

The Black Pear Bulletin

The Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society

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Special Issue April 2020 ~ Covid-19



OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES

These times make me wonder – will life ever be the same again? Will it ever be this quiet and will the air be as clean? Will we never, ever get a cold call from India? I think you can hazard a guess at the answer to all of these questions. The pandemic has affected everyone in one way or another. Although in the global scheme of things the Battle of Worcester Society is unimportant, it has meant that plans made have had to be cancelled or re-arranged. Our current plans are as follows:

Thursday 18 June 2020

Doors open 6 p.m. Talk Starts 7 p.m.

The Great Hall, The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester

Chris Monaghan, University of Worcester

'Impeachment, Personal Rule and the Lead up to the English Civil War'

Chris is the Principal Lecturer in Law and Deputy LLB Course Leader at Worcester University

Thursday, 23 July 2020

Doors open at 6.30 p.m. Talk starts 7 p.m.

The Hall at Royal Worcester Porcelain Works, WR1 2NE

Professor Ronald Hutton, Bristol University

'Oliver Cromwell: Saint or Serpent?'

Oliver Cromwell, the only commoner ever to become supreme head of a British state, has always produced deep divisions of opinion, between those who view him as one of the greatest of Britons, to those who see him as a usurper, tyrant and fanatic. This lecture is designed to show why Cromwell is such a complex figure and to provide its own assessment of his character.

Thursday, 20 August 2020

Doors open 6 p.m. Talk Starts 7 p.m.

The Great Hall, The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester

A. J. Lyndon (also known as Felicity Goldstein)

"The Tawny Sash"

Society Member Felicity Goldstein will talk to us about the real events of the English Civil wars which have inspired the narrative of *The Tawny Sash*. This is her second book in her trilogy of English Civil War novels, based on historic events. She came to the Commandery in 2018 and gave an excellent talk on her first book, *The Welsh Linnet*. She is flying in from Melbourne (not just for us) so we hope she is able to jump on a plane by August?

Thursday, 3 September 2020

Commemoration of the Battle of Worcester 1651

Drumhead Service and Ceremonial Parade

5.00 p.m. at the Guildhall

5.15 p.m. The Great Hall, The Commandery

5.45 p.m. Talk on an aspect of the Civil War or Fort Royal Hill

6.15 – 6.30 p.m. Muster and parade to Fort Royal Hill

6.45 p.m. Drumhead Service begins

7.15 p.m. Return parade to The Great Hall, The Commandery

Wednesday 30th September 2020 – Rearranged from Thursday 21st May, 2020

Doors open 6 p.m. Talk Starts 7 p.m.

The Great Hall, The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester

Richard Bradley, Project Officer, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeological Service

'Recent Investigation of the Battlefield at Worcester – new discoveries along the Southern Link Road.'

This talk details recent commercial archaeological fieldwork (2017-2020) undertaken during the widening of the Southern Link Road, particularly in the vicinity of Powick. This included a programme of scientific dating in an attempt to try and resolve whether a seventeenth-century level could be located within the floodplain area of the battlefield, the results of which have proved crucial for understanding and dating the sequence of silt deposits.

Wednesday 28 October 2020 rearranged from 18th March 2020

Doors open 6.30 p.m. Talk begins at 7.15 p.m.

The Studio, The Hive, Sawmill Walk, Worcester, WR1 3PD

Steve R Dunn, Local Author

'Battle of the Baltic The Royal Navy and the Fight to Save Estonia and Latvia 1918/20' A vivid account of the Royal Navy's battle to secure the freedom of the Baltic states and save the region from Bolshevik terror and German hegemony. One hundred years ago, British sailors died to protect Baltic independence from Russian invasion, a threat they still face. Then, as now, politicians cavilled, but the navy's intervention saved the cause of liberty.

Steve Dunn: a local author who has published at least four history books and another is due out at the end of January 2020. His books include *The Coward?* and *The Scapegoat*. Steve has a special interest in the British Navy of the early 20th century and World War One. He has seven published works to his credit with another two commissioned for 2020 and 2021. Steve lives in Worcestershire and the South of France.

