Joseph Fletcher, butler to Mrs Long, was called and gave a detailed description of the mobs visit to Mrs Long's premises at Marwell. The prisoners were then called for their defence,

Barnes said, 'On the morning of the 23rd, as I was working at Henry Young's, I was called on by the mob to go along with them. I said that I would not. They said that I must, as many more were coming, who would obligate me to. I then went along with them determined not to assist them in any way whatever. I did not assist them. I carried no weapon. I went with the mob to Owslebury Downs; there I left them. I had no opportunity to get away before. I knew that they were going to share the money, but I still left them.' William Boyes said, 'A man came and told me I must go with the mob; if I did not go willingly, they said they would press me, and it would be worse for me.' John Boyes said, 'I have a few words to say, my Lord, in my defence. I was going along Marwell road, with some sacks. As I was passing, I heard the people hammering at farmer Smith's. They were breaking a threshing machine of his to pieces. Somebody came to me and said Mr Smith wanted me. I went to him, and found Mr Deacle there. They said that they wanted me to come, as they were afraid that the mob would do more mischief. Deacle and Smith then wrote out that paper, and I signed it. I went out to the mob with Deacle to read that paper. the mob insisted on my carrying that paper round to all the landlords and farmers in the neighbourhood. Mr Smith thought that doing this would be a way to appease the minds of the people, and to prevent them from doing more injury. I went all round with them that day until I came to Owslebury Downs.' He then went on to describe what he had done at the Downs and how he had left Rose Hill directly after Mr Stanbrook had signed the paper. Freemantle said, 'Deacle ordered me to go to Mrs Long's, and demand £10 from her.' John Hoare and James Fussell said nothing.

A number of witnesses were called to speak on the prisoners behalf.

⁶²⁷ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830

William Witcher, aged 26, William Kinchin, aged 19, and Thomas Hooper, aged 23, Richard Page, aged 26, William Scorey, aged 52, and Thomas Smith aged 32, were indicted for having feloniously, on the 23rd November, at the parish of South Stoneham, broken and destroyed a threshing machine, the property of Major General Joseph Gubbins.

The case was clearly proved against Witcher, Cooper, and Kinchin, who were found *Guilty*. The other were *Acquitted*.⁶²⁸

John Reeves, aged 30, and James Varnell aged 23, were indicted for feloniously breaking a threshing machine, the property of William Gosling, at the parish of South Stoneham.

The evidence was conclusive of the prisoners' guilt. The Jury found the prisoners *Guilty*, but they were recommended to mercy on account of their previous excellent characters.⁶²⁹

Thomas Bromfield, William Bromfield, Charles Wheeler, Joseph Biddlecombe, Henry Bull, James Osman, Edmund Blunden and George Osman, were indicted for feloniously attempting to rob Mary Trim of a sum of money on the 24th November, at Redbridge.⁶³⁰

Mr Sergeant Wilde said that, as the prisoners had consented to enter into their own recognizances for their future good behaviour, he would decline offering any evidence against them.

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, 'Gentlemen if the Jury, the Crown declines to offer any evidence against the prisoners; you will, therefore, acquit them. Prisoners, I hope this act of leniency will have its proper effect on you, and that you will take care to perform the condition of your recognizance, so that you may not have to suffer.'

The prisoners were accordingly *Acquitted*.⁶³¹

George Rose, was indicted for having feloniously, with divers others, robbed Joseph Lane of one sovereign, his property, at Quarley.

Joseph Lane was called, and said, 'I live at Quarley. I remember, on the 23rd of November, a mob came to my house; there were about 30, some of whom had sticks; one had an axe, and the prisoner had a bit of iron, with a knob at the end of it. I am bailiff to Mr Bethel Cox. The mob had broken a threshing machine, and during the operation I was present. A person named Gregory demanded money, and I said I would not give him any. The mob broke the door of one of the barns, and said they would go to Mr Cox's house. To prevent their proceeding to further violence, I went and fetched a sovereign, which I gave to them. On bringing the sovereign, I asked, 'Who is your receiver?' Gregory called out, 'Keeper, you are receiver, come forward.' The prisoner was that man, and I gave him the sovereign, which he held up in his hand, and told the mob to look at it. On this the mob gave three cheers. The prisoner had been a gamekeeper, but I do not know what he was at this time.'

The prisoner was found *Guilty*.⁶³²

William Brackstone, aged 33, was indicted for having feloniously, on the 22nd November, at the parish of Thruxtion, broken and destroyed, with divers others, a threshing machine, the property of Sir John. W. Pollen, Bart.

He pleaded 'not guilty'.

Sir John's bailiff proved that Brackstone had been with the mob that had broken his master's machine, and added, 'I did not see Brackstone take any part in the destruction of the machine but after the work of destruction had been completed the prisoner said, 'Now we have done our work, let us be paid for it.' It was Brackstone who asked for money after the machine was broken.'

⁶²⁸ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831. NOTE: Major General Joseph Gubbins died 23 April 1832 at South Stoneham House

⁶²⁹ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831

⁶³⁰ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830. NOTE: The names of prisoners George Osmon, Thomas Bromfield and Edmund Blunden have been added at the end of the Gaol Calendar

⁶³¹ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830. NOTE: The names of prisoners Thomas Bromfield, George Osman have been added at the end of the Gaol Calendar, but not William Broomfield, Charles Wheeler, J. Middleton, Henry Ball or James Osmon

⁶³² *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; no evidence is given for this case in the *Hampshire Advertiser*

In his defence Brackstone told the Court that he had been working on the roads for the last five and a half years and he was at work when the mob pressed him to join them. He was told to bring his stone hammer with him. The mob had consisted principally of tailors, bakers, and mechanics. 'When they told me I must join them, they told me that there was an order from the Government for the breaking of all machines.'

Mr Justice Parke said, 'You should not have attended to such representations.'

Brackstone replied, My Lord, I am no scholar. I can neither write nor read. There were several respectable tradesmen, carpenters, and others in that mob, and when they told me so, I could not but believe them. I have been working for the last five years and a half for the Commissioners of the Roads. The Chief Commissioner is Squire Marsh, and he will give me a character. I don't know whether my master is here or not. Mr Marsh, of Reading, who has an estate near Andover, is my master. If he is not here, I shall have a certificate of my character by tomorrow.'

Mr Justice Parke addressed the Jury, 'If there was any person who worked on the ignorance of the prisoner, as he has said, it was extremely wicked; but, Gentlemen of the Jury, that cannot be taken into consideration in a question of guilt or innocence. It may weigh afterwards in the consideration of a sentence.'

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against the prisoner but recommended him to mercy.

Mr Sergeant Wilde then address the Learned Judge, 'Now, my Lord, I wish to prove that the prisoner has been convicted before.'

Mr Justice Parke replied, 'I do not think that will be regular, Brother Wilde. That should have been done before.'

'I refrained, my Lord, because I was anxious not to prejudice the minds of the Jury against the prisoner,' said Mr Sergeant Wilde, 'I consider, My Lord, that it would be injurious to the ends of justice, and -'

Mr Justice Parke interrupted, 'That ought to be done by the Legislature. I will make a memorandum, and will ask my Learned Brothers the question. I remember on one occasion, when I was on the Northern Circuit, my Brother Parke entertained a different opinion on this point, and it was reserved for the consideration of the Bench, but it has never been brought forward. I do not think it regular. The framer of the Act intended to entail a benefit, but the contrary is the effect. However, you may call the witness, and I will hear him for my own satisfaction.'

