

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

The Protector's Pen

Civil War Petitions Project

Siege of Loyalty House

*Civil War Cipher at
Huntingdon Archives*

Association News

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Study Day 2022

AGM 2022

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Cromwell Collection

*Is this the face of
Cromwell's mother?*

News & Events

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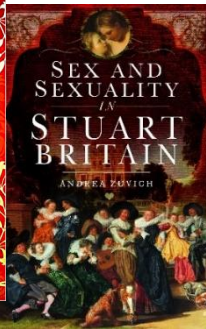
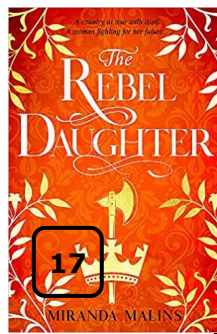
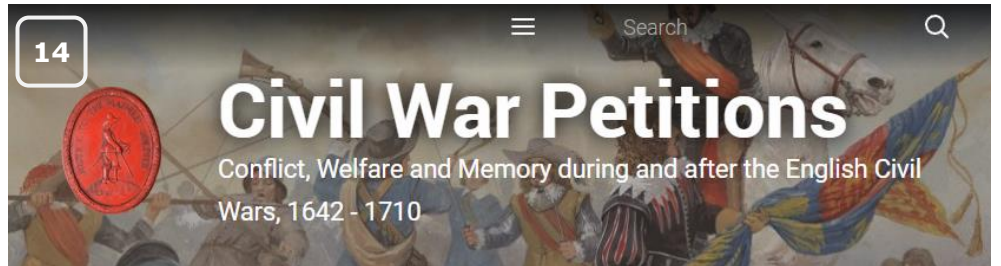
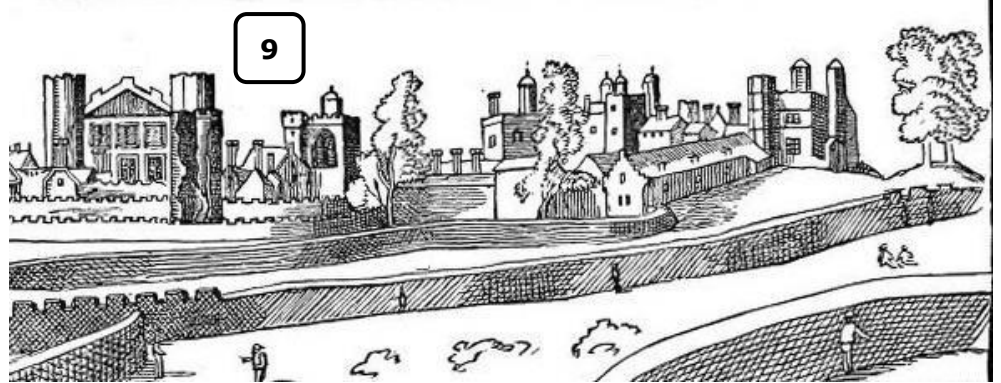
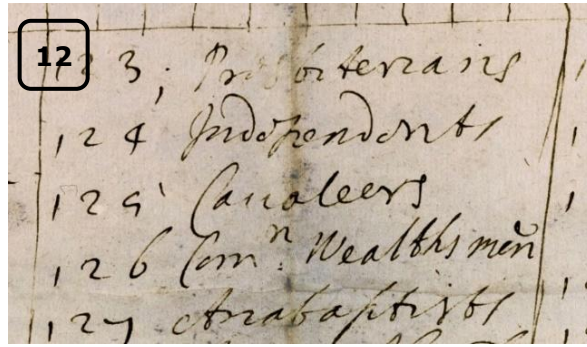
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Elizabeth Cromwell
(courtesy Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon)



The Protector's Pen is the newsletter of The Cromwell Association. Published twice a year and distributed to our membership, it is also available on our website in the members area. If additional copies are required, to help promote the Association and our work, please contact our Chair.

The Association is governed by elected officers and Council members. For all matters relating to:

- Subscriptions – contact our treasurer, Geoffrey Bush – finance@olivercromwell.org
- changes of address and email – contact our membership secretary, Paul Robbins - membership@olivercromwell.org
- all other matters – contact our chair, John Goldsmith - chair@olivercromwell.org

Full mailing addresses for these officers can also be found on your membership card.

President	:	Peter Gaunt
Chair	:	John Goldsmith
Treasurer	:	Geoffrey Bush
Membership Secretary	:	Paul Robbins

www.olivercromwell.org
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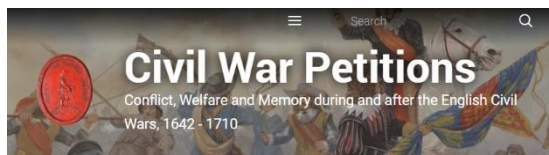
Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Protector's Pen*

After holding our Annual General Meeting in Huntingdon in April it is perhaps not surprising that the town is well represented in this issue. As the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell, and the site of the first plaque erected by the Association (on the wall of the Old Grammar School, now better known as the Cromwell Museum), we have always had, and continue to have, strong links with the town.

In this issue there are articles by the professional triumvirate that has responsibility for matters Cromwellian in Huntingdon. Susannah Farmer, recently appointed Local Studies Librarian for Cambridgeshire, writes about the Cromwell Collection in Huntingdon Library; Alan Akeroyd, Archivist for Cambridgeshire County Council contributes a fascinating article about a coded letter from the Manchester family papers; and perhaps better known to our membership, Stuart Orme, the Curator of the Cromwell Museum, tells us about a recently discovered portrait of Cromwell's mother (possibly) as well as what is happening at the museum. It gives cause to reflect on the funding of services that help to conserve, interpret and further our understanding, not just of Cromwell, but of the 17th century as a whole. Libraries and Archives are both functions of county councils within English local government, and the museum is now an independent charitable trust, generously supported by Huntingdon Town Council. Although there are no specific threats to these services at the moment, local government funding is under intense pressure, so we need to be vigilant to ensure that their significance is recognised and protected in these uncertain times.

Professor Andrew Hopper writes about the extraordinary project which he has been responsible for, examining the previously little-used Civil War Petitions. This is a project which brings alive the misery and pain caused by the conflict to ordinary soldiers, and their families, on both sides. The project was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, a central government-funded body which exists to support research across a wide range of academic studies. It is the same organisation which generously supported the Cromwell Letters and Speeches project – publication forthcoming. To have two major grants from central government for work that hugely contributes to our understanding of the 17th century, within the last decade, is wonderful. Are there any others in the pipeline? We can but hope.



Other funds supporting our area of interest come from both national sources, for example the Royal Armouries, and from local government such as the National Civil War Centre in Newark. All these organisations, and their continued health and funding, are essential for the development of our knowledge.

So where does the Association fit? As a membership-based charitable organisation we provide opportunities to encourage further study and awareness of Cromwell and his period, and to act as a bridge between academic research and a lay audience. And, when necessary, to actively support both the continuation and protection of the services that help to underpin so much of what we do.

John Goldsmith

Chair
chair@olivercromwell.org

If you have an email address, but haven't already given it to us, please can you send your address to membership@olivercromwell.org to enable us to keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Notes from Council

After our virtual Council meeting in January, conducted wholly by Zoom, we experimented in March with a hybrid meeting, that is, some of us met in person, and as a trial our President joined us over Zoom. It all worked reasonably well, so we have decided to alternate Zoom meetings with hybrid ones, for the foreseeable future.

Many Council members enjoy the chance to meet with others in person, but with COVID issues, and the inevitable costs of both time and transport of a conventional meeting, wisdom dictates that we have to change. The Association has never paid expenses to Council members for attending meetings, and has no plans to do so, but although there is no evidence that this has ever prevented anyone from seeking to join Council, that barrier has now been effectively removed – provided of course you have a good Internet connection that can cope with Zoom.

Many of the issues discussed at Council are reflected in the content of this issue of *The Protector's Pen*, but not all, so in summary:

- Membership is steadily increasing. The key indicator is the number of annual members. The growth over the last year has been a small, but significant 4%. Our total membership is now well over 500.
- Our finances are solid, but we never take them for granted. To contain costs with the printer there is a slight change to the paper used for this publication and for some of the enclosures. Our AGM this year, the St Fagans Study Day, and the forthcoming Cromwell Day service, are unusually costly. Thankfully, additional income is generated by the annual Schools Conference.
- After a brief hiatus, contact has been re-established with the Cromwell Collection in Huntingdon, a relationship which we hope will continue to thrive and develop.
- Work on the Three Kingdoms Memorial Project has been proceeding apace, thanks to the energy of Simon Marsh of the Battlefields Trust. This is a project with scope for everyone to become involved.
- For next year's AGM, most likely date Saturday 22nd April (to be confirmed), we are looking to go north. The last time we were anywhere that could be considered to be in the north of England was in 2013, so we need to address that imbalance.

Finally, just a reminder, please can you pay your annual subscription promptly. It falls due on 3rd September, and although a Membership Card is enclosed with this mailing it is not valid until your subscription is paid. Non-payers, or payers at incorrect rates, will not receive the next mailing.

Council meets again in late October and if you want any issues to be discussed, please contact the Secretary or Chair; all details are on your membership card.

The minutes of Council meetings are placed in the members area of the website once they have been approved (accessible using the password printed on your annual membership card).

