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The Lighthorne Loss Accounts of the English Civil Wars

**by Ann Such (2020)
with contributions by Colin Such**

Introduction

In late 2017 as archivist of the Lighthorne History Society, Colin was contacted by Dr Maureen Harris of Leicester University asking for volunteers. She explained that she had initiated a project on behalf of the Dugdale Society and supported by the Friends of Warwick County Record Office. She had applied for and been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant with the aim of training inexperienced volunteers from history societies and parish and civic groups from all over 'old' Warwickshire to transcribe the Warwickshire Parliamentary Loss Accounts.

The Dugdale Society was founded in 1920 with the objects of publishing original documents relating to the history of the County of Warwick, fostering interest in historical records and their preservation and generally encouraging the study of local history. The Society is named after Sir William Dugdale, a famous 17th century antiquarian who was a strong supporter of Charles I. It is hoped that in 2020 the Dugdale Society will make the completed transcriptions publicly available on a searchable Warwickshire County Record Office website to accompany a volume of selected examples, with an introductory chapter and a full index, to be published possibly in 2021.

Another aim of the project is to transmit knowledge about 'Living through the English Civil Wars in Warwickshire' to the history societies and other local groups linked to the volunteers. Colin and I volunteered for the project and on 15 November 2019 we jointly presented a talk to Lighthorne History Society based on the following text.

This is an absolutely fascinating project because we have been looking at documents handwritten nearly 400 years ago that give an insight into what happened here in Lighthorne and in neighbouring villages during the period of the English Civil Wars. Today television and the internet keep us well informed about the affects of any conflict on the civilian population. But what if ordinary villagers had been interviewed 400 years ago. What might they have said in their own words? This is the question which a study of the loss accounts enables us to answer.

First let's talk a little about the English Civil War period and the importance of the conflict in our history. It is not widely known that by population percentage, far more soldiers and civilians were killed in the Civil Wars than in the First World War. Current estimates are that between 180,000 and 190,000 were killed by fighting and disease, that is about 3% of the then population.

Today historians talk about the English Civil Wars as opposed to the English Civil War because there were three distinct periods of combat; 1642-46, 1647-49 and 1649-52. The period to 1646 ended with the battle of Naseby, a Royalist defeat and the King's initial surrender. 1649 saw the execution of the king, Charles I and the establishment of the Commonwealth. 1652 saw the aftermath of the Battle of Worcester which resulted in the fleeing from this country of Charles II. This period in history can be viewed as a forgotten conflict. It is not taught generally in schools but it is a very

important part of early modern history. Shockingly it involved the beheading of a monarch, it represents the start of constitutional monarchy, and it created momentous social unrest with family members finding themselves on opposing sides.

As a short explanation as to why fighting broke out here are the main protagonists, starting with the Royalists.

Charles I He had become a very unpopular monarch for three main reasons, power, money and religion. He believed strongly in the Divine Right of Kings, that is that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving the right to rule directly from the will of God. He chose to prorogue Parliament not for 5 weeks, as happened recently, but for 11 years from 1629 to 1640. He had to recall the MPS when the Scots invaded Northern England, because he needed money for military purposes. Parliament was also asked to agree to further taxation to pay for the army to suppress a revolt in Ireland in 1641. One unpopular tax was Ship Money, intended to pay for maritime defence. Charles extended the collection of this tax from maritime counties to inland counties, a decision which aggrieved many people.

Charles was a High Anglican believing in church governance by the bishops. The Scots were Presbyterians who objected to the imposition of an Anglican prayer book in 1639 hence their invasion of the north of England in 1640.

Queen Henrietta Maria A French Catholic and very unpopular because there were fears that the King might be sufficiently influenced by her that he might attempt to reinstate Catholicism in England.

Prince Rupert The nephew of the king and the foremost Royalist military commander.

The principal Parliamentarians were the following.

Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex First Chief Commander of the Parliamentary army.

Robert Greville, 2nd Baron Brooke Lord Brooke in our loss accounts. He fortified Warwick Castle and was among the most militant supporters of the Parliamentary war effort. He died very early in the fighting, in 1643, when during the siege of Lichfield he was shot dead by a Royalist sniper from a tower on Lichfield cathedral.

Oliver Cromwell Previously an MP, he was over 40 years old when he began his military career as a captain and was quickly promoted, eventually playing an important role in the establishment of the New Model Army under Lord Fairfax.

Sir Thomas, Lord Fairfax Commander-in-Chief of the New Model Army, the first professional army which was based on a person's ability rather than on their position within society.

Between 1642 (famous for being the year of the first major battle of the English Civil Wars, the battle of Edgehill which took place between Radway and Kineton) and 1646 (when Charles I was forced to surrender) Warwickshire was awash with troop movements from armies on both sides and ordinary people were suffering. In the Parliament of the 1640s some MPs were enthusiastic supporters of the Parliamentary cause, but others had misgivings, calling for more information about the consequences of the fighting. They wanted to know what level of taxation was being inflicted on ordinary people to pay for the soldiers and the garrisons. Were taxes being fairly collected and accounted for? What other losses were ordinary people suffering? How could these losses be calculated in financial terms? There were calls from Parliament for accounts to be

prepared. These would be accounts in two senses of the word. They were 'accounts' in that they intended to hold people 'to account' but they were also financial statements of taxes and losses incurred.