The witness was then called. He produced a certificate of the conviction of William Brackstone, the prisoner at the bar, on the 17th December, 1820.

The certificate was put in and read. It stated that the prisoner, William Brackstone, had been convicted of stealing 11 fowls, of the value of 1s each, and that he had been sentenced to seven years' transportation.

The Witness then said, 'The prisoner at the bar is the same man.'

William Brackstone said, 'My Lord, that was ten years ago. By my good conduct in New South Wales, I gained His Majesty's free pardon, before half my time was out. I have a certificate of my good conduct there; and since I came home, I defy any man to say a word against me till this unhappy transaction. I have been back for five years - I have worked for the same master all that time - Squire Marsh, if he were here he could give me a character. I expect a certificate of my character by tomorrow. I have five miles of turnpike-road in my trust, under the Commissioners, one of whom, Mr Henry Marsh, will give me a good character. I do assure you I was innocently taken into this affair.'

Mr Justice Parke said, 'Prisoner, if the character you speak of should be sent, let me have it, and I will take it into my consideration. However, you know you had nothing to do with threshing machines.'

Brackstone replied, 'Thank you, my Lord.'

The prisoner was then removed from the bar.⁶³³

⁶³³ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; the *Hampshire Advertiser* does not include the details of Brackstone's previous conviction

John Baker, aged 50, James Trew, aged 35, Thomas Bishop, aged 46, and William Summerbee, aged 26, were indicted for having assaulted William Longman and stealing 40s from him, on the 22nd November, at the parish of Leckford.⁶³⁴

William Longman was called, and said, 'I am a farmer, and I live at Leckford. A mob came to my house on the 22nd November, at nine o'clock in the morning. There were about 48 people; they had sticks, hammers, and one had an axe. All the prisoners were there. Trew had an axe. I went out to them, and they said they wanted some bread and cheese. They had some. They then said they must have 3s each. The prisoners could hear the demand. Some of them pushed the door open, and said they would not have it shut. I offered them 2s a head, but they would not have it. I then paid them the 3s, which came to £7 4s. I gave the money to John Baker, who was a tithingman, he being the man the mob said was the receiver. I gave them the money, fearing they might do something worse. I had a wife and six children in the house. William Summerbee was working for me. He seemed rather forward in the mob, and was not very civil. He said he was not paid enough for his work.'

The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against all the prisoners.⁶³⁵

William Baker, aged 40, John Annetts, aged 38, James Cooper, aged 29, and William Watts, aged 24, were indicted for feloniously destroying a threshing machine, the property of John Fosbury, at the parish of Burghclere, on the 23rd November.

John Fosbury was called, and said, 'I live in Burghclere. On the 23rd November a mob came to my house between four and five in the morning. There were about 100. They broke my machine. All the prisoners were there. Watts had a sledge hammer in his hand, and was the most active in breaking the machine.'

Mr Justice Alderson addressed the Jury, 'Gentlemen of the Jury, it will not be necessary for you to take John Annett's case into consideration, as he has already been convicted.'

The Learned Judge then went through the evidence. The Jury found William Watts *Guilty*, and *Acquitted* the other prisoners.⁶³⁶

This evening a petition was brought into the Nisi Prius Court for signatures, praying that his majesty will please to extend his mercy on James Thomas Cooper, who has been convicted, during a sitting of the Special Commission, of having taken a very active part in the riots in this county, and more particularly in that known as the Fordingbridge Riot. The grounds on which the petitioners found their prayer are the respectability of his parents, who are still living; his own previous good character; and, the fact, of his having had an attack of insanity within the last two months, in consequence of his wife having run away from him, taking with her a considerable sum of money which he had carefully saved out of his earnings for years. Since this circumstance it appears that the prisoner has given himself up to drinking, and has evinced an utter recklessness of what became of him. The prisoner, it also seems, is a native of East Grimstead, at which place his parents live. That up to 1813 he had been an agricultural labourer; that, in that year, he went into the Artillery, where he remained until 1815. He then became an agricultural labourer, and has continued so, and was very industrious until the period when his wife ran off. The petition is signed by the prosecutors in all cases in which the prisoner was concerned, several inhabitants of East Grimstead who have known him since infancy, by all the gentlemen with whom he had lived, by the dissenting Minister of Fordingbridge, and several respectable inhabitants of the town.⁶³⁷

⁶³⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830. NOTE: The prisoner James Trew is named as James Crew in *The Morning herald (London)*, but as James Trew in *The Gaol Calendar*

⁶³⁵ *The Morning Herald*, 31 December 1830

⁶³⁶ *The Morning Herald*, 31 December 1830

⁶³⁷ *The Morning Herald*, 30 December 1830; *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Telegraph*; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

Thursday, 30th December 1830

At an early hour this morning, it having been last night understood that it was the intention of the Court to pass their sentence on such prisoners as had been convicted during the Special Commission, at the sitting of their Lordship's today the Court was filled to capacity with the friends and relatives of the prisoners, waiting to see what sentence they were to suffer.⁶³⁸

At 10 o'clock Mr Baron Vaughan, Mr Justice Parke, and Mr Justice Alderson, dressed in their scarlet robes, took their seats on the Bench. His Grace the Duke of Wellington, wearing a star, and the Right Honourable W. Sturgis Bourne, M.P., sitting to the right and left of their Lordships, and Mr Pollen, were present as Commissioners. There were also a great number of Magistrates in attendance. Among others Sir William Heathcote, M.P., Sir Thomas Baring, M.P., and Mr Fleming, M.P.

The dock, which will hold about 30 persons, was completely filled by the associates of the principal leaders, all of whom had been convicted.

The Jury box, which, from its situation, affords a clear view of everything that takes place in the Court, was crammed with other men, who had, during the Commission, been found guilty of less atrocious cases, and who were, in the course of a few short moments, to be removed into the dock for the purpose of receiving the judgement of the Court. It was so contrived that the men who had been convicted, in conjunction with the more desperate, should be placed in the dock at the time their leaders were receiving the severest sentence of the law, and that, immediately on the removal of the unhappy men, they themselves would then be brought forward to receive a slighter, though still a heavy judgement.

Mr Bishop, the Clerk of Arraigns, called up James Thomas Cooper, aged 33; Henry Eldridge, aged 23; John Gilmore, aged 25.

The prisoners having been put in the front of the dock, Mr Bishop addressed them.

'James Thomas Cooper, Henry Eldridge, and John Gilmore, unhappy men, you stand severally convicted of having, with several others, destroyed, pulled down, and demolished certain machinery; what have you to say why you should not receive sentence to die according to the law?'

The prisoners made no answer, and none of them at this moment evinced any particular mark of distress. The eye of every individual in the Court, except those whose duty it was to record what the Learned Judge had to say, was riveted on Mr Baron Vaughan.

The three Judges having put on their black caps, Mr Baron Vaughan addressed the prisoners.