Contact chair@olivercromwell.org or write to:

John Goldsmith
 25 Fox's Way
 Comberton
 Cambridge
 CB23 7DL

Association News

Cromwell Day

Saturday 3rd September 2022

This year's service to commemorate the life of Oliver Cromwell will take place at 3.00pm at St Giles' Cripplegate, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA, on Saturday 3rd September. The nearest Underground stations are Barbican and Moorgate. St Giles' is the church where Oliver Cromwell married Elizabeth Bouchier in 1620. That event is celebrated in a glass panel, recently installed and funded by the Association, as part of our purpose in erecting panels, plaques and monuments celebrating Cromwell.



The service will be led by the Rev. Dr Tim Woolley, and during the service it is planned that the incumbent of St Giles' will bless the new panel, an unusual addition to our normal service.

The address this year will be given by Paul Lay, an Association member, a

trustee of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon, and author of the very well-reviewed *Providence Lost: the Rise and Fall of Cromwell's Protectorate* (Head of Zeus, 2020), which was shortlisted for the Cundill History Prize. His address is titled 'Great Expectations: Cromwell, Milton and "the things that God has promised".'

After the service it is planned that tea will be served in the church for members who attend. The service is an important part of the Association's year, so please do make the effort to come along if you possibly can.

Prior to the service we have organised an opportunity to visit the Tangye Collection held in the nearby Museum of London, 150 London Wall, Barbican, London EC2Y 5HN. Cornish industrialist Richard Tangye was a great Cromwellian and at the end of the 19th century built up a significant collection of Cromwelliana and books and manuscripts, which he kept in his private museum. After his death the collection passed to the London Museum, which was absorbed into the new Museum of London which opened over 50 years ago. The staff of the museum have kindly agreed to come in specially to show us what they hold and explain something of its significance. The maximum number that can be accommodated is 26, split into two groups. Booking is essential if you would like to take this rare opportunity, and a form is enclosed with this mailing. Although there is no direct charge for the visit, we will make a donation to the museum, and to that end request that members participating make a donation; suggested minimum of £5.00, which we will collect on the day (cash only please).

The museum is scheduled to close at the end of 2022 before re-opening on a new site at Smithfield in several years' time. An article about the re-cataloguing project of the Tangye Collection will appear in the next edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

John Goldsmith

Chair, Cromwell Association

Schools Conference 2022

16th June – Huntingdon Town Hall! It was a sunny day and there was much excitement as the first Schools Conference to take place since lockdown forced us into hiding, was about to take place.

It was a delight to see the hordes of fresh-faced students from a variety of schools, from Walsall to Peterborough, filing into the Town Hall to listen to Professor Peter Gaunt, Dr Joel Halcomb, Dr Kate Peters and Dr Jon Fitzgibbons debate three topics of A level interest. Despite the heat, they took notes and tapped away on phones and laptops, listening intently.

We broke for lunch provided by the Cromwell Museum and the students took the chance to take themselves over to the museum to have a look at the exhibits, or to take in the Cromwell Trail designed by the museum.

After lunch, each of the academics ran a source-based workshop on topics as diverse as the 1648 Leveller Women's petition, the Ranters, Cromwell's wartime letters, and the trial of Charles I. This was our biggest Schools Conference yet, with 124 students and 10 teachers in attendance, so we also laid on an artefacts



Speakers (from left) Peter Gaunt, Jon Fitzgibbons, Kate Peters, Joel Halcomb.

workshop, run by Stuart Orme in the museum. This proved very popular for a group of students who were intending to study Art History or Museum studies.

The day ended at 3pm and the teachers and students were all full of thanks and praise. For most of them, this was the first trip they had been on since lockdown and it was clear that they all enjoyed themselves enormously. And from the responses I have had from our speakers, I think they found it a rewarding day too.

Thanks to Stuart and his team at the Cromwell Museum for impeccable organisation... may I tempt fate and say 'We shall be back'!

Serrie Meakins

Cromwell Association AGM
Saturday 23rd April 2022



The Cromwell Association's AGM in April provided a wonderful opportunity for members to return to Huntingdon. Much to our delight, we found that Cromwell's home town has embraced its most famous son even more than at our last visit. The town's ironwork (benches, bins, railings) is now festooned with a rather 'London Dungeon's' style black and red design of Cromwell's signature which – if a little Halloween in tone – keeps Oliver firmly in the minds of residents and tourists alike.



A bench fit for Cromwellians

Gathered there in the morning, after a coffee and catch up, we set off on an informative and spirited tour of the town's famous Cromwellian sites, led by Stuart Orme, curator of the Cromwell Museum. Sites such as that of Cromwell's childhood home, christening and school always repay return visits (especially with lively commentary) and we all learned many new and fascinating facts about Oliver and his life in the town.

The tour ended at the splendid Cromwell Museum, housed in Oliver's old school building, and for many of us it was our first opportunity to visit the museum in person since its fabulous refurbishment and reopening. The result is a hugely improved and immersive space with a wealth of creatively displayed Cromwellian content – a real feast for the eyes. It was a particular treat to see the latest addition to the museum's

collection: a possible portrait of Oliver's mother Elizabeth Steward, which created much buzz amongst us. This further bolsters a splendid array of Cromwellian portraits which members can learn more about in two recent videos posted on the museum's YouTube channel and on its website.

We returned then to the grand environs of Huntingdon Town Hall for the official business of the AGM (and of course lunch). The day ended with another rare treat for Cromwell enthusiasts: a visit to the Huntingdonshire Archives. Here, curator Alan Akeroyd had laid out for us some of the most exciting documents of the Archives' Cromwell Collection. These included Cromwell's baptism entry (with its famous graffiti), some fascinating letters and the enormous, beautifully drawn Cromwell family pedigree commissioned by Oliver's grandfather Sir Henry Cromwell when Oliver was a child.



Examining the treasures of the Archives. Round the table (from left) Miranda Malins, Geoffrey Bush, Stuart Orme, Alan Akeroyd, Sheila Burnett.

I could have stayed looking at these treasures all day but the library's closure at 4pm forced us out and into the happy alternative of the pub where we toasted Cromwell and a wonderful day on his trail.

Miranda Malins

Postgraduate research grants 2022

This year the Association is again offering grants, from a total fund of £1,500, to support postgraduate students undertaking research relevant to our core aims and objectives. Applicants can apply for the full sum available or any amount below that. The grants are to assist with research expenses such as travel costs and accommodation. Detailed guidance and an application form are available on our website, see: <http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/> and follow the link from the Home Page. The deadline for applications is 31st March 2023.

One award has already been made under this scheme and a report on how the grant has been spent will appear in the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*.

If you are eligible to apply for a grant then please do seriously consider doing so. The Association wants to help. If you are teaching in Higher Education, or you have connections with those that do, then please help us by telling people about the grant and encouraging applications.

For more information contact: PRG@olivercromwell.org

Sadly missed...

Since the last edition of this newsletter, we have been notified of the death of three long-standing members.

Dennis Gaunt, father of our President Peter Gaunt, who had attended AGMs on a number of occasions. Tony Morris, who was also an enthusiastic supporter of the National Civil War Centre in Newark. Christopher Bell, described by his daughter as a life-long fan of Cromwell and *Cromwelliana*.

Condolences to the families of all three.

The Cromwell Association goes to Wales Saturday 15th October 2022



This year's Study Day will be held at St Fagans National Museum of History, just outside Cardiff. The choice of venue is completely appropriate to the theme of the day, *Wales and the Welsh in the Civil Wars of the 1640s*, and also the site of one of the largest battles of the first phase of the civil wars in the Principality. Enclosed within this mailing is a booking form for the event with brief details of each of the five papers to be given on the day. For a more complete description of the papers, and details of the five speakers, go to: <http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/study-day-2022/>

The Study Day is a significant event in the Association's calendar, providing an opportunity to examine in detail a topic relevant to our objectives. We are fortunate that we are able to attract speakers, eminent in their field, willing to come and discuss at length aspects of the chosen subject. Study Days have been held, usually annually, for many years, and it is the place where leading academics can engage with an interested but predominantly non-academic audience. It is also a chance for Association members to meet with each other and develop interests and enthusiasms further. If you have never been to a Study Day before why not consider coming this year to what promises to be an excellent event.

There are advantages to booking early, with discounts on offer for all bookings received before 1st September. The cost this year for attendees is higher than previous Study Days, and we readily acknowledge that for most people finances are tight at the moment, but we are pricing this realistically and we will be in the auditorium of the museum, and using the on-site catering services, which inevitably come at a cost.

St Fagans has free admission as a national museum, and has a great deal to offer. It was

for many years the only open-air 'folk museum' in the UK, and has a long and distinguished track record. More information about the museum can be found online. No arrangements are being made for accommodation, though inevitably many of those coming will want to make a weekend break of it. Cardiff's Tourist Information Centre is the place to look when planning your visit.

Planning an event like the Study Day takes a great deal of effort by all involved and generosity from our speakers in giving their time and energy in preparing and giving their papers. Please do make all these efforts worthwhile by supporting the Study Day. It is organised for you.

John Goldsmith

Chair, Cromwell Association



St Fagans Castle is a Grade 1 listed building and one of the finest Elizabethan manor houses in Wales (<https://museum.wales/stfagans>)

From the Treasurer

September 3rd is almost upon us again, so time for the renewal of annual subscriptions. There are several ways of doing this:

- (i) via a bank standing order. For those with UK bank accounts wishing to switch to using this form of payment, please find enclosed the appropriate form.
- (ii) those members who prefer to send cheques, please complete the enclosed renewal form with your cheque.
- (iii) many find the use of PayPal quick and easy, either using their PayPal account or using a credit card. Please go to our website www.olivercromwell.org and follow the payment instruction link.

