



Swing Riots

Farmer William Perry's Farm Attacked

Wilts Special Commission, Salisbury, Wednesday

James Lush, 40, **James Toomer**, 35, **George Toomer**, 36, and **James Lane**, 23, were indicted for having feloniously, at Homington, robbed William Perry of certain monies, his property.

William Perry: Lives at Homington, and is a farmer; on the 23rd of November, about twelve o'clock at night, he went out of doors about one mile from home, in consequence of some information he received, to meet the mob, which consisted of forty or fifty; he rode with them to his house; he saw Lush and James Toomer; he said to the latter, "James Toomer, is that you? I am sorry to see you here." He said, "Yes, we are going to see the machine, and to break it." Toomer had been in his employ about three weeks before; as they were going across the yard, witness had a lanthorn in his hand, when George Toomer laid hold of his coat, and threatened to pull him off his horse if he did not let him have it; he took it from him, and the mob then went into the machine-house; when they struck some blows on the machine the candle went out, and they returned to the house, where they demanded money, which, after some time, he gave to them; George Toomer was close by; they said they must have money, they had got it from other persons, mentioning their names, and that they would have some from him; finding they were determined to have it, he told them he had nothing but silver; he ultimately gave them some; George Toomer was standing close by; he saw several sledge hammers in the hands of the mob, but he could not tell whose; they then demanded beer, which he was obliged to give them; they next set up a cheer, which, after some difficulty, he silenced, because he had a mother, eighty years of age, living close by, and he did not wish her to be alarmed; the mob then went away; the mob, when they first demanded money, wanted two sovereigns.

C. K. Perry identified the prisoner Lush and the two Toomers, as being close to his brother when the money was demanded.

Thomas Luther identified Lane as having been in the mob at another place, but he did not see him at Mr. Perry's.

Mr. Justice Alderson said there was no case made out against Lane.
The Jury found Lush and the two Toomers Guilty, and acquitted Lane.

Morning Chronicle, 7 January 1831