



### **Wilts Special Commission**

Crown Court, Friday January 7. (Before Mr. Justice J. Parke and T. G. B. Estcourt, Esq., M.P.)

John Eyres, Enoch Leach, David Keal, J. Romaine, and David Ranger were convicted of having destroyed a thrashing-machine, on the 22nd November, belonging to Thomas Jenner, of Netherhaven. William Hillier, indicted on the same charge, was acquitted.

A Dissenting minister appearing to give the prisoner Eyres a good character, received a severe reprimand from the Learned Judge, as he admitted having known the prisoner from his birth, yet wished to limit his character to seven years. He also admitted that he thought he had heard that Eyres had been in custody before on a charge of felony.

William Hillier was again put to the bar, and convicted of having destroyed a thrashing-machine, the property of William Sweetapple.

The prisoner, in his defence, said, that he had been pressed by the mob, and that the machines were broken by the direction of the farmers themselves.

The prosecutor and the dissenting minister before alluded to, denied the statement of the prisoner, who said it was a very hard thing that he should suffer for doing that which the farmers had consented to.

Mr. Justice Parke observed, that if they had given their consent, it was pretty clear why they did so: it was to escape a greater evil, a more serious loss.

### **London Courier, 10 January 1831**

John Eyres – Sentenced to 7 years transportation. Sent to Van Diemen's Land on the Eliza, arriving 28 May 1831. 38, or (age 30), (different age given on different documents) farm servant, wears a wooden leg, right leg perished through frost. Scar on right elbow due to "Kings Evil." Married, wife Ann Eyres at Henford (Enford). Free Pardon 3 February 1836.

David Ranger – Sentenced to 7 years transportation. Sent to Van Diemen's Land on the Eliza, arriving 28 May 1831. Age 34, ploughman. Married, wife Jane at Netherhaven. Free pardon 3 February 1836.

William Hillier - Sentenced to 7 years transportation. Sent to Van Diemen's Land on the Eliza, arriving 28 May 1831. Age 21, Single, ploughman, from Hentford (Enford). Noted on description form, that he had a

mermaid on his left arm. Previously convicted for leaving his master and tried and acquitted for arson with his master.

**Tasmanian records**