Also enclosed please find a Gift Aid declaration. We receive a handsome cheque from the tax man every year so please complete and return the form if you are a qualifying UK tax payer. Kindly note that it is unnecessary to complete this form again every year unless your circumstances have changed (notably, a change of address or you no longer pay sufficient tax).

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Geoffrey Bush

Treasurer, Cromwell Association

British Civil Wars Memorial Project: how you can help

A new and exciting project to record memorials associated with the British Civil Wars has been launched.

This collaborative project involving the Battlefields Trust, Cromwell Association, Fortress Study Group, John Hampden Society, National Civil War Centre, Pike and Shot Society, Sealed Knot and Scottish Battlefields Trust, is aiming to record all forms of memorials, plaques and information boards associated with events during the Civil Wars and the soldiers who fought in them.

Battlefields Trust Research Coordinator Simon Marsh said, 'this is a national project involving key organisations with an interest in the history of the Civil Wars and the legacy they left in the form of memorials'.

'We want this to be a resource for the public so they can see which Civil War memorials are in places they visit, but also for researchers looking at how memorialisation of the wars has changed over time'.

Initially, members of participating organisations, including the Association, are being asked to help populate the database via an online form. Once a critical mass of submissions has been reached the database will be published and the online form opened up to the wider public so they can make further submissions.

This initial stage of data collection is essential to the success of the project. Please do not hold back and think that someone else will have recorded this or that monument. Inevitably there will be some duplication in the entries received but do not worry about that, the editing process will remove unnecessary duplication.

If you want to make a submission to the database, please use the online form at: <https://bit.ly/BritishCWMemorials>

For more information about the project contact: chair@olivercromwell.org

British Civil Wars Memorial Project - Entry Submission Form

The survey will take approximately 6 minutes to complete.

*** Required**

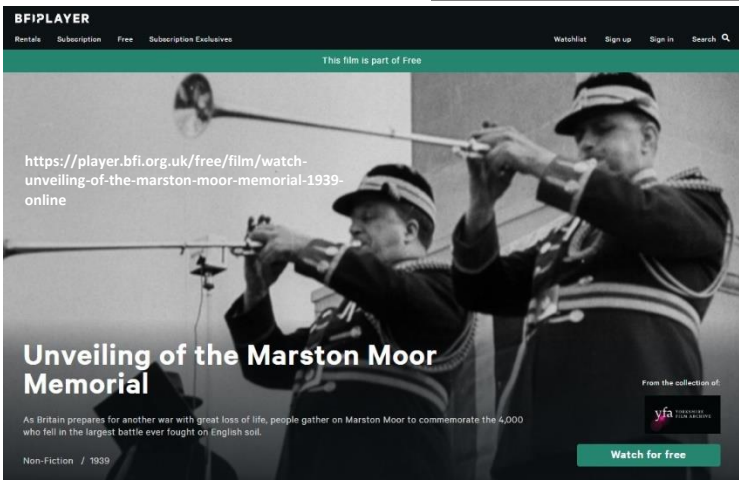
Introduction

Welcome to the British Civil Wars memorial project database submission form. The following questions will capture the essential information we need to populate the database. A small number of the questions are mandatory with the rest being discretionary. But the more information you give us, the richer the entry.

The project, which involves the Battlefields Trust, Cromwell Association, Fortress Study Group, John Hampden Society, National Civil War Centre, Pike and Shot Society, the Sealed Knot and the Scottish Battlefields Trust, is attempting to record as many memorials (which includes plaques, information boards, stained glass windows etc.) relating to the British Civil Wars as possible to create a heritage resource for use by everyone interested in the wars the engulfed the British Isles 1639-1660. The scope of the project is as follows:

Monuments, memorials, plaques and information boards, extant or non-extant, located across the British Isles relating to events concerning the British Civil Wars 1639-1660 and any such monuments, memorials, plaques and information boards, extant or non-extant, located anywhere in the world relating to soldiers who served in the British Isles between 1639-1660.

The on-line form is simple and quick to fill in, with drop down menus giving multiple options in many instances (see below)



- Name and description of the memorial *
You should include a meaningful name and short description of the memorial in this answer. If it relates to an individual please provide their first and last name and any title or rank recorded on the memorial.
- Type of memorial *
 - Memorial - Funerary
 - Memorial - Other
 - Memorial - plaque
 - Memorial - stained glass
 - Monument - battlefield
 - Monument - other
 - Information board/sign
- Does the monument still exist? *
 - Yes
 - No
- Country where the monument is/was located *
 - England
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - Northern Ireland
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Denmark

THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE
 NEWARK MUSEUM

THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

SCOTTISH BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

THE SEALED KNOT
 LOVE HISTORY? LIVE IT WITH THE SEALED KNOT

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY
 ... HONOURING A GREAT ENGLISHMAN

FORTRESS STUDY GROUP

THE PIKE AND SHOT SOCIETY
 Promoting research and interest in the Early Modern Period of Warfare 1600-1721

Is this the face of Oliver Cromwell's mother?

We take it for granted that we know what Oliver Cromwell looked like given that his face glowers from many contemporary portraits, executed when he had achieved fame as a soldier or head of state. This status also led to portraiture being produced of his wife Elizabeth, and six surviving children by artists including Robert Walker and Peter Lely.

Whilst we know what the Cromwellian offspring looked like, no reliably authenticated paintings of Oliver's parents have yet been identified. Portraits displayed for many years in the Cromwell Museum were discounted some years ago due to them depicting clothing inconsistent with that expected of Robert and Elizabeth Cromwell.

The difficulty in finding reliable imagery of Cromwell's father is to be expected. As the second son, Robert was perhaps neither wealthy enough to commission a portrait of himself, nor lived long enough to have one produced due to his son's status. Oliver's mother, Elizabeth Steward, is more surprising. She had lived with her son and his family after her husband's death and lived to see his rise to prominence.

Over the years many paintings have been misidentified as Elizabeth, to the point where in 1965 the renowned curator of the National Portrait Gallery, G. Kingsley Adam, wrote with some exasperation that 'any portrait of a lady of almost any age dressed in near mid-17th century clothes with a cloth head-dress tied under her chin is liable to be given her name'. A portrait in the collection at Chequers has been ascribed as her, but this has never been authenticated with any certainty.

Last year one of the museum's Trustees, the historian Paul Lay, was giving a talk on Cromwell at the Chalke Valley History Festival. He was approached by one of the audience, Mr Peter Allport, saying that he had a portrait of Cromwell's mother in his attic. Mr Allport e-mailed details and photographs to us, with a view to potentially lending it to the museum for display. He had purchased the painting at auction in 1992, displaying it in his home in St Albans until downsizing to a smaller house a couple of years ago, since when it

has been carefully stored in his loft. Significantly, it matches a 1784 engraving identified as Mrs Cromwell 'From an original picture in the possession of the Earl of Sandwich at Hinchinbrooke'. A 19th century gallery label on the back of the frame likewise identifies it as having been exhibited on loan from the Earl of Sandwich, so it is clearly the same painting. This adds to its veracity, being identified as Cromwell's mother just a century after her death (earlier than many other supposed examples) and that it was displayed as such at a house associated with the family.



Elizabeth Cromwell

It's certainly a very fine painting, and the physiognomy of the sitter does share many features of members of the family, including a similar nose to that of the portrait of Elizabeth's brother Sir Thomas Steward, and the Cromwellian 'hooded eyes'. After a small amount of remedial conservation it is now on long-term display at the Cromwell Museum, whilst research is ongoing to try and pin down its authenticity. Do come and have a look and let us know what you think!

Stuart Orme
Curator, Cromwell Museum

Twitterbox

A few select tweets from a quick search of Twitter...



#OnThisDay 13 April 1653 Parliament amended the qualifications for election to become a Member of Parliament. Candidates to become an MP were henceforth to be "of known Integrity, fearing God, and not scandalous in their Conversation."
#17thCentury #OTD
#InsertPunchlineHere



Anna Keay
@AnnaLandmark
To my knowledge this (in @wabbey) is the only statue ever erected to General George Monck, whose action in 1660 restored a free parliament (which in turn restored the monarchy). Shouldn't he rather than Cromwell stand outside Westminster Hall?



John McCafferty
@jmccafferty
13 June 1625: Charles I claims his 'marital rights' from a seasick Henrietta Maria #totd

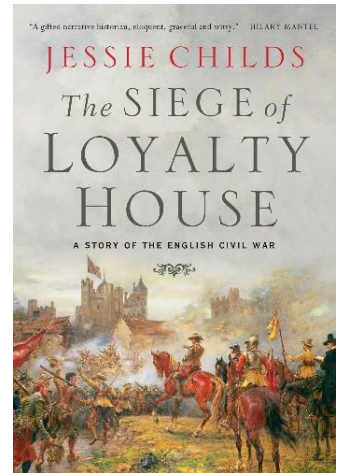


The Siege of Loyalty House – A Review

I start by declaring an interest. Jessie Childs contacted us as she was planning her book and hoped that Alan, my husband, would assist. He was curator of Basing House from 1987–2011 and knows more than a little about the site, where we also lived. Familiar with Jessie's reputation as a writer and historian, we were delighted to help.

