Sources for the Study of the English Civil War (1642 - 1651)
Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Pardon for Brian Cooke of Wheatley following payment of fine for supporting the Royalists against the Parliamentarians (showing broken parliamentary wax seal [prior to conservation work]), 1648
(Doncaster Archives: CWM/442/1)

Letter from King Charles I to Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, whilst Wentworth was imprisoned in the Tower of London, Apr 1641
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/StrP/40/41c)

19th-century engraving of Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, following his execution by Parliament on 12 May 1641
(Sheffield Archives: MD4011/1)

Note: Since this Study Guide was first compiled several of the collections referred to have since been transferred from Sheffield Archives to other archive repositories (in such cases the new repository is now included in the document reference[s] and arrangements to view the item[s] will need to be made with the repository in question)

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Introduction

This Study Guide provides references for sources relating to the study of the English Civil War located primarily at Sheffield Archives and the Local Studies Library (although since the guide was compiled several of the collections referred to have since been transferred to other archive repositories – in such cases the new repository is referred to in the document reference[s]). The aim of the guide is to provide an overview of the topic and direct the researcher towards key local sources. It offers a brief context in which to place source material and is not intended as a detailed history of the English Civil War.

The English Civil War (1642 - 1651) was a series of conflicts pitting supporters of Parliament (known as Parliamentarians or ‘Roundheads’) against supporters of the King (known as Royalists or ‘Cavaliers’). War erupted after a period of considerable political tension between King Charles I and Parliament (on whom the King depended to raise revenue for battle, etc.). In the run up to the Civil War, Parliament had grown increasingly critical of the absolutism of King Charles I and his costly political and military failures. In turn, the King was angered by the lack of support from his Parliament (prompting Charles to dissolve Parliament between 1629 - 1640). When Charles was forced to recall Parliament in 1640 (to raise money for war against the Scots), Parliament responded with an attempted defiant show of strength. They presented a series of grievances against the King (recorded in the ‘Grand Remonstrance’ of November 1641) and made a series of demands for more power (recorded in the ‘Nineteen Propositions’ of June 1642) which led to an irreconcilable breakdown in relations.

Prominent battles in the Civil War included: the Battle of Edgehill on 23 October 1642 (which ended in stalemate), the Battle of Marston Moor on 2 July 1644 (which saw the Royalist forces in the north defeated by the Parliamentarians) and the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645 (which resulted in Charles I being comprehensively defeated by the Parliamentarian Commander Oliver Cromwell’s ‘New Model Army’). The Civil War resulted in the trial and execution of King Charles I for high treason by Parliament in 1649. It culminated in Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651 when Cromwell’s New Model Army defeated the Royalist forces of Charles II (who was attempting to reclaim his father’s throne). The Civil War also led to the abolition of the monarchy and saw England ruled instead by a republican Commonwealth from 1649 until 1660 (from 1653 - 1658 England, Scotland and Ireland was governed by the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell). Cromwell died in September 1658, leading to the disintegration of the republic. The monarchy was restored in 1660 with the triumphant return of Charles II from exile as king.

Although a national conflict, the English Civil War left a significant mark in Sheffield. The town fluctuated between Parliamentarian and Royalist control, culminating in a 10-day siege of Sheffield Castle by Parliamentarian forces in August 1644. The siege resulted in the Royalist surrender of the town and destruction of Sheffield Castle. A number of local documents relating to the Civil War survive in Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library collections. Township and ecclesiastical records, such as town trustees’, constables’ and churchwardens’ accounts, illustrate the movement of troops in the area and preparations for battle, etc. The Civil War split prominent families in Sheffield and neighbourhood (as it did in the rest of the country) into those who supported the King and those who supported Parliament. Important collections of papers from such families from the period survive in Sheffield Archives’ collections. Of particular significance are the papers of Thomas Wentworth (the Earl of Strafford and Lord Deputy of Ireland, and leading advisor of Charles I) which include correspondence with the King and prominent political figures, centring on key issues such as political troubles in Ireland and Scotland which formed the prelude to the conflict.
Timeline showing key dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1639 - 1640</td>
<td>Bishops’ Wars between the Scots and English forces led by Charles I result in costly defeat for the English, provoking Parliamentary unrest and anger towards the King.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1640</td>
<td>Sheffield reported as being largely sympathetic to the Parliamentary cause.¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May 1641</td>
<td>Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, executed by Parliament for treason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1642</td>
<td>The Howard Family (Earls of Arundel, Earls of Norfolk and Lords of Sheffield Manor) sent artillery from Sheffield Castle to Doncaster for the use of King Charles I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Aug 1642</td>
<td>The King’s standard erected at Nottingham (starting the English Civil War).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1642</td>
<td>Parliamentarians (commanded by Sir John Gell of Derbyshire) seize control of Sheffield Castle on 11 October 1642. The Battle of Edgehill on 23 October 1642 (the first major conflict of the Civil War between Royalist and Parliamentarian forces) ends in stalemate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1643</td>
<td>Royalists retake Sheffield Castle (under the command of William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle). Sir William Savile, grandson of the sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, appointed governor of Sheffield, in the name of the King. Shortly afterwards, Savile departs for York placing Thomas Beaumont as deputy governor of Sheffield in his place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Jun 1643</td>
<td>Royalists (under the command of the Earl of Newcastle) defeat Parliamentarian troops (under the command of Lord Ferdinando Fairfax) at the Battle of Adwalton Moor, consolidating Royalist control of Yorkshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1644</td>
<td>Earl of Newcastle’s Royalist forces defeated by a combined Scots and Parliamentarian Army at the Battle of Marston Moor, Yorkshire (thus defeating the Royalists in the north) on 2 July 1644. Sheffield Castle summoned by the Earl of Manchester to surrender to the Parliamentarians on 27 July 1644.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1644</td>
<td>Siege and surrender of Sheffield Castle (Parliamentarian forces, commanded by Major General Crawford, sent to besiege Sheffield Castle on 1 August and Thomas Beaumont surrenders to the Parliamentarians on 10 August 1644).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1645</td>
<td>Captain Edward Gill made governor of Sheffield Castle and the castle and surrounding estates are seized by Commissioners of Parliament. Charles I decisively defeated by the Parliamentarian army (commanded by Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell) at the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1646 – 1648</td>
<td>Charles I surrenders to the Scots in April 1646. House of Commons resolution passed on 30 April 1646 that Sheffield Castle is to be made untenable. Subsequent resolution passed on 13 July 1647 for the castle to be demolished and on 23 August 1648 demolition work begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Jan 1649</td>
<td>Charles I executed by Parliament for treason.</td>
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<td>1656</td>
<td>Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell (ruler of the republican Commonwealth of England from 1653) proclaimed in Sheffield.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>Great rejoicing reported in Sheffield upon the proclamation and restoration of the King (Charles II).</td>
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¹ See Sheffield Local Register (John Thomas: Sheffield, 1830) (Sheffield Archives: SHE YEAR or Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74S) p. 22.
Queen Henrietta Maria: the French Catholic Princess

One important reason for Protestant Parliament’s antipathy towards King Charles I was as a result of his marriage to the French Catholic Princess, Henrietta Maria (1609 - 1669). The King’s choice of bride fuelled Protestant fears about a popish conspiracy which could threaten England. Queen Henrietta Maria adopted a politically active role in court and is understood to have wielded increasing influence over her husband and affairs of the state prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Queen Henrietta Maria's active political role is evidenced in letters, held at Sheffield Archives, she wrote to Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford.

Thomas Wentworth: Earl of Strafford and Lord Deputy of Ireland

Essential information on the background to events which led to the Civil War can be found amongst the papers of Thomas Wentworth (1593 - 1641), the 1st Earl of Strafford, held at Sheffield Archives, which include some 4000 original letters (Ref. WWM/StrP). Wentworth served in Parliament (as a representative of Yorkshire) and was a loyal supporter and leading advisor of King Charles I, working to strengthen the Royal position against Parliament. In 1628 he was appointed President of the Council of the North and from 1632 to 1639 he served as Lord Deputy of Ireland, where he was known for his tough uncompromising rule of the country.
The correspondence between Charles I and Wentworth illustrates the political problems in both Ireland and Scotland which precipitated the English Civil War - with Parliament angered by the King's costly military failures in both countries. The Scots had vociferously resisted the attempts of Charles I to enforce Anglican reforms on the Scottish Church (leading to the Bishops' Wars with ended in military defeat for the King’s army at the hands of the Scots in 1640). The Irish meanwhile reacted to the oppressive English rule there by directing increasing anger towards the man at the helm - Thomas Wentworth (Irish rebellions broke out in 1641 after Wentworth’s death).

