



Swing Riot Trial of Charles Martin

Special Commission, Wilts. Salisbury – Tuesday

Charles Martin, aged 30, was indicted for assaulting William Windsor, and extorting from him, by threats and menaces, the sum of £4, on the 22nd November, at Melchet Park.

William Windsor, examined by Mr. Bingham: Lives at Melchet Park; he met a large mob, between 200 and 300, about 100 yards from Mr. Webb's house, in the Park, at eleven o'clock; some person said they wanted victuals and drink; he said, rather than they should go to the house and alarm Mrs. Webb and the children, he would give them a sovereign; some of them laughed, and said it would not be a drop a piece; they said the machines must be destroyed; prisoner came up and shook his fist in witness's face, and said they would have more than that – it wouldn't be a drop or a glass for each of them, they'd have five sovereigns.

They made so much noise for a few minutes that witness could not be heard, and the whole party were brandishing their sticks at the same time; finding they were so noisy he gave them four sovereigns; they then all went towards the farm, and destroyed the machines; Martin was by encouraging them, and said, "Cut away, my boys;" they then said they would not go further without the money, as when they got to the gate, witness might give them the slip, and they would be obliged to return to the house for the money; he then paid Martin the four sovereigns; he agreed to give the four sovereigns from fear, as he was surrounded by the mob, and Martin shaking his fist in his face.

Mr. Baron Vaughan thought this would not do, and the prisoner was accordingly Acquitted.

Morning Chronicle, Thursday, 6 January 1831