

For clarity, the transcript of the Declarations of Alexander Black Snr., Alexander Black Junior, Thomas Spowart, James Johnstone and David Kinghorn taken before Charles Shirreff, Sheriff Substitute, John Macdonald, Procurator Fiscal and two witnesses. Source document appended.

Cover

Copy Declaration of Alex Black Senior & co.

1850

Dunf. No specific assault libelled as such crimes, the particulars.

Plea.

Guilty of Mobbing & Rioting as libelled with the exception of the 2nd, 4th & 5th of the particular charges in the libel.

Sent^e 15 months impris^t in Gener^l Prison at Perth

Declarations

Compeared **Alexander Black, Senior**, aged 47 Coalhewer residing in New Forresters Row at the Townhill Colliery within the Burgh of Dunfermline and County of Fife being duly cautioned examined and interrogated.

I declare that I saw a large assemblage of people at the Townhill Colliery on the afternoon of Monday the 24th day of June current between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock. I went along with the mob but I did not enter any houses at said Colliery or attempt to eject any of the Irish labourers or colliers employed thereat. I heard some persons amongst the mob whom I do not know civilly ask some of the Irishmen employed at the colliery to go away but I did not do so myself nor did I use any threats or intimidation to induce said Irishmen to leave the colliery and the mob made no disturbance and created no alarm among the inhabitants of the village of Townhill. All which is truth. Signed Alex Black.

Compeared **Alexander Black, Junior**, aged 20 Coalhewer residing with his father Alexander Black Senior in the village of Townhill within the Burgh of Dunfermline and County of Fife being duly cautioned examined and interrogated I declare that I went to the Townhill Colliery on Monday the 24th day of June current & saw a mob there in the afternoon of that day. I was with this mob but cannot sat whatever their object. I did not enter any house at the Townhill Colliery that day for the purpose of ejecting Irish colliers or aid and abet said mob in any respect whatever, nor did I injure assault or molest any individual whomsoever that day at or near the Townhill Colliery. All which is truth. Signed Alex Black.

Compeared **Thomas Spowart** aged 30 residing at the Water Row Townhill Colliery within the Burgh of Dunfermline and County of Fife, being duly cautioned examined and interrogated I declare that I saw a large assemblage of people at the Townhill Colliery on the afternoon of Monday the 24th day of June current between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock but I did not join that assemblage nor aid & abet the persons composing it in any respect whatsoever, and I did not threaten or intimidate any of the Irishmen employed at said colliery with a view to induce them to leave their employment there. All which is truth. Signed Thomas Spowart.

Compeared **James Johnstone** aged 54 residing at the Townhill Colliery within the Burgh of Dunfermline and County of Fife, being duly cautioned examined and interrogated I declare that I saw a large assemblage of people at the Townhill Colliery on the afternoon of Monday the 24th day of June current between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock. Some of the persons in that crowd of people seemed to me to be weavers from their having aprons tucked around their waist. I did not know what brought these operatives to Townhill Colliery that day and I never heard that it was contemplated amongst the weavers and colliers of this district to eject the Irish employed at the looms and in the collieries from this district. I was with the mob at Townhill Colliery on said day at or near the house of a collier named Thomas Smith, but I dissuaded them from entering his house. I heard some of the mob crying out if Smith was to leave the colliery, and I heard him ask the mob to be allowed to remain for a few days to enable him to get his wages which request the mob granted him on my urging them to do so. After that I left the mob & did not join them again that day. All of which is truth. Signed James Johnston.

Compeared **David Kinghorn** aged 23 journeyman weaver residing with his mother Christina Mackie or Kinghorn a widow in Nethertown Back Street in or near the Burgh of Dunfermline being duly cautioned examined and interrogated I declare that I saw no mob in Dunfermline on Monday the 24th day of June last. I went up to Townhill Colliery that afternoon about 4 o'clock & when on my way thither I saw a good many weavers going in the same direction as I was. On reaching the Townhill Colliery, I found a considerable number assembled, moving backwards and forward, but I did not see any of them eject any Irishmen from their houses at said colliery nor did I assist in doing so myself. I saw Mr. Mungall, the overseer at said colliery who charged me with going into a house where an Irishman lodged which was not true and which I denied. I did not join the mob at the Townhill Colliery or aid and abet them in any respect whatever in the ejection of the Irish. All which is truth. Signed David Kinghorn.

D. 3 5 P.

Copy

Declarations

of
Alex Black
Senior V_c

1850

Camp

2^d. No Specific appeal
labelled as such among the
particulars

~~Part~~ of Mr. & Mrs. [unclear]
as labelled with the ex-
ception of the 2^d, 4th &
5th of the particular
charges in the libel.

Term. - 15 Months
Imp. in Gen. Prison at
Perth

Copy

Declarations
of
Alexander Black
Senior 47.