On the back of an instruction from Parliament, orders were issued to the constable of each constabulary (akin to a modern day parish) to prepare an account. One such order is this one, issued on 16 January 1646/7 to the Constable of Rowington, a village just north of Warwick, telling him what to include in his 'loss account'.

The accounts to be written on large paper and include all items of money, plate, horses, arms, ammunition, household stuff, goods of all sorts, rents and profits of land, provision of all kinds, free quarters, excise money, Irish money, poll money, subsidy money, contribution money etc. received, taken, collected, raised, seised, sequestered, or assessed and not collected by the parliamentary forces together with the names and bills of the persons receiving the same.

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Collection DR3/712 [detail]

All this information was meant to be collected within 20 days which seems a very short timespan for such a complex task. As you can see a vast amount of detail was required. The question the loss accounts pose is this. The order for this information to be collected was not made until late 1646/early 1647 and so in the early years of the fighting, no one knew that they would be expected to recall their losses, so how did they manage to do so several years later? This is an unanswered question. Did people believe that they would be reimbursed for these losses? We don't know but there is no indication that this was ever to be the case.

In Lighthorne Constabulary, part of Kington Hundred, our Constable would have been responsible for collecting and submitting all this information. We will never know the name of the person who wrote our loss account but we do know that in 1645, a year before the order was made, our Constable was a certain William Jaycocks. He complained to the Quarter Sessions court that he had had to serve as Constable in Lighthorne for 4 years because of the fighting. The usual term was one year so now he wanted someone else to take over. Three men had been approached but had refused to serve. Unfortunately we cannot find a record of what happened next. The three men who were summonsed to the next session of the Quarter Sessions are all named in the Lighthorne Loss Account but we don't know whether one of them relieved William Jaycocks and so we cannot say who prepared the Lighthorne Loss Account.

We are particularly fortunate in Warwickshire because it has the best loss accounts in the country with 75% of constabularies having submitted them and these accounts can be viewed today at The National Archives in Kew. The high incidence of accounts could be because Warwickshire was a front line county in terms of military activity but it also appears to reflect the enthusiasm for the task displayed by the local subcommittees of account based in Coventry and Warwick. In those early years of fighting Lighthorne and the surrounding villages would have seen troops coming and going from both sides and interfering with their lives. These loss accounts only capture losses incurred due to Parliamentary troops, not Royalist ones.

When our project began, 30 or so of us from villages, towns and cities throughout Warwickshire started to meet on a monthly basis at Budbrooke Parish Centre and we were lectured on the handwriting which we needed to transcribe, officially known as Secretary Script. We were given a booklet about it and countless handouts. Our task was to transcribe the loss accounts handed to us

by Maureen, that is to transfer them to a Word table, keeping to the original spelling but replacing letters no longer in use and therefore not understandable, with letters from our alphabet of today. The aim was to make the loss accounts accessible to the general public for the first time ever and to reveal the suffering of the ordinary people.

Colin and I were allocated Lighthorne, Ashorne and Newbold Pacey, Moreton Morrell, Chadshunt, Combroom and Fenny Compton. We were given a memory stick containing copyright protected copies of the loss accounts and tasked with transcribing them into a Word table in a given format. Initially progress was slow. We struggled to understand what we were looking at. Often we couldn't decipher individual letters within a word let alone read the word in its entirety.

The game of transcribing becomes even more fun when these unfamiliar letters are combined with some very unusual spellings. There was no uniformity of spelling at the time so what we were taught to do was to recognise the letters and then say the word out loud, phonetically. Doing that, combined with getting clues by looking at the sense of the word within the sentence (although there was little punctuation), enabled us to transcribe it.

Over time we became more familiar with the script of a particular scribe and our speed of transcription increased. That is, until we found that the next page was written by someone different and we had to start deciphering letters all over again. However over a period of weeks and months the task did become easier and eventually we finished all the transcriptions for the villages allocated to us.

The accounts don't follow a set form. Some are bound, others sheets of paper. Recently we were lucky enough to visit The National Archives in Kew and were able to view the originals of the loss accounts which we have been working on. It is amazing the extent to which they vary in size and condition. Combroom's account was a booklet roughly A5 in size. The accounts of Moreton Morrell were in a much poorer condition with the top of each page missing. The cover of the Lighthorne Loss Account has the following wording.

Comitatus Warrwick

Kington Hundred

The *æe* booke of accompts for the Constabulary of Lighthorne for Chardges that hath bine laid out for the *Parliament* service there

Lighthorne's Loss Account is more than 8000 words in length and is quite regimented in that each person's account follows a similar order of losses.