Charles recalled Wentworth from Ireland to England in 1639 to help with the Bishops’ Wars and Wentworth was appointed to Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1640 (the same year he was created 1st Earl of Strafford and 3rd Baron Raby). As political problems surrounding Scotland and Ireland worsened, Wentworth fell foul of the newly recalled Parliament. The King had reluctantly recalled Parliament in 1640 to raise revenue for battle against the Scots and Parliament seized the opportunity to defiantly show their strength to the King. Parliament was heavily critical of Wentworth’s governance of Ireland and saw him as a detested symbol of absolute monarchy (with his staunch defence of the embattled King) and they had him arrested and condemned to death on treason charges. Despite the attempts of Charles I to free his loyal friend from the Tower of London with force, Parliament’s will prevailed and Wentworth was executed on 12 May 1641 with the death warrant (somewhat reluctantly) signed by Charles I himself.

Resigned to his fate, Wentworth wrote to his son and daughter for the final time from the Tower just before his execution:

© Sheffield City Council
“My dearest Will. Thes are the last lines that you are to receave from a father that tenderly loves you…”

Letter from Strafford written to his son from the Tower of London, 11 May 1641
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/StrP/40/58a)

19th-century engravings of Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, before and after his execution on 12 May 1641
(Sheffield Archives: MD4011/1)

As well as including correspondence with Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria, the Strafford Papers at Sheffield Archives (Ref. WWM/StrP) also include correspondence with those who went on to become prominent Royalist supporters during the Civil War such as William Cavendish (1592 - 1676), Earl of Newcastle and Commander of Royalist Forces in the North; Sir William Savile (1612 - 1644), 3rd Baronet and briefly Royalist governor and commander of Sheffield Castle; and Francis Cottington (c. 1579 - 1652), 1st Baron Cottington and Lord Treasurer of England. The papers also include correspondence with those with Parliamentarian Civil War connections such as Ferdinando Fairfax (1584 - 1648), 2nd Lord Fairfax of Cameron and English Parliamentary general; and Henry Montagu, Earl of Manchester, whose son, Edward Montagu (the 2nd Earl of Manchester) became another important Parliamentary commander. A full index of correspondents in the Strafford papers is available in the searchroom at Sheffield Archives.
Roundheads or Cavaliers: Sheffield and Neighbourhood Choose Sides

With the King and Parliament unable to reconcile their differences and armed conflict looming, prominent families in Sheffield and its neighbourhood were obliged to choose sides. The Lord of Sheffield Manor at the time, Thomas Howard, 21st Earl of Arundel and the 1st Earl of Norfolk (1585 - 1646) (who had inherited the Manor through his marriage to Lady Alethea Talbot) was a staunch Royalist supporter. However, unlike their predecessors (the Talbots) the Howards chose not to reside in the area and employed stewards instead to manage their Sheffield estates (Thomas Howard himself opted to retire to the continent when the Civil War broke out). In spite of the Royalist sympathies of its absentee landlord, it is reported that Sheffield in 1640, as an emerging manufacturing town, was largely disaffected with the Royalist cause and came out overwhelmingly in support of the Parliamentarians. Prominent individuals/families declaring themselves as Parliamentarians in the area included John Bright (and his family) of Carbrook, the vicar of Sheffield; the families of the Jessops at Broomhall, and the Spencers of Attercliffe.²

Carbrook Hall, home of Parliamentary Colonel Sir John Bright (1619 - 1688)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s05643)

Brights of Carbrook

The most active Parliamentarian supporter in Sheffield was Sir John Bright of Carbrook (1619 - 1688) who joined the army of Sir Thomas Fairfax and rose to the rank of colonel. See the Bright papers at Sheffield Archives (Ref. WWM/Br P, available on microfilm WWM Microfilms 87, 94-102)

Broom Hall, Broom Hall Road, Sheffield - home of the Parliamentary supporting Jessop Family during the Civil War [showing West Wing prior to restoration]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield w01732)

Sir Francis Wortley, 1st Baronet (1591 - 1652) and poet who supported the King in the Civil War, fighting for Charles II at the siege of Hull in 1642 after which he was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London from 1644 - 1648
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s08165)

Declared Royalists in the area, included Sir Francis Wortley of Wharncliffle (papers available at Sheffield Archives - Ref. WhM), Brian Cooke of Wheatley (papers available at Doncaster Archives - Ref. CWM) and Richard Elmhirst of Houndhill (papers available at Barnsley Archives - Ref. EM).

² See Sheffield Local Register, p. 22.
© Sheffield City Council
Protestation Returns, 1641 - 1642

The ‘Protestation Returns’ relate to the years 1641 - 1642, before the start of the Civil War. The protestation was an affirmation of support for the Church of England and was an oath of loyalty ostensibly to the King (but in fact to Parliament). It was originally drawn up and taken by the members of the House of Commons on 3 May 1641. The following day the Protestant Peers in the House of Lords also swore it. Nine months later its scope was widened with instructions that every male should take it (occasionally women were also recorded). Aligned to the protestation was a ‘Collection in aid of Distressed Protestants in Ireland’ and the oath was taken and the collection made often simultaneously in February and March 1641/42. Where protestation returns of February - March 1641/42 survive, they provide the nearest there is to a census of adult males at the time. Administered by ‘hundred’ (or in the north by ‘wapentake’), ministers, churchwardens, constables and overseers of the poor took the protestation before justices of the peace at a local market town. These local officials were then in turn to supervise the taking of the protestation by their parishioners.

West Riding of Yorkshire Protestation Returns, Feb - Mar 1642

For the West Riding of Yorkshire, protestation returns [listing signatories and non-signatories of the House of Commons’ Protestation] have only survived for the wapentakes of Agbrigg, Morley, Osgoldcross and Claro (Sheffield returns have not survived). Microfilmed copies of some of the surviving West Riding returns are available at Sheffield Archives – Ref. Microfilm A111. The original protestation returns are held at the Parliamentary Archives in London.

Battle Begins

After rejecting Parliament’s demands for more powers (presented to the King in the ‘Nineteen Propositions’ of June 1642) Charles I officially began the English Civil War by raising his standard at Nottingham in August 1642. Robert Devereux (the 3rd Earl of Essex) was made Commander of the Parliamentarian forces. In Sheffield, in June 1642 (shortly before the raising of the King’s standard) it is reported how the Royalist supporting Howard Family (Lords of the Manor of Sheffield), sent from Sheffield Castle to Doncaster, artillery for the use of King Charles I. The accounts of the Town Burgesses (later known as the Town Trustees) illustrate preparations in Sheffield for impending war, including the purchase of 22 muskets at a cost of £21 15s 7d:

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4 Sheffield Local Register, p. 22.
© Sheffield City Council
Churchwardens’ accounts for churches in the Sheffield area can also give clues as to how the neighbourhood prepared for war, detailing extra expenditure on military training and equipment:

William Cavendish (1592 - 1676), Earl and later Marquis and Duke of Newcastle, was assigned command of Royalist forces in the northern counties. Parliamentary forces in the north were placed under the command of Ferdinando Fairfax (1584 - 1648), the 2nd Lord Fairfax of Cameron, and his son, Thomas Fairfax (1612 - 1671).

The first major battle of the English Civil War was at Edgehill (Warwickshire) on 23 October 1642 between Royalist forces commanded by the King and his nephew, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, against the main Parliamentary army commanded by Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex. The battle ended in stalemate.

