

THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP



7th edition

October 2017

Free

PENTRICH 1817 - The trials of the revolutionaries

The Turners and some of the other rebels captured on June 10th 1817 had to endure a long wait until they were brought to trial on October 15th 1817. The authorities were waiting until after the harvest so that landowners, sympathetic to the Crown, could be sworn in.

The 15 still being held in Nottingham were treated well compared with those captured later and held in Derby Gaol where they were put on bread and water.

The trials were supervised by the Chief Baron, Sir Richard Richards and prosecuted by the Attorney General Sir Samuel Shepherd at the old County Hall in Derby (below).



Me from the most prominent Derbyshire families including Richard Arkwright and Lord George Cavendish.



The 37 prisoners were accused 'that they did maliciously and traitorously...attempt, by force of arms, to subvert and destroy the Government and Constitution of this Realm' which amounted to high treason. 268 witnesses for the prosecution were listed 'though not all were called. The defence lawyers were Mr. John Cross and Mr. Thomas Denman.

Jeremiah Brandreth was the first prisoner in the dock and it was made clear that he was charged with high treason and not the shooting of Robert Walters, the servant of Widow Hepworth.

A succession of witnesses gave damning evidence against Brandreth and also against William Turner, Isaac Ludlam and George Weightman.

All four were sentenced to be hung drawn and quartered although the Prince Regent showed 'mercy' allowing Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam to simply be hanged and beheaded. George Weightman's sentence was then commuted from execution to transportation. This decision may have been influenced by the jury's plea for mercy in his case.

Even though Thomas Bacon had not taken part in the march he pleaded guilty to high treason and was sentenced to transportation. In all 14 prisoners were given this sentence and 19 others were given jail sentences with hard labour. No evidence was offered against 12 others who were released after the trials.



Continued on Page 2).

The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group was formed in 2014 as a single purpose community organisation dedicated to increasing and retaining awareness of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. It is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its objectives are:

- to commemorate the 1817 Pentrich Rising;
- to educate and increase awareness about the rising;
- to establish a legacy which preserves and entrenches the heritage of the Revolution.

The trials of the revolutionaries - continued

At no point was Oliver (the Spy) called to the stand. He was hidden at an inn in Derby in case he was required to give evidence. The authorities feared that he could be exposed in court by Bacon or one of the other prisoners if called to the dock. This may have been the reason that the other prisoners were not subjected to capital punishment.

The trials aroused both local and national interest but the press was banned from reporting on the trial until it was concluded. However, the public understood the deception perpetrated by the authorities. The warning 'Jurymen remember Oliver' had been scrawled on the wall of St. Werbergh's Church and elsewhere in Derby.

Further reading:

Pentrich Revolution by John Neal

The transcripts of the trials of Jeremiah Brandreth, William Turner, Isaac Ludlam, the elder and George Weightman by Mr W.B. Gurney.

