

BrC 2405

From THE HAMPSHIRE MACHINE BREAKERS. Page 45.

November 22nd. 1830

A threshing machine property of Charles Baring Wall was destroyed by a mob in the parish of Broughton. William Noble, Charles Forder, Henry Gale, John Lush and William Kelsey were recognised among the mob.

The same mob also visited the premises of John Box. They told Mr.Box that they had come to break his threshing machine and Mr.Box opened the door of the barn where the machine was housed and the mob destroyed it.

William Noble was bound over to keep the peace.

Charles Forder the same.

Henry Gale the same.

John Lush was sentenced to 7 years transportation but this was reduced to one years hard labour after letters were read from local dignitaries including Mr.Wall. Later pardoned.

William Kelsey was sentenced to one years hard labour.

H.R.O. 14M50/2 is the Calender of the trial at Winchester.

Hampshire Chronicle 29th November 1830 reports riots in Broughton, Stockbridge, Bossington and Tytherley.

The Times of 23rd November 1830 reports riots in Lower Wallop.

P.R.O. HO130/1 INDEX TO PRISONERS FOR TRIAL.

BrC 3023

103 James GRANT, 22 Committed by the Rev.R.Wright, charged with breaking the windows and robbing the house of J.Storey PENLEAZE Esq. of Broughton, and stealing thereout two flutes, a music book and a brass poker.

Warrant dated 28th Nov 1830.

238 William NOBLE jun. 20 Committed by W.S.Stanley and  
239 Henry GALE, 17 J.J.Lockhart. Esqrs. charged with  
240 John LUSH, 30 having, with divers other persons,  
241 William KELSEY, 55 on the 22nd day of November last,

at the parish of Broughton, feloniously destroyed a thrashing machine, the property of Charles Baring Wall Esq.

Warrant dated December 13th 1830.

295 Isaac OFFER, 21 Committed by G.Eyre and J.J.Lockhart

296 Charles FORDER, 29 Charged with having, on 22nd day of November last, at the parish of Broughton, with divers other persons, riotously assembled together, and feloniously destroyed a threshing machine, the property of John Box. Warrant dated December 16th 1830.

Grant, Noble, Gale, Offer and Forder - To abide and keep the peace.

Kelsey - Twelve months house of correction hard labour.

Lush - Transportation for seven years, but amended later.

BrC 3358

From the Somborne Society Newsletter, Spring 1988.

The big news in 1830 was the rioting; the utmost alarm prevailed during the week of 29th November in consequence of the serious outrages committed by different mobs assembling in the villages adjacent to King's Somborne. The object of this action was to destroy machines and compel farmers to increase the labourer's wages, and every house was visited by the various mobs forcing the occupants to contribute money and refreshments. All able bodied men were pressed in to service. In the parishes of Houghton, Compton, Broughton, Mottisfont, Michelmersh, Tytherley and Lockerley all the threshing machines were destroyed. On the Monday the turn pike gates of East Dean and Tytherley were burst open and during the night of Tuesday the houses occupied by the toll collectors were set on fire; but they were allowed to take a few belongings out of their houses first.

Fortunately for those in King's Somborne the riots stopped short at Compton and Houghton. I must say that riot fever must have been in the area as Fordingbridge was in the same plight at the same time. After every thing had quietened down, nearly a month later, it was noted that the actual rioting was 'played down' by the authorities who said it had been greatly exaggerated and in many places the rioters had turned out to be 'merely common highwaymen' demanding money - an offence punishable by death - but the case of the poor labourer would be looked into and considered.

The present trouble had started when farm labourers, protesting at low wages, the use of farm machinery and the employment of casual Irish workers, had taken action at Lower Hardres near Canterbury during the night of 28th August 1830 by destroying a threshing machine. The unrest had quickly spread beyond Kent and for the next three months, incidents of arson, machine wrecking, the sending of threatening letters (often bearing the signature "Captain Swing" which appeared on many such letters at the time and which gave the name to the "Swing Riots", attacks on Justices of the Peace and Poor Law overseers, and threatening demands for money or provisions continued to flare up in southern counties. While this was going on, a number of large assemblies or meetings were held, often with farmers present, to demand higher wages or reduction in tithes.

A party made its way from Stockbridge, Houghton Mill to Bossington House where they broke windows before continuing to Rookley House at King's Somborne.

Source The Hampshire Chronicle.