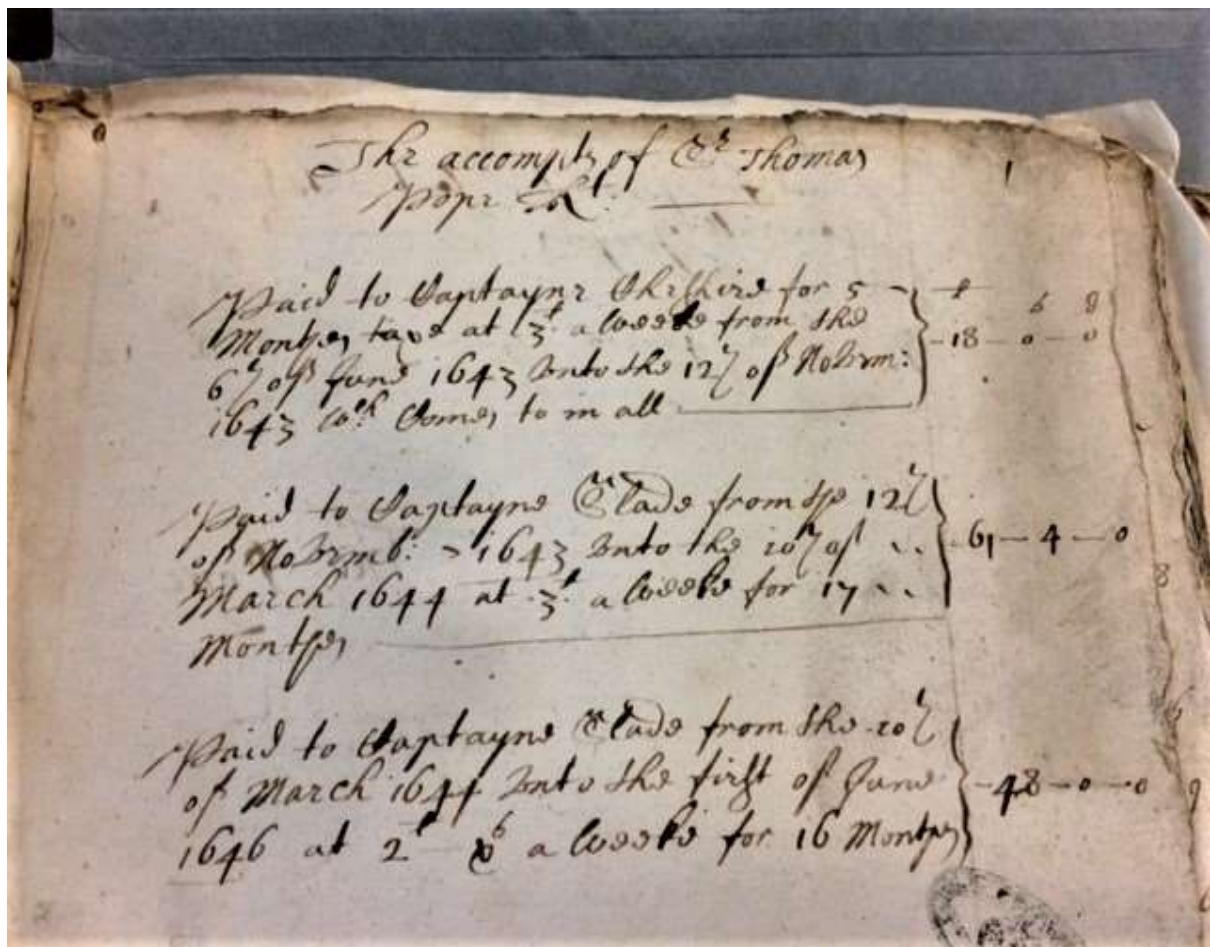
How many people in Lighthorne submitted a loss account and who were they?

Sir Thomas Pope
 John Randle
 Charles Barlow (farming land owned by Richard Verney)
 Thomas Warwicke
 Thomas Greene
 William Harbert
 Thomas Raynolds
 William Hyhorne
 Thomas Fletcher
 John Mason
 Thomas Smith

Richard Manton
 William Tounsen
 John Tayler
 William Jacocks
 Symon Bolton
 John Arnold
 John Leay
 William Butcher
 Thomas Barlow
 John Miller

All 21 were men and the following provides more details about three of them, Sir Thomas Pope, Richard Verney and Thomas Raynolds. Members of the Manton family were still living in the village in the 20th century.

Sir Thomas Pope was a Royalist and loyal supporter of Charles I. He didn't live in Lighthorne, his family home being Wroxton Abbey near Banbury. But through his family he had inherited the manor and advowson of Lighthorne, this having being originally granted to his grandfather, also named Sir Thomas Pope, in 1546 at the time of Henry VIII.



TNA SP28 182/1 Lighthorne [f1 detail]

The accompts of Sir Thomas Pope <i>Knight</i>			
Paid to Captayne Cheshire for 5 Monthes tax at £3 a weeke from the 6th of June 1643 unto the 12th of November 1643 <i>which Comes to in all</i>	£ 18	s 0	d 0
Paid to Captayne Slade from the 12th of November 1643 unto the 10th of March 1644 at £3 a weeke for 17 Monthes	61	4	0
Paid to Captayne Slade from the 10th of March 1644 unto the first of June 1646 at £2 10s a weeke for 16 Monthes	48	0	0

If we take a look at his loss account you can see his name at the top with, on the right hand side, 3 columns for £, s and d. The account begins with monies paid to support the troops quartered at the Parliamentary garrison of Warwick Castle. In total he records paying nearly £150. This is over a period of 4 years but is still a very large amount of money. For comparison, in 1597 Shakespeare paid £120 to buy New Place, the biggest house in the borough of Stratford. There is no mention of any troops being quartered with him, presumably because he had no property in Lighthorne and was simply benefitting from income on his lands here.

One of Sir Thomas Pope's claims to fame is that he hosted the King and Queen at a very important time during the Civil Wars. When fighting looked inevitable in February 1642 the Queen, Henrietta Maria, travelled to the Netherlands where she pawned the Crown Jewels to raise funds to support the King's cause. She returned to England about a year later and finally met up with her husband near Kington, at the site of the battle of Edgehill. From there they rode to Wroxton Abbey and spent the night there as the guests of Sir Thomas Pope, before travelling on to the royal court, now set up in Oxford.