One of first acts of open hostility in the Sheffield area (according to Rev. Joseph Hunter in his History of Hallamshire) is reputed to have been an attack on the house of the Parliamentary Sir Edward Rodes at Great Houghton near Barnsley by
Captain Grey and 300 Cavaliers of Northumberland in September 1642 (provoking 1,500 Parliamentarians to retaliate with the Cavaliers fleeing to Mansfield). ⁵

On 11 October 1642, Parliamentarian forces, under the control of the Derbyshire Baronet and Parliamentary military commander Sir John Gell (1593 - 1671), seized control of Sheffield Castle and the town. Hunter relates how, towards the end of 1642, one of the King’s local supporters, Sir John Reresby of Thrybergh, tried to smuggle out of the castle ‘four pieces of brass cannon’, presumably on the command of the Earl of Newcastle, but the townsmen of Sheffield intercepted the weaponry and secured it for the Parliamentarians. ⁶

William Cavendish, the Earl of Newcastle, marched into Yorkshire in 1643 with a Royalist army of 8000 men. He is understood to have found the Yorkshire people overwhelmingly in support of the Parliamentary cause, with the King’s supporters in the main confined to the Royalist stronghold of York. Newcastle advanced southward establishing Royalist garrisons at Tadcaster and Pontefract and then wrestling control from the Fairfaxes (and the Parliamentarians) garrisons at Leeds and Wakefield. Newcastle established his Royalist army headquarters at Wakefield and then continued his southwards advance attacking the Parliamentary stronghold at Rotherham. Newcastle’s wife, the Duchess Margaret Cavendish, narrates his advance from Rotherham to Sheffield:

“After my lord had stayed two or three dayes there, and order’d those parts, he marched with his army to Sheffield, another market-town of large extent, in which there was an ancient castle; which when the enemies forces that kept the town came to hear of, being terrified with the fame of my Lord’s hitherto victorious army, they fled away thence into Derbyshire, and left both town and castle (without any blow) to my lord’s mercy; and though the people in the town were most of them rebelliously affected, yet my Lord so prudently ordered the business, that within a short time he reduced most of them to their allegiance by love, and the rest by fear, and recruited his army dayly; he put a garrison of soldiers into the castle, and fortified it in all respects, and constituted a gentleman of quality, Sir Will. Savil, kt and bar., governour both of the castle, town, and country; and finding near that place some iron-works he gave present order for the casting of iron-cannon for his garrisons, and for the making of other instruments and engines of war.”

As narrated above by the Duchess, in April 1643, Sheffield swung back into Royalist hands as Newcastle seized back control of the town and castle (with the Parliamentary defenders of the castle fleeing into Derbyshire without a fight). In May 1643, Newcastle appointed Sir William Savile (1612 - 1644), grandson of the

⁶ Hunter, Hallamshire, p. 135.
sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, governor and commander-in-chief of the town and castle of Sheffield, in the name of the King. The Duchess also relates above how the Royalist forces made use of the ‘iron works’ near Sheffield to augment their weaponry.

Having secured Sheffield for the Royalist cause, any design Newcastle may have had of marching into Derbyshire to confront Sir John Gell and his Parliamentary supports there, was scuppered by an assault on Newcastle’s Wakefield headquarters by Sir Thomas Fairfax. This diverted him back to Wakefield to the defence of his Royalist stronghold there.

Savile’s governance of Sheffield was brief. Shortly after his appointment as governor, he was summoned away from Sheffield to the more important garrison at York (he died in battle at York fighting for the King in January 1644). Savile appointed Thomas Beaumont (1605 - 1668), deputy governor of the castle and town in his place.
Throughout 1643 major battles erupted between Roundheads and Cavaliers in various parts of the country. Of perhaps most significant for the Sheffield area was the Battle of Adwalton Moor on 30 June 1643, which saw the Royalists triumph and consolidate their control of Yorkshire. The defeated Fairfaxes were forced to retreat to Hull, allowing the Earl of Newcastle and his Royalist forces to regain control of Wakefield and the West Riding garrisons.

The Royalist grip over Yorkshire did not last long. In Spring 1644, a Scottish army, under the command of the Earl of Leven advanced from Scotland, forcing Newcastle (by this point a Marquis) to march northwards to meet them. This freed up the Fairfaxes to advance on York. Meanwhile, the Earl of Manchester, Commander of Parliament’s Eastern Association army marched on York from the South. The Marquis of Newcastle was forced to retreat to York faced with this three-pronged assault. With York besieged by 3 large armies, the King’s nephew, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, came from Lancashire to the relief of Newcastle and his Royalist forces. Newcastle marched out of York to confront the besiegers at the Battle of Marston Moor (about 6 miles from York) on 2 July 1644. Despite the assistance of Prince Rupert, the Royalist army suffered complete defeat. With the Royalist army in the north now defeated (and Newcastle, their commander, consequently dispatched into self-imposed exile), the stage was set for the Parliamentarians to retake Sheffield Castle.

Sir Thomas Beaumont c. 1640 [appointed Deputy Governor of Sheffield Castle in place of Sir William Savile when Savile was transferred to York in 1643] (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s08410)

Much of the correspondence between Sir William Savile and Major Thomas Beaumont during the period when Beaumont was residing at Sheffield (and provides a good account of Sheffield garrison) has been preserved and deposited at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Some letters are reproduced in Hunter’s Hallamshire (1869) pp. 137 - 141 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL)

Parliamentary Captain Henry Westby’s diary noting troops “slaine” in battle at “Hessa More” (Marston Moor) on 2 July 1644 (Sheffield Archives: OD/1420)

© Sheffield City Council
Siege and Fall of Sheffield Castle

Having previously sent a summons on 27 July 1644 that Sheffield Castle surrender to the Parliamentarians, the Earl of Manchester despatched a force of 1200 Parliamentarian soldiers under the command of Major General Lawrence Crawford (1611 - 1645) and Colonel Pickering to recapture the castle on 1st August 1644.

Finding their artillery insufficient to breach the castle wall (the largest cannon the besiegers had at their disposal initially was the ‘demi-culverin’), General Crawford requested backup from Lord Fairfax in the form of a demi-cannon (known as the Queen’s Pocket Pistol) and a whole culverin.\(^7\) Armed with the extra artillery the Parliamentarians were eventually able to breach the castle wall and the Royalists were forced to surrender on 10\(^{th}\) August 1644.

\(^7\) A ‘culverin’ was a 16\(^{th}\)/17th-century cannon with a relatively long barrel for its bore, typically about 10 to 13 feet long (the ‘demi-culverin’ was a smaller version of the cannon).

\(^8\) Hunter, *Hallamshire*, pp. 141-142.

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The terms of the Royalist surrender of Sheffield Castle are outlined in a document held at Sheffield Archives:

“A Journall, or, a true and exact relation of each day’s passage, of that party of the Right Honourable the Earle of Manchester’s Army…” by Major General Lawrence Crawford [1644] [photocopy of original held at the Bodelian Library, Oxford; also available at the British Library, London (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)]

1 August 1644 “In the edge of the Park we planted the Culverin (having before sent a party of horse and foot into the Towne) and there did discharge three great shot with great dexterity into the Castle, one whereof shot through the Governour’s chamber….and thereafter the Major-general summoned them by a Trumpeter in the Earle of Manchester’s name, to surrender the place into his hands for King and Parliament; but they discharged three shot at the Trumpeter, who could not get audience” (“A Journall” p. 2)

3 August 1644 “Captain Sands, captaine of the Pioniers, and the master Gunner, attended the Major generall to view the little Towre by the River, that flauncked two quarters of the Castle, and the mount before the Gate, to the end that they should finde out some convenient place to raise a battery to beat it downe, which might be very advantageous to us, to the gaining of the castle. Whereupon the Captaine and Gunner were both shot, the one through the theigh, and the other through the shoulder, whereof they both after dyed” (“A Journall” p. 3)

5 August 1644 “The Ordnance began to batter, which made the besieged more milde than they were before, and their Governour received our summons, and returned us answer that the Castle was intrusted unto him by his majestie, which trust he valued more than his life; at night the Major Generall by threatres, promises and money, got together some Colliers to myne the Castle, which they found not to feasible, it being built on a rock” (“A Journall” p. 3)
Lady Savile (mentioned in the agreement above) was the widow of Sir William Savile (the former Governor of Sheffield Castle who was killed in battle at York fighting for the King in January 1644). Lady Saville had resolved to perish rather than surrender the castle despite being heavily pregnant at the time of the siege (she went into labour the night after the castle surrendered!)

After capturing the castle, the Parliamentarian troops are also said to have gutted Sheffield Parish Church and destroyed stained glass windows in the church and the Shrewsbury Chapel. Having secured Sheffield, Crawford and his Parliamentarian forces advanced to Staveley Hall (fortified by Lord Freschvile) and then moved on to dislodge the Royalist garrisons of Bolsover Castle and Wingfield Manor.

