



Incendiary Fire

On Saturday evening, Mr Baverstock, builder, of this town, was returning from Burbage, at which place he had just valued a barn, lately destroyed by fire, for the Phoenix Insurance Office, accompanied by his man and the Burbage policeman, whom he had taken up on the road; having passed Lye Hill, a cry of fire reached them, and on looking back they saw a large straw rick, the property of Mr H. Godding, of Brimsdale Farm, enveloped in flames. A man was observed leaving the rick, named John Chunn, Of Marlborough, labourer; and when accosted by the policeman he confessed to having fired the rick, and stated that he was miserable and wished to be out of the way. Indeed the fellow appears to be hardly sane, as a few weeks since he made a voluntary confession of having set fire to premises in Berks, 24 years ago. The rick, which was insured, was totally consumed, with a portion of the forest fencing.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 16 May 1857

1821 Map shows Leigh Hill to north of Burbage, and Brimsdale, near Wotton Rivers, on the edge of Savernake Forest.

