

flourished more than ever; from the north of the county, where William Grendon was attacked on his manor of Bramcote by a veritable army of hostile locals, through the centre, where the prior of Coventry was reportedly ill-treating Coventry citizens and Thomas Waley, dubbed a 'notorious bandit' by the authorities, claimed that both his arms were broken in an affray, to the south-west, where along the Worcestershire-Warwickshire border 'persons wandering about and making confederacies' were plaguing the authorities. Criminal gangs roamed everywhere, swelled at times by rebel gentry still at large, so that the two became indistinguishable. John Wyard joined the notorious adventurer, Robert Ewer, for a time; Ewer himself was reported near Malvern in December 1322 'at large with an armed force of horse and foot'. The equally unscrupulous Roger Elmbridge and Malcolm Musard continued their vendetta, Elmbridge's goods being seized by Musard and Richard Barcheston at Newbold in Tredington before being finally captured by Musard at Chipping Campden and sent off to execution. Quantities of stolen goods and stock disappeared without trace, despite fruitless commissions of enquiry which could only report them to be 'in the hands of divers unknown persons'.

The actual task of organizing the forfeitures naturally fell to a large body of trusted local gentry, who were charged with collecting the dues from the rebels' estates and sending them not to the exchequer, but direct to the king.⁴⁰ They included activists such as John Pecche and Peter Mountford, who had fought for the king; current and former sheriffs and their deputies and clerks, like Robert Harthill, John Dene, Henry Duckworth, John Olney, Robert Morin, William Falconer, Henry Nottingham, John Hoby and William Chadshunt; tax assessors and collectors like Richard Harthill, Henry Erdington, John Langley and John Peyto; bailiffs of various hundreds, like John Andrew, Robert Atwood and John Persham; and experienced professional lawyers like William Jaunvill. Many, such as Thomas Rous of Walsall, Robert Stoke

W. Childs, ed., *Politics and Crisis in Fourteenth Century England*, Gloucester 1990, p. 21; J.R. Maddicott, 'The English peasantry and the Crown, 1294-1341', in T.H. Aston, ed., *Landlords, Peasants and Politics in Medieval England*, Cambridge 1987, p. 290. *Register of Thomas Cobham*, p. 151.

⁴⁰ *CPR 1321-1324*, pp. 85, 160, 172, 216, 254, 377; *VCH, Warwickshire*, ii, p. 56; iv, p. 190; PRO, JUST1/1037, m. 3; KB27/258, m. 34; *CCR 1318-1323*, pp. 517-8; T.F. Tout, *Chapters in the Administrative History of Medieval England*, 2 vols, Manchester 1920, ii, pp. 338-40.