'You, James Thomas Cooper, you, Henry Eldridge, and you, John Gilmore, unhappy men, you whose names have just been severally called, stand in the presence of God, and in the face of your country, convicted, by the unanimous verdict of a most dispassionate and discriminating Jury, of the offence of destroying, pulling down, and demolishing machines erected in certain manufactories in various parts of this county. You, James Thomas Cooper, and you, Henry Eldridge, for destroying a machine employed in the manufacture of spinning hemp and flax, belonging to Mess^{rs} Thompson, in their mill, situate at a place called Fordingbridge; and you, John Gilmore, for destroying a machine employed in casting iron and agricultural implements, belonging to Robert and William Tasker, situate in the parish of Upper Clatford, in this county. The wisdom of the Legislature, for the purpose of protecting property of this nature, has affixed to the commission of this crime, when perpetrated by a riotous and tumultuous assembly, the punishment of Death. We are not called upon to vindicate the policy of the law, or to rescue it from the imputation of its being an unreasonable severity in visiting with the ultimate penalty this heavy crime. But to every intelligent mind, it must appear that the capital which had been embarked in property of this description ought to be protected. It is only necessary to look around to see the numbers of our fellow creatures, who are solely dependent on this species of property for their

⁶³⁸ The following newspapers have been consulted for information for this chapter: *Hampshire Advertiser*, 1 January 1831; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 3 January 1831 *Hampshire Telegraph*, 3 January 1831; *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* 3 January 1831; *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830; *The Times*, 31 December 1830. On the whole the accounts given in *The Morning Herald (London)* & *The Times*, tend to include more information, in some of the other papers the only information given for some trials is the names of those included in the indictment and the outcome of the trial. The footnotes show additional information and any discrepancies in the information. Names and ages have been taken from the Calendar of Prisoners (TNA – HO130/1) if they are not included in the newspaper reports

subsistence in every part of the country. It must, therefore, be apparent to every person of ordinary understanding that it is necessary the law should be executed with severity where the cases are of an aggravated nature. Prisoners, that your cases are of this description, if the facts in evidence are to be believed, no reasonable doubt, can be entertained. One of the false impressions which, it appears from the proceedings under this Commission, has been upon the minds of the lower orders is, that the destruction of the machinery would be beneficial to them. But this argument is totally erroneous, and intended by designing men to mislead the ignorant. It is plain to every man that the manufactures of this country have advanced in excellence in proportion as machinery has advanced with them, and it is, therefore, necessary to visit with, the extreme penalty of the law, those who have the most grievously and grossly offended that law by its destruction. The most painful duty of a Judge is to select those, by way of example, for the ends of public justice, who have been the most desperate and prominent in the commission of the outrage. The law delights not in punishment; the object of the law is the prevention, rather than the punishment, of crime; and therefore it is that we have passed many anxious – I may say sleepless – hours in examining the evidence as it affects each of your cases, for the purpose of enabling us to discriminate the degree of guilt which is affixed to each of you. We have felt it to be, after due and minute consideration, our duty to select you, who are now standing most prominent at the bar as the persons of whom proper example should be made. We trust we have done so according to the dictates of justice, and on such grounds as will satisfy all reasonable men. Those who are the first and foremost in an aggression of the laws must expect to be made first and foremost in the punishment, and such, after a close investigation into your cases, we find you to have been. Therefore you, James Thomas Cooper, with respect to the various offences of which you have been convicted, in conjunction with several others; the first that of destroying machinery at Fordingbridge; another in the case of a manufactory of a person of the name of Shepherd; and I see that there are no fewer than five other bills of indictment found against you, upon which the Counsel for the Crown did not think it necessary to offer evidence, because they thought that the justice of the country would be satisfied by making an example of you on those cases of which you had previously been found guilty; - it is quite impossible that your life should be spared. You have in those cases been proved to have acted as a leader; and at a time when the state of anarchy was such, that acts of the most atrocious nature were committed in defiance of the law. No man can possibly entertain the slightest doubt of this fact. You have been proved to have, as I have just said, taken the lead in these riots. It cannot be forgotten, after the testimony – the often repeated testimony - of so many witnesses, that you, on some occasions, vaunted yourself the Captain of this desperate band at Fordingbridge. You appear the person who was seen to be distributing your orders and money among those who were around you. It is further proved that you were deaf to all remonstrance; for, on remonstrances being made to you by Mr Thompson, you declared that no money should stop you; that you had come from 40 miles above London, for the express purpose of destroying all the machines, and that you would go on into each county with your work of demolition; and, when it was pointed out to you that there were numbers who were dependent on this machinery for their daily bread, one would have supposed that that statement would have affected the stoutest, the hardest, heart. But no, you were not to be restrained, but pushed on, and, as the leader of the mob, you entered the doors of the factory on horseback, and with a signal, well understood by those about you, the holding up of your hand, you set them immediately to work, and they proceeded with their work of destruction until its completion. Under these circumstances, added to which that memorable and never to be forgotten expression which you uttered, ‘Stand to your colours,’ thereby avowing yourself as the regular leader of a band of this description, assembled for destructive purposes, it is impossible, therefore, that in your case I should hold out to you the slightest hope that mercy can be extended to you. With respect to you, Henry Eldridge, I am sorry to say that, though I have minutely examined with great care into your case for any point which might have justified me in recommending you to the merciful consideration of the Crown, I lament to say I have searched in vain, and all hope of that is precluded. It cannot be forgotten that you were the most active in the destruction of machinery, one of the first to enter the manufactory, and that you also made a boast that you had been present of the breaking of not less than 16 other machines in the course of that day; but, independent of this grave offence, there is a circumstance connected with your case of so aggravated a description that it is impossible any mercy can be extended to you; I am alluding to your conviction in

consequence of an indictment in the case of Mr Eyre Coote. On that occasion, in the morning, about one or two o'clock, you, with together with your lawless associates, were seen near the village of Rockborne, going in the dead of night, when everybody is at rest, going to that gentleman's seat, beginning with the breaking to pieces of the gates, and the destruction of the lodge; in a body calculated to intimidate, alarm, and astound the stoutest heart; declaring your intention to enter that which by the Constitution of the country is considered as every man's castle – where none but the law can enter, and which object you and your associates would have effected, but that you were fortunately repelled by the spirited conduct of Mr Coote, which I shall ever feel an admiration of, because we are called upon to defend our property from spoliation. But for his conduct the mob would have completed their object of plunder, and incurred the forfeiture of their lives; but, in consequence of it that have gone so far as only to subject themselves to transportation for life. Therefore I am bound to say that with respect to your case I can give you no hope that the least mercy can be extended towards you. With respect to you, John Gilmore, it grieves us to know that, having looked carefully through that long train of evidence which was brought against you, I mean in the attack upon the factory of Mess^{rs} Tasker, and wishing to see whether you came within that point of our selection – that of being a ringleader, exciting others to forget their allegiance to the laws of their country; and, looking at your case, I am grieved to find that, on the morning of the day on which this lawless attack was made, you were seen at the head of a mob in the town of Andover. That on the morning of that day you entered the room where the Magistrates were assembled, and with the authority of a leader, having closed the doors, took upon yourself to enter into a parley with the Magistrates; and after every remonstrance having been made with a view to stay your further progress, you were found amongst the first to enter that factory, and to commit that grievous aggression of which you have been convicted. With respect to you, therefore, it seems to us we should not discharge our duty to the country if we were to permit you to entertain any expectation of mercy. Therefore you must severally consider your lives to be forfeited to the laws of your country, and all that I can do is to implore you, as you value your immortal souls, to prepare for the awful change you must shortly undergo. Your days are numbered – the gates of mercy are closed against you in this life. Prepare yourselves for the fate which awaits you, by availing yourselves of the excellent spiritual assistance which will be afforded you. When you go from this Court you will, on bended knees, and with contrite hearts, earnestly supplicate the Throne of Grace for pardon on your sins. It is, indeed, the most melancholy and painful part of our duty, as administrators of the law, to pronounce the sentence which the law affixes for outrages of this description; but it must be so. I therefore, entreat you will make the best use of your time, and with an earnest prayer that it may graciously please Almighty God, through the merits of our blessed Saviour, whose Advent we have so recently been celebrating, to speak comfort to your souls, it now remains only for me to pass the dreadful sentence of the law, and that is, that you, James Thomas Cooper, that you, Henry Eldridge, and that you, John Gilmore, be severally taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence to a place of execution, and that you there be severally hanged by the neck till you are dead, and may Almighty God have mercy on your guilty souls!' ⁶³⁹

The prisoners, who some time before the conclusion of the sentence, had shown marks of considerable feeling, towards the latter part of it became very much agitated, and were removed from the dock in a state of the greatest distress, particularly Eldridge and Cooper. Many of the other prisoners shed tears.