Unfortunately he had supported the losing side in the Civil Wars and eventually the majority of his estates were seized by the Parliamentarians.

Charles Barlow, blacksmith, was farming land owned by **Richard Verney**.

The Verneys first acquired land in Lighthorne in 1436 (Compton Verney. A History of the House and its Owners ed. by Robert Bearman ('CV') p. 19) but although other pieces of land had been bought by the Verney family by the 1640s, it was not yet part of the Verney estate. Richard Verney settled in Leicestershire and it wasn't until 1683 when he was in his 60s that he unexpectedly inherited following a series of deaths of different generations in his family. He then moved back to Warwickshire, lived at Compton Verney and eventually, following a legal battle, became the 11th Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1696.

Thomas Raynolds was the son of John and Joan Raynolds whose tombstone is one of the oldest known in Lighthorne Churchyard.

John died in 1639 and his wife Joan in 1669. In his will, which is available on Ancestry, you can read that he left properties in other villages to his two sons, Thomas and John. He also left 5s to Lighthorne Church and 15s to the poor of Lighthorne. This is the inscription on the tombstone.

"To the memory of Iohn Raynolds who departed the 21st day of Jvly in the yeare of ovr lord 1639 To the memory of Ioane Raynolds the wife of Iohn Raynolds who departed the 23th day of May in the year of ovr lord 1669"

Was the Lighthorne Loss Account like a modern day census?

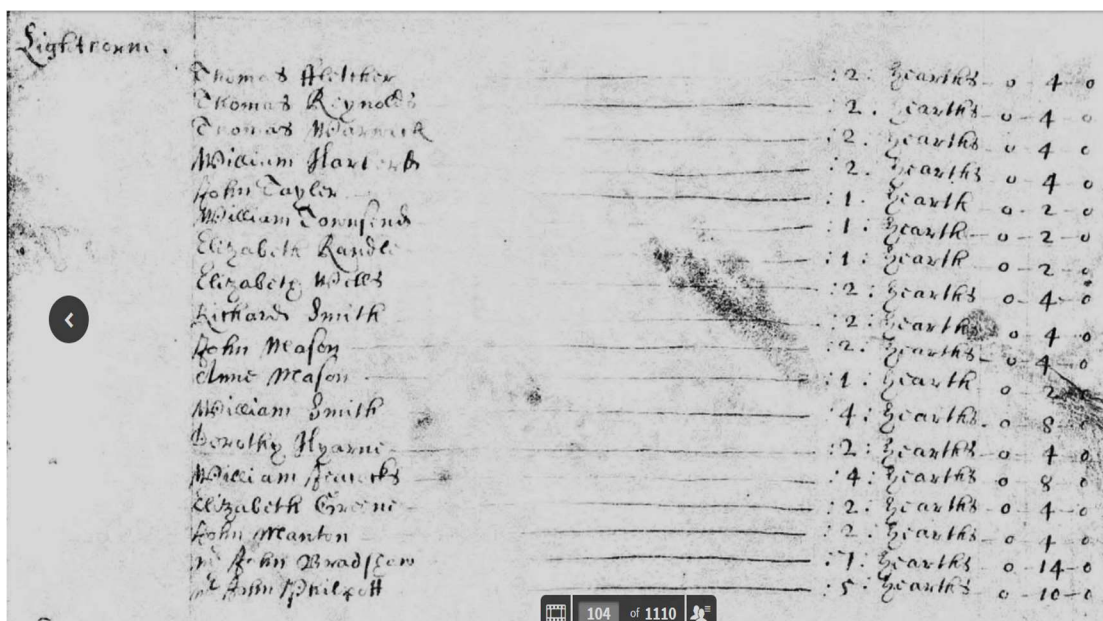
No it was not like a census because it is likely that not everyone was included. There were obviously people of varying wealth living in Lighthorne and the poorest would not have been able to contribute towards the maintenance of the soldiers garrisoned at Warwick Castle. Neither would they have been in a position to quarter any of the soldiers marching from one battle to the next. 20 years later in 1662 the hearth tax was collected for the first time. A return had to be made of every household in every village and town, stating the number of hearths that each dwelling had. Warwickshire's Hearth Tax records are available on Ancestry. Each household was taxed according to the number of their hearths, having to pay 2s for each hearth, and this is a clearer indication of wealth. But there are names in the loss accounts which do not appear in the hearth tax return and visa versa so it is very difficult to state accurately the level of wealth of those who completed loss accounts.

Does the Lighthorne Loss Account give us information about what the village was like in 1647?

No it doesn't describe the village. It just gives us the names of some of the inhabitants. To find out what Lighthorne was like in the 17th century, we need to look at other primary sources dated in the decades before and after the Civil Wars period.

In 1616 the Lighthorne parson at the time, Ralph Lees, had to produce a description of all the property and lands held by the Church in the village. He describes the parsonage as being a mansion house with a yard, a backside, two barns, and a dovehouse (1616 Glebe Terrier).

We know that, apart from the parsonage, there was another large house in the village and we get this information from the Lighthorne Hearth Tax records of 1662. It shows several households with 2 and 4 hearths, it shows that the parsonage had 5 hearths and it shows that the largest house, being occupied at that time by a man called John Bradshaw, had 7 hearths. John Bradshaw doesn't appear in Lighthorne Loss Account. His family were from Kingston and he would appear not to have been living in Lighthorne in 1646.