Childs explains why she chose Basing House as a microcosm of the terrible conflict, '...There was a growing feeling that the end days were coming and that an apocalyptic showdown between the forces of darkness and light was imminent. It was a terrifying, electrifying time'. Basing House became the symbol of Stuart degeneracy and where the 'religion and laws and liberties and the very being of our English nation lie at stake'.

It starts, almost cinematically, with a hanging at Tyburn, and we see an apothecary opening his shop, sweepers cleaning the streets, we can smell the goods being sold and see the London streets slimy with waste. The country was in such a state of nervousness; essentially because of the threat and fear of a foreign power, that is, the Pope.



Basing House Seige: Wenceslaus Hollar. Baigent, Francis Joseph & Millard, James Elwin (1889).

The King had married a Catholic princess and before long small acts of rebellion and hatred towards Catholics and their 'practices' began to mount up. The Thirty Years War had primed this unrest, and the dreadful conflict drew in all the major European states. Hatred of the Roman church was intensifying and activists on both sides grew more extreme and less tolerant.

So the scene is set for the wars to come and the prescient words of Bulstrode Whitelock are quoted, 'It is strange to note how we have insensibly slid into this beginning of a civil war by one unexpected accident after another, as waves of the sea, which have brought us thus far...' Parliamentarian William Waller wrote to his dear friend and comrade of the Thirty Years War, '...With what perfect hatred I detest this war without an enemy...' adding that whilst they both had their parts to play in the tragedy, they should seek to act without personal animosity.

Childs beautifully captures this creeping

motion of disaster. The people we follow throughout her book are first seen simply living their lives; Thomas Johnson, the herbalist, offering for sale the first bananas in this country, William Faithorne, gifted engraver, and many others of all classes and trades. She presents her careful research to tell or suggest how they came by their allegiances; some influenced by their masters and elders, some by personal conviction, many simply because they were paid. They could not have had any inkling of what was to come.

As families and friendships were riven by the passions and misery of war, so were neighbourhoods, 'as between Scylla and Charybdis' lamented Edward Pitt of [nearby] Stratfield Saye... [as] he tried to navigate "that narrow path between His Majesty and Parliament." Taxes and levies from both sides impoverished the people of the land who must have wondered what it had to do with them.

Surely the majority would have rather hidden in a ditch and let the armies pass

by rather than risk all for a quarrel which was far above most heads?

Childs conveys the feeling that she knows the people of whom she writes. Of course we cannot truly be sure what a person thought, but a historian who knows their sources inside out can develop a feeling for, and an interpretation of, a player on the historical stage which rings true, and here Childs triumphs.

Imagine if you can the effect early modern warfare had on people whose loudest experiences would be hearing raised voices, thunderstorms and church bells. Childs tells us how contemporaries struggled to describe what they heard, 'grasping for comparisons with the weather and wild beasts'. The writing brings the action vividly to life.

As the house fell the 'Precinct was a maze of flames and falling timber' and it is here that Thomas Johnson, a man I have always imagined as a gentle and enthusiastic academic, was overpowered: 'His war would end here, it seemed, in a farmyard full of squealing pigs and howling men'. Indeed, as far as we know, Johnson still lies in what was once our back garden at Basing House, together with other casualties.

It has long been a mystery as to who tried to betray the garrison of Basing House to the Parliamentarians and Childs assesses the evidence against the two chief suspects: Charles Paulet, the 'intemperate' brother of the Marquis and
(cont'd)

their youngest brother, Edward, as 'fingering' by Clarendon. Sadly, this puzzle remains unsolved.

Of late, the care of the wounded soldier has become a field of study. '...Nicholas Turner was carried in from a cornfield... [his extensive wounds to head, shoulder, stomach, hip, groin] and hand which was half off. Maggots were crawling all over his wound, gorging on the dead flesh and gobbling up bacteria. They probably saved his life'. We now recognise this as a modern treatment, but we cannot be certain that 17th century physicians knew of this method. A fascinating chapter not for the fainthearted!

Basing House is depicted rising from the fog of the surrounding marshy land and I know how it feels to come home to Basing at night. The moon is full and high, but in the village all is shrouded in silent whiteness. Yet as one travels up the drive the fog is left behind and from the upper floor of the House it is possible to look out on a sea of silver mist, almost another version of the tides lapping at the House.

How spectacular the House would have looked when it was an imposing Tudor castle set fairy-tale like on top of its hill.

After the devastation of Civil War and the Great Fire, Childs returns her readers to London with the survivors. People are left behind in the flinty earth of Hampshire and indeed across the whole country, but as the word 'revolution' suggests, we are brought full circle, back to our beginning and life continues.

Jessie Childs has the skills of a great storyteller and brilliantly weaves the words of the witnesses of the events into a book as pacy and readable as any novel. There's no need to make things up when they are this exciting.

Nicola Turton

Further reading:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/jun/04/the-siege-of-loyalty-house-by-jessie-childs-review-the-english-civil-war-in-all-its-fog-and-mess>

<https://basinghouseproject.org/about-the-project/>

<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/blog/the-hungry-jaws-of-want-basing-house-and-the-maw-of-war/>

Basing House

Barton's Lane, Basingstoke RG24 8AE

Opening Times: Generally 1100-1600 but see website for closures due to events

-  press@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk
-  01256 463965
-  facebook.com/historicbasinghouse/
-  twitter.com/basinghouse
-  hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house



Prize draw for copies of *The Siege of Loyalty House*

The publishers of *The Siege of Loyalty House*, Bodley Head, have kindly offered three copies of the book to the Association as prizes. To participate in the draw please send an email with a header of **Prize Draw** to chair@olivercromwell.org along with your name and postal address. Closing date for entries 31st August 2022.

**English Civil War Fortress Symposium
Newark Town Hall, Newark-on-Trent
Saturday, 19th November 2022.**

The Battlefields Trust and the Fortress Study Group are delighted to announce the first ever symposium dedicated to the study of fortresses and sieges during the English Civil War.

The importance of sieges and fortifications during the Civil Wars of 1642–1651 is something that is often misunderstood and under-represented in studies of the conflict. But to contemporaries, sieges dominated the fighting. Writing in 1677, the 1st Earl of Orrey, a veteran of the wars, noted that it was fought 'more like foxes than lions, and you will have twenty sieges for one battle'. More recently, historian Professor Christopher Duffy described the Civil Wars as 'a war of trenches, ramparts, palisades, bombardments and blockades'.

The English Civil War Fortress Symposium will take place on Saturday 19th November at Newark Town Hall, Newark-on-Trent. Joining the event's key-note speaker, Professor Peter Gaunt, are experts who will present papers covering current research into the fortifications and sieges, including archaeological investigations, the preservation of remains and sites, interpretation, and how they can be explained to the public.

Tickets cost £40 (£30 for members of the Battlefields Trust and/or Fortress Study Group) which includes refreshments (including lunch), entrance to the National Civil War Centre and an early afternoon tour of the Queen's Sconce, the best known and best preserved English Civil War fortification.

To book, or for further information (including the full programme), visit: <https://www.fortressstudygroup.org/events/english-civil-war-fortresses-symposium>



The Cromwell Collection in Huntingdon

Back in 2020 getting another library job was not on my 'to do' list. However, not being able to resist the lure of County Local Studies, I applied and was delighted and honoured to be offered the post of Cambridgeshire Local Studies Librarian, and started in January 2021.

Starting during lockdown was rather strange and, of course, rather restricted my visiting our county branches. As restrictions eased, it was a pleasure to be contacted by your Chair, John Goldsmith, earlier this year to have a chat about the Cromwell Collection.

I have a confession: as soon as Cromwell is mentioned I get the strident chords and crescendo of Chopin's *Polonaise* in my head, accompanied by the words:

Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England (Puritan) born in 1599 and died in 1658 (September).

This may be the product of a misspent youth listening to *Monty Python*, but at least I know something about Marston Moor in 1644 and beating the Dutch at sea in 1653.

I've had a convoluted career through agriculture, archaeology, libraries, archives, local government and now back to libraries. On moving to Nottinghamshire back in 1982, I became involved with the local studies collection at Worksop Library. As you shelve books, you peruse and browse and the usual library osmosis starts, igniting that spark of interest. When you can feel a connection to the history through recognition of people and places, you start down the rabbit hole of: Who? When? Where? How? Why?

As a long-time local, an incomer, or a visitor, a local studies collection is full of memories, insights or surprises. We are lucky in Huntingdonshire to have such a wealth of local connections to Cromwell, and I hope something within our significant collections will ignite your interest, confirm your preliminary investigations, or supply a good and interesting read.

Whichever way you come to Oliver Cromwell and the English Civil Wars – and how little or how much you know – if you want to start your research, or need to find out any further detail, you can do no better than take a trip to Huntingdon and visit the collections within the Huntingdonshire Library and Archives on Prince's Street (sorry for the royal address, Oliver).

There are several collections within the building, together making one of the most comprehensive collections of material on Oliver Cromwell and the Civil Wars openly available to

the public. Cambridgeshire Libraries are always willing to listen to any proposals for enhancing the collection or access to its resources. Please feel free to get in touch.



localstudies.hunts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

If you search our catalogue you may see several locations within Huntingdon itself. This defines the different collections within the building. All are available to view, but some may need staff assistance for retrieval. Just ask, staff are always willing to help with enquiries.

Cromwell Collection

There is a reference and loan collection on open access on the first floor of Huntingdon library with over 1000 titles. Items located to Reference Reserve are held in rolling stacks; staff will retrieve these for you if requested.