The solemn and impressive manner in which the Learned Judge delivered his address had a powerful effect upon the persons in the Court, and Mr Justice Alderson put down his face upon his hands evidently deeply affected.

The three men were removed from the bar and George Clarke, John Fulford, Samuel Quinton, Joseph Arney, Charles Read, Charles Hayter, Isaac Manns, James Manns, Aaron Deadman, Joseph Blatch, Thomas Green, John Ellis, William Stanmore, Charles Pain, George Myland, William Shepherd, George Philpott, and William Newman, were then called up for judgement. ⁶⁴⁰

⁶³⁹ *Hampshire Chronicle; Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶⁴⁰ NOTE: According to the *Hampshire Chronicle* 20 prisoners were placed at the bar, they are not named

Mr Bishop, the Clerk of Arraigns, addressed each of the prisoners by name, and said to them, 'Prisoners at the bar, you severally stand convicted of having riotously assembled and destroyed certain machines; what have you to say why judgement of death should not be passed upon you according to law?'⁶⁴¹

Before addressing them the Judges removed the black caps, and Mr Baron Vaughan spoke again. 'With respect to those prisoners who have just been called on to state why sentence of death should not be recorded against them, the Court, after great deliberation and doubt, has come to the resolution of recommending them to the mercy of the Crown, so far as extends to saving their lives. But I am bound to observe, that with respect to some of you, the scales being in an even balance, there was much to induce us to make you an example. I allude particularly to the cases of John Fulford, Joseph Arney, Isaac and James Manns, that it has been with the greatest difficulty we could make up our minds to adopt this course, for, with respect to you, your conduct looks so much like privity, or guilty knowledge of what was going on, and your many declarations that you would have the factory down, and its gates pulled out, in two hours – and various other expressions of a like nature, and previous deliberation, - placed the Court in a situation of great difficulty and doubt as to your fate; but its strong feeling and inclination to mercy, and its ardent hope that the extension of its mercy will neither be abused nor misinterpreted, and its confident expectation that one example will be sufficient to satisfy the justice of the country, and they have therefore, decided, so far as its recommendation is of avail, on sparing the lives of those whose names have just been recorded.'⁶⁴²

He went on to address Isaac and James Manns at some length.

'With regard to the two Manns', I recommend you earnestly to consider most seriously the perilous situation in which you have placed yourselves, and the unexpected deliverance which you have had from it. You evinced great activity in the attack and you, Isaac Manns, were the first to knock the lock of the gate of Mr Tasker's factory and enter the premises, whilst you, James Manns, made a previous declaration of the destruction you should make, - a declaration which has only been counteracted by the earnest recommendation which the jury made of you to mercy, and one or two favourable circumstances which appeared in your subsequent conduct. With respect to you Isaac Manns, it was proved, that in the first instance you went reluctantly, that you hid yourself the day before from those who wanted you to go with them, and that you had at last been excited to go by those who had endeavoured to do still greater mischief. These circumstances, I hope, will be considered sufficient to excuse the Court from the lenity which it is about to show. Isaac Manns is not more than 19 years of age. Your youth is no excuse for the outrages of which you have been proved guilty; but it has induced us not to make an example of you, in the hopes that the rest of your life will be dedicated to more honest and more honourable objects.'

Mr Baron Vaughan then spoke of Joseph Arney and said, 'As to you Joseph Arney, there are circumstances which placed you in the utmost jeopardy of your life, but from some of the facts connected with your case, we are led to spare your life. We doubted in the first instance whether your life ought not to be sacrificed to the offended justice of your country; but at last we determined to recommend you also to the mercy of the crown.'

He concluded by saying, 'Prisoners now at the bar, you must understand, that though your lives are now saved, you are banished for ever from the home of your nativity. You must entertain no hope of ever returning to this country, whose laws you have so signally violated. You are henceforth placed in the melancholy situation of those who are torn from the country of their birth, and who are sent to a place where they are no longer to work for themselves, where the earnings of their industry are the property of others, and where they are almost in the condition of slaves. Under all the circumstances of the different cases, therefore, we have felt it our duty to recommend you to the mercy of the Crown, as far as the saving of your lives will go. You ought to feel that even that punishment is lighter than that which your crimes deserve, and you must lay aside all hope of its receiving any mitigation. Let sentence of death be recorded against you.'

All the men seemed deeply affected and many were seen to shed tears as they were told they must abandon forever the land of their birth. They were taken from the dock.⁶⁴³

⁶⁴¹ *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶⁴² *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December. NOTE: The *Hampshire Telegraph* does not name John Fulford among these men

⁶⁴³ *The Morning Herald (London); Hampshire Telegraph*

Robert Holdaway, James Annalls and Henry Cook, who have all been capitally convicted, were then brought to the front of the dock. Mr Bishop, the Clerk of Arraigns, addressed them, 'Robert Holdaway, you stand convicted of having, with others, riotously assembled, and demolished the poorhouse at Headley. James Annalls and Henry Cook, you severally stand convicted of robbery; have you anything to say why the Court should not give you judgement to die, according to law.' None of the prisoners made any reply, and the Judges again put on the black caps before Mr Baron Vaughan addressed the three men.

'Robert Holdaway, James Annalls, and Henry Cook, you severally stand convicted by a Jury of your country of atrocious offences, which have just been read to you. With respect to you, Robert Holdaway, you are convicted of having riotously assembled, with other; and that, being so illegally assembled, you proceeded to demolish, pull down, and destroy the poor house belonging to the united parishes of Headley, Bramshott, and Kingsley. You, James Annalls, stand convicted of robbery from the person of William Courtney, at Barton Stacey; and you, Henry Cook, stand convicted of robbery from the person of Thomas Dowden. It is impossible to look at the offences which you have committed without being impressed with the imperative necessity of making an awful example of you.'

