



Swing Riot Trials

Tuesday Special Commission, Wilts. Salisbury – Tuesday

David Baker, 29, George Durman, 25, and John Vokings were indicted for robbing Mr. Church of 10s. On the 23rd November [1830] about 200 or 300 persons came to the prosecutor's house; Vokings had a sledge-hammer, Durman had a flag, and a ribbon round his hat, Baker had an axe. The mob chopped up a thrashing-machine; Durman demanded a sovereign, but Mr. Church was not at home, and the servant gave them half-a-sovereign and five shillings. Durman said he would not be satisfied with that, and the servant then borrowed five shillings, which he gave to them. The indictment stated that the money was all the property of Mr. Church, and consequently it could not stand; the prisoners were therefore acquitted.

The same prisoners were then indicted for destroying a thrashing-machine belonging to the same party.

Thomas Brind: "Baker and Vokings were engaged in destroying the machine with a sledge-hammer and an axe; Durman was by with a flag and a ribbon round his hat; he came with a mob."

The Jury found all the prisoners Guilty; and Mr. Justice Park sentenced them to Seven Years' Transportation.

Morning Chronicle, Thursday, 6 January 1831

Transcriber's Notes:

What Happened To Them?

David Baker. He was transported on "Eliza" to Van Diemen's Land. He was granted a Free Pardon 3 February 1836, after which he returned to live in his native Chiseldon.

George Durman. He was transported on "Eleanor" to New South Wales. He was granted a Free Pardon on November 9th 1837, after which he returned to England to live in Surrey.

John Vokings. He was transported on "Eliza" to Van Diemen's Land 7 years. He was granted a Free Pardon 3 February 1836.