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Doors open 6.30 p.m. Talk begins at 7.15 p.m.

The Studio, The Hive, Sawmill Walk, Worcester, WR1 3PD

Howard Robinson

'Edward Winslow – The Mayflower and The Pilgrim Fathers'

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower and BoWS member Howard has put together a presentation for the event. Edward Winslow was from Droitwich and was educated at The Kings School, Worcester. He was one of the leaders of the expedition.

Annual General Meeting February 2020

As you all know from our email and attachments of 28th March, 2020 we were very pleased in the turnout in such extraordinary circumstances. In fact it has been a year of extraordinary circumstances. Some of the Executive Committee were able to attend, others understandably weren't, but for those of you who couldn't make it we have included photographic detail at the end of this Bulletin, so that you know exactly which Society members make up the Committee. We also include below a photograph of the AGM in action!



Charles I's Killers in America

Society Member David Hallmark lent me this book which documents the lives and afterlives of Edward Whalley and William Goffe. I have put together a precis of the life of Colonel Goffe.

Colonel William Goffe

The English Civil War was full of fascinating characters, but perhaps one of the most interesting is the story of Colonel William Goffe, Roundhead, Politician and Soldier.

He was born in Sussex in 1605 and was a devout Parliamentarian. He married Frances Whalley, the daughter of General Edward Whalley, whom he was to see a lot more of in later life. He was imprisoned for a short while in 1642 for his part in raising a petition to give control of the Militia to Parliament, but when the English Civil War started in 1642 he joined Colonel Harvey's regiment of the New Model Army and was appointed Captain.

He was active in the Parliamentary army that besieged Worcester in July 1646 and rose to the rank of Colonel. When King Charles I was put on trial in January 1649 he was appointed as one of the 68 Commissioners who tried and convicted Charles and he was one of the 59 signatories of the King's death warrant who became known as the '*regicides*' (Latin for King Killers).

When Charles II returned to Scotland in 1650 Goffe commanded a Parliamentary regiment at the battle of Dunbar on 3rd September 1650 and also at the battle of Worcester exactly 12 months later. He became a firm favourite of Oliver Cromwell.

He was appointed Member of Parliament for Yarmouth in 1654 and resumed his military career in 1655 to put down Penruddock's Uprising, an attempted Royalist insurrection led by Colonel John Penruddock. The Royalists were soundly beaten and Penruddock was executed.

Goffe resumed his Political career in 1655 as MP for Hampshire, but when Charles II returned in 1660, the King made it clear that he would pardon all who fought for Parliament during the Civil War, but he would never forgive the regicides.

So William Goffe and his Father-in-Law Colonel Edward Whalley, both of whom who had signed the King's death warrant, thought it would be wise to leave the country. Twenty nine of the regicides who were still alive in 1660 were hung, drawn, and quartered, and many others fled the country.

Goffe and Whalley reached Boston, Massachusetts on 27th July 1660, never to see their families again. Many of the settlers in Massachusetts were English Puritans and were sympathetic to the plight of Goffe and Whalley, so they were welcomed and well looked after. However, Charles II appointed agents to track down the regicides and bring them back to England for execution. A reward of £100 was to be paid for their capture, dead or alive, and they had many narrow escapes avoiding the agents. They frequently moved around Massachusetts and Connecticut; at one stage they hid in a cave which today is known as 'The Judges Cave.'

Whalley died in about 1675 but in September 1675 William Goffe was to enter American Folklore as 'The Angel of Hadley.' At this time Goffe was living in Hadley, Massachusetts but the settlers were at war with the Native Americans in what became known as King Phillip's War. King Phillip was the name given to the Indian chief who united the tribes of Massachusetts to drive the white man out of their land. Hadley was attacked by a large force of Indians and out of the smoke and chaos strode the 70 year old Colonel Goffe, with long grey hair and a long grey beard, with his English Civil War sword in one hand and a pistol in the other. It had been 20 years since he had defeated the Penruddock Uprising and 24 years since the Battle of Worcester, but he clearly still had his military skills as he organised the settlers into defending their town and driving off the Native Americans.