His Lordship then addressed Robert Holdaway, 'With respect to you, Robert Holdaway, the circumstances attending your case are of a magnitude the most atrocious; and one cannot forget, in the progress of this inquiry, and in tracing in the course of this transaction, what was the case on the preceding day, as it applies to you. We find that you had been concerned in the attack on the Selborne poorhouse on the day before, and in the attack on Mr Cobbold, to which I need not make any other reference; and then you are found to be, on the following day, assembled with a party of others, and making an attack on the poorhouse at Headley, under circumstances which one would have thought would have had an effect upon the hardest heart. You are on this day found, together with others, in a mob, by the force and tumult of which that mob, having collected to a number almost incredible, from between 1,400 to 1,700, you make an attack on the house, you having gone yourself to Mr Shoesmith, who was the master of the house, and was residing there, and against whom you felt no feeling of dislike, as it appears; that, so far from having given any cause for existence if such feeling, he had always behaved in the best and most considerate manner towards those who were placed under his care. But, supposing you had gone for the purpose of injuring him, his own conduct was such as to have entitled him to your mercy, unless indeed you were resolved to wreak your vengeance on him and the building at any rate. In addition to him offering himself as a victim to your irritated feelings, he told you that he had several poor children who were cast upon a bed of sickness in the house. This was in the cold, cheerless, and dreary month of November, - a fact which alone would, one would have thought, induced a sentiment of pity, and tended to arrest your hand. He told you that in addition to these poor helpless children, he had other unhappy inmates destitute of any other roof than that which you contemplated pulling down, to shelter them. Still, notwithstanding these natural appeals to your feelings for the suffering and destitution of a fellow-creature, you persist in your lawless acts; and, with all these attacks upon your pity, you retire for a time, for the purpose of giving the master an opportunity of removing his property. I should have thought that, after having given yourself this opportunity of soberly reflecting on the criminality of your designs, the result would have been that of inducing you to desist. But no! For it seems you still determined to prosecute your work, and went to obtain a reinforcement of numbers at Headley Green, with whom you returned and accomplished your end. It is, therefore, for this reason, that you are selected for an example, because, in taking the lead you did, you offered yourself as the most prominent of the party on that day; your conduct shows that you were determined to induce persons to come to your own terms, and that you went to this place with the immense numbers which I have mentioned, and to them, although it appears that you were not down at the house when the attack was first made, you issue your orders, give directions, and say that the house must be pulled down. Therefore, in every sense of the word, it is impossible to help observing that you were the most active in the work of destruction, although, when the work had proceeded to a great extent, you were heard to say, 'that mischief enough had been done.' I should hope that the example of this day will act as an awful lesson to those who may mix in mobs of this description, and prove to them that, when any of them enter into a transaction of this nature, he becomes a participator in the guilt. But the

extent of your culpability does not end here, for, after you have called the mob away, you proceed with them to Kingsley Green, for the purpose of dividing that money which in the course of the day you had unlawfully collected, and which, it seems, amounted to the sum of £23. At the close of the day, therefore, you, as the leader, sit down on the Green, and call to you 20 other men, from the different parishes, in order that the money shall be divided with each, the spoil which you had obtained, and in order that they might be rewarded for their iniquitous conduct. It is therefore, as the leader, we have selected you as the sacrifice. That sacrifice must be made, for, after the repeated successful depredations, it is impossible to avoid making an example. I consequently state these circumstances for the purpose of showing that whatever may have been your character in former times, indeed up to the moment when you seemed to have embarked in these riots, it cannot avail you; it is no justification, no amelioration of your guilt. The law cannot permit that associations of this dangerous nature should exist, which the civil authorities for the instant – for the instant, I say – are not able to contend with, but have a tendency to trample down the law under foot. The law must be obeyed, respected, and enforced. It travels oftentimes with a slow but sure step, as it has done in this case. I have, therefore, no hope to hold out that any mercy can be extended to you, and we should be guilty of a dereliction of our duty were we to recommend you as a fit object for the mercy of the Crown.'

His Lordship then addressed James Annalls. 'With respect to you James Annalls, you stand convicted of robbery from the person of William Courtney; and this is, I believe, one of the first convictions which has taken place here for this particular crime; and I believe there are now no fewer than 100 persons, whose lives are at this moment forfeited to the State by their participation in this offence. It is my firm opinion that, with respect to many of them, they were acting under some delusion; and I will take this opportunity of stating in public that we have found, since the opening of this Special Commission, but very few instances where hardship, where extreme distress – where pinching want or the pinching spirit of necessity had instigated any of the parties to the committal of these breaches of the law. We have, on the contrary, in general, found that the most active persons have, in these riots, been mechanics, carpenters and blacksmiths, and other persons, who were in the actual receipt of wages amply adequate to the necessities of any reasonable man moving in their sphere of life. We have found also engaged in these outrages persons who are occupiers of land, which they have tilled as gardeners, who are certainly labouring under neither necessity nor want, and who have stimulated by their example and their exertions those who may have been suffering from the pressures of those evils; but I am to observe that but few instances of real want have come within my notice. This is one of the cases of night robbery, and we have thought it fit to select it as an example. These offences must be put down by the strong arm of the law, and we have no doubt with a reason which will satisfy every person who has read the trial. It is a species of robbery which must be put a stop to. We find that you, James Annalls, went with a large number of other persons, armed with offensive weapons, and demanded a sovereign; 5s, it appears, were first offered to you, but that you refused; then 10s, and afterwards 15s; but when I put my hand upon this case, and see that the threat you held out in order to obtain your purpose, as well as the fact that there has been a fire in the neighbourhood – you desired him to look at the light over the hill, that there was a fire there at a moment in time when there was not a fire; and if no fire had followed upon it, it might have been conceived to have been an idle threat on your part. But your prediction was fulfilled, for in the course of an hour and a half from that time, in the direction pointed out by you, it was apparent that there was a fire, precisely in the spot (Sir Henry Wright Wilson's) you called the attention of the party, it would induce one to suspect that though you might not have been the hand to accomplish it, that you had at least a knowledge of it; and it does leave to aggravate your case.'

His Lordship then turned his attention to Henry Cook. 'With respect to you, Henry Cook, your case and your conduct in the course of these proceedings are too fresh in the memory of all to make it at all questionable that we have acted justly in selecting you as a fit example. It appears that your conviction for a capital offence was robbery on the person of Mr Dowden. The evidence was so clear and satisfactory that the Jury did not entertain the least doubt as to the propriety of that conviction, and therefore you stand convicted of an offence which the law has declared capital. It was my misfortune to try you last night for an assault on Mr Bingham Baring, with intent to murder him, and that intention to murder in that very transaction, which has made you amenable to the law, Mr Baring, with a feeling, which does him credit, of mercy to you, said he

did not think you had any malice towards him; but here the law differs from him. It seems that Mr Baring, having seen a tumultuous assembly, armed, had the kindness to call forth the spokesmen of the assembly, and to remonstrate with them. They were deaf to his remonstrance. There had been a machine broken by them; and under these circumstances, upon Mr Baring attempting to seize the person guilty of the offence, upon a cry of some of your comrades to go to work, with a sledge hammer in your hand, weighing six pounds, you called out to have the way cleared for you, that you might rescue the fellow; and on you pressed, and were seen to raise the hammer with both your hands, deliberately, and to strike this blow at Mr Baring, the force of which was such that it rendered him perfectly insensible; and when in that state you were making another attempt to complete your intention, if you had not fortunately been struck yourself by one of Mr Baring's attendants. Can any man doubt that, with such an instrument, used in such a manner, if it had fallen where it was intended, it would have occasioned his death, and that death would, beyond all question, have been murder, not only in you, but in many of those who were acting with you. What would be said of the justice of the country if we permitted you to escape the severest penalty of the law? Under these circumstances I can hold out no hope to you that the mercy of the Crown can be extended to you.'

