

THE CIVIL WAR IN HAMPSHIRE

By Tony MacLachlan, Rowanvale Books, 2000.

Extracts

The Civil War, 1642 to the beheading of King Charles I in 1649, seems to have passed by Broughton. The village is not mentioned in the index of this book, although Stockbridge merits twelve references as an area of activity. Mottisfont has two, the Abbey at the Reformation and the Sandys as Royalists. Andover and Romsey were garrisoned towns and Winchester, Cheriton and Basing House well known scenes of battles.

Oliver Cromwell who founded his 'New Model Army' does not appear in this part of Hampshire; his Commander in Chief, General Fairfax, was in charge here. Fairfax led seven of his regiments through Newbury into Hampshire, 'quartering for the night in Andover and the surrounding settlements'. He mustered his men for review in fields near Middle Wallop.

One of the earliest to raise a force, 300 men, for Parliament was Sir Richard Whitehead, he figures largely in the story of Southampton where he was in charge of its defence after taking it peaceably.

The Whitehead family had been established at Norman Court, West Tytherley since 1433 although owning the Manor of Broughton only from 1749.

The Lord of the Manor of Broughton during the war was Sir Francis Dowse and his son Hampden. After the war, Giles Dowse of Andover was listed as a 'delinquent' (Royalist). On the winning side was Thomas Douse with a 'U', a member of the Hampshire Committee charged with defence of the County for Cromwell. Also members were Sir Robert Wallop, son of Henry, the Hampshire M.P. and Richard Whitehead. The M.P. for Andover, Sir William Waller was also a convinced Parliamentarian, he left men to rest in Wallop while on his way from Basing House to Salisbury.

Colonel Whitehead is described as "intemperate and extreme" who argued that "cruelty to Cavaliers was acceptable to God and His divine wish too". The Colonel's brief was a roving one, attending wherever needed, Southampton, Portsmouth and Basing.

The war may have passed Broughton by but Whitehead's force would have contained men from Tytherley and Broughton. It would have been an anxious time for the inhabitants.