



Swing Riot Trials

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

Committed to Fisherton Gaol:

John Shergold, George Shergold, and John Day charged with breaking certain threshing machines belonging to W. Goodenough Hayter, esq., at Winterbourne Stoke.

The two Shergolds are also charged with having robbed Christopher Ingram of 5s. at Stapleford.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 27 December 1830

Wiltshire Special Assizes – Salisbury, January 3. Before Mr. Baron Vaughan, Mr. Justice J. Parke, and Mr. Justice Alderson.

John Shergold, 22, George Shergold, 28, and John Day, 22, were charged with having robbed Christopher Ingram of 5s., his money. The prisoners pleaded Not Guilty.

The prisoners came to the prosecutor's house at three o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 24th of November, and insisted on getting the money.

The prisoners said nothing in their defence. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty against the two Shergolds, but acquitted Day. It appeared from the evidence, that George and John Shergold are both thrashers. George Shergold was in the east India Company's service, and had been to China as a mariner. His appearance is very rakish. His conduct, and that of his brother, were marked with extreme

levity during the trial. Mr. Baron Vaughan desired them to be taken away, assuring them that their case required consideration, as their punishment would undoubtedly be severe.

The Attorney-General said that there was another indictment against the prisoner Day for breaking a thrashing-machine; but as he (the Attorney-General) had heard that he was a man of good character, he did not intend to offer any evidence upon it. A verdict of acquittal was accordingly taken upon that indictment.

London Courier and Evening Gazette, Wednesday, 5 January 1831

John Shergold, 22, George Shergold, 28, and John Day, 22, were indicted for extorting 5s. from Christopher Ingram.

From the evidence, it appeared that a mob, consisting of a considerable number of persons, among whom were the prisoners, went to Mr. Ingram's house about half-past three in the morning, and demanded bread and cheese and cyder. Mr. Ingrams, alarmed by their threats, and fearful they might do some injury, was induced to give them 5s., and they departed. During their stay near his house they were riotous and noisy. The prisoners took an active part in the proceedings of the mob, of which George Shergold declared himself the captain.

The prisoners made no defence.

Thomas Blanchard, a parish clerk, gave Day a good character. Mr. Baron Vaughan summed up, and the Jury found the Shergolds guilty and acquitted John Day.

John Day was then indicted for destroying a Thrashing-Machine, belonging to W. J. Hayter, esq.

The Crown declined offering any evidence and he was acquitted.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 6 January 1831

OPC Note:

In 1832, Thomas Blanchard was parish clerk of Berwick St James. **Source: 1832 Voters List for South Wilts.**

John and George Shergold – Stapleford baptisms. **Source: IGI**

John and George Shergold were both sentenced to death, which was commuted to life imprisonment.

They went to New South Wales in the convict ship "Eleanor." **Source: Convicts of the "Eleanor"**