Name	Hearths	Value
Thomas H. H. H.	2	4-0
Thomas H. H.	2	4-0
Thomas H. H.	2	4-0
William H. H.	2	4-0
John Taylor	1	2-0
William Townsend	1	2-0
Elizabeth H. H.	1	2-0
Richard Smith	2	4-0
John Meafon	2	4-0
John Meafon	1	2-0
William Smith	4	8-0
Elizabeth H. H.	2	4-0
William H. H.	4	8-0
Elizabeth H. H.	2	4-0
John Meafon	2	4-0
John Bradshaw	7	14-0
John H. H.	5	10-0

We know that the 5 hearths recorded were those in the parsonage because we know something about the then parson John Philpott, whose name is at the bottom of the list. It was not uncommon in those days for members of the church to become involved in military activities. John Philpott is known to have supported the Royalists. He was appointed parson in 1643 on the death of Ralph Lees and Philpott's patron is noted on the database of the Clergy of the Church of England, as being the King. He stands out in the Lighthorne Loss Account as not wanting to co-operate (although different interpretations of this comment are possible) as the scribe points out.

The parson will make noe accompte for the parsonage but I thought good to set downe the weekly Contribution for the whole Constablerye here together in one totall summe allthoughe it was set downe in every ones particulers accompts as it was paid by everye man

Prior to this he may have joined the Royalist forces because it is noted that he was taken prisoner when the Royalist garrison at Compton Wynyates fell to Parliamentary troops in June 1644. He later claimed that far from ever being in arms, he was 'very serviceable' to Parliament (Tennant 'Edgehill and Beyond'). He was officiating in Lighthorne and recording christenings, marriages and burials from 1646 to 1654. In that final year he officiated at the marriage of his own daughter and his handwriting is quite distinctive in the Parish Register. However he does appear to have suffered financially for supporting the King's side i.e. by being fined and losing lands, but his presence in Lighthorne is recorded in the Hearth Tax record for 1662.

The source closest in date to our Loss Account is a lease from Sir Thomas Pope to William Townesend of Lighthorne in 1640 and this mentions that there was a mill in the village. Sir Thomas Pope grants a lease to William Townsend subject to various conditions including having to cart one load per annum of North Warwickshire coal from the pit to the mansion house at Wroxton. As part of the agreement Sir Thomas Pope allows the grinding of corn and grain for the tenant's own use at Lighthorne mill. The 1616 Ecclesiastical Terrier already mentioned lists Lighthorne as having a 'winde milne'.

A later map of 1725 by Henry Beighton gives us a few more clues. In the key to the map he states that he has positioned the churches and houses in their exact locations and that he has differentiated in his drawings between older and more modern houses. The house to the west of the church is drawn as an older building and is presumably Church Hill Farm. A little further west is a tiny drawing which when fully blown up, shows a watermill (a house with a circle on the left being the waterwheel). Perhaps an earlier windmill had been replaced by a watermill by this later date.



Henry Beighton 1730 map detail Nuneaton Library Coln. at WCRO CR1316

In 1662, only 16 years after the Lighthorne Loss Account was prepared, we have a description of what the manor of Lighthorne consisted of, in a lease prepared by Sir Thomas Pope.

of the manor of Lighthorne with its appurtenances, 11 messuages, 10 cottages, 2 dovecotes, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, 1000 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 4 acres of woodland, 200 acres of furze and heath and common of pasture for all animals in Lighthorne.

1662 Indenture from Sir Thomas Pope and his wife to Sir Thomas Wenman SBT DR98/1772-1773

Did both men and women submit loss accounts?

Lighthorne's Loss Account contains only the names of men but this is not true of other villages. Where women submit a loss account, they are usually shown as widows, almost to explain their inclusion, and tend to be from wealthy families. In the villages around Lighthorne we found in the Loss Account of Ashorne & Newbold Pacey, Elizabeth Venour, widow, who had inherited the 'manor' of Newbold Pacey on the death of her husband, Edward. Also included is her sister, Mistress Margaret Bambury, who also owned property. In Combbrook's Loss Account we found Widdow Elizabeth Bodington with no indication of any wealth.

What taxes were they expected to pay?

Before the fighting, taxation was often based on landed wealth or personal estate. It was very difficult to calculate how much tax would be raised using this method. It was assessed and collected by local gentry. They had little incentive and the system was inefficient and unpredictable.

Parliament changed the system by raising a tax such as the 400,000. This was a tax named after the amount of money it was meant to raise. The total amount was divided among counties and divided among communities. The local rate was decided per annum and it was more efficient and more predictable. It was more socially inclusive and the burden of taxation certainly increased during the years of fighting.

One particular problem was how to pay the soldiers who had been recruited to fight for Parliament and who had to be provided with uniforms and food and weapons. The system that was put in place was that each garrison would be made responsible for collecting the payments it needed from villages local to it, at an agreed rate. Soldiers from Warwick Castle, Lighthorne's local Parliamentary garrison, would collect taxes in Lighthorne. This was called the weekly contribution and in total the constabulary of Lighthorne paid £424 to Warwick Castle in this period, a huge amount. The overall total for the Lighthorne Loss Account was £617.

