The Thorpe Skirmish - English Civil War 1646

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 in Sheffield Archives, available on microfiche PR39/1/1).

"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"

Account of a 'scurmage' in St Peter, Thorpe Salvin Composite register, [1592] - 1726 (burial entry, Oct 1646) *(Sheffield Archives: PR39/1/1)*

With the help of Barlborough Heritage Centre the following picture of a descendent of the wounded Thomas Battersby has been uncovered:

Anne Battersby delivering coals in Barlborough c. 1880. Each day she drove her horse and cart from Belph and back again, calling at the Portland Arms for ample refreshment at the end of the day, the horse managing to take her home afterwards. She was a descendant of John Battersby who lost his left hand in the Civil War skirmish on Whitwell Common.

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English Civil War – Background Information

The **First English Civil War** was fought in England and Wales, from August 1642 to June 1646. It forms one of the conflicts known collectively as the 1638 to 1651 Wars of the Three Kingdoms.

Following defeat in the First English Civil War, in May 1646 Charles I surrendered to the Scots Covenanters, rather than Parliament. In doing so, he hoped to exploit divisions between English and Scots Presbyterians, and English Independents.

At this stage, all parties expected Charles to continue as king, the only question being the terms. This allowed him to continue refusing significant concessions, while attempts to dissolve the New Model Army led to mutiny.

With backing from English Presbyterians, in December 1647, the Scottish Engagers agreed to restore Charles to the English throne. The Scottish invasion was supported by Royalist risings in South Wales, Kent, Essex and Lancashire, along with sections of the Royal Navy. However, lack of co-ordination enabled forces under Oliver Cromwell and Sir Thomas Fairfax to defeat each individually.

The 1648 **Second English Civil War** is one in a series of connected conflicts in the kingdoms of England, incorporating Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Known collectively as the 1638 to 1651 Wars of the Three Kingdoms, others include the Irish Confederate Wars, the 1638 to 1640 Bishops' Wars, and the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland.

Fighting ended in August; in January 1649, Charles was executed, and the Commonwealth of England established.

As a result, Charles II became the new king of Scotland, leading to the Third English Civil War in 1651.

The **Third English Civil War**(1650–1651) was the last of the English Civil Wars (1642–1651). It consisted primarily of an invasion of Scotland by an English army controlled by the commanded by Oliver Cromwell and a subsequent Scottish invasion of England by a Scottish army loyal to King Charles II and commanded by David Leslie. It ended after 14 months with Scotland conquered and garrisoned by the English, Charles in exile abroad, the English Parliament in control of the British Isles and Cromwell as the most influential man in the new Commonwealth.

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