

# SANT/BEQ/28/1/3/149-151A

Handwritten copy of sworn statement re riot in Morpeth Court Leet, Northumberland, on 30 March [1780], nd. [1780]

Edward Richardson and Andrew Fenwick Bailiffs or Chief Magistrates of the <sup>149</sup>  
Borough of Morpeth in the County of Northumberland jointly and severally  
make Oath & say And first these Deponents jointly say that on the 30th day of  
March last the Court Leet & Court Baron of the Right Hon<sup>our</sup>able Frederick Earl of  
Carlisle for the Manor & Borough of Morpeth in the County of Northumberland  
was held in the Townhall within the s<sup>aid</sup> Borough in the presence of these Deponents  
as usual & the Suitors of the S<sup>aid</sup> Court were then and there called & the Jury sworn  
& these Dep<sup>onen</sup>ts say that during the time of holding the said Court W<sup>illiam</sup> Weatherhead  
of Morpeth /aforesaid<sup>ed</sup> sadler, James Hewit of the same place Butcher W<sup>illiam</sup> Tate of the  
same place Weaver and this Dep<sup>onen</sup>t Andrew Fenwick for himself saith that he  
also remembers John Baites of Morpeth aforesaid Shoemaker & George Barker  
of the same place Butcher being assembled with a great number of People at  
in the said Court on a sudden in a Riotous man<sup>ner</sup> & with much Clamour &  
noise interrupted the Business of the said Court and the S<sup>aid</sup> William  
Weatherhead James Hewit W<sup>illiam</sup> Tate and the S<sup>aid</sup> Andrew Fenwick for  
himself saith that also the said J<sup>ohn</sup> Baites and George Barker with other  
whose names these Deponents do not now remember got upon the Table in  
the said Court round which the s<sup>aid</sup> Court & Jury were sitting & some of those  
who were so got upon this s<sup>aid</sup> Table as afore<sup>said</sup> struggled to take the Bible from  
the people that were swearing in the said Court And these Deponents jointly  
say that Thomas Weatherhead of Morpeth aforesaid Hardwareman being  
then in Court sitting on the Bench as an Alderman of the s<sup>aid</sup> Manor  
& Borough of Morpeth & who ought according to his duty & oath to have  
Assisted in keeping the Peace of the s<sup>aid</sup> Court & Borough then and there in  
great fury & wrath went over the said Bench onto the said Table in the Said  
Court among the s<sup>aid</sup> Rioters & Interruptors of the Business of the said Court &  
the s<sup>aid</sup> Thomas Weatherhead an encouraged aided and assisted them in  
their Riotous proceedings and then the s<sup>aid</sup> Tho<sup>mas</sup> Weatherhead William  
Weatherhead James Hewit William Tate and this Deponent Andrew  
Fenwick for himself saith also the s<sup>aid</sup> John Baites & John Barker gave much

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Footnote: 'ff' transcribed as F throughout.



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abuse & made a great uproar & noise in the said Court And these Dep[on]en[ts] say that  
John Orde Esq[uir]e one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of  
Northumberland being then in the s[ai]d Court & the then Deputy Steward of  
the s[ai]d Court endeavoured to persuade the s[ai]d Thomas Weatherhead W[illia]m  
Weatherhead James Hewit William Tate and others to desist from their Riotous  
proceedings afores[ai]d. But the said Thomas Weatherhead W[illia]m Weatherhead  
James Hewit William Tate And the s[ai]d Andrew Fenwick for himself saith  
that the said John Baites & George Barker & others with them  
assembled Continued their Riotous proceedings without taking any  
notice thereof And these Deponents say that the said Deputy Steward  
the Serjant of the said Mannor & Borough of Morpeth aforesaid to  
adjourn the said Court & the said Serjant was put from his Seat in the  
said Court so that the said Deputy Steward Jury these Deponents and  
the Suitors of the s[ai]d Court left the s[ai]d Court And these Deponents  
further say that about three of the Clock in the afternoon of the  
said Thirtieth of day of March these Dep[on]en[ts] were present with the  
s[ai]d Deputy Steward of the said Court who intended as these Deponents  
believe to have returned to the said Townhall of the said Borough of  
Morpeth with the Jurys and Suitors of the said Court to finish the  
Business of the said Court but being then told that a great number of  
People were assembled in and near the said near the said Townhall in  
the s[ai]d Borough of Morpeth & had used threats, the s[ai]d Deputy Steward  
Jurys & Suitors did not for that reason as these Deponents verily  
believe return to the said Townhall to finish the Business of the said  
Court And these Deponents say that the said Deputy Steward told those  
that were sent to him in these Deponents presence that their Riotous  
proceedings prevented him the said Deputy Steward from returning to the s[ai]d

words to that or the like effect. —

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