Goffe was celebrated as a hero but he could not acknowledge the praise as he did not wish to reveal his identity as there were still agents hunting for him. Because of his ghost like appearance he became known as 'The Angel of Hadley.' He died of natural causes, still a free man in 1679.

Battle of Worcester Map Exercise – Saturday 13 March 2020

Geoff Yapp, the Society's Honorary Treasurer, has a military background and came up with this ingenious idea of a map exercise. The primary aim was to remind and inform the Executive Committee about the Battle of Worcester and what we, as a Society, have promised to protect, preserve and promote. The exercise was a great success and I would like to thank Geoff for all his preparation and acting as Umpire.

“Just a few days before the implementation of social distancing restrictions which would have prevented such a gathering, 10 members of the Battle of Worcester Society's Executive Committee held a map exercise at the Commandery in central Worcester.

Using a series of large map boards, teams representing both sides analysed what is known of the historical facts about each portion of the battle, then explored alternative options to see how events could have evolved differently. A concluding session drew together historical lessons and suggestions for future follow-up actions.

Prior to the event the levels of background and specialist knowledge varied across the team, but by the end of the day even the most experienced enthusiasts had gained a deeper understanding of the constraints on, and aims of, both sides, and how a few key events shaped the outcome of the battle. In particular the availability of large Parliamentary reserves of cavalry and infantry waiting to cross the Bridge of Boats swung the critical battles outside Sidbury Gate. The lack of reserves available to Charles was decisive, but the disjointed leadership of the Royalist army also contrasted strongly with the timely initiative and drive shown by several of Cromwell's generals.

When the committee is able to meet again one of its agenda items will be to discuss how to exploit the lessons from this exercise. Options to be discussed include repeating the event for the wider membership, proving a presentation of what was done on 13 March, and a detailed discussion of the conclusions gained. Members are welcome to feed any interest on this event in through any of the committee members”.



Timeline leading up to the Battle of Worcester continued from last Bulletin

May 1651

1	Henry Ireton issues an order forbidding further marriages between English soldiers and Irish girls.
2	Arrest of several Presbyterian ministers suspected of plotting to aid the Royalists in England. Christopher Love selected for trial before the High Court of Justice.
	Commonwealth and Royalist commissioners meet on the island of Samson to negotiate a treaty for the surrender of the Scilly Isles but are unable to reach an agreement. Blake orders the bombardment of Royalist positions on St Mary's.
5	After hearing false rumours spread by Prince Rupert that he intends to sail for the eastern Mediterranean, Vice-Admiral Penn sails from Majorca to Sardinia.
6	Richard Deane appointed major-general of the Commonwealth army in Scotland; George Monck appointed lieutenant-general of the ordnance. With Cromwell still ill, John Lambert is effectively in command.
7	Prince Rupert's squadron of five ships sails from Toulon for the Atlantic.
10	Ireton calls a council of war at Clonmel to discuss the continuation of the campaign against Connacht and Limerick.
16	The Portuguese ambassador in London dismissed after Portugal rejects Commonwealth demands for compensation over their sheltering of Prince Rupert and toleration of his piracy. 1
23	Sir John Grenville agrees to surrender the Scilly Isles after General-at-Sea Robert Blake offers generous terms.
	The Scottish Parliament meets at Perth.

June 1651

	(Early June) A new Scots-Royalist army begins to muster at Stirling.
	(Early June) Sir Charles Coote marches into Connacht from the north and advances towards Athlone and Portumna.
1	General Ireton forces a passage over the River Shannon at O'Briensbridge, enabling him to establish forces on both sides of the river.
3	Commonwealth forces occupy the Scilly Isles .
4	The Scottish Parliament repeals the Act of Classes, fully re-admitting Engagers and Royalists to civil and military appointments. The western Remonstrance denounced; those who refuse to renounce it to be prosecuted for sedition.
8	Prince Rupert's squadron sails for Madeira with two prizes taken in the Atlantic .
9	George Fisher, Commonwealth envoy in Madrid, recalled in protest at Spain's reluctance to prosecute the murderers of Anthony Ascham.
13	Colonel Edward Sexby court-martialled and cashiered at Edinburgh for a number of irregularities, including the execution of a soldier contrary to justice and the withholding of pay from troops under his command.
14	The siege of Limerick reinstated.
18	English ambassadors St John and Strickland leave the Hague after the failure of negotiations for an alliance with the States General.

