

down on part of the machine because I would have nothing to do with the mob. One of the yeomanry took hold of me and I made no resistance whatever.

The Bodicote Riot: Tuesday 30 November.

Deposition/complaint of John Wilson of Bodicote in the parish of Adderbury, farmer. 3 December 1830:

On Tuesday 30 November I had a thrashing machine in a field near to my dwelling house at Bodicote between the hours of 9 and 10 of the clock. On the night of that day a mob of about 30 persons assembled in the fields. They brought with them a hay-making machine which I understood they had taken from the farm of Zachariah Kilby, a farmer residing in Bodicote. They placed the hay-making machine close to my threshing machine. They then went to the farmyard of Mr Austin whose premises adjoin mine, and brought from it a quantity of straw which they carried to the machines. They then set fire to both the machines. Whilst the mob was thus employed I went up to them and seized two of them. One of them was a sawyer, of Banbury; the other man's name is Edward Hopley, of Neithrop, labourer. I desired the special constables to take charge of them and five or six of them did so. I then returned to the fire and seized a third, and whilst I was in the act of taking him the persons cried out 'it is of no use, the constables have let the other men go'. On hearing this I quitted my hold on the third man and sent a message to Banbury to request the assistance of the yeomanry for some short time. There was a pause, and I, with the assistance of some of Mr Austin's men, endeavoured to put out the fire. I also declared aloud that I was a special constable and charged all persons present to depart. They did not however attend to my directions and in a few minutes the said Henry [Edward, crossed through] Townsend and some others of the mob came to the fire, collected the scattered pieces of burning timber, and piled them together, and they kept up the fire. Presently a detachment of dragoons arrived and dispersed the mob. The said Henry Townsend was amongst the most active of the mob who committed the above mentioned depredation.

Nathaniel Page, a labourer from Bodicote affirmed that on 3 [or 1] December 1830 between 30 and 40 people assembled to burn a threshing machine belonging to a Mr Wilson in a close at Bodicote. Amongst the most active of them were Henry Irwardson of Banbury, baker, and Robert Cotton, also of Banbury, boat builder, whom he assumed to be ringleaders.