At Dunfermline the
26th day of June
1850 years,

In presence of Charles
Sherriff Esq Sheriff Extraordinary
of the Western
district of Fifeshire,

Compared Alexander Black
Senior aged 47 coalhewer
residing in New Forresters
Row at the Townhill Col-
liery within the burgh of
Dunfermline and County of
Fife being duly cautioned
examined

examined and interrogated
 I declare that I saw a
 large assemblage of people
 at the Townhill Colliery
 on the afternoon of Monday
 the 24th day of June cur-
 rent between the hours
 of 3 and 4 o'clock. I went
 along with that mob but
 I did not enter any house
 at said Colliery or attempt
 to eject any of the Irish
 labourer or Colliers em-
 ployed thereat. I heard
 some persons amongst the
 mob whom I do not
 know civilly ask some of
 the Irishmen employed at
 said Colliery to go away
 but I did not do so my-
 self nor did I use any
 threats or intimidation to
 induce

3

induce said Insurrection to
leave the Colliery. and
that mob made no dis-
turbance and created no
alarm among the inhabi-
tants of the village of Town-
hill all which is truth.

(Signed) Alex Black
Chas Sheriff,
In Macdonald
D B Templeman
Ho & Lambert

At Dunfermline the
26th day of June
1850 years,

In presence of Charles
Sheriff Esq Sheriff Sub-
stitute of the Western
district of Fife shire,

Compared Alexander Black
Junior

4 James Earl Cheever aged 20
residing with his father
Alexander Black Junior in
the village of Townhill
within the Borough of Dun
fermline and County of Tife
being duly examined exam-
ined and interrogated I de-
clare that I was at the
Townhill Colliery on
Monday the 24th day of
June current & saw a mob
there in the afternoon of
that day - I was with that
✓ mob but cannot say what
was their object - I did not
enter any house at the
Townhill Colliery that
day for the purpose of
ejecting Irish Colliers or
aid and abet said mob

5/

in my respect whatsoever
nor did I injure a soul
or molest any individual
whomsoever that day at
or near the Town Hill
Colliery. All which is
true.

Signed Alexr Black
Chat Throff
Jno Macdonald
D B Templeman
Thos Lambert

At Dunfermline the
26th day of June 1850
years,

In presence of Charles
Throff Esq Sheriff Sub:
stitute of the Western
district of Fifeshire,

Compared Thomas Spowar
aged 30 residing in the Water
Craw

6/ Now at the Townhill Col-
liery within the Burgh of
Dunfermline and County of
Fife, being duly cautioned
examined and interrogated
I declare that I saw a large
attendance of people at
the Townhill Colliery on
the afternoon of Monday
the 24th day of June current
between the hours of 2
and 3 o'clock but I
did not give that assen-
blage nor ^{aid} and abet the
persons composing it in any
respect whatever, and I did
not threaten or intimidate
any of the Irishmen em-
ployed at said Colliery with
a view to induce them
to leave their employment
there.

7 there. all which is true,

Signed Thomas Stewart

Chas Shorreff

In Macdonald

D B Templerman

Thos Lambert

At Dumfries the
26th day of June
1850 years,

In presence of Charles
Shorreff Esq Sheriff Sub:
Stute of the Western
district of Fife-shire,

Compared James Johnston
aged 54 coalheaver residing
at the Townhill Colliery
in the Burgh of Dumfries:
law & County of Fife being
duly cautioned examined
and interrogated I declare
that

3
I think I saw a large assembly
of people at the
Gounville Colliery on the
afternoon of Monday the
24th day of June current
between the hours of 3 and
4 o'clock - Some of the
persons in this crowd of
people, seemed to me to be
weavers from their having
aprons tucked round their
waist. I did not know
what brought these operatives
to Gounville Colliery that
day and I never heard that
it was contemplated amongst
the weavers and Colliers
of this district to eject the
Irish employed at the looms
or in the Collieries from the
district - I was with the
Mob

4

mob at the Townhill
Colliery on said day at
or near to the house of
a Collier named Thomas
Smith, but I dissuaded
them from entering his
house. I heard some of
the mob crying out if
Smith was to leave the
Colliery, and I heard him
ask the mob to be al-
lowed to remain for a
few days to enable him to
get his wages which request
the mob granted on my
urging them to do so. After
that I left the mob & did
not join them again that
day - All which is truth

Signed James Johnston

Thos Shorreff

In Macdonalds

D & S Templeman

Thos Lamberi

Att

At Dumfermline the
 2^d day of July 1850 year
 In presence of Charles
 Sheriff Esq Sheriff Substi-
 tute of the Western dis-
 trict of Fifeshire,
 Compaired David Kinghorn
 aged 23 journeyman weaver
 residing with his Mother
 Christian Mackie or Kinghorn
 a widow in Methertoun
 Back Street in or near the
 Burgh of Dumfermline being
 duly examined examined
 and interrogated I declare
 that I saw no mob in Dum-
 fermline on Monday the
 24th day of June last. I
 went up to the Townhill
 Gallery that afternoon
 about 4 o'clock & when on
 my way thither I saw a
 good

111
good many weavers going
in the same direction that
I was. On reaching the
Town-hill Colliery I found
a considerable crowd as-
sembled moving backward
and forward, but I did not
see any of them eject any
Inshman from their Houses
at said Colliery, nor did I
witness as doing so myself. -
I saw Mr Mingall the overseer
at said Colliery who charged
me with going into a house
where an Inshman lodged
which was not true, and
which I denied. I did not
join the mob at the Town-
hill Colliery or aid and
abet them in any respect
whatever in the opinion
of the Irish. - All which
is true.

Signed David Huzhorn
Chas. Shurreff
Jn. Macdonald
P. B. Tompkins
Thos. Lambert