Mr Baron Vaughan then addressed the three men. 'I must declare to you three – to you, Robert Holdaway, you James Annalls, and you, Henry Cook, that you must likewise prepare yourselves for that great change which now awaits you. Your interests in this life will all vanish; and though you now appear at the bar of an earthly Judge, accompanied with all the infirmity of man's nature, you will immediately appear at the bar of that Judge, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and before whom no secrets are hid, to render an account (to whom we all must) of the transactions of the world. Let me affectionately remind you to lose not a moment. All hope of mercy is excluded, and your lives are forfeited to the laws, the country, and to the State. The penalty – the heavy penalty of the law must be rigidly enforced. You have heard the observations I made to those unfortunate men I recently addressed, and therefore I shall spare you the pain of repeating them. – I have now only to pass the dreadful sentence of the law upon you, and I hope you will earnestly repent you of your sins, and make full confession of them. The sentence of the Court upon you is, that you, Robert Holdaway, you, James Annalls, and you Henry Cook be taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence to a place of execution, and that you be severally hanged by the neck till you are dead; and may the Almighty have mercy on your souls.' The prisoners, who seemed deeply sensible of their awful situation, were then removed from the bar in a state of mental prostration.⁶⁴⁴

During the address, Cook had appeared quite unmoved. The other prisoners were a little, but not much affected. Cook, as soon as the sentencing was, took up his hat and walked out of the dock, as unconcerned as if nothing had happened.⁶⁴⁵

Everyone in Court appeared much affected during the Learned Judge's address. Heavy sighs and the suppressed sobs were heard, and the quivering lips of the prisoners seen, altogether a more dreadful sight has never been witnessed. It should be remembered that the prisoners tried during this Commission have not been persons usually met with at the assizes – hardened thieves – but men who have been deluded into the commission of these outrages, and who had before been – most of them – men of good character, and respectable in their class of life.⁶⁴⁶

The remaining prisoners who had been capitally convicted were placed in the dock in groups of around 20. Before the sentence of death was recorded against them his Lordship intimated that most of them must expect to leave the society, the benefits of which they had forfeited: hoping, however, that the leniency of the sentence would be properly appreciated, but at the same time teach others, that these riotous assemblies would not be endured. 'I will add, that it is my firm opinion, with respect to many of the rioters, that they were acting under delusion; I state publically, that since the opening of the Commission the Court has found but very few instances where

⁶⁴⁴ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁶⁴⁵ *Hampshire Telegraph*. NOTE: According to this same newspaper Henry Cook had previously been sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the County Gaol for having forced out the eye of a valuable horse, belonging to a master who had offended him, with a skewer. I have not, to date, been able to find any reference to this offence

⁶⁴⁶ *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

hardship – where extreme distress – where pinching want and the pinching spirit of necessity, has instigated any of the parties to the committal of these breaches of the law.’⁶⁴⁷

The prisoners were given the following sentence:-

William Smith, Joseph Mason, Isaac Hill senior, Thomas Berriman, Joseph Carter, John Sims, William Sims, John Tolland, Daniel Sims, Matthew Triggs, Henry James, James Painter, Thomas Harding, John Heath, Aaron Harding, William Smith and Jacob Turner, who had been convicted of breaking machinery, were placed at the bar to receive sentence.

Mr Baron Vaughan addressed the prisoners, ‘With regard to you Joseph Mason, you had been a man in a better station of life than many of the other prisoners, and you were one of that mob of which Cook had been the leader, and for which he has just received the severest sentence of the law. Society would cut off all communication with such men forever. As to you William Sims, for robbery in the house of the Reverend Mr Easton, and alarming an unfortunate woman in the house, from which fright she has not yet recovered, I say your cases are very bad, but still I hope that the examples made will be sufficient to put a stop to these scenes of violence which have lately taken place. Judgement of Death will be recorded against you all, so that your lives will be spared; but you will have to leave this country for the rest of your lives.’

John Kimber, Edward Charles Nutbeen, George Steele, James Pearce, Thomas Gregory, George Hopgood, Jacob Wiltshire, Charles Pain, James Cook, John Keens, John Bulpitt, John Batten, George Clarke, James Baker, Charles Bulpitt, George Coleman, William Bolter, William Burgess, Thomas Goodall and James Martin, who had all been convicted of robbery, were then placed at the bar to receive sentence.

A sentence of Death was recorded against them, and in his address to them Mr Baron Vaughan said, ‘Many of you must expect to leave the society, the benefits of which they have forfeited. We have heard much on a plea of want and necessity; but, with regard to Gregory, it had been proved that he was in receipt of wages of 18s a week. It is melancholy to see persons of this sort joining in tumultuous assemblies. They joined them, perhaps, at first, without intending to go to any great length; but when they joined them they could not say where they would end, for Cook had been convicted of no less than four different offences, two of which were capital. I hope the leniency of the sentence will be properly appreciated, but at the same time will teach others that these riotous assemblies will not be endured.’

George Clarke, John Annetts, Isaac Isles, William Conduit, Nicholas Freemantle, Abraham Childs, Benjamin Harding, William Primer, James Glasspole, Isaac Hill junior, William Winkworth, John Kear, John Nash, William Stroud, John Pointer, Thomas Neale, and George Carter, had a sentence of Death recorded against them. The Judge stated that very few of them would remain in this country, or ever return to it.

John Kingshott, Robert Cook, Thomas Marshall, James Pumphrey, Robert Mason, William Adams, George Rose, John Baker, James Trew, Thomas Bishop, and William Summerbee, who had been convicted of robbery, also had a sentence of Death recorded against them.

These were mostly respectable looking men, and seemed much affected; many of them sobbed aloud. His Lordship told them that the mitigating circumstances in their cases would be duly considered.

The final group to receive sentence were John Silcock, George Paice, John Lush, William Kelsey, Arthur Fielder, John Tongs, John Collins, Henry Rogers, John Hudson, Edward Sydenham, John Duke, William Jenman, George Tadd James Ford, Samuel Morey, George Jenman, Peter Houghton, Richard Etherington, John Stoneage, John Chalk, William Witcher, William Kinchin, Thomas Hooper, John Reeves, James Varndell, William Brackstone, Benjamin Bown, James Camis, William Hill, James Cooper and William Watts, who had all been convicted of felony were put to the bar to receive sentence.

Mr Justice Parke addressed the prisoners, ‘You have all been convicted before me of breaking threshing machines. The Legislature has directed that parties convicted of the offence should suffer the heavy penalty of seven years transportation, or a term of imprisonment, as the Judge might think right. It is necessary to suppress these offences by making severe examination, and I will not fail in the discharge of my duty. I hope that the proceedings under this Special Commission will suppress this crime and that before long the farmers might use this and all other property as

⁶⁴⁷ Hampshire Telegraph

they think fit. The public might be assured, that until this is the case, and the severest penalty will be inflicted on those who were guilty of such offences. Carpenters, blacksmiths, and others, not agricultural labourers, have been convicted of destroying machines – all these will have the severest penalty of the law in such cases, and be transported for the term of seven years. Some had been instigated by others, and some – but few however, have been stated to have been very poor.’ His Lordship then sentenced James Varndell, Benjamin Bown, and James Camis, to be imprisoned in the Bridewell, and kept to hard labour for 18 months; William Kelsey, Henry Rogers, George Tadd, Richard Etherington, John Stoneage, and John Chalk, to 12 months’ imprisonment, and to be kept to hard labour, and all the rest to be transported for seven years.⁶⁴⁸

After all of the prisoners had been removed, the Court proceeded with the trials.

