

Name: John Fell

Occupation: Grocer

Home: Manchester

Date: 23nd March 1820

Source: Trial of Henry Hunt, 134-135

Summary: Saw crowd at SPF – says there were no long staves, only walking sticks. Saw no resistance from the crowd. 'I saw no sticks held up against them; the people was making way as fast as they could.'

Done by: RH

John Fell, by Mr. Hunt—I live at Manchester, and sell groceries, flour, and meal. I saw the parties march into the field on the 16th of August. It was about eleven o'clock that I went to the field; and I remained there until the cavalry dispersed them. Stockport and Ashton had not then arrived, but I saw all the rest. The people received them with cheers, and they went towards the hustings. Their conduct was peaceable. I saw some few sticks, but not many. They were common walking-sticks. I saw the party with the black flags. They were the Moseley, Lees, and Saddleworth. I did not observe that they had many sticks. No portion of them had long staves shouldered like muskets; if anything of the sort happened, I should have seen it. The persons went right up to the hustings, and seemed to form round it. —All tried to get as near it as they could. There was a double row of constables from the hustings near to *Buxton's* house. I got outside, and could not get into the crowd, I stood quite near the constables. This might be some yards from the house. I observed several gentlemen in the windows looking over the meeting.

By the Court. —Did you see who were in the window when the order was given? — Saw *Mr. Hay, Mr. Fletcher, and Mr. Wright*. They were with *Mr. Hulton*. I have seen them since in York.

Did you see any one give orders?

I saw a tall gentleman with a pen in his hand give order, and he called for the Boroughreeve, and then for *Mr. Nadin* who came, and the yeomanry soon after came. I saw a gentleman call from the window "forward" after the cavalry had been cheered by the people at the hustings, and they had returned them. These were the Manchester cavalry. I don't know who the person was who gave the order; the officer had his back turned upon me, and I don't know who gave it.

Justice Bayley checked this, as going to the conduct of the magistrates.

Mr. Hunt said, he did it only to discredit the testimony of *Mr. Hulton*.

Witness. —When the cavalry advanced I was so situated, that I could see if the people made any opposition to them. No opposition was made. There were no stones or brickbats thrown at them, or up in the air. I saw no sticks held up against them; the people was making way as fast as they could.