

# THE PARAGON

Journal of Stocksbridge & District History Society



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## SOCIETY NEWS

Our membership is now approaching 80, with more than half that number attending each meeting, and we find ourselves very cramped in our