

went into a field there with them immediately. I saw a large machine burning and a mob of about 500 people collected round it, as near as I can guess, and being a little behind the yeomanry, I saw Major Stratton falling from his horse, being, as I supposed, knocked from his horse by a stone, many of which were at that time thrown from the said mob so collected, and immediately ran forward to assist him and endeavoured to obtain hold of his horse's bridle, but could not as the horse plunged very much ... I waited and saw him remount his horse and then followed the yeomanry to the field. When I had been there a few minutes a number of stones were thrown at the yeomanry, one of which struck me on the breast, and immediately after a great number of firebrands were thrown amongst the yeomanry which put their horses into confusion.

Amongst the mob I particularly observed Edward Townsend of the borough, sawyer, Robert Cotton of Neithrop, boat builder, William Austin, ostler at the *Waggon & Horses* inn in the borough. I heard Edward Townsend say to Robert Cotton 'come along and let us go behind the hedge, there are plenty of stones, and we will dam'd well serve out the bloody yeomanry', in consequence of which they retired towards it, but it being nearly dark I couldn't tell whether they actually did go behind – didn't see them again until later when a large quantity of stones were thrown nearly from the spot where they went. Saw William Austin dragging behind him a large stick or stake, part of which was burnt, toward the yeomanry. He was going to throw it but the mob said not yet, not yet, go nearer, don't miss, went within 7-8 yards as near as I could judge and threw it with great violence and ran away. I ran after him and walked with him some distance on purpose to recognise him. Saw also Robert Cotton with a large stick or bludgeon about one yard long under his coat.

### **Second affirmation of Thomas Page made 24 February 1831:**

Monday 26 [?] November,<sup>10</sup> about half past six, as I was sitting in the office, I heard a great noise and shouting, apparently from a large mob. Soon after I was sent out on errand to Mr Walford who is an officer of the yeomanry and was at headquarters at the Red Lion inn. Found large mob there, great difficulty in making way through mob to the inn. Before I got into the inn some windows were broken, great number of stones thrown ... mob remained opposite the inn ... about 200. Between 7 and 8 I was sent out again, met mob coming up street as if from the

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<sup>10</sup> Every other source shows that the riot took place on Monday 29 November.