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9 Sheffield Local Register, p. 23.
© Sheffield City Council
Crawford left Colonel John Bright of Carbrook Hall as Parliamentary governor of Sheffield Castle. Shortly afterwards, Bright was appointed military governor of York, leaving Captain Edward Gill (of Carr House, Rotherham) in charge of Sheffield between 1645 - 1646 (some deeds relating to Gill survive in Sheffield Archives amongst the records of the Bagshawe Family of the Oakes, Norton - Ref. OD). As well as taking control of Sheffield Castle, the Parliamentary Commissioners seized possession of the surrounding estates. As mentioned earlier, the Royalist supporting Lord of Sheffield Manor, Thomas Howard, 21st Earl of Arundel and 1st Earl of Norfolk, had since retired to the Continent. In Howard’s absence, a lease was granted by the commissioners to two individuals known as Philips and Holland of the Manors of Sheffield, Rotherham, Cowley, Kimberworth, Wadsley, Worral, Whiston, Treeton, Dinnington, etc.¹⁰

On 30 April 1646 the House of Commons ruled that Sheffield Castle (damaged in the siege of 1644) be made untenable and a resolution was passed on 13 July 1647 for the castle to be demolished. On 23 August 1648 demolition work began. One of the men charged with overseeing the demolition of the castle was William Blythe of Bishops’ House, Norton Lees. Blythe had served as a Parliamentary Commander in the Civil War where he fought with John Bright’s regiment at the Battle of Marston Moor in July 1644. Blythe himself is recorded as paying for plaster and timberwork from the castle during its demolition phase - this may well refer to plasterwork featuring the Talbot Coat of Arms, adorning the interior of Bishop’s House today, which is thought to have originated from Sheffield Castle (the Talbot Family being the former Lords of the Manor).

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“Cap. Blithe, for bords and plaster…£3”

Transcript of accounts relating to the demolition of Sheffield Castle 1648 taken from Hunter’s Hallamshire (1875) p. 145
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL). Original accounts held at the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds

Above: Plasterwork depicting the Talbot coat of arms above the fireplace inside Bishop’s House, Norton Lees, Sheffield – home of William Blythe (Parliamentary Commander in the Civil War, and one of the men supervising the demolition of Sheffield Castle in 1648). The plasterwork is believed to have been taken from Sheffield Castle during its demolition, perhaps as a ‘trophy’, by Blythe; Left: Exterior view of Bishop’s House
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u09441 and v04046)

In 1649, Thomas Howard’s son, Henry Frederick Howard, 22nd Earl of Arundel and Lord Mowbray and Maltravers (1608 - 1652) (having paid a fine in November 1648 for £6,000 to recover his family’s estates which were forfeited for his family’s Royalist support in the Civil War) repurchased Sheffield Castle with the intention of

¹⁰ Hunter, Hallamshire, p. 144.
© Sheffield City Council
restoring it. However, by this point, the castle proved to be in too great a state of demolition for restoration work to take place and it was consequently completely razed.¹¹

A useful source for movement of troops in Sheffield during the English Civil War can be found in Sheffield Constables Accounts held at Sheffield Archives:

Sheffield Constables Accounts, 1615 - 1677
(Sheffield Archives: JC/905, also abstracted in Jackson Collection catalogue in Sheffield Archives searchroom)

“Generall Crawfords Army as also appeareth by particular £23 9s 3d [1644]”

“For wine, tobacke, hay & notes for Coll Joans and Coll Boywards souldiers and horses…£4 13s 9d” [1645]

“In provisions for the Scotch Army when they were going against Hereford £8 18s 9d” [1645]

Certificate of safe passage granted to Rowland Revell, prisoner of the Parliamentary forces, August 1644
(Sheffield Archives: MD2284)

¹¹ See Hunter, *Hallamshire*, pp.144-146 for accounts relating to the demolition of Sheffield Castle.
Final Battles

In spite of the Parliamentarians asserting control over Sheffield and the surrounding area, skirmishes between Parliamentarian and Royalist factions continued in the neighbourhood, as evidenced by the following burial entry in October 1646 (in a composite register held at Sheffield Archives):

“There were five men buried in the beginninge of October beinge slayne in fight on Thorpe More betweene ye garrison of Welbeck on the Kings part & Captaine Rodes on the Parlament part... the Parlamenters pursued kild five men, & tooke fortie the most of which they wounded after quarter was give, one of them escaped which was Thomas Battersbie whose hand they cutt of which was buried in ye churchyard of Thorpe Salvin”.

Of pivotal importance on the national scene were events on 14 June 1645, when the Parliamentarian ‘New Model Army’ commanded by Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell defeated the King’s army at the Battle of Naseby (Northamptonshire) - a decisive blow from which Charles I was not able to recover. In April 1646 Charles surrendered to the Scots Army and in January 1649 he was tried and executed by Parliament for high treason. Upon the King’s death, the monarchy was abolished and England ruled by a republican Commonwealth until 1660.

The final battle of the English Civil War saw Charles II (the son of Charles I and the newly crowned King of Scotland) attempting to regain his father’s throne with a Royalist army (of mainly Scottish troops) defeated by Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651.

Parliamentary Fines and Pardons: Sequestration and Delinquency

From 1643, towards the start of the English Civil War, Parliament set up two Committees: the Sequestration Committee which confiscated the estates of Royalists who fought against Parliament, and the Committee for Compounding with Delinquents which allowed Royalists whose estates had been sequestered, to ‘compound’ for their estates (Royalist supporters were labelled ‘delinquents’ by their Parliamentarian opponents). This meant that they could recover their estates upon the payment of a fine (and if they vowed not to take up arms against Parliament again). The size of the fine depended on the value of the estate and their level of support for the Royalist cause.

On 24 November 1648, Henry Frederick Howard (1608 - 1652), the 22nd Earl of Arundel and Lord Mowbray and Maltravers (who would have been due to inherit the Manor of Sheffield upon the death of his father Thomas Howard in October 1646),
paid the sum of £6,000, to recover his family's forfeited estates in Sheffield and the surrounding area.\footnote{Hunter, Hallamshire, p. 146.} 

Fine for Brian Cooke (of Wheatley, Doncaster) and his son for £1460 each for supporting the Royalists against the Parliamentary cause, 1647  
(Doncaster Archives: CWM/442/2)

In addition to the Cookies of Wheatley (Ref. CWM) held at Doncaster Archives, other repositories in the vicinity of Sheffield hold sequestration/delinquency/composition papers, 1642 - 1660, connected to the Royalist supporting families, for example:

Eyres of Hassop [Derbyshire]  
(Derbyshire Record Office: Bag C/359, 2725-2733, 2768, 2291, 2515)

Spencer Stanhope’s of Cawthorne  
(Barnsley Archives SpSt/48/1-26, SpSt/78, SpSt/79/2-19)

Elmhirsts of Houndhill  
(Barnsley Archives: EM/858)

The Commonwealth Period

Following the execution of King Charles I in January 1649, and the subsequent abolition of the monarchy, a republican ‘Commonwealth’ ruled England until 1660. Between 1653 - 1658 the country was governed by Oliver Cromwell, who became ‘Lord Protector’ of the Commonwealth on 16 December 1653. It appeared that

\footnote{Hunter, Hallamshire, p. 146.}
Sheffield, with its overwhelming Parliamentarian sympathies, initially greeted his appointment favourably.\(^\text{13}\) In 1656, Cromwell was proclaimed in Sheffield:

Sheffield Archives holds some important Commonwealth records amongst the papers of Sir Robert Pye, Auditor of the Exchequer, including: List of honours bestowed on individuals by Oliver Cromwell, 1656 - 1659; Warrant, signed by the Earl of Leicester, concerning payments for Charles I’s children, June 1649; Petition of John Savile regarding the office of Teller of the Exchequer, with Oliver Cromwell’s signed instruction, 1654; Signed certificates for certain payments relating to disbanding the army, Jan 1661/62 (Ref. EM/1284/c-f)

Sheffield Town Trustee accounts, 1657 [showing payment for the previous year of 10 shillings “to two trumpeters at ye proclaimeing of the Lord Protector”] (Sheffield Archives: TT/4/1/1)

Warrant signed by the Earl of Leicester relating to payment of the late King Charles I’s children, Jun 1649 (Barnsley Archives: EM/1284/d)

Petition of John Savile to Oliver Cromwell regarding the Office of Teller of the Exchequer, with Cromwell’s signed instruction at bottom, 1654 (Barnsley Archives: EM/1284/e)

“\(\text{To his Highness, Oliver Lord Protector of the Common-wealth, of England, Scotland and Ierland}\)

The humble Peticion of John Savile of Methley in the Countye of Yorke esquire.
Most humbly sheweth that your peticioner did for many yeres before these long tymes of trouble execut and enioy by his Patentes from the late Kinge James for terme of his life the place or Office of one of the fower Tellors of the Receipt of the Exchequer...your Peticioner haveing sustained in the tyme of the Warre, very great losses in his estate and imprisonment of his person, and been allwaies well affected to the Government...”

