

Two members of the 14th Light Dragoons, Henry van Strawburzee, a cornet and Samuel Yates a private soldier related briefly that the regiment was summoned from Banbury to Bodicote where they found a crowd burning a threshing machine, and that another private soldier, James Yates, had seized a man at the fire.

Thomas Cole of Banbury, draper, related that he heard in Banbury that there was a mob at Bodicote, went there on horseback and saw a troop of soldiers come to quell the riot. He went with the soldiers to a field 'behind Bodicote', and saw a threshing machine being burned. The soldiers gave a man into his custody whom he put on his horse before him, but he slipped off and escaped. He believed that the man was John Bloxham.

John Bloxham, plush weaver of Bodicote, insisted that the part of the charge against him saying that he damned the soldiers was false. He said that he ran from the fire to a sunken fence in the fields where there was a wall, but recollecting that he had a son at the fire he determined to go back and see if he could get him away. He went back to the wall where he saw a boy who was much frightened, to whom he said 'don't be frightened, they can't hurt you, they can't come any further'. A soldier then drew a pistol and took him prisoner, leaving him with Thomas Cole, who allowed him to escape. Bloxham insisted on his innocence.

Subsequent disturbances in Banburyshire

Deposition/information of Thomas Wilkes of Tadmarton, 3 December 1830:

On Wednesday 1 December about 7 pm a mob of 60 plus persons came to my house in Tadmarton. Amongst them were William Cox, Samuel Cox, James Bodfish, William Moreby, Philip Green, Thomas Barlow, John Barlow, all inhabitants of Tadmarton, Cox and Bodfish came to me and said [they were] come to break my draining plough if they could find it. George Freeman of Tadmarton, labourer, was also there, and he told them where the plough was. They went to look for it. I followed. William Cox swore by his maker he would break it to bits. Cox, Bodfish and others had sledge hammers, axes &c. Green had a blacksmith's hammer. I warned them off. They couldn't find the plough and said they would come back. Next morning mob came again to my house headed by William Cox. Said they were come for my labourers to