Huntingdonshire Archives

This branch of Cambridgeshire Archives contains much of interest to Cromwellians, including the deposited papers of the Cromwell Association.

Cromwell Association Library

Your own collection, available on public access for reference only. This collection is housed in the Archives search room.

Huntingdon Library and Huntingdonshire Archives are in the same building. If you are wondering what the difference is: technically, archives hold primary documents, and libraries secondary. Secondary sources are materials that describe, interpret, evaluate, or analyse, whereas archives (primary documents) are original and sometimes unique sources. They are often pure information: lists, figures, first-hand statements, etc.

There can be occasions where published works make their way into archive collections, and libraries can hold original material. Cambridgeshire Libraries hold the Cambridgeshire Collection (located at Cambridge Central Library), which includes photographs and primary documents that have been acquired over the years.

Library branches throughout the county have (smaller) Local Studies sections that specialise in the area local to the branch. It is always worth checking out all catalogues for a variety

of sources for your interest. It may shorten your route to information (or, more usually, open up even more fascinating avenues of discovery).

Cambridgeshire Libraries catalogue: <https://cambridgeshire.spydus.co.uk>

Cambridgeshire Archives catalogue: <https://calm.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

More and more we are seeing self-published works relating to a specific, local area or subject. Often, these are also only available locally. Please get in touch if you come across titles you think should be part of our collections.

Any donations of books or articles of interest are also welcomed. We are always open to proposals for donations of material of local interest in any format (however, not artefacts, we are not a museum – but you can always try the Cromwell Museum, a short walk from Huntingdon Library).

I hope you can visit us and take advantage of our Cromwell Collections. We look forward to welcoming you and assisting with your enquiries. If visiting to study books or documents I would always recommend ensuring what you want is available to view at the time you need it. It gives peace of mind that whatever the results of your research, at least the materials were there when you expected them.

Anyone who is living, working, visiting, or studying in Cambridgeshire or neighbouring counties is welcome to join our libraries. Membership is free. You can join online, and have access to our online resources, or visit a library and sign up for a library card to borrow items off the shelf.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/resident/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/library-information>

As *Monty Python* said: *The End!*

Susannah Farmer

Cambridgeshire Libraries Local Studies Librarian



<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/listings/huntingdon-library-and-archives>

A Civil War Cipher at Huntingdonshire Archives

Huntingdonshire Archives holds the historical family and estate papers of the Dukes of Manchester of Kimbolton Castle.

The first accession from the castle arrived at the archives in 1948, and included a very faded sheet of paper described on one side as 'A Cypher for Lord Kimbolton 1643'. Archive staff at the time gave it the reference number M49/1/2 and paid no more attention to it, as the writing was too faint to read (image 1).



The archives service today, however, has very high-quality digitisation equipment and image manipulation software, so it occurred to us to photograph the original and see if we could enhance the writing. The result was more successful than we anticipated, and most of the document is now readable (image 2). This means we can read how the cipher works.

The cipher shows an interesting attempt to get around the letter-frequency problem. Letter frequency is one of the techniques codebreakers use to break a cipher. The six most frequently used letters in English are, in order, e,t,a,i,o,n and if an encrypted document contains six frequently used numbers then a codebreaker will try out e,t,a,i,o,n for those numbers. This vulnerability of simple codes to letter frequency analysis was well understood in the seventeenth century and various approaches were deployed to defend against it, most famously the Vigenère grid associated with Blaise Vigenère, but a weakness of ciphers like the Vigenère grid was their sheer complexity. The Earl of Manchester's cipher is simple, and would have been quick to use in urgent circumstances.



In the Earl of Manchester's cipher each letter of the alphabet is substituted by one of up to four numbers (image 3). The writer could presumably choose numbers at random. (There are no columns in the document for the letters j or u so they were presumably replaced by i and v).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	5	9	13	17	21	25	29	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69	73	77	81	85	89	93
2	6	10	14	18	22	26	30	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94
3	7	11	15	19	23	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91	95
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96

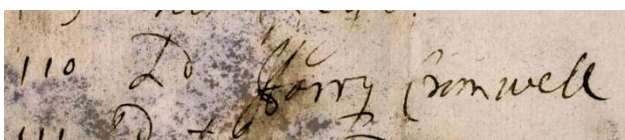
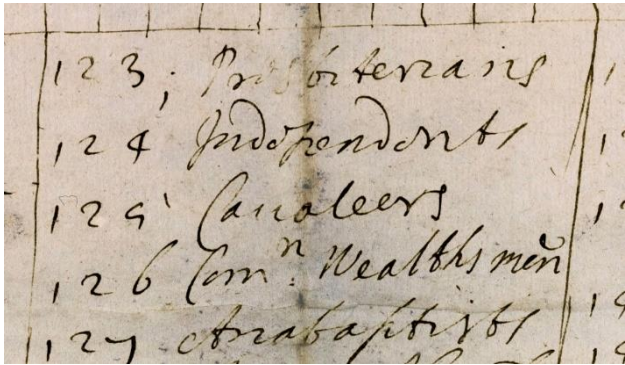


This wouldn't destroy letter-frequency analysis for long messages but it would make short messages probably unbreakable. The first bit of the sentence I have just written, for instance, would encipher as something like:

75.29.36.70.81.55.77.41.13.50.73.14.19.69.76.66.54.89.42.20.74.73.18.65

An obvious way to improve the cipher would have been to randomise the numbers. The letter A can be enciphered as 1, 2, 3 or 4, but ideally it would have been better if it could be enciphered as 17, 28, 33 or 92. However, that would cause problems if one of the correspondents lost the key to the code. The clear advantage of A being 1 to 4, B being 5 to 8 and so on, is that if you can remember that principle then you can create the cipher from scratch.

The cipher also includes code numbers for commonly-used long words (image 4). Here we can see that instead of having to encipher all sixteen letters of the word 'Parliamentarians', the writer only needs to use the number 123. Sadly not all the words are readable but there are codes like this for the main Civil War forces (eg 125 means Cavaliers), places (132



Images 1 (top) to 5 (bottom)

means City of London, 145 means Scotland), individuals (116 means Lord Manchester) and army formations (147 means the Dutch fleet).

So, if you wanted to write 'Dutch fleet has sailed' then that would be:

147.29.3.69.71.4.33.41.19.16.

The name we really want to find of course is Cromwell. Number 110 undoubtedly refers to someone called Cromwell (image 5). The word written before it does not look like 'Oliver'. Instead it looks more like 'Harry', so perhaps it reads 'Ld Harry Cromwell'. Colonel Henry Cromwell (1586–1657) was a cousin of Oliver. He was no lord or knight, however, and it seems strange to mention a lowly colonel quite so high up in the list.

There are no other documents in the Manchester collection at Huntingdonshire Archives which relate to this cipher, so we do not have any context into which we can place it. It seems unlikely that the Earl created this cipher himself, because 'Lord Manchester' is encoded as number 116 on the list, and I think if he intended it for his own use he would have put himself higher up. Nor do we have any letters or messages written using this cipher. Given how faded the original is, it seems probable that it may have been on display at Kimbolton Castle for many years, perhaps as a curiosity of the Civil War period. I would be very interested to learn if any Civil War documents survive elsewhere which are written in a numerical cipher, as this document might well prove to be the key to reading them.

Alan Akeroyd

Archives Manager, Cambridgeshire Archives Service

I am grateful to Sue Martin of Cambridgeshire Archives Service's digitisation unit for photographing the original.

Hursley Park visit

Excavations by the Winchester Archaeology and Local History Group (WARG)



In the last issue of *The Protector's Pen* there was an article about excavations being carried out by the Winchester Archaeology and Local History Group (WARG) at Hursley Park, the family home of Richard Cromwell, son of Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector. The site has no public access and is owned by IBM. At very short notice a visit to this year's dig was arranged, and a small group was able to take up the opportunity.

Association members were made very welcome and were well briefed by Andy King (WARG) and David Key (IBM) on the excavations, and finds were on display for us.

This is the second year of the excavations and three new trenches have been opened. These new trenches have given a better idea of the size and layout of the mansion that stood on the site in the 17th century. It has also



Association members with their hosts at Hursley Park



WARG excavating at Hursley Park

thrown up many more questions for the archaeology team, led by Andy King, which they hope they can resolve next year if permission is given by IBM to continue. This would enable a better view and perspective of the structure the team has uncovered to date. What is certain is the mansion would have been imposing in the landscape, with a view to the Solent and Isle of Wight on a clear day.

This year's dig has revealed plenty of oyster shells and whelks, along with animal bones; a cattle bone and a piece of antler were dug out while we looked on. If we are given the chance I would thoroughly recommend a visit next year, to get a closer and more informed look at our 17th century history, and the home of the second Lord Protector.

Paul Robbins

More information at:

<http://www.warg.org.uk/> (picture from WARG Big Dig 2021 IBM Hursley, *The search for The Great Lodge*)



Artist's impression



The human costs of the Civil Wars: the Civil Wars Petitions Project

Members of the Cromwell Association are far better-informed than most of the public about the drastic ways in which the British and Irish Civil Wars impacted upon the population. Most of the public are usually shocked to learn that in England and Wales alone, a greater proportion of the population died in the Civil Wars than in the First and Second World Wars combined. Most are even more surprised to discover that there was a national pension scheme in place during and after the wars to alleviate the suffering of maimed soldiers, war widows and their dependents. As with welfare systems today, seventeenth-century claimants had to go through a legal process to demonstrate themselves to be worthy recipients of state support. This pension scheme has left a sizeable legacy in UK archives for us to investigate today.