Parliamentarian Puritanism and Religious Radicalism

The Lord Protector of the Commonwealth Oliver Cromwell (like many Parliamentarians) was a Puritan, who frowned on frivolous enjoyment and excess. The puritanical influence during the Commonwealth period was felt locally. In the summer of 1646 for example, it was noted that Sheffield’s summer fair was not held

\(^\text{13}\) J D Leader, The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield (Sheffield: Sheffield Independent Press Ltd., 1897) (Sheffield Archives: TT Print Source or Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S), p. 165.
on account of “a great presse of souldiers theare”. In the mid 17th century, it was observed how the organ of the parish church was “silenced by the puritan spirit which prevailed in the parish”.

During the Civil War period (1642 - 1649) and ensuing Commonwealth/interregnum period (1649 - 1660) many Anglican clergymen were ejected from their parishes by Parliament, and replaced by Presbyterian clergy. In Sheffield, c. 1650, a justice of the peace was appointed both to marry and Christen publicly at the Market-cross in Sheffield. Many parish registers for churches in Sheffield and neighbourhood will have a gap in the records covering the period c. 1642 - 1660 as the Presbyterians did not maintain parish registers (introducing a civil registration system of births, marriages and death instead which very few records have survived). Sometimes these civil registration records are preserved amongst parish registers for a particular church, as in the following example, from St James Church, Norton:

Many radical religious groups sprung from the turbulence of the Civil War with their roots in radical Puritanism, including Muggletonians, Ranters, Seekers, Familists, Fifth Monarchy Men and the Society of Friends (known as the Quakers).

Many early Quakers served in the Parliamentarian New Model Army and Quakers were assiduous record keepers. Sheffield Archives holds Quaker records dating back to the 17th century (Ref. QR), but, unfortunately, the early volumes of minutes of local Quaker meetings (of most relevance to the Civil War period and its aftermath) are understood to have been destroyed in the Sheffield Blitz of 1940.

Fears about the rise of radical religious groups (upon the Restoration of the crown) are illustrated in a the following letter (now held at Barnsley Archives) describing an armed rebellion by a group of ‘Fifth Monarchy Men’ in January 1661 (which resulted in street battles with soldiers in London and repressive legislation to mitigate future threats from nonconformist sects):

14 Sheffield Local Register, p. 23.
15 Hunter, Hallamshire, p. 262.
16 Sheffield Local Register, p. 24.
End of the Commonwealth and Restoration of the Crown

Upon Cromwell’s death in September 1658, his son Richard succeeded him as Lord Protector, but was not able to govern with the same zeal as his father and abdicated after just 8 months. This led to the disintegration of the republic and Charles II was invited back to England to assume the throne. Charles II triumphantly returned to London in May 1660 to reclaim his father’s crown and the monarchy was restored.

It appears that towards the end of the Commonwealth period, Sheffield’s affinity with the Parliamentary cause had waned and that the town welcomed the return of the King. It has been remarked how there was much rejoicing in Sheffield upon the proclamation and restoration of the King, judging by the amount (£8 13s 4d)

17 spent by the Sheffield’s townspeople on proclaiming the new monarch:

17 See also Leader, Burgery, p. 173.

© Sheffield City Council
Following the Restoration, many Royalist exiles returned and were rewarded by Charles II for their support of the King, whilst prominent Parliamentarian supporters were either pardoned or punished (depending on their role in the Civil War).

Sheffield Town Trustee accounts, 1661 [showing money spent on proclamation of King Charles II the previous year] (Sheffield Archives: TT/4/1/1)

Grant of pardon by letters patent - Charles II to William Spencer of Attercliffe, esquire, 13 May 1661 [Spencer having sided with the Parliamentarians during the Civil War] (Sheffield Archives: BGM/137)

“Charles the Second...do pardon, remise and release to William Spencer of Attercliffe...all & all manner of Treasons, High Treasons, Levyings of Warr, Rebellions & Insurrections & all & every Murders, Deaths & Killings of Men by lyeing in waite, Assaults...Feloneys, Roberys, Burnings of Houses...”

Barnsley Archives holds various letters to Thomas Barnby of Barnby Hall relating to Restoration events in London, including trial and execution of traitors, armed rebellion etc., c. 1660 - 1661 (Barnsley Archives: SpSt/81/1-7 and Ref. SpSt/79/63)

Letter to Thomas Barnby of Barnby Hall from Charles Gerard Frank describing the execution of Major General Thomas Harrison for regicide, Oct 1660 (Barnsley Archives: SpSt/79/63)

“...This day Harrison was hanged & quartered & his...bowels burn’d & hee died destressedly...”
Sheffield’s Civil War Survivors (Still Standing Today)

Sheffield Castle was one of the most notable local casualties of the English Civil War in the town (the ruins of the castle lie beneath the old Sheffield Castle Market site off Exchange Street, Castlegate). However, a handful of buildings still remain in Sheffield, which date from those turbulent times. They stand today as silent witnesses to some extraordinary events of centuries before…

Old Queen’s Head Pub, Pond Street, Sheffield (originally known as the “Hall at the Ponds” and thought to date from c. 1475)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield c03360)

Bishops’ House, Norton Lees, Sheffield – home of William Blythe, Parliamentary Commander in the Civil War and one of men supervising the demolition of Sheffield Castle in 1648. Plasterwork depicting the Talbot coat of arms inside the house is believed to have been taken from Sheffield Castle during its demolition, perhaps as a ‘trophy’ by Blythe
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield c03595)

Carbrook Hall, home of Parliamentary Colonel Sir John Bright (1619 - 1688) [later the Carbrook Inn]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield c01638)

Broom Hall, Broom Hall Road, Sheffield - home of the Parliamentary supporting Jessop Family during the Civil War [showing West Wing during restoration work]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield w01731)
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information (or at neighbouring repositories)

FAMILY/ESTATE PAPERS

Strafford Family of Wentworth Woodhouse

Papers of Thomas Strafford Earl of Strafford and Lord Deputy of Ireland (including correspondence with Charles I and Henrietta Maria, etc.)
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/StrP, also available on microfilm STRAFFORD PAPER REELS 1-20)


Much Strafford correspondence is reproduced in Knowler, William, The Earl of Strafforde’s Letters and Dispatches with an Essay Towards his Life, by Sir George Radcliffe (1740) (Sheffield Archives: BIOG/WEN)

Letters from Strafford to George Radcliffe (concerning one Budsey, of Rington), c.1640 [Included with this item is a 19th-century engraving of Strafford (head and shoulders) and also showing his head and the execution axe after his death]; and to Viscount Conway (at Darton, Darlington), General of the Horse, the day after the defeat of the English army at Newburn [near Newcastle] by the Scottish army, 29 Aug 1640
(Sheffield Archives: MD4011/1-2)

Letters patent to the Earl of Strafford (and others) allowing him to receive payment of £20,000 (a debt owed him by the King), from revenues passing through his hands as Receiver of Recusancy fines, 9 May 1640
(Sheffield Archives: MD3197)

Letters patent appointing Sir George Wentworth, Receiver of Recusancy fines in the north, in succession to his brother the Earl of Strafford, 16 April 1641
(Sheffield Archives: MD3198)

Manuscript treatise on rights of subject, Parliament, etc., setting forth Selden’s and Coke’s arguments and replies, thereto, [c. 1630?]
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/MS/11)

Manuscript treatise ‘Some observations of the Designs and proceedings of the Independents in by and upon ye parliament and kingdom, since the unhappy beginning of our unnaturall Warr, in the yeare 1642 unto this present time, the ending of the year 1647’ [writer Denzil Holles dates his work in Normandy, ‘St Mere Eglise’, 14 Feb 1647]
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/MS/12)

Manuscript treatise ‘A Discourse of the Ld. Thomas Fairfax’s actions in the late Warrs. Short memorialls of some things to be cleared dureing my commission/command in the Army’ by Sir Thomas Fairfax, General of the Parliament Forces [two copies], [c. 1650s?]
Manuscript treatise ‘The Grand question concerning the Prorogation of this Parliament for a yeare and 3 months stated and discussed’, [c. 1650s?]
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/MS/13-14)

Manuscript treatise ‘A short view of the state and condition of the kingdom of Ireland from the year 1640 to this time’ ['A vindication of his late Ma'te of blessed memory, our Soveraigne the King that now is, and therre Maj'ts Supreme Minister, trusted by them for the conductinge the affaires of that kingdom from the scandalls and callumnies cast on them by many scurrilous Pamphletts…and particularly against a Pamphlett lately published by the direction of the titular Bisshopp of Fernes and composed by him', [c. 1651]
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/MS/15)

Howard Family of Arundel Castle (Dukes of Norfolk and Lords of the Manor of Sheffield)

Records of the Dukes of Norfolk
(Sheffield Archives: ACM)
[Note: Hardly anything remains among the Dukes of Norfolk records held at Sheffield Archives for the period, probably owing to the Civil War (Thomas Howard, the 21st Earl of Arundel and 1st Earl of Norfolk, was a staunch supporter of the King and retired to the continent during the Civil War period), but see ACM/S/121-126 for estate rentals etc., 1639 - 1660].