This system did not always work well as it was open to abuse by unscrupulous officers. The loss accounts were one way of checking whether the amounts recorded as being paid in tax by villagers matched the amounts which garrison officers had to disclose as being collected by their soldiers. The other problem with this system was that if troops were ordered to go elsewhere to fight, they were reluctant to leave their garrison as they were unsure whether they would get paid.

The problem for the villagers of Lighthorne was even greater. Lighthorne was placed in the unfortunate position of lying between Warwick Castle, a Parliamentary garrison, and Banbury Castle, a Royalist garrison. The soldiers in Banbury collected taxes in a similar fashion from local villages. The scribe for the Lighthorne Loss Accounts laments the situation very clearly. He writes:

Likewise wee have paid allmost as much to the Garrison of Banbury unto the kinges army in weekly taxes besides other Payments & plunder which they have forced us to pay

TNA SP28/182/1 Lighthorne [f19 detail]

Apart from the weekly contribution, the villagers of Lighthorne had to pay many other taxes as shown below.

The 400,000 Warwickshire's share was about £6000. Symon Bolton, in the Lighthorne Loss Account, failed for some reason to pay this tax, and it is duly noted.

Pole Money Poll tax. A subsidy on most adult males enforced from July 1641 on all males over 15 according to status i.e. 40s from those with income of £50 pa, 6d from those at the lowest income level.

Excise Money Introduced by Parliament in July 1643 and organised by a group of London merchants. Excise duty was imposed on basic goods, first on ale, beer and spirits and later on meat, salt and textiles.

The Six Subsidies Normal taxation on ordinary people, with Catholics being charged double. Traditionally it was rated on the 'yardland' (a medieval unit of land for tax assessment, around 30 acres but it varies).

The Twentieth and Fifth Part A 1643 ordinance levied fines from those who hadn't lent 'contributions' to Parliament in 1642. The fines were a fifth of annual income and a twentieth of their personal estate. There are references in other loss accounts to threats and violence related to the collection of these fines. In Lighthorne, 5 men were fined – Thomas Greene, Thomas Raynolds, John Mason, Thomas Smith and William Jacocks.

Paid for the British Forces in Ireland The British Army was fighting in Ireland to support English and Scottish Protestant settlers following sectarian unrest. The Chadshunt Loss Account details the losses of the lord of the manor Thomas Newsam. His son Edward was killed fighting in Ireland in the service of Charles I.

What other losses did they suffer?

The loss accounts describe the experiences of the ordinary villager. All quotes are from the Lighthorne Loss Account (TNA SP28/182/1) unless noted otherwise.

Villagers were expected to leave their farming activities to help to dig bulwarks at Warwick Castle.

For digging at the Bullworke at Warrwick 1s 8d Thomas Raynolds

These were defensive earthworks designed to thwart Royalist attacks and to protect the Parliamentary soldiers garrisoned there. Villagers were unable to farm their land properly when they had to help prepare these defences. But being midway between Warwick and Banbury, they were also called upon to help the Parliamentary soldiers who were laying siege to the Royalist army in Banbury Castle.

for Chardges that I have bine at for digging at Banbury & for hay straw Oates & Carrying of Bullets unto Collonell Whalley at the siege 6s 2d John Randle

Not only were they expected to provide labour, they also had to send provisions to the army laying siege. Hence many of the villagers in Lighthorne submitting loss accounts sent hay and oats to support this army.

Horses on which their farming livelihoods depended, were taken away for the use of the Parliamentary forces under Lord Brooke. Sometimes horses were stolen by soldiers and then ransomed as a means of raising money. Many of the Lighthorne Loss Accounts recount the same story.

For two horses that Collonell Bridges souldiers tooke away which were paid for by the Inhabitants againe 7s 6d Thomas Greene

Colonel Bridges was the military commander at Warwick Castle and the inhabitants of Lighthorne would have to go there and pay to have their horses returned to them. There is little mention in the Lighthorne Loss Accounts of other livestock being taken with only one lamb and some rabbits being mentioned. This is the reference to the stolen rabbits.

The losse that John Arnold the warener had in his coneyes by Coronoll Burges his men at severall tymes £10 John Arnold

We know from a later enclosure map that the rabbit warren was in the hillside which is to the north of Dark Lane, part of Church Hill Farm.

Other villages noted other losses of livestock. This is an example from a villager living in Ashorne & Newbold Pacey.

Captain Buller..... tooke away afatt Pigg & ahen 4s 6d John Southam TNA SP28/185

Quartering of soldiers with their horses was another huge imposition on the people of Lighthorne and it also bore a substantial financial cost. Time and time again mention is made of troops belonging to certain commanders being quartered for several days at a time. It appears that every large house would have been used for this purpose. The village with its 20 – 25 dwellings and a population of 100 – 150 must have found the presence of so many troops a very frightening experience. The largest contingent appears to have stayed for 2 nights on an unspecified date. They were the troops under the Parliamentary commander Sir William Waller and in Lighthorne alone 257 men are recorded as being quartered for a particular 2 day period. On another occasion a brigade under the command of Colonel Cromwell stayed for 3 days and then a further 2 days later on.

**Quarter 23 men & 25 horse of Collonell Crumwells Brigade 3 dayes & 6 men & horse 2 dayes
5s 10d Thomas Smith**

There is no evidence to suggest that Cromwell would have been present as his forces are recorded as being quartered in many villages in the area. The villagers in the loss accounts describe the soldiers as being given Free Quarter, emphasising that they had not received payment in recompense. However in the Lighthorne Loss Account is a rare mention of soldiers actually making payment for their accommodation and food.