The project team in the garden during the project's conference at the Friends' Meeting House, Oxford, July 2019. From left: Andrew Hopper (principal investigator), Ismini Pells (project manager), Lloyd Bowen, Mark Stoyles and David Appleby (co-investigators).

The British and Irish Civil Wars are now taking centre stage as a critical event in the welfare history of Europe. The Petitions project website www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk is funded by a generous standard grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2017–2022). On completion in October 2022 it will provide over 3,000 photographs and transcriptions of petitions (and their accompanying certificates) to the state from military veterans and their families for welfare payments as a result of their injuries and bereavement sustained during the English Civil Wars. It will also contain the names of around 20,000 claimants who received payments for their wartime losses in England and Wales. Designed by the Multimedia Online Data Service at the University of Nottingham and with free access worldwide, this Wordpress site enables researchers to investigate the human costs of the civil wars from the perspective of the rank-and-file soldier or war widow, and identify the wars' casualties and participants among their home locality or ancestry.

The website aims to share information on the human costs of this devastating series of conflicts, which continued to affect communities long after the fighting was over. In these documents, we hear the voices of the ordinary men and women who lived and

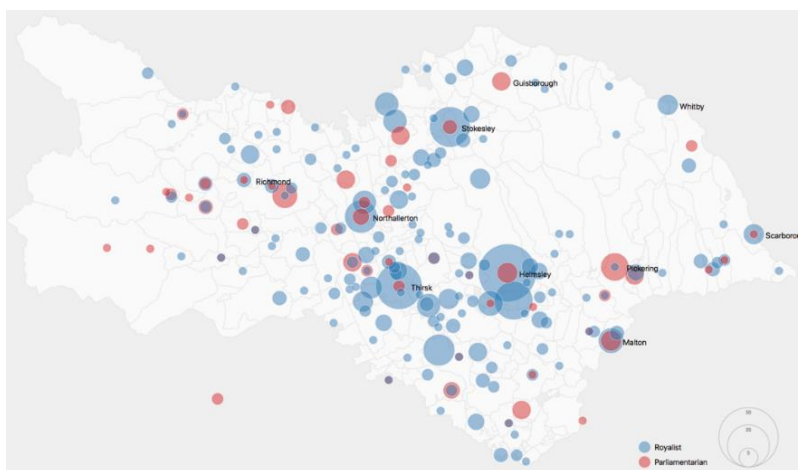
made available to injured soldiers, and the ingenious ways that the wounded and bereaved negotiated with the authorities for financial relief. We can also discover how those who managed welfare systems responded to the enormous strains of supporting thousands of soldiers and civilians, as well as the relationship between the provision of relief, political considerations and the contested memories of this divisive conflict. Veterans and civilians were afflicted with mental health problems as a result of the conflict. The impact of this is all too easy to imagine when we consider how British society was traumatized by the psychological legacy of the World Wars. These petitions provide a powerful reminder that the human

fought during the English Civil Wars. These people tell us how they looked back on the conflicts, which continued to affect communities long after the fighting was over. In these documents, we hear the voices of the ordinary men and women who lived and fought during the English Civil Wars. These people tell us how they looked back on their experiences during the wars and how they coped with its aftermath. We can learn about what sort of medical care was

costs of war do not end with treaties and peace settlements, but linger on for generations.

The project began in June 2017 and has involved the project team visiting The National Archives and every county record office with pertinent surviving records in England and Wales. We are enormously grateful for the enthusiasm and cooperation of all these archivists, without whom the project would not have been possible. The project builds on the work of Geoffrey Hudson and Eric Gruber von Arni, who, working in the 1990s, first investigated the county pension scheme and military hospital provision respectively. The website is fully searchable and can be investigated by themes such as petitions and certificates, payments, people, injuries and ailments, events and places. For example, users can search for the wounded and widowed of the Battle of Naseby. They might search for gunshot wounds, size of payments or mentions of Oliver Cromwell.

Upon completion, every county will have a map that plots the distribution of royalist and parliamentary claimants of military welfare. This enables us to visualise patterns of mobilization by both sides, to see the localities where the soldiers and their families resided. Sometimes this allows us to reflect on how recruitment was shaped by territorial control, a locality's pre-existing religious / political sympathies, or even by wartime events.



Royalist and Parliamentary claimants in the North Riding of Yorkshire: <https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/yorkshire-north-riding-summary/>

Our map of the North Riding of Yorkshire shows heavy royalist recruitment (in blue) in parishes either side of the Great North Road which bisected the county, and which was also the route taken by the Earl of Newcastle's royalist army on its southward advance towards York in December 1642.

The website also shows how, in some counties, petitions persisted well into the eighteenth century. Our last petition is that of William Leaver, a blind royalist soldier of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, who claimed to be aged '100 years or thereabouts' in 1717. The following year the county paid his son John 40s towards the cost of his funeral. The latest petition in the north is that of Henry Norton of 'Turf House' in the hamlet of Steel, in Hexham parish, who, aged 'near upon 90 years', petitioned the midsummer sessions at Hexham in July 1710:

And whereas it is well known he hath been a true loyalist to the Crown of Great Britain, a sufferer in carrying arms under Charles the first of blessed memory during all the time of his troubles... And having ever since his desisting from arms lived credibly & honestly & been of a good life & conversation & a true member of the high Church of England.

Norton had been well-advised how to appeal to Northumberland's Tory Justices. Rather than granting Norton a pension, the Justices ordered church wardens and overseers of Hexham to pay Norton 8d per week towards his maintenance. However, this was comparable to a pension of nearly £2 per year, and with his sons absent in the Duke of Marlborough's army, worth the effort to obtain in order to enable Norton to survive his last years.

Aside from the archival documents themselves, the website contains a variety of useful materials for teaching and public engagement. There is a brief video animation explaining

the pension scheme to a primary schools' audience. There is a section for schoolteachers with resources for Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level, including videos of how to analyse and critique two sample petitions:

<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/educational-resources-for-schools/>

PDF magazines can be downloaded of two linked exhibitions at the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum, whose staff were a pleasure to work with as the project's impact and public engagement partner:

<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/battle-scarred/> and

<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/the-world-turned-upside-down/>

Of these, the *Battle-Scarred* exhibition featured the wheelchair of a particularly famous civil war soldier, the parliamentarian commander-in-chief, Sir Thomas Fairfax.

Petitions for pensions are not just dry documents of local administrators, they are also a record of public performances in quarter sessions courts where claimants sought to persuade the Justices of the Peace and onlookers that they were worthy recipients of relief. With this in mind, during the COVID lockdown, the project teamed up with the Royal Shakespeare Company to record their actors delivering monologues based on the project's research while they isolated at home. These performances were interspersed with relevant passages from Shakespeare's plays that address the costs of war, and were funded by the Economic and Social Research Council for the Festival of Social Science week in November 2020:

<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/representing-disability-in-shakespeares-world/>

What began as a conversation over a pub lunch near the Devon Record Office in July 2015 is now nearing completion, with a launch event planned for before Christmas 2022.

We have made further plans for a 5-volume series of books, under contract with Taylor and Francis for 2024. These will reproduce the transcriptions of the petitions, certificates and county statistics, allowing university libraries to hold a long-term legacy of the project. This will provide a lasting record of the team's efforts beyond the life of the project website, to enable the researchers of future generations.



The wheelchair of Sir Thomas Fairfax, National Civil War Centre, on loan by kind permission of Tom Fairfax. Fairfax had a number of lucky escapes. He was wounded by gunshots and sword cuts multiple times during the wars. Soon after the Restoration he increasingly resorted to this wheelchair, despite only being in his early fifties. His will granted John Denonley and his wife their farm rent-free for life in recognition that John 'received a maim in my service disabling him to earn his living'.

Further Reading

Lloyd Bowen and Mark Stoye (eds), *Remembering the English Civil Wars* (Routledge 2021). This edited collection is based on the proceedings of the project's conference held at the Friends' Meeting House in Oxford in July 2019.

David J. Appleby and Andrew Hopper (eds), *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester University Press 2018).

Blog by Ismini Pells on Oliver Cromwell's involvement in military welfare: <https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/blog/the-endeavours-of-your-servants-oliver-cromwell-military-welfare-and-civil-war-petitions/>

Blog by Andrew Hopper on the last soldiers of the Civil Wars: <https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/blog/the-last-soldiers-of-the-english-civil-wars/>

Professor Andrew Hopper
Kellogg College, Oxford

The project team also includes work from our fantastic research assistants: Stewart Beale, Nicola Blacklaws. Katie Bridger, Trixie Gadd, Sally Hargreaves, Rik Sowden and Charlotte Young.



The author at Turf House, Hexham parish, Northumberland, home of the petitioner, Henry Norton (2020).

Cromwell Curator's Corner

It was great to see so many Association members this April when the AGM was staged in Huntingdon, and since then hopefully lots of future members at the Schools Conference.

If you've not been to see us recently, our new temporary exhibit is staged in association with Durham University, looking at an archaeological detective story which reveals the human story behind the Civil Wars. In 2013 archaeologists discovered mass graves at Palace Green in Durham.



Scientific analysis of the skeletons and comparisons to other mass graves in Europe led to the announcement that the only 'plausible' explanation was that the remains were those of Scots

soldiers captured at the Battle of Dunbar in September 1650; taken to Durham, where up to 1,700 died as prisoners of war, and some of their remains were found under Palace Green Library.

