



Swing Riots of 1830

Thursday 25th November 1830

A mob of between 50 and 60 people gathered in the parish of Handley, in Dorset, and from there they went to Brindmore Farm in the parish of Berwick St. John. Mr. Woolridge, the occupier of the farm, had taken down his thrashing machine before the mob had arrived. He had burnt some of the inside parts and removed the stage and the legs and had hidden them and the iron parts he had put out in a field. When the mob arrived at the farm they demanded victuals and they then went out to the field where they used sledge hammers and large sticks to destroy the iron parts of the thrashing machine. From Brindmore Farm the mob moved on to the village of Tollard Royal, and the farm of Lord Rivers where they destroyed the iron parts of a thrashing machine, a winnowing machine, and a chaff cutting machine. From there they went to the farm of Charles Lane, also in the village of Tollard Royal. When Mr. Lane remonstrated with the mob one of them, Joseph Chubb, came up to him with a large piece of iron and threatened to beat his brains out if he interfered with them further. The mob then broke Mr. Lane's thrashing machine and chaff cutting machine and burnt the pieces. They then went to one of Mr. Lane's barns, about half a mile away, where they threw out and destroyed a winnowing machine that Mr. Lane had borrowed from a neighbouring farmer. The last farm this mob visited was Ashgrove Farm in the parish of Donhead St. Mary, occupied by Mr. Jasper Cox. They broke his thrashing machine and between six and seven o'clock in the evening they went to Mr. Cox's house and demanded money, saying they would have it by fair means or foul. Mr. Cox handed over five shillings.

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