

NORTHAMPTON WINTER ASSIZES

The Commission for the holding of the Northampton Winter Assizes was opened on Monday last, at the County Hall. Hon. George Denman, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, and J. P. Murphy, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Council, were met at the Bridge street Railway Station by H. V. F. Holdich Hungerford

Hungerford Esq High Sheriff and H W Kennedy Markham, Esq under Sheriff, and other officials

The judges attended the usual service at All Saints' Church, and Tuesday proceeded with the TRIALS OF PRISONERS. The Court for the trial of prisoners opened at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, before J. P. Murphy, Esq

SECOND COURT Wednesday 19th Jan 1881

Before Mr Justice Denman

Twywell

Savage Assault on a Police-constable. George Hawkes (22) shoemaker, and Joseph Hawkes (18), labourer, were charged with feloniously wounding, with intent to do grievous bodily harm, George Wilford Curran, a police-constable, whilst the execution of his duty, Twywell, the 19th August, 1880.—Mr Lindsell prosecuted.—The prosecutor, early on the morning named, was walking across a field near Twywell, when he saw the two prisoners going along a road some little way off. Suspecting that all was not right, he followed them, and when he got within about 30 yards the prisoners, who had a lurcher dog with them, observing him, began to run. While they were running the constable noticed a rabbit fall from the pocket of the prisoner George Hawkes, and also that both their pockets were very bulky. Gaining upon them, the prosecutor at last got with and caught George Hawkes, who thereupon called upon his brother Joseph to "Strike the ." Joseph Hawkes then set upon the officer with a thick stick, which he broke about his head and knocked him down. While Curran was on the ground the prisoner George assisted in the fray, and the two men belaboured their opponents most unmercifully. He was wounded very severely in various parts of the body, and rendered insensible. Prior to this, asked the men to spare his life, and said they would do that he would give up. Subsequently regaining consciousness, he found his way home, and the prisoners, who had, in the meantime, absconded, were not arrested until two months afterwards.—Prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced George to Seven, and Joseph to Five Years' Penal Servitude.