



## Swing Riots

### John Brasher's Mill And Machines Destroyed

#### Wilts Special Commission, Salisbury - Monday

**Henry Shergold**, aged 30; **George Shergold**, 25; **James Down**, 17; **James Cole**, 18; **William Lewis**, 30; **T. Whatley**, 17; **John Jennings**, 18; **William Jacobs**, 31; and **William Francis**, 21; stood indicted for having feloniously destroyed a mill, engines, and machinery therein, the property of **John Brasher**, in the parish of Wilton, on the 25th November.

The Attorney-General stated the case as detailed by the witnesses.

**Samuel Brasher** proved that his father occupied Crow Lane mill, where woollen cloth was manufactured; on the 24th of November 500 men came to it, amongst whom were all the prisoners, armed with different weapons; the amount of the damage done by them to the mill was £500.

**Henry Jones**, **Charles Vining**, and **George Brasher**, having fully made out this evidence, the prisoners were called on for their defence.

**Jennings**, **G. Shergold**, and **H. Shergold**, said that the witnesses had sworn falsely. The other prisoners said they were pressed by the mob. The case was not pressed against **Jacobs**, as it was fully ascertained he had been forced to go, by threats of their throwing him in the river. The prisoners, **Down**, **Francis**, **Lewis**, having received very excellent characters, **Mr Justice Alderson** summed up.

The following verdicts were given in:

**John Jennings**, Guilty; **George Shergold**, Guilty; **Henry Shergold**, Guilty; **Thomas Whatley**, Guilty; **James Down**, Guilty; **Isaac Cole**, Guilty; **William Francis**, Guilty; **William Lewis**, Guilty; and **William Jacobs**, Not Guilty.

The Jury recommended **William Lewis** to mercy.

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