



Swing Riot Trials

There are nearly 300 prisoners for trial at our ensuing Special Assizes.

Committed to the Old Bridewell, Devizes

Mary Martin, Mary Parker, Mary Lamb, John Newcombe, Richard Townsend, Edward Cruse, and George Butt, charged with having riotously assembled at Newnton, on the 25th November, and set fire to and burnt a thrashing-machine, the property of Luke Cole.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 27 December 1830

John Newcomb and Richard Townsend were convicted of breaking a thrashing-machine, the property of Luke Cole, at Estcourt.

George Butt, charged on the same indictment was acquitted.

The learned Judge sentenced Newcomb to be transported for seven years: and Townsend to be imprisoned for three months.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Monday, 10 January 1831

OPC Note:

1841 Census – Luke Cole, farmer, at Braydon Brook, Crudwell

John Newcombe, George Butt and Richard Townsend were indicted for breaking a thrashing-machine.

The prisoners met the machine in the care of a boy who was taking it home to his master. They broke it to pieces. No evidence was offered against Butt, and he was acquitted. The others were found guilty.

London Courier, Monday, 10 January 1831

OPC Note:

John Newcombe was transported on the "Eliza" to Australia to Van Diemen's Land. Tasmanian records show he was aged 28, a tailor, married with four children, his wife was Mary Anna, a tailoress. On arrival he was assigned to a Mr. Lightfoot. He was admitted to Hobart Hospital where he died on 20 September 1832.