

Petition to the Duke of Wellington in 1837

by Inhabitants of Warblington and Havant

While investigating the Swing Riots of 1830, local historian Ann Griffiths came across the following petition in the archives at Southampton University.

Petition from the inhabitants of the two adjoining parishes of Warblington (including Emsworth village) and Havant to Arthur Wellesley, first Duke of Wellington, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire:

"We respectfully take leave to inform Your Grace that this neighbourhood, namely the two adjoining parishes of Warblington (comprising the populous village of Emsworth) and Havant, with other places, have lately increased in crime and immorality to an alarming extent, practised with impunity, from the difficulty of obtaining magisterial interference without great inconvenience and expense, Sir John Ommamney, and Sir Henry Leak being both abroad whilst J.F. Williams, esquire, who resides at an inconvenient distance is frequently and necessarily absent on his professional duties; he being a Commissioner of the Court of Bankruptcy, so that a Bench can now be seldom formed at Havant.

Permit us to request Your Grace will be pleased to cause the name of Mr. John Barton, a gentleman of talent and unimpeachable integrity, and in every way qualified to fulfil the duties of so important an office, to be inserted in the Commission of the Peace for the county of Southampton: Mr. Barton's residence on the confines of the two parishes, with a population exceeding [five thousand] by placing him within reach of both, will afford a facility to the redress of evil and in the humble opinion of your memorialists, impose a salutary check on crime."

The petition is signed by the following inhabitants:

Daniel Davies, D.D., Minister of Emsworth;	John Griffin;
George Turner, gentleman;	Frederick Bradburne;
John Allen, captain, Royal Navy;	Edward Duke, gentleman;
Gawen Holloway, gentleman;	Samuel Cobby [?]orga [smudged];
[?]F.K.W. Smith, chemist;	Edward Ford, whitesmith;
George [?]Erratt, grocer;	J.Smith Lane, gentleman;
Thomas [?]King;	Charles Mant, gentleman;
Townsend Cox, grocer;	J.Westwood, banker;
John Hicks, surgeon and etc.;	A.[?]Strong, surgeon;
William [?]Lowington, gentleman;	[?]Robert [?]Saxby, R.M.;
Thomas Wolfe, Royal Navy;	G.H.Smith, draper;
Henry Hall, saddler;	Benjamin [?]Marshall, grocer;
Benjamin Chase, builder;	W.Fielder, innkeeper;
Charles Osborn, surveyor, Hayling;	John Bulbeck, ironmonger;
George Miller, surgeon;	John Stride, stationer;
George Mott, brewer;	Hollis Thorpe, baker;
Thomas Pullinger, cooper;	[?]Nd Crockford, Emsworth;
William [?]Hotson, builder;	Robert Brockway, Emsworth;
Thomas [?]Iveson, wine merchant;	David Walker, gentleman;
William Hipkins, yeoman;	David Palmer Walker, merchant;
James Preston, Emsworth;	Daniel W.Stephens, gentleman;
John [?]Mincell, inn [?]keeper;	James Cullis, builder;
John Day, gentleman;	James Cobby, * * \ High Constable /;
James Harris, Mus. Bac.;	
J.Lloyd;	

Continued overleaf

Petition to the Duke of Wellington contd

Richard Collins, leathercutter;
James Tatchell, manufacturer;
William King, shipbuilder, etc.;
John [?]Dussell/Duffell, [?]gnr;
John Hoare, Custom House;
Joseph Law, merchant;
John Small, schoolmaster;
William Hellyer, builder
William Day, millwright;
George Bowman, yeoman;
Thomas Cluer, shipwright;
James Cobby, gentleman;

Another petition, almost identical in wording,
is signed by the following Havant inhabitants:

Geo[rge] Tho[mas] Staunton
S.Poyntz
[?]N.[?]Davis
[?]James Stoneham
Henry Stoneham
St. John Alder, Rector of Bedhampton
H.Snook
P.B.Osmond
John Snook

James Hewett
J.B.Clarke
J.[?]Bulbeck Edm[und]
Joseph Hicks
C.B.Longcroft
Charles Lane
Thomas Martin, solicitor, Havant
Samuel Gloyne
William Grigg
W.Gloyne
Walter Lellyett
James Robins
George Smith
Thomas Gawne, gentleman, Havant
Digby Dent
James M.Maidlove, gentleman
Stephen Miller, sailmaker

Both petitions include the phrase "By order of
the subscribers. C. Mant, secretary pro tem".

Source:

Wellington papers. MS61/WP4/28/27.
University of Southampton Special
Collections, University of Southampton,
University Road, Southampton, SO17 1BJ.