



Aftermath of Kington Langley Revel

Desperate Affray at Chippenham

On Saturday the 7th instant, between eleven and twelve o'clock, a party of young men, about thirty in number, from Langley Burrell and Kington Langley, near Chippenham, entered that town, and with bludgeons and stones, assaulted and most dreadfully beat all the persons they met, without distinction of age or sex. Mr. Joseph Hull, saddler, who was called out of his bed by cries of murder, was taken up and carried home dead. Mr. Reynold, a brazier, was carried home bruised from head to foot. He was heard praying most piteously for his life. "Don't kill me! Don't kill me, Mountjoy, and I'll give thee a guinea!" but no mercy was shewn him. He died on Tuesday evening. Mr. Moore, the high constable, and landlord of the Duke of Cumberland, lies in a most deplorable state, and upwards of twenty other persons are suffering under severe contusions. Nearly twenty of the assailants, including the two ringleaders, who are respectable farmers, are in custody. This shameful outrage is stated to have arisen at the last Kington Langley revel, where some offence was taken at the conduct of some young men of Chippenham, and a determination was formed to have revenge.

A verdict of Wilful Murder and Riot has been brought in by the Coroner's Inquest, which sat on the bodies of the unfortunate men who lost their lives on this occasion, against Henry Knight and John Matthew (two farmers), John Thomas, George Thomas, Thomas Pearce, Benjamin Salter, William Tanner, John

Woodman, James Isaacs, and William Bryant, (all of whom, except Tanner, are in custody,) and against other persons unknown. Three other persons are also in custody, charged with being implicated in this riot.”

The Scots Magazine, Volume 90, Page 620, October 1822

“... in the year 1822 Kington Langley Revel was the occasion of, what Aubrey might have called, one of the eminentest riots in those parts. Some offence having been given to the villagers at the feast by a party of young men from Chippenham, several meetings were afterwards held for the purpose of planning revenge, and it was ultimately resolved that a grand attempt should be made on the 7th of September. Accordingly in the course of that evening about 30 or 40 men assembled at Chippenham, and about half-past 10 o'clock commenced their outrage by appearing in the street armed with bludgeons, and attacking all who came their way; Mr. Joseph Hall, a saddler, was so severely bruised as to expire within a few hours. Mr. Reynolds, a brazier, died shortly afterwards. Constables were knocked down and beaten, and in short not less than thirty-one men, women, and children were more or less wounded.”

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine, Volume 4, Page 50, 1858