Documents relating to Bradfield and Sheffield, including a few letters to Mr. John Staniforth of Darnall, apparently agent to the Howards, dated from Arundel 1652, and another 1656; odd bills, memoranda, etc., concerning Bradfield and the Civil War, 1641 - 1646
(Sheffield Archives: MD2043)

Wortley Family of Wharncliffe

Papers of Royalist supporter Sir Francis Wortley
(Sheffield Archives: Wh M)
[Including: receipts from and to the Earl of Manchester and other trustees of Sir Francis Wortley, 1666 - 1670 (Wh M/104); inventory of the goods etc., of Sir Francis Wortley, 1666 (Wh M/125); papers relating to inheritance of Sir Francis Wortley’s estate, including copies of his will, 1666 - 1671 (Wh M/102)]

Cooke Family of Wheatley [Doncaster]

Papers of the Cooke Family [Royalist supporters in the Civil War]
(Doncaster Archives: CWM)
[Including fine of Brian Cooke and his son for supporting Royalist cause in the Civil War, 1647 (CWM/442/2) and pardon on payment of fine, 1648 (CWM/442/1)]

Bright Family of Carbrook
Papers of Parliamentary Colonel Sir John Bright, Commissioner for sequestering the estates of delinquents in the West Riding during the Civil War, High Sheriffs of Yorkshire 1654 - 1656 and one of the Commissioners for the West Riding for disbanding the army and payment of forces, 1660 - 1661
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/Br P, also available on microfilm WWM Microfilms 87, 94-102)

Copies of the will of Sir John Bright, 23 Nov 1687
(Barnsley Archives: SpSt/85/1-2)

**Wilson Family of Broomhead**

Papers (principally land deeds, etc.) of Christopher Wilson of Broomhead Hall who served in the Parliamentary forces [his estate was briefly held by the Royalists in 1642 before being reclaimed by Roundhead troops]
(Sheffield Archives: Wil D)

Will of Christopher Wilson of Broomhead, 1670
(Sheffield Archives: SpSt/35)

**Spencer Family of Attercliffe**

Records of the Spencer Family of Attercliffe and Bramley Grange, Braithwell, West Riding of Yorkshire [Parliamentary supporters in the Civil War]
(Sheffield Archives: BGM)
[Including: Order addressed to Colonel Spencer by the Committee for Plundered Ministers (to maintain a minister for the chapel at Bramley, signed by Miles Corbett and noted on order that Corbett was one of the judges at the trial of Charles I, and was hanged at the Restoration), 18 Jun 1647 (BGM/136); grant of pardon by letters patent - Charles II to William Spencer of Attercliffe, esquire, 13 May 1661 (Spencer having sided with the Parliamentarians during the Civil War) (BGM/137)]

Deeds relating to land in Darnall and Attercliffe connected with various families including the Spencers, 1604 - 1765
(Sheffield Archives: MD2739-2768)

Abstract of title to and plan of Attercliffe Hall or Old Hall Estate at Attercliffe, formerly belonging to the Spencer Family, 1869
(Derbyshire Record Office: Bag C/111-112)

Inventory of goods of William Spencer of Attercliffe, 30 Aug 1686
(Derbyshire Record Office: Bag C/333)

**Spencer Stanhope Family of Cawthorne [Barnsley]**

Records of the Spencer Stanhope Family [Royalist sympathisers in the Civil War]
(Barnsley Archives: SpSt)
[Including: composition, sequestration and delinquency papers of Royalist supporter Thomas Barnby of Barnby Hall, 1642 - 1655 (SpSt/78); letters to Thomas Barnby of Barnby Hall relating to Restoration events in London such as trial and execution of
traitors, armed rebellion, etc. c. 1660 - 1661 (SpSt/81/1-7 and SpSt/79/63); papers relating to composition and delinquency of Lionel Bamford of Pulehill, 1646 - 1660 (SpSt/79/2-19); papers relating to Richard Cudworth’s delinquency, 1645 - 1650 (SpSt/48/1-26)]

Bagshawe Family of the Oakes, Norton

Including Civil War documents relating to Parliamentary Captain, Henry Westby; and deeds relating to Edward Gill, of Carr House [Rotherham], former Parliamentary Governor of Sheffield Castle
(Sheffield Archives: OD)
[Including: diary of Parliamentary Captain Henry Westby of Carr House Farm, noting troops killed in battle at ‘Hessa Moor’ [Marston Moor] on 2 Jul 1644 and purchase of horses for his troop), 1644 (OD/1420) and Captain Henry Westby’s claim for arrears of pay for service in the Parliamentarian army, petition and will c. 1654 - 1656 (OD/1406); Material relating to Edward Gill, mainly relates to land/property transactions, but also includes copy of Edward Gill’s will and probate, 1671 - 1677 (OD/190) and 'A Mappe of the Oakes... belonging to Captain Gill', by Robert Wilson, 1707 (OD/1188/1)]

Eyre Family of Hassop [Derbyshire]

Records of the Eyre Family of Hassop [Royalist supporters in the Civil War] relating to sequestration/delinquency/forfeited estates, 1652 - 1653
(Derbyshire Record Office: Bag C/359, 2725-2733, 2768, 2291, 2515)

Elmhirst Family of Houndhill [Worsbrough]

Papers of Royalist supporter Richard Elmhirst of Houndhill, chief agent for Thomas Wentworth the Earl of Strafford
(Barnsley Archives: EM)
[Including extract from Yorkshire royalist composition papers relating to Richard Elmhirst and his petition, 1645 (EM/858)]

Pye Family of Herefordshire

Including papers of Royalists supporters: Sir Robert Pye [the elder] (1585 - 1662), Member of Parliament and Auditor of the Exchequer (who lost his office during the Commonwealth period) and his nephew Sir Walter Pye (1610 - 1659); and also Parliamentary supporter Sir Robert Pye [the younger] (1620 - 1701) [who besieged his own father’s mansion during the Civil War!]
(Barnsley Archives: EM/1281-1488)
[Including: volume relating to Exchequer duties, 1650s - 1660s (EM/1281); list of honours bestowed by Oliver Cromwell, 1656 - 1659 (EM/1284/c); warrant signed by the Earl of Leicester, concerning payment for the late King Charles I’s children, Jun 1649 (EM/1284/d); Petition of John Savile relating to office of Teller of the Exchequer, with Cromwell’s signed instructions, 1654 (EM/1284/f); Signed certificates for certain payments relating to disbanding the army, Jan 1661/62 (EM/1284/f)]
[Note: these Pye Family papers are found amongst the Elmhirst Family records above by virtue of marriage between James Elmhirst and Anne Hampden Pye in 1865]

Copley Family of Sprotbrough, Baronets

*(Doncaster Archives: CD)*

[Including sessions papers of Sir Godfrey Copley, Baronet, and Justice of the Peace for the West Riding, relating to pensions for lame soldiers, etc., 1661 - 1676 *(CD/507-508)*]

**SHEFFIELD TOWNSHIP RECORDS**

Sheffield Town Trustee accounts [includes various Civil War references], 1566 - 1707
*(Sheffield Archives: TT/4/1/1, also transcribed in J. D. Leader, *The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield* - Sheffield Archives: TT Print Source or Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)*

Sheffield Constables` accounts [including references to movements of troops during Civil War, etc.], 1615 - 1677
*(Sheffield Archives: JC/905, also abstracted in Jackson Collection catalogue in Sheffield Archives searchroom)*

Sheffield Church Burgess records
*(Sheffield Archives: CB)*

[Including: account book, 1574 - 1727 *(CB/161)*; vouchers for assessments to Fairfax’s Parliamentary army, 1649 - 1652 *(CB/592/11-12)*; warrant from the High Constable to constables and churchwardens to levy a rate for lame soldiers (injured as a result of the Civil War) and a house of correction in Strafforth and Tickhill wapentakes, with a list of assessments of each parish, 17 Mar 1672/3 *(CB/592/19)* [Note: see also CD/507-508 above which contains similar material]; warrant from the High Constable to the constables of Attercliffe, Darnall, Sheffield, Hallam and Ecclesall to collect rates for the repair of specified bridges, lame soldiers (injured in English Civil War), York Castle prison and the house of correction, 1 Jul 1679 *(CB/592/24)*; warrants from the High Constable to the constables of Attercliffe, Darnall, Sheffield, Hallam and Ecclesall, for the appointment of assessors for a tax for paying off the forces raised since 29th September 1677, 24 Mar 1679/80 and 31 Jul 1679 *(CB/592/22-23)*]
ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS

St Peter’s Church, Thorpe Salvin: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials register, [1592] - 1726 [October 1646 burial entry includes details of ‘skirmish’ between Royalist and Parliamentary forces on Thorpe Moor]
(Sheffield Archives: PR39/1/1, also available on microfiche PR39/1[m])

St James Church, Norton: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials register, 1653 - 1694 [Includes at folio 2 (recto) the election of a ‘Parish Register’ [registrar] under the Act of 1653, with subscribed names of the parishioners, 22 September 1653, and a memorandum of his swearing in, 26 December 1653; Also a surviving example of Commonwealth period civil registration of births instead of parish baptisms]
(Sheffield Archives: PR2/1/2, also available on microfiche PR2/82[m])

St Mary’s Church, Beighton: Baptisms, Marriages, Banns and Burials register, 1653 - 1679 [Includes note at front of appointment by his neighbours of Thomas Jessop as ‘Parish Register’ on 13 Apr 1654 to record births, marriages and deaths]
(Sheffield Archives: PR73/1/1, also available on microfiche PR73/1[m])

St Mary’s Church, Ecclesfield: Churchwarden Accounts, 1520 - 1651 [includes details about military preparations for Civil War, 1640 - 1641]
(Sheffield Archives: PR54/86, also available on microfilm A80)

Note: Parish records (including churchwardens accounts/overseers of the poor records, vestry minutes, constables accounts etc.) for the period for other churches within the Diocese of Sheffield may also contain references to the Civil War - for details and references of surviving parish records covering the period see blue PR guides in Sheffield Archives searchroom or Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library Poor Law Study Guide

Quaker records relating to Sheffield and neighbourhood (dating from 17th century)
(Sheffield Archives: QR)
[Note: early volumes of minutes of most relevance to the Civil War period and its aftermath are understood to have been destroyed in the Sheffield Blitz in 1940]

OTHER PRIMARY SOURCES

Order: Richard Cudworth to the constables of Thurgoland, Wortley, Hunshelf, Langsett, Penistone, Thurlstone and Ingbirchworth, directing them to cause all the trained soldiers in their towns to come to the ‘Hudroyde’ [Huntroyde Hall?] in Stainborough on the following Monday at eight o’clock , ready for service, 22 Oct 1639
(Sheffield Archives: WC849)

Order to the constables of Penistone and neighbouring townships to send their trained soldiers to Pontefract, 23 Apr 1640
(Sheffield Archives: WC852)
Order: G. Cutler to the constables, or their deputies, of Stainborough, Thurgoland, Oxspring, Penistone, Thurlstone and Ingbirchworth, requiring all his company to be with their colours on Stainborough ‘Lawe’ at nine o’clock on the morning of the following Monday, for training, 23 Jun 1640
(Sheffield Archives: WC839)

Order: G. Cutler to the constables of Stainborough, Thurgoland, Oxspring, Penistone, Thurlstone and Ingbirchworth to come with soldiers to Pontefract: ‘You or your Deputees with your soldyers are to be at Pontefract tonight or in the morning by three of the clock at the furthest, & let there Armes be carried, I praye for Haste Haste Haste’, 31 Aug 1640
(Sheffield Archives: WC853)

Order to the constables of Thurlstone and Ingbirchworth to furnish information as to supplies available for the king’s use, 1 Sep 1640
(Sheffield Archives: WC855)

Order to constables of Penistone and neighbouring townships, to collect six shillings for every trained soldier in their constabularies, 20 Sep 1640
(Sheffield Archives: WC850)

Documents relating to Bradfield and Sheffield, including a few letters to Mr. John Staniforth of Darnall, apparently agent to the Howards, dated from Arundel 1652, and another 1656; odd bills, memoranda, etc., concerning Bradfield and the Civil War, 1641 - 1646
(Sheffield Archives: MD2043)

Microfilm copies of West Riding of Yorkshire protestation returns (listing signatories and non-signatories of the House of Commons’ protestation for places in the wapentakes of Agbrigg, and Osgoldthorpe), [Feb - Mar 1642]
(Sheffield Archives: Microfilm A111)
[Note: The original protestation returns are held at the Parliamentary Archives in London]

Clergy who were sufferers and had livings sequestered in 1642 in the West Riding
(Sheffield Archives: JC/1055a)

Certificate of safe passage granted to Rowland Revell, prisoner of the Parliamentary forces, August 1644
(Sheffield Archives: MD2284)

Copy of articles for the capitulation of Sheffield Castle (authorised by Major General Crawford [on the Parliament’s side] and Major Thomas Beaumont [Governor of the Castle, on the Royalist side]), 10 Aug 1644
(Sheffield Archives: MD2048)

Petition (for payment) of Thomas Rawson, Master of the Free School in Sheffield, to Lord Fairfax (General of the Northern Parliamentary Forces) recounting how he was forced to flee Sheffield from the army of the Earl of Newcastle (Commander of the Royalist Forces in the North) on 5 May 1643 up until the subsequent parliamentarian
siege of Sheffield Castle in August 1644, subscribed with order for payment signed by Fairfax, 20 Nov 1644
(Sheffield Archives: GS/18)

Fairfax's order for the payment of the petitioner above, 23 Oct 1644; with counter petition of Robert Stacy (collector of rents for the Governors of the School) and the Governor to Fairfax, 1644; and receipt from Edward Barber to the Governors, 1 Oct 1645
(Sheffield Archives: GS/19-21)

Certificate appointing Thomas Taylor cornet of a troop of horse under Captain Henry Westby of which Colonel Copley was colonel, 19 Nov 1645
(Sheffield Archives: JC/468)

"A Journal, or A true & exact relation of each days passage, of that party of the Right Honourable the Earle of Manchester's Army, under the command of the ever honoured Major Generall Craford, from the first of August to the end of the same month. Wherein there is truly related the taking of several places, with the conditions & articles of the same" [1644] by Major General Lawrence Crawford (London: Printed for Hugh Perry, 1644) [Photocopy of the original in the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford; also available at the British Library 8(4)]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Photocopy of delinquency papers of Edward Pegge of Ashbourne, [1644 - 1646]
(Sheffield Archives: BM/1000)

Appointment of John Woodhouse as quartermaster in Captain Rich’s troop of horse and claims for payment and schedules of expenses for army service by William Rich, 1644/45
(Sheffield Archives: CM/1154/1-2)

Appointment of Sir Edward Rodes to be Colonel of Regiment of Horse, by Committee for settling the militia, 1648
(Sheffield Archives: CM/1568)

Letters patent of Oliver, Lord Protector, appointing Master John Nisbet and Godfrey Roddes, esquire, Commissars for causes matrimonial, testamentary, etc.12 Mar 1656
(Sheffield Archives: CM/1574)

Survey for assessment to the army and navy: property of Captain William [Blyth] in Norton, 1656
(Sheffield Archives: NSC/62)

Writ following an order in Chancery: Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, to Abraham Halstead. Orders him to observe and perform all matters in the order made 17th November, 1657 in a suit between Edward Parker and others, tenants and inhabitants of Barnoldswick, plaintiffs, v. Abraham Halsted, defendant, and stating that the defendants are to bring their deeds into court, 24 Jul 1658
(Sheffield Archives: OD/1137)
Printed handbill: statement of Sir William Glynne’s case in opposition to a bill intended for an Act of Parliament to restore the Earl of Derby to the Manor of Hawarden, Flintshire. Recites the agreement by which the manor was sold, after forfeiture during the Civil War, [17th cent.?]
(Sheffield Archives: WWM/Misc/207)

Papers relating to military affairs in Bradfield at the time of the Civil Wars (unspecified date), 17th cent
(Sheffield Archives: MD171)

SECONDARY SOURCES

Allen, Christopher A., Lead merchant to Baronet: the life of John Bright, 1619-1688 (1994)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B.BRIG S)

Brighton, J. T., Royalists and Roundheads in Derbyshire, 1981
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.251 SQ)

Bughclere [Lady], Strafford (vols. 1 and 2) (London: Macmillan and Co., 1931)
(Sheffield Archives: BIOG/WEN)

(Sheffield Archives: GIB GEN SOURCE).