The Sentences imposed on the Revolutionaries

TO BE EXECUTED

Jeremiah Brandreth (1785 - 1817) 31 - To be hanged, drawn & beheaded

Isaac Ludlam (1765 - 1817) 52 - To be hanged, drawn & beheaded

William Turner (1771 - 1817) 46 - To be hanged, drawn & beheaded

TO BE TRANSPORTED

Thomas Bacon 64 - Australia for life

John Bacon 54 - Australia for life

George Brassington 33 - Australia for life

German Buxton 31 - Australia for life

John Hill 30 - Australia for life

Samuel Hunt 24 - Australia for life

John McKesswick 37 - Australia for life

John Onions 48 - Australia for life

Edward Turner 34 - Australia for life

Joseph (Manchester) Turner 19 - Australia for life

George Weightman 26 - Australia for life

Thomas Bettison 33 - Australia for 14 years

Josiah Godber 54 - Australia for 14 years

Joseph Rawson 32 - Australia for 14 years

TO BE JAILED

John Moore 49 - 2 years' hard labour

Edward Moore 27 - 1 year hard labour

William Weightman - 27 1 year hard labour

William Hardwick - 24 - 6 months' hard labour

Alexander Johnson 24 - 6 months' hard labour

Charles Swaine 33 - 6 months' hard labour

Francis Grooby 23 - 6 months' hard labour

Joseph Hall 24 - 6 months' hard labour

Joseph Harris 23 - 6 months' hard labour

Daniel Hunt - 6 months' hard labour

Nathaniel Jennings 22 - 6 months' hard labour

George Jepson 24 - 6 months' hard labour

Isaac Moore 40 - 6 months' hard labour

Benjamin Onions 30 - 6 months' hard labour

Robert Moore 22 - 6 months' hard labour

George Rhodes - 6 months' hard labour

Edward Robinson 21 - 6 months' hard labour

James Robinson 34 - 6 months' hard labour

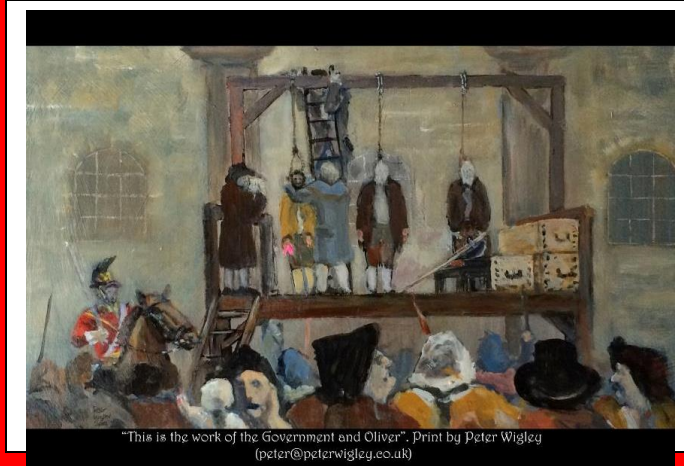
Francis Rawson 24 - 6 months' hard labour

Thomas Turner 22 - 6 months' hard labour

The Pentrich Revolution - England's Last Armed Rebellion

*The National Justice Museum, High Pavement,
Nottingham.*

21st October 2017 - January 2018



"This is the work of the Government and Oliver". Print by Peter Wigley
(peter@peterwigley.co.uk)

Historical panels, audio visual displays, original paintings, community textile projects, children's art and much more.

*The National Justice Museum
(formerly The Galleries of Justice) is
situated in Old Shire Hall. The rebels
who were captured on 10th June 1817
were taken and imprisoned here to
await trial in Derby. Admission to our
exhibition is free but there is a charge
if you want to visit the other galleries.*



Images from the Autumn footprint walks



Our October exhibitions

Still running:

- Amber Valley Borough Council Foyer, Market Place, Ripley. - a new historical exhibition telling the story of the Pentrich Revolution.

New exhibitions for October:

- Ripley Library 2nd – 27th October – Historical interpretation panels
- **Please come and join us at the coffee morning held at Ripley Library on October 17th**
- Cromford Mills: 14th – 19th October* – Children's art and Textiles by Community groups
- **The National Justice Museum in Nottingham 21st October 2017 > January 2018: a major bespoke exhibition**

And looking further ahead to November (more details in the next newsletter):

- The Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham 7th – 30th November – Large prints of the Pentrich paintings
- Heanor Library 1st - 30th November - Historical interpretation panels and art prints
- Sutton in Ashfield Library 1st November – 6th December - Historical interpretation panels
- Eastwood Library 20th November - 18th December - Historical interpretation panels
- 7th November at The Village Inn Marehay – small exhibition and Fireworks Display

Images from our recent exhibition at the Somercotes Heritage Festival



Do you want to become a revolutionary?

We need more volunteers and helpers for the many events, walks and exhibitions that we have planned. Attendance at training sessions may be required for certain activities. For further information or to become a friend of the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group please contact Valerie Herbert - valerie.mherbert@yahoo.co.uk You can become a Friend for as little as £5 per year. You will receive our Newsletter giving updates on all events. As a charity we depend on donations to carry on the work both now and after the bicentenary commemoration in 2017. If you would like to become a friend or make a donation it will be eligible for gift aid as we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Number 1166940)