	Lord Dillon surrenders Athlone to Sir Charles Coote, who advances to Portumna.
20	Opening of the trial of Presbyterian minister Christopher Love , accused of plotting against the Commonwealth.
23	An amphibious assault on Limerick repulsed with heavy losses. Ireton abandons attempts to take the town by storm and prepares to blockade it into submission.
25	Cromwell occupies his old position at Braid Hill near Edinburgh.
	At the instigation of Thomas Harrison , Lord Howard of Escrick is expelled from Parliament, fined and committed to the Tower for taking bribes from Royalists hoping to receive a reduction in the fines imposed upon them.
28	General Leslie deploys the Scottish army in an easily defensible position at Torwood in the hills south of Stirling.
30	Cromwell marches towards Stirling, hoping to bring Leslie to battle.
	Ireton's proposals for the surrender of Limerick rejected.
	(Late June) The garrison at Portumna surrenders to Sir Charles Coote, who advances on Galway.
	(Late June) The Ranter Abiezer Coppe released from Newgate gaol, having written a recantation of his blasphemous opinions.

July 1651

	(Early July) Scottish outposts at Falkirk withdraw as the Commonwealth army advances.
1	Prince Rupert's squadron sails from Madeira.
5	Presbyterian conspirator Christopher Love sentenced to death.
7	In consultation with his captains, Prince Rupert decides to station his squadron in the Azores.
12	The battle of Knocknaclashy : Lord Broghill routs Viscount Muskerry's Irish relief force marching for Limerick.
	Confederate agents Plunkett and Browne sign a treaty with the Duke of Lorraine for his intervention in the war against England, but grant greater concessions to the Duke than either King Charles or the Marquis of Clanricarde would consider acceptable.
16	Parliament passes the Confiscation Act: the estates of seventy named Royalists to be sold for the benefit of the Commonwealth.
	The General Assembly of the Kirk meets at St Andrews with bitter arguments between the pro-Royalist Resolutioners and hardline Protesters.
17	Cromwell sends Colonel Overton with a small force across the Firth of Forth to North Queensferry, intending to disrupt Scottish supply lines from Fife.
19	Major-General Lambert reinforces the Commonwealth troops in Fife.
20	Battle of Inverkeithing : Lambert defeats Major-General Holbourne and Sir John Browne, sent by Leslie to drive the English out of Fife.
22	Presbyterian ministers appeal to Cromwell to intercede for Christopher Love.
23	Cromwell summons Major-General Harrison to a conference at Linlithgow. Harrison ordered to call up reinforcements from Nottingham to watch the borders.

24	Lieutenant-General Monck captures Inchgarvie in Fife.
25	Prince Rupert's squadron arrives at the island of St Michael in the Azores .
	Vice-Admiral William Penn arrives at Malta where he learns that Rupert has tricked him and left the Mediterranean.
26	Cromwell reinforces his bridgehead in Fife.
29	Monck captures Burntisland, securing Cromwell's base of operations in Fife.
31	Charles II and the Scottish army marches from Stirling towards the English border. The Marquis of Argyll and the Earl of Loudoun refuse to support the invasion and withdraw.

<http://bcw-project.org/timelines/1651>

President and Executive Committee Members of the Battle of Worcester Society



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Vice Chairman



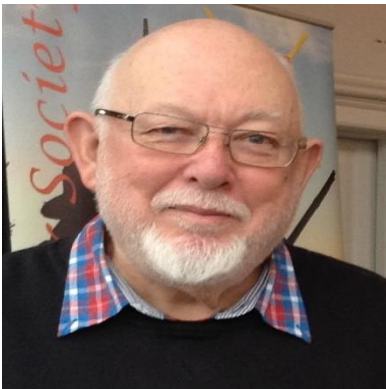
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Monument Appeal

Lord Richard Faulkner is Patron of the Appeal

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