Thomas Hamblin was placed at the bar, charged with inciting others to commit riot, and refusing to disperse when commanded by a Magistrate to do so in the King’s name.

The Attorney General stated the case, and said that he felt this was not a case he could let pass. The prisoner was a stranger in the county, and was found inciting others to riot in a mob that had assembled at Liphook. His language and conduct was so violent that the magistrates present had ordered him into custody.

The prisoner was found *Guilty*, and sentenced to be imprisoned for six months, and to be kept to hard labour.⁶⁴⁹

It was half past one before the sentencing had been completed and there were still a number of prisoners, seventy, waiting to be tried in both Courts. Mr Justice Alderson went to the Nisi Prius court to deal with the cases remaining there.

Crown Court

The first group of men were then put to the bar, before Mr Baron Vaughan and Mr Justice Parke in the Crown Court. They were James Grant, aged 22, John Tubb, aged 36, Joseph Lawrence, aged 37, Thomas Stacey, aged 33, Henry West, age 25, James Leader, aged 41, John Brown, aged 14, Henry Masters, aged 21, Henry Day, aged 30, Henry Wells, aged 26, and John Hayes, aged 30. They were all agricultural labourers.

They were charged with robbery and in some instances riot. The Attorney General stated that he would be offering no evidence against these prisoners, as he hoped that after the sentences just handed out, the justice of the country had been satisfied. Those prisoners against whom no other charges remained were ordered to be discharged, and their relief at being let off was obvious to all. The first five prisoners named above were then charged with riot to which they pleaded *Guilty*. They were then ordered to be bound over in their own recognizance of £50 each to appear at the next Assize if called.

The Court then gave them a suitable admonition. They were told to be more careful in their future conduct and were informed that if they conducted themselves peaceably and orderly they would not be called upon, but if they joined in a riotous assemblage they would be called on to receive their judgement, and would be liable to the same punishment that some of their unfortunate and more desperate associates had now to undergo.

Mr Baron Vaughan observed, ‘The prisoners are greatly indebted to the lenity of the Crown, and I hope the mercy shown to them in this instance will not be misplaced, but will produce its intended effect upon them and their neighbours.’

They were then removed from the dock and ordered to be discharged. They all appeared very thankful for the lenity dealt out to them, which to several of them seemed a most unexpected boon.

Before leaving the dock the prisoners all bowed repeatedly and respectfully to the Court. It is utterly impossible for anyone who was not present to form an idea of the joy and delight that was pictured on the countenances of the prisoners when they received this intimation. Such an

⁶⁴⁸ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830

⁶⁴⁹ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph; Salisbury & Winchester Journal*

alteration in the countenance is not often to be observed. They had been expecting to suffer equally with some of their former associates and friends.⁶⁵⁰

At two o'clock Sir George Rose and several other gentlemen of the Grand Jury, came into Court with some fresh bills which Sir George said were the last that had been submitted to them.

Mr Baron Vaughan took this opportunity to address them. 'Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, I understand that there are no other bills to be laid before you, and I congratulate you upon the now probable termination of your labours. The nature of this Special Commission does not allow the Court to discharge you at present, and therefore you must hold yourselves in readiness, in case it should be deemed requisite to call upon you at a future time. But, before we take leave of you for the present, we are bound to thank you for the very painful and discriminating attention you have paid in performing the important duties you have been called on to perform at this unseasonable time of the year. The country must feel themselves indebted to you for the readiness with which you have come forward on this present occasion.'⁶⁵¹

Four prisoners were then charged with robbery, and one with breaking a threshing machine, he has already been convicted and sentenced to transportation. No evidence was offered by the Crown and they were acquitted.

Three prisoners were placed at the bar charged with robbery. They pleaded *Not Guilty* and were allowed to enter into their recognizance of £160 to appear at the next assizes.

The last case to be tried in this Court was that of John Boyes, aged 50, and James Fussell, aged 20, who were charged with having, on the 23rd November, riotously assembled, with others, and by threats and force obtained £5 from Mrs Long, of Marwell Hall.

The Attorney General stated that Boyes had gone about with the mob, with a paper, which was to this effect: - 'We, the undersigned, agree to give 2s per day to our married labourers, and 9s per week to single men, in consideration of having our rent and tithes abated.'

This paper had been signed by several farmers and landholders, some of whom had been compelled to put their names to it, and the ostensible object of the mob on going about was, to get signatures to this paper, though in several instances, they also made demands of money, and by threats and menaces obtained it. The prisoner Fussell was actively engaged in this mob at the time of the robbery. Among the places visited was Marwell Hall.

There was then some discussion between Mr Justice Parke and the Attorney General and Mr Sergeant Wilde as to whether or not there was sufficient evidence to support a charge of robbery. Mr Justice Alderson, who was in the other Court, was sent for and after the three Learned Judges had considered together for some time, it was decided to proceed with the case.

Mr Justice Parke said, 'If I find it requisite I will reserve the point.'

The Attorney General stated again, 'I do not think this is a case that can be ignored. It appears that both men were in a condition of life far above want, yet they were actively engaged in encouraging, by their presence and example, large mobs of persons who went about with a paper compelling persons to sign it, as an agreement to reduce rent and tithes.'

He then went on to tell the Court how Mrs Long, of Marwell Hall, had been forced to hand over £5 to the mob, when in a state of fear and intimidation. Twenty year old Fussell, a genteel-looking young man, is described as a person of some property. He lives with his mother and it seems he was perhaps led astray by the influence of others and had been present when the money was taken from Mrs Long.

Mrs Long's butler was called and said, 'On the 23rd November a mob came to the house and demanded £12 or £14. After remonstrating with them I went to my mistress, and on my advice she gave me £5 to give to the mob, this was done under the apprehension that they would do mischief.'

Grace Lock, a servant to the Earl of Northesk, at Rose Hill, was called and said, 'The two prisoners were among those that came to Rose Hill on the 23rd November and presented the paper for a signature to Lord Northesk's steward. They then inquired for any threshing machines, and said

⁶⁵⁰ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830

⁶⁵¹ *The Morning Herald*, 31 December 1830; *Hampshire Telegraph*; *Hampshire Chronicle*

they had come to destroy them. After which they demanded money, and insisted on getting £5, which at length they obtained. They then gave three cheers, and said, 'Now for the machine,' and proceeded to where the winnowing machine was kept and broke it. I could not say if Boyes saw the money paid, but he was present and must have heard the conversation.'

Moses Stanbrook, the steward to Lord Northesk, was able to corroborate this testimony, and said that it was John Boyes who presented the paper to him for a signature.⁶⁵²

The prisoners made no defence.

Several witnesses were called, who had known Boyes for 30 years, and gave him an excellent character.

Mr Justice Parke, with the consent of the Attorney General read his notes of yesterday, wherein Fussell's character was given.

Henry Woodward, a farmer and maltster, said, 'I have known Fussell since he was a child, and he has always been an honest, sober, orderly, and peaceable young man.'

Charles Houghton, a cutler, said, 'I have known Fussell from his youth. He has always borne a good character.'

Mr Justice Parke summed up the case with great detail, and the Jury found both the prisoners *Guilty*.

His Lordship then sentenced both prisoners to seven years' transportation.⁶⁵³

Nisi Prius Court

Soon after the sentencing of Boyes and Fussell Mr Justice Alderson left the Crown Court for the Nisi Prius Court to conduct the remaining several cases.