The display explores the story behind the men and what was revealed about their lives and deaths by the archaeology.

Accompanying objects from the museum's collections relate to the battle at Dunbar, which Cromwell described as 'one of the most signal mercies'. The *Dunbar to Durham: An Archaeological Mystery* exhibit runs until 25th September.

This year sees the 375th anniversary of the Putney Debates, the hugely significant constitutional debates which took place in St Mary's Church in Putney in November 1647. Accordingly, our winter exhibition and our popular online lecture series this November will include related talks. Details and tickets for these will be on sale via the museum's

website from August at: www.cromwellmuseum.org.

We also have some exciting new acquisitions (see elsewhere in this issue for details) and will be tweaking some of our permanent displays to accommodate them, plus we have another significant anniversary this year as the museum celebrates its 60th birthday!

Keep up to date with what we're up to via our website at:

www.cromwellmuseum.org,

or via our social media:

- @thecromwellmuseum
- @thecromwellmuseum
- @museumcromwell

www.youtube.com/c/CromwellMuseum

Stuart Orme,
Curator, The Cromwell Museum

The Moment Magazine Peterborough @MomentMag

Is this the face of Oliver Cromwell's mother? Because of Cromwell's significance, portraits were painted not only of him but also his family. Until now though, no authenticated paintings of his parents have been identified. We talked to @MuseumCromwell bit.ly/3L1jmiX



The Cromwell Museum @MuseumCromwell

#OnThisDay 13 June 1650 Marchamont Nedham publishes the first issue of Mercurius Politicus, the official Parliamentary weekly newsbook. #17thCentury #FakeNews #OTD

Mercurius Politicus. Comprising the summe of all Intelligence, with the Affairs and Designs now on foot in the three Nations of England, Ireland, and Scotland. In defence of the Common-wealth, and for Information of the People. — Isa: vterius Scriba. {Hor. de Ar. Poet. From Thursday Novemb. 20. to Thursday Novemb. 27. 1651.

The Cromwell Museum @Muse... · 1d · #OnThisDay 1 July 1645 (or thereabouts) 'The King's Cabinet Opened' was published, detailing Charles I's private papers captured at Naseby, including letters to foreign governments, inflicting great political damage on the Royalist cause. #BritishCivilWars #17thCentury #OTD

THE Kings CABINET Opened: OR CERTAIN PACKETS OF SECRET LETTERS & PAPERS, Written with the Kings own Hand, and taken in his Cabinet at Naseby, June 14. 1645. By Victorious Sr. Thomas Fairfax; Wherin many mysticall of State, tending to the Justification of our Cause, is, which Sir Thom. Fairfax joyned himself with memorable day and dayly his eyes. Together, with some Annotations thereupon. Published by speciall Order of the Parliament. LONDON, Printed for Iohn Isbitt, dwelling in Pauls Church-Yard, at the Signe of the Kings-Head, 1645.



Women of the Cromwell Family



'Warts and All?' Portraits of Cromwell



Cromwell's Sword with Tod's Workshop



Cromwellian Conversations 28: Recreating Cromwell's...

Book Reviews



The Rebel Daughter

by Miranda Malins

The front cover of *The Rebel Daughter*, Miranda's second novel about the daughters of Oliver Cromwell, displays a glowing recommendation from none other than Rowan Williams. So it was with huge anticipation that I started to read. I loved Miranda's first book, *The Puritan Princess*, and this book contains the same compelling narrative and elegant writing, but is greatly enhanced by the frequent use of Old Testament biblical quotations. These hugely strengthen the intensity and effectiveness of the story being told and add to the development of the characters. Moreover, I spotted several occasions when real conversations occurred in the text, often cleverly recycled to enhance the narrative – for example, at an imagined dinner at the Cromwell house, Manchester makes his famous speech: 'If we fight the king a hundred times and beat him ninety-nine, he will be king still...' and it's very credible that, in relaxed surroundings, Cromwell may reply: 'Then why in God's name did we take up arms in the first place?' [p89] whilst Bridget Cromwell, Oliver's religious and revolutionary minded daughter, may well recall the words of a proverb: 'The wrath of a king is a messenger of death but a wise man will pacify it'. This all adds great authenticity to the writing and Miranda uses the technique very cleverly to convey the characters of the main players in her story.

Miranda is clearly fond of Lady Fairfax, who is always smiling or sweeping into rooms and taking charge, but the Generaless is known to history as a colourful character. It's much harder to make Henry Ireton into a loveable, sympathetic hero. Yet Henry and Bridget Cromwell are the main characters in the book and despite both of them being rather dour, Miranda manages to paint them as sympathetic and likeable people. She uses the complexity of the political situation, both to explain Bridget's views and also to develop her character. In chapter three Henry takes her to a church to hear a woman preacher, and this opens her eyes to new ideas and possibilities; for a woman who yearns to be useful, this is heady stuff.

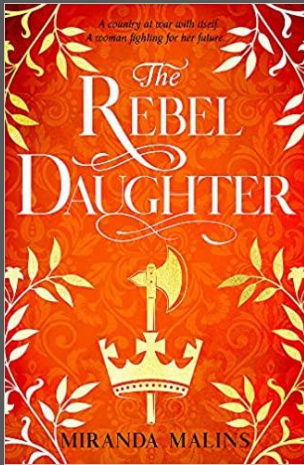
As the war drags on, we can sympathise with Henry's desire for change, for a new world. When, in 1648, the King plays false yet again, Henry quotes the Book of Numbers to Bridget and her father: 'You shall not defile the land...' and the reader can feel his exasperation and understand why he felt that the trial of the king had to happen. Henry was a visionary, so when in Ireland, without Bridget, he failed to eat properly or change his linen because he was working so hard, the reader warms to this rather otherworldly and nerdy man. This, as well as our liking for the feisty Bridget, makes his death so poignant to read about.

I wasn't sure about two rather mischievous touches. There is a rather fanciful episode when Bridget supposedly thought up the idea of Cornet Joyce kidnapping the king, and later having the thought to add 'mere mercenary' to the description of the army in the *Declaration of the Army*. Maybe she did, but I thought it a little unlikely.

This is a very impressive work, full of scholarship, yet Miranda wears her knowledge lightly. She tells a thrilling story deftly and vividly, and colours her pages with characters that take on a life of their own. I now look forward to reading about Betty Cromwell, as I am sure does Baron Williams of Oystermouth!

Serrie Meakins

Miranda Malins, *The Rebel Daughter*, 400pp, Orion, 2022, ISBN: 978-1409194866, Paperback £8.99

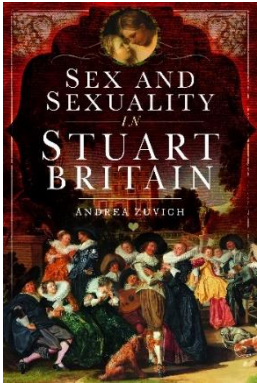


Sex and Sexuality in Stuart Britain

by Andrea Zuvich

Everything you wanted to know about sex in the 1600s and were afraid to ask? That's certainly the selling point of Andrea Zuvich's entertaining gallop (pun intended) through the sexual practices, mores, and peccadilloes of the 17th century.

The book is divided into two sections; the first 60% looking broadly at a whole range of topics relating to sex and sexuality including marriage, gender, prostitution, pornography, contraception, bigamy, adultery, incest, homosexuality... indeed giving some consideration to a comprehensive range of issues, some of which had not really occurred to me. The remainder of the book looks at the sex lives of the leading figures of each of the Stuart reigns, whilst challenging some popular perceptions about some of them.



Andrea is an engaging writer, and there's a wealth of detail using contemporary sources whilst keeping the subject light and readable, and as she says in her introduction without judgement and avoiding being 'pornographic, prurient, or inappropriate' for the sake of it.

There is a brief section on the period of the Commonwealth and Protectorate (unsurprisingly, Henry Marten makes an appearance at this point), and I did feel that there's an emphasis on the pre-Civil War and post-Restoration periods, which is perhaps understandable given the source material available. Some sections I also felt could have benefitted from a bit more exploration (such as using art as a source), but as the book is very much aimed at the general reader, that again is to be understood.

Well worth a look if you'd like an introduction to a very different (but essential) aspect of this period.

Stuart Orme

Andrea Zuvich, *Sex and Sexuality in Stuart Britain*, 232pp, Pen and Sword, 2020, ISBN: 978-1526753076 Paperback £16.99

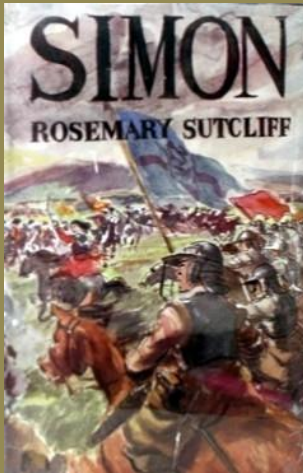
On my bookshelf



Simon by Rosemary Sutcliff

Simon has been on my bookshelf for over 50 years now, since it was set as a holiday reading task to my 10-year-old self. Except it still regularly leaves its place on the shelf to be re-read.