**Quarter of Captayne Wallford souldiers as they Came backe from Banbury which they paid for
Thomas Raynolds**

It's difficult to be precise about exactly when soldiers stayed here but two major battles and the soldiers involved are mentioned in Lighthorne's Loss Accounts. The first major battle of the English Civil Wars was the Battle of Edgehill on 23 October 1642. It commenced at 3 pm and was an inconclusive battle with probably less than 1000 killed but many wounded. Known at the time in Lighthorne and the surrounding villages as the Kington fight, 13 of the residents of Lighthorne record having quartered soldiers under the command of the Parliamentary Captain Rideley, either before or after the battle. It is known from other loss accounts that after the battle there was much confusion with troops dispersed in many directions. Newbold Pacey Loss Accounts include the quartering of many soldiers after Kington fight. It is believed that those killed at Edgehill were buried in mass graves near the battlefield but the location of these is not known. This is partly due to the fact that a major part of the battlefield is land now owned by the Ministry of Defence and access is not allowed for archaeological investigation.

No burials of soldiers from the battle are recorded in local parish registers. However one wounded soldier is recorded in the Newbold Pacey parish register as dying 6 days after the battle.

'A Souldier wounded in that great battell between the King and the Parliament Oct. 23 was buried Oct. 29'.
Newbold Pacey parish register

The only known headstone to a casualty from the Battle of Edgehill is in the churchyard at Warmington where there is an inscription 'Here lieth the body of Alexander Gourdin, Captaine, Buried the 25 Day of October Anno Domini 1642.'



Image © Colin Such

However those injured were obviously cared for by local people. In the Lighthorne Loss Account is an entry by William Jacocks claiming a loss of 12s for:

Charges for Maimed Soldiers and others at Kington fight

In Ashorne and Newbold Pacey's Account, Elizabeth Venour includes 2s

'for quartering a wounded souldyer after kinton fight'. TNA SP28/185

Later in the wars the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645 was a decisive Parliamentary victory. Naseby is in Northamptonshire and following the battle the victorious New Model Army forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax marched south-westwards, basically following the Fosse Way. Many villages on either side of this major road quartered troops and Lighthorne was no exception. 16 households reported that they had quartered troops (88 in total) for one night. Time and time again soldiers from both sides must have sought shelter in the village. In addition to those already mentioned, the Lighthorne Loss Accounts record quartering of troops under the command of General Cromwell, Captain Chamberlain, Colonel Fox, Major Purefoy, Colonel Whalley, Captain Wallford, Captain Wootton and Colonel Castle. And these are just the Parliamentary commanders. How many Royalist commanders may also have made use of Lighthorne hospitality?

Is there any evidence of fighting in Lighthorne?

There is nothing in the Lighthorne Loss Account to suggest that soldiers came into armed conflict in the village. The battle of Edgehill was the nearest major battle but closer to us than that, was the armed skirmish which took place in Chadshunt. Only about 2 miles away in the 1640s, before the development of the JLR site, Chadshunt was a thriving little community with a significant family named the Newsams being lords of the manor.

On 3 March 1644 a number of Major Hawkesworth's Warwick garrison Parliamentary soldiers engaged Royalists near Kineton and 12 of the Parliamentarians were killed. They retreated to the security of Chadshunt church and barricaded themselves into the tower. The Royalists, unable to penetrate the church, set fire to houses in the hamlet instead. Chadshunt church escaped serious damage.

Could life have been worse for the inhabitants of Lighthorne?

Definitely yes! Sometimes extra large numbers of troops would meet up for what was known as a 'rendezvous'. This happened in Ashorne and Newbold as Humanities Jackson reports **'For losses sustained by Collonel Beares at a Randevow kept at our towne'**. Larger towns suffered greatly through sieges. Newark, for example, had to withstand 3 sieges by Parliamentary forces, and to make matters worse, Royalist troops in the town, such as those under Prince Rupert, brought disease with them and many civilians died of bubonic plague and typhus. Stratford-upon-Avon suffered from an outbreak of plague in 1645 with 32 burials being recorded in the burial register as being from plague.

Do we know what people felt about their situation?

In the Lighthorne Loss Account there is no indication of feelings, simply lists of losses. But the voice of the ordinary villager is heard in other local loss accounts. Both the King and the Parliamentary officers issued instructions that soldiers should behave in a considerate fashion. Charles I issued a Proclamation against Pillaging in 1642 commanding that **'the goods of no inhabitants be despoiled or unjustly pillaged, but that due satisfaction be given for meat, or drink, or whatsoever shall be convenient and necessary for them.'**

It's interesting to find that in correspondence in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Record Office and Library dated 27 November 1642 Thomas Habington writes describing ransacking by soldiers 'to use the newe word, plundered'. Previous to that the word commonly in use was 'pillage'.