Thomas Warwick, aged 34, and Richard Keens, aged 34, were put to the bar charged with feloniously robbing William Hooper, of the sum of £5, at Monk Sherborne, on the 23rd of November.

Sarah Hooper, wife of the prosecutor, was called and proved that Keens, with many others, came to the house armed with large sticks, &c.

'They said they must have something to help them along. They abused me shamefully for offering them 5s. My husband asked what they wished to have. Warwick said 'We will take five sovereigns, and if you don't fetch them we will break the door open, and have the man'. We fastened the door, which they broke open. My husband then brought the £5 note, and gave it to Warwick.'

A Judgement of Death was recorded.⁶⁵⁴

Abraham Etheridge, Charles Martin, Joshua Wren, and Henry Fabian, pleaded *Guilty* to an indictment charging them with feloniously, riotously, and tumultuously assembling on the 21st of November.

They were ordered to enter into their own recognizances of £50 to appear and receive judgement when called upon, and in the mean time to keep the peace.

William Barnes aged 42, and James Fussell, age 20, were indicted for feloniously robbing Joseph Lowndes of the sum of two half sovereigns, in the parish of Owslebury, on the 23rd of November last.

Several witnesses were called to prove the case.

The Learned Judge summed up the case, and the Jury *Acquitted* both the prisoners.⁶⁵⁵

Several prisoners pleaded 'guilty' to charges of riot and robbery and were discharged on their own recognizance to appear for judgement if called upon. Thirteen men pleaded 'guilty' to a charge of riot and unlawful assembly, nine were directed to enter into their own recognizance to appear when called but the remaining four, who have been tried before and are not agricultural labourers, were sentenced to six months hard labour in the house of correction.

⁶⁵² *Hampshire Chronicle*. NOTE: On 29 July 1835 Grace Lock married George Stanbrook, the son of Moses Stanbrook, at Wonston

⁶⁵³ *The Morning Herald*, 3 January 1831

⁶⁵⁴ *Hampshire Chronicle*

⁶⁵⁵ *The Morning Herald*, 3 January 1831

The business of the Court was adjourned to the other Court at half past seven.

With the sentencing of Boyes and Fussell the business of the Special Commission was complete. Mr Baron Vaughan addressed the Jury. 'Gentlemen of the Jury, - In consideration of your having been so long at this time, and the very arduous and distressing duties you have had to perform, we have thought it right and our duty to represent to the proper authorities, that you should not be called upon to serve again as jurymen for some time to come. We understand that your turn comes round once in three years. You will not, therefore, have to attend again for six years.'

The Foreman told Mr Baron Vaughan that the Jury had signed a paper that they intended to present to the Judges, in which they ask that they be compensated for the time and expense they have lost by their attendance at the Court. Mr Baron Vaughan had to tell him that although they felt they deserved some compensation it was not within the power of the Judges to grant their request. 'I mention to you that you will not be called upon to serve on a jury for a long time to come, as I thought that circumstance might, perhaps, make you recollect a special commission.' To which the Foreman replied, 'My Lord, I am certain we shall all recollect a special commission.'

32 34
18 END.

Result.	Sentence.	Remarks.			
Divisions	% of Capital convictions for robbery, &c, changing Warrant	D° for Robbery	D° for grand larceny with intent	D° for Burglary, &c, &c	D° for Larceny
Orosbury	—	1	—	—	2
Andover	10	21	—	5	—
Alton	7	2	—	3	13
Fordingbridge	11	5	5	2	—
Micheldever	—	11	—	4	—
Basingstoke	—	12	—	—	—
Upham	—	7	—	7	—
Kingsclere	—	4	—	3	4
Stockbridge	—	4	—	2	5
Romsey	—	1	—	6	29
Iteham	—	2	—	—	15
Stoneham	—	—	—	5	—
Rookley	—	—	—	—	10
Southampton	—	—	—	—	12
Michelmersh	—	—	—	—	5
Portsmouth	—	—	—	9	—
	21	7	73	5	46
					2
					94

Total Convictions 248

26. Convictions arranged by Districts

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 Observing Mr Ricketts, who is the head of the Constabulary Force of the county, in Court, Mr Baron Vaughan took occasion to express the gratification which he and his Learned Brothers had experienced, in observing the efficient and admirable manner in which the Constabulary force of the county, under his direction of Mr Ricketts, had been conducted. It was so much superior to that I have before met with. It is a truly constitutional force. It was a pleasure to see persons associated together for the preservation of their own property, and congregated together for the purpose of endeavouring to preserve the peace, which they have done in a most excellent manner. I beg to thank most particularly those gentlemen who were at the head of such constabulary force, and had

the management of it, by which the peace of the city and its neighbourhood have been so well preserved.'⁶⁵⁶

Mr Justice Parke then spoke, 'It ought, perhaps, to be generally known, that any Magistrate, at the application of five householders, has the power to compel parties to be sworn in as special constables. I wish to state this thus publicly, as I find a great error has gone abroad on the subject. I am very sorry to say there is an indictment against five persons, which has been traversed over to the next Assizes, for refusing to be sworn in as special constables, during the time of these tumultuous and riotous mobs. They are liable to punishment if they refuse, if called upon by the proper authorities. It ought to be known that the Magistrates have the power of ordering and commanding persons to be sworn in, upon an application being made as I have before stated. I most cordially beg to add my testimony to that of my Learned Brother, for the admirable manner in which the peace of this city and vicinity have been kept. The excellent arrangements that have been made give reason to hope that we shall have no renewal of those disgraceful outrages that have disturbed the county.'

Late this evening the proceedings under the Special Commission for this county were brought to a conclusion, and the Judges were released from their arduous duties, which will be resumed at Salisbury on Saturday morning.⁶⁵⁸

The business of the Special Commission being concluded the Judges left the Court. As a result of the trials 101 prisoners have been capitally convicted, six of whom have been left for execution, 36 have been sentenced to transportation, 65 are to be imprisoned and kept at hard labour, 67 have been acquitted and several have had no bills preferred against them. Winchester Gaol is extremely full and it is likely that the men sentenced to transportation will quickly be sent to the hulks. No date has yet been fixed for the execution of the six men.

⁶⁵⁶ *The Morning Herald (London)*, 31 December 1830; *Hampshire Chronicle*; *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶⁵⁷ *Hampshire Advertiser*; *Hampshire Chronicle*; *Hampshire Telegraph*

⁶⁵⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*

32
29
31

Result.	Sentence.	Remarks.
<u>General Summary.</u>		
Prisoners for Trial	<u>345</u>	
Capital Convictions		
For riotously assembling and feloniously demolishing Machinery employed in certain Manufactures	11	
For riotously assembling and beginning to demolish Machinery employed in certain Manufactures	10	
For riotously assembling and feloniously and with force demolishing a House		
Headley Workhouse	7	
For Robbery	<u>73</u>	101
For Felony, viz:		
For destroying Threshing Machines	5	
For Larceny	2	53
For High Conspiracies and Assaults		94
Acquitted		67
Trial postponed for robbery in consequence of the illness of the Prosecutrix	3	
Misdemeanours traversed		3
Bills returned ignoramus		5
Admitted Writings for the Crown		2
Discharged by Proclamation for want of prosecution		17
		<u>345</u>

27. General Summary of Prosecutions

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