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: O42 S)

Holland, Roger, ‘Sheffield and the Civil War’, in Monitor, 24 Feb 1983
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.11 SQ)

Hunter, Joseph, Hallamshire: History and Topography of the Parish of Sheffield (Hallamshire) (London: Virtue and Company Ltd., 1875) [Events of the English Civil War and its impact on Sheffield and neighbourhood are detailed on pp. 132-147]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL)

Kirkham, Nellie, ‘Lead Miners and Royalists’ in Derbyshire Miscellany, vol. 2 no. 5 (Feb 1961), pp.292-301
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ)

Kirkham, Nellie, ‘The Leeke Family in the Civil War’ in Derbyshire Miscellany, vol. 7 (Spring 1974), pp.1-9
Kirkham, Nellie, ‘Royalist Conspiracies and Derbyshire’ in Derbyshire Miscellany, vol. 7 (Autumn 1974), pp.55-70
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ)

Knowler, William, The Earl of Strafforde’s Letters and Dispatches with an Essay Towards his Life, by Sir George Radcliffe (1740)
(Sheffield Archives: BIOG/WEN)

Leader, J. D., The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield (Sheffield: Sheffield Independent Press Ltd., 1897)
(Sheffield Archives: TT Print Source or Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Sheffield, vol. 4 [includes an article ‘Siege of Sheffield Castle: diary of a besieger over 200 years ago’ on p.59]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Newspaper Cuttings relating to Sheffield, vol. 18 [includes account of the siege of Sheffield Castle, 1644 and a photograph of part of the castle wall on pp. 3-5, and account of the siege of Sheffield Castle from a contemporary pamphlet on pp. 76-78
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Newspaper Cuttings relating to Sheffield, vol. 19 [includes account of the siege of Sheffield Castle, from a contemporary pamphlet on pp. 32-37]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Sheffield, vol. 29 [includes historical article on a Civil War battle fought at Thorpe Salvin on p.47 and article on Tickhill Castle’s connection with the Civil War on p. 55]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Sheffield, vol. 36 [includes article by C. C. Bailey on the ‘History of Aston Parish’ with nos. 16 and 17 referring to the Civil War in Aston parish] in Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Sheffield, vol. 36
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Newspaper Cuttings Relating to Sheffield, vol. 40 [includes notes on the actual date when the evacuation of Sheffield Castle took place in 1644 on p.38]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF)

Penistone W. E. A. Group, A Further History of Penistone (1965) [discusses Civil War events in the Penistone area on pp. 37 and 40-43)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Redfern, R. A., Peakland Days [discusses Civil War in Peakland, pp. 145-156]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.251 S)

Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library, Sources for the Study of Sheffield Castle (2010)
Sheffield and Neighbourhood [refers to effect of Civil War in Sheffield on p.14]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Sheffield Local Register (John Thomas: Sheffield, 1830) [includes timeline of Civil War events which had an impact on Sheffield]  
(Sheffield Archives: SHE YEAR or Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74S)

Sheffield Telegraph, 16 Aug 1948 (p.2) [Gives account of the destruction of the castle in 1648 and other short historical notes]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper Collection [Microfilm])

Slack, Ron, Man at war: John Gell and his troubled times (1997)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B.GELL SST)

South Yorkshire Notes and Queries, Vol. 1 [refers to Civil War dates and incidents connected with Sheffield on p.34, and also the story of the siege of Sheffield Castle and its destruction on p. 22 and p. 226]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S)

Spencer, W. E., Penistone and parts of South Yorkshire during the Great Rebellion (1967)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTQ)

Stone, Brian, Derbyshire in the Civil War (1992)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.51 S)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.062 SQ)

Thornes, Vernon, The Making of Rotherham [refers to effect of Civil War in South Yorkshire on pp.15-17]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ)

‘Wingfield Manor in the Civil War’, in Derbyshire Miscellany, vol. 6 part 5 (Spring 1973)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.51 SQ)

Pictures/Photographs

Over 60,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library picture collection are available to search online at www.picturesheffield.com

Images relating to the English Civil War include various pictures of Carbrook Hall (home of Parliamentarian Colonel Sir John Bright), pictures of Bishop’s House, Norton Lees (home of Parliamentarian Captain William Blythe), pictures of Broom Hall, Broomhall, Sheffield (home of Parliamentarian supporting Jessop Family) and a
photograph of the Queen Elizabeth's Pocket Pistol used by Parliamentary troops against Sheffield Castle during the siege of 1644 [now exhibited at Dover Castle] (Ref. v04205).

Secondary Sources held at other Sheffield Libraries

Various English Civil War titles are held at other Sheffield Libraries - see Sheffield Libraries online catalogue for more details

Library and Archive Collections held elsewhere

Various records relating to the English Civil War are held at the National Archives, Kew, London. A list of these records is available in the following National Archives research guide: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/medieval-early-modern-soldiers.htm

Records relating to the Civil War (including protestation returns, 1641 - 1642 and the death warrant of King Charles I, Jan 1649) are held at the Parliamentary Archives in London.

Material relating to the sieges of Pontefract Castle c. 1644 - 1649 is held at West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds

Correspondence of the Earls of Shrewsbury (the Talbots) (including correspondence from Sheffield Castle), 1499 - 1690 is available in the Talbot Papers at Lambeth Palace Library in London

Papers of the Derbyshire Parliamentary Commander, Sir John Gell (and other source material relating to the impact of the Civil War in Derbyshire) are available at Derbyshire Record Office

Accounts relating to the demolition of Sheffield Castle’s in 1648 are available in the John Wilson papers at the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds
[The accounts are transcribed in Hunter’s Hallamshire (1875) pp. 144 - 146 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL)]

Much of the correspondence between Sir William Savile and Major Beaumont during the period when Beaumont was acting as Deputy Governor of Sheffield Castle, 1643 - 1644 (and which provides a detailed account of the Sheffield garrison) is available at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. [Some of this correspondence is reproduced in Hunter’s Hallamshire (1875) pp. 137 - 141 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL)]

Various records relating to the English Civil War and the Spencer Stanhope Family of Horsforth (including orders from the Earl of Newcastle and General Thomas Fairfax) c. 1642 - 1650s (Ref. SpSt10/3) are available at West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford
[Note: Sheffield Archives holds records of the Spencer Stanhope Family of Cawthorne - also referenced SpSt]
A contemporary account of the advance of William Cavendish, the Earl of Newcastle, and his royalist troops through Sheffield in 1643 can be found in a book written by his wife, the Duchess of Newcastle: The Life of William Cavendish Duke of Newcastle by Margaret Cavendish (c. 1667) Available on http://books.google.com/
[Extracts from the account are reproduced in Hunter’s Hallamshire (1875), (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF or Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL)]

Copies of contemporary civil war letters relating to Sheffield, 1643 (letter from William Savile about progress with the campaign and finances 'bee sure you want not any money nether for yourself nor your freinds soe long as any roundhead hathe either fingers or toas left within tenn myles of the castle', 21 Jun 1643; and letter from W. Newcastle to Major Thomas Beaumont at Sheffield: regrets the loss of the colonel, intends to take the government of Sheffield Castle and its garrison into his own hands, 24 Jan 1643 Note of last letter of Sir W. Savile, dated 19 Jan 1643 [NS 1644]) referenced MD335/3/7/57 are available at Yorkshire Archaeological Society: Bradfer-Lawrence Collection

Civil War letters, including a letter from the Earl of Manchester at Lincoln to Lord Fairfax, 24 Aug 1644 relating to the surrender of Sheffield castle, are reproduced in Bell, Robert, Memorials of the Civil War: comprising the correspondence of the Fairfax family with the most distinguished personages engaged in that memorable contest. Now first published from the original manuscripts (R. Bentley, 1849), p. 113 Available on http://books.google.com/

Source material (including some of sources referred to above) relating to the impact of the Civil War in Sheffield’s neighbouring South Yorkshire areas of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham will be found at the respective South Yorkshire Offices: Barnsley Archives and Local Studies, Doncaster Archives and Local Studies and Rotherham Archives and Local Studies and source material relating to neighbouring Derbyshire will be found at Derbyshire Record Office.
Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books ● pamphlets ● photographs ● church registers ● newspapers ● census records ● minutes ● diaries ● films ● maps ● deeds ● records from schools ● hospitals ● businesses and charities ● family estates ● personal papers etc.

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Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city’s history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact us: archives@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9395).
### Sheffield Local Studies Library

1st floor  
Central Library  
Surrey Street  
Sheffield  
S1 1XZ  

Tel: 0114 273 4753  
Fax: 0114 273 5009

archives@sheffield.gov.uk  
www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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### Sheffield City Archives

52 Shoreham Street  
Sheffield  
S1 4SP  

Tel: 0114 203 9395  
Fax: 0114 203 9398

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