Obviously soldiers on both sides took little notice of instructions not to plunder. For example we find in the Loss Account for Chadshunt completed by Thomas Newsam

Item plundered from mee by a partie of Colone/ Purefoy his Troope commanded by Cornet Smith in Bridles, Saddles, horscloathes swords pistols and other goods to the valeu of £5 TNA SP28/182/3

His words are quite controlled though compared with two villagers from Moreton Morrell. Thomas Seeley laments

Item taken away violently 5 strike of Beanes, worth 14s which were taken by Captaine Martinne his soldiers, (A Parliament Captaine) TNA SP28/201/4

and his neighbour Thomas Overton is even angrier

other soldiers of that Troope at the same time broke into my barne by violence and Carried away 6 quarters of beanes which were worth £7 at the Least and allsoe tooke from mee 3 lambes worth at the least 12s which in all amounts to £9

and

the said soldiers put their horses into my barne, where was both wheate and barley Lying one the floore whereby I was very [ct?] much damnified; £2 *TNA SP28/201/4*

Master Colborn of Ashorne and Newbold was particularly angry about the losses he had incurred due to the presence of the Scots Army. He lists them in detail

Taken a way by the scotes one blanket one sheete a rapior a belt and a scarlet dublet and a new pillion and tenn shillings to by provinder when they went away £3 *TNA SP28/185*

Postscript

As a group of volunteers our transcription work is finished and the transcriptions are currently being checked in preparation for their inclusion in an online database. But our work is not yet done. As well as doing talks such as this one, and in assisting in promoting the existence of the loss accounts through a mobile exhibition, we have been asked to research the names included in our loss accounts, and to find out as much as we can about how the lives of those living in our communities were affected by the Civil Wars. We have started on this but the end is not, and never will be, in sight. Everywhere you look there are records that require further investigation. We came upon one such a few days ago. In Lighthorne Parish Register for 1646 is an entry which is difficult to decipher.

Mary Trevor a begar borne in the farme barne was baptised the 27th day of June 1646

Lighthorne Parish Register

This tells us that a baby was born in a farm barn in Lighthorne in 1646. She was given a name but there is no mention of either parent whereas every other entry gives clear details of both. Could this be related to an incident linked to the quartering of Parliamentary troops in Lighthorne? We started researching Mary by looking on Ancestry for anyone with the surname Trevor linked to Lighthorne, but found no one. Ancestry has the baptism recorded but someone has transcribed the surname as Brown, which it clearly isn't. Then we wondered whether, as a child with no known parents, she would have been supported by the overseers of the poor in Lighthorne whom we know existed in this period, and who paid out money to the poor who had no means of supporting themselves. Such orders were made by the Quarter Sessions held in Warwick. We looked in the Sessions Order Book for 1650-57, held at Warwick County Records Office, and there we found the following entry made in January 1657 when Mary would have been 10 ½ years old.

Mary Trivor, a poor child – whereas this court was this day informed on the behalf of one of the inhabitants of Lighthorne that Mary Trivor, a poor child of that town, is fit to be put to service and not to be brought up in idleness and might be entertained if moneys were raised to put her forth, it is therefore thought fit and so ordered that the constables and overseers of the poor of

Lighthorne shall forthwith agree upon a levy for raising of five pounds for clothing and placing forth the said Mary and she to be clothed and put forth to service, and hereof the said officers are not to fail.

According to a National Archives currency converter £5 in the 1650s would be the equivalent of over £500 today, so quite a generous amount. The Quarter Sessions obviously looked kindly on this child and the villagers of Lighthorne were expected to raise funds from within the village to enable her to be employed. When we have time we need to look further into the records of the period, to see if we can throw any further light on her life.

It's hard to imagine after so much disruption of people's lives, that tranquility and normality could ever return to rural Warwickshire. I was very pleased therefore when I chanced upon a letter written in Butlers Marston on April 10 1693, so 50 years after the Battle of Edgehill, by a certain Mr Dowdall. Having come from London, he was staying with a friend in Butlers Marston and he takes pleasure in describing the group of acquaintances he has made. The first person he mentions, Charles Newsham, is the son of the Thomas Newsham who completed the Chadshunt Loss Account. There is no mention of fighting, of plunder, or of financial loss. Every week this group of friends meet up for a chat. This could be the Lighthorne of today so let us finish with an extract from that letter, a charming description written over 300 years ago of country life in Warwickshire a few decades after the turmoil of the English Civil Wars.

There is a knott in these parts that meet at Kineton every Saturday in the afternoon, who are one and all, of which number my friend is one; and they are as true and sincere as they are generous and hospitable.

The first I shall name shall be Charles Newsham of Chadshunt, an ancient justice of the peace (tho' but fifty-eight years old), one that is every way a complete gentleman. He is an excellent scholar, and as good an historian; he is a great admirer of your Royal-Society-learning, This gentleman lives within two miles of us, having a paternal estate of £1000 per annum, besides a large addition by his own industry, &c.

The next is one Mr. Peeres, of an ancient family in this county, whose estate is £800 per annum. He lives at his manor of Alveston, lying on the banks of the river Avon, within five miles of this place; he married one of the above Mr. Newsham's daughters. He has a very fine house built lately, &c.

Another of the fraternity is Justice Bentley, an honest true-hearted gentleman. He is very fat and very rich, having an inheritance of £1,300 per annum, besides a vast personal estate, especially in money. He has one wife, one only son, and one maiden daughter of the age of twenty-four. He lives at Kineton, within one mile of us.

A fourth is Mr. Loggins, a near neighbour of ours. He has a pretty estate of £700 per annum, all contiguous about his house; he is excellent company, and keeps as excellent cyder.

To these I may add my friend and his father, whose characters I dare not take upon me to describe, fearing lest I should come short of their merit : but thus much I may say of them, that

that which makes even poverty comfortable they enjoy with plenty, and that is, unity and concord at home.

Traditionary Anecdotes of Shakespeare

Collected in Warwickshire in the year MDCXCIII

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