Rosemary Sutcliff is best known for her historical novels set in Roman Britain, *The Eagle of the Ninth* in particular, but *Simon* is set in the Civil War, and focussed especially on the New Model Army and its campaign in the West. It is unusual, and I suspect was even more so when written in the 1950s, in having its protagonist on the Parliamentary side. The story deals with the impact of the Civil War on two close friends, Simon Carey and Amias Hannaford, inevitably one Parliamentary and one Royalist, as it first divides them and then brings them together in a series of encounters which test and prove their friendship. An important second strand is the relationship between Simon, as a newly-commissioned cornet in Fairfax's Horse, and his corporal, the old Ironside, Zeal-For-The-Lord Relf. Again it is unusual in treating a zealous (sic) puritan in a sympathetic way, though showing how his moral code could prove self-destructive. This is all played out against the backdrop of the creation of the New Model Army, its victory at Naseby, and its subsequent campaign in the West, most particularly in



Sutcliff's native Devon, culminating in the Battle of Torrington and the explosion of the powder magazine stored in the church at the end of the fight. As regards the historical figures, the hero is without doubt Sir Thomas Fairfax who plays a major part in the story and is presented in a very positive light throughout. It is thanks to this that I've been able from my early years to avoid the popular view that the Civil War was fought between Charles I and Cromwell! Indeed, Oliver makes only a brief appearance, but a convincing one.

The Civil War context is well presented, without the caricature that too often surfaces in treatments of the period, with the issues more hinted at than explicit, and all the characters come over well and credibly. What appealed to me is that *Simon* is a convincing 'everyman' as hero; his particular contributions to the war are the result of time and circumstance rather than any especially heroic traits on his part, in contrast to his 'fellow Carey' in Ronald Welch's near-contemporary *For the King*, who just happens to be the best swordsman in the Royalist army!

For an engaging introduction to the Civil War, and the New Model Army in particular, aimed at what would now be termed 'Young Adult' readers (but with continuing appeal to at least this not-so-young adult) I highly recommend *Simon*. It would certainly make my shortlist for being taken to the notional Desert Island. If you like your Civil War fiction to be a bit more Flashman-esque, *The Last Roundhead* includes a brief homage to the book. Its author Jemahl Evans is a fellow enthusiast.

Richard Warren

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would hope that I might be afforded a right to reply to your review of my novel *The Protector* that appeared in the February 2022 edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

My primary observation would be that I am quite alarmed that you missed the book's principal purpose. The rehabilitation of Oliver's despotic reputation is essentially the *raison d'être* of this book. The narrative is clearly flawed in the many ways you pointed out, and in others you resisted the temptation to highlight. I have absolutely no defence to my imperfect creative writing ability; guilty as charged.

I very much regret that such a Titan of the Cromwell Association did not see that this is a further attempt of mine to promote Oliver in a positive light, which I do relentlessly at every possible opportunity. As an Irishman from Drogheda, this is quite a herculean task. It is challenging enough trying to convince an Irish audience to accept the reality of a more humane Cromwell, but when such an august reviewer as yourself misses the dominant premise of this book, I despair.

On the plus side, the more I research this topic, the more utterly convinced I am that the fundamentally compassionate Cromwell I have discovered (especially in Ireland) will indeed take his rightful place in the interpretations of the man in the future, and past misperceptions that have wrought so much havoc, will eventually be wholly undone.

Tom Reilly

Editor's note: I hold Tom, and his never-yielding support for Cromwell in the highest regard, and have done for many years. As for Titan, flattery will get you everywhere Tom!

New and forthcoming books

As ever, books about the Civil War continue to be published apace, some completely new and some revised editions of previous publications.

In 1992 Ian Gentles' influential book *The New Model Army in England, Ireland and Scotland, 1645–1653* was published by Blackwell's. It was reviewed by the late Barry Denton in *Cromwelliana* that year, and commended to Association members, with the comment that at £40.00 it was expensive. This year, thirty years on, Yale University Press have achieved what I would have thought impossible and produced a second edition at almost half the price of the first, at £25.00! The new edition is, in Gentles' own words, 'a very different book', as it takes into account recent scholarship and access to contemporary notes on Monck's campaign in Scotland in 1654, which were not available previously. Hopefully the book will be reviewed in a future edition of our journal.

1992 was, of course, the 350th anniversary of the start of the Civil Wars, and as such a number of smaller local publications were produced focussing on how the war had been played out in individual communities. One of these was John West's *The Battle of Gainsborough* published by Richard Key. It gave a brief discussion of the battle and its significance, though Ronald Hutton's recent biography (part one) casts a rather different light on it. The 1992 publication can fairly be described as a pamphlet. Thirty years on West has also found a different publisher, DB Publishing, who may not have nearly halved the price of the first edition, but they considerably added to its length and the production values. (This is more a comment on how print technology has changed over the last thirty years rather than anything else). The new edition is copiously illustrated throughout, and has an introduction by Professor Martyn Bennett, with a foreword by Kevin Winter and Don Smith, of the Battlefields Trust. For any unfamiliar with Gainsborough and the battle site to the north of the town, it is well worth a visit, and the Old Hall is a little-known gem of a medieval building. West's book will be a helpful guide.



An author with an entirely different perspective on the Civil War is Leanda de Lisle, who can fairly be described as sympathetic to the travails of Charles I and his court. In early August Chatto & Windus are publishing *Henrietta Maria: Conspirator, Warrior, Phoenix Queen*, a revisionist take on the life and significance of the wife of Charles I. While Association members may find it challenging to summon enthusiasm for her subject, it promises to be a fascinating and entertaining read.

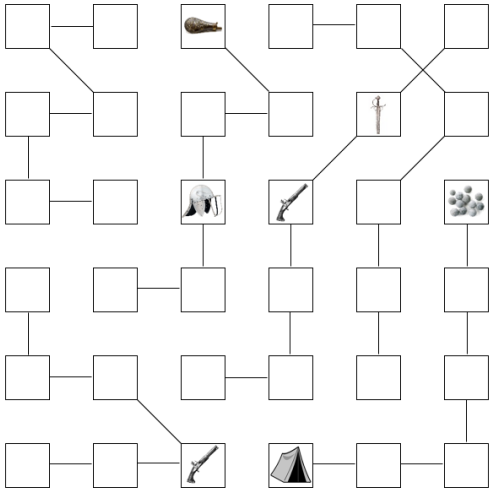
John Goldsmith

...other recent and forthcoming books



Protector's Pen Quiz

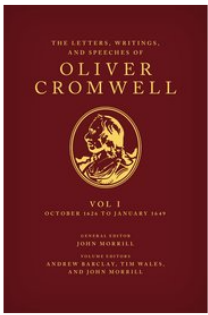
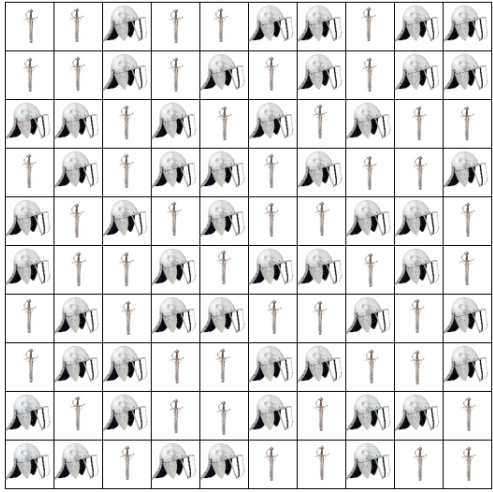
Bit of a mix up... – July 2022



Place the soldiers' equipment, one of each of the 6 items for each of the 6 soldiers, in each series of boxes linked by the chain so that only one item appears in each chain, row and column!



Answer: Sorting the armoury – Feb 2022



The Letters, Writings, and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell
 Volume 1: October 1626 to January 1649
 Edited by Andrew Barclay, Tim Wales, and John Morrill
 General editor John Morrill

- Offers the most complete, the most scholarly, and (by far) the most user-friendly edition ever produced of the letters, writings, and recorded speeches of Oliver Cromwell
- Explains the status of each text and its context or contexts, making it useful for classroom and research purposes

07 September 2022
 Hardback, 978-0199587896



Chalke Valley History Festival

A member of the Wimborne Militia carries a rampart gun during the Chalke Valley History Festival at Broade Chalke, Salisbury, Wiltshire (June 26–29, 2022)



Andrew Matthews/PA (PA Wire)

Independent, 26 June 2022

Exhibitions and Events

A few links have been provided below to some websites should you wish to look up further details on forthcoming events as they are announced:

- NCWC, Newark <http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/events/>
- English Civil War Society <http://www.ecws.org.uk/>
- Worcester Commandery <http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/>
- Cromwell Museum <http://www.cromwellmuseum.org/>
- Cromwell's House, Ely <http://visitley.org.uk/cromwell/oliver-cromwells-house>
- Battlefields Trust <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp>
- Sealed Knot <http://www.thesealedknot.org.uk/>
- Scottish Battlefields Trust <http://www.scottishbattlefields.org/events-1>
- John Hampden Society <https://www.johnhampden.org/>
- Pike and Shot Society <https://www.pikeandshotsociety.org/>

Shipwreck *The Gloucester* hailed most important since *Mary Rose*

The discovery of a shipwrecked warship that sank while carrying a future king has been hailed the most important maritime find since the *Mary Rose*. *The Gloucester* ran aground off the coast of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in 1682, nearly killing the Duke of York, who became King James II of England. The find, which



National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

was discovered by divers in 2007, has only just been revealed due to security reasons. Maritime expert Prof Claire Jowitt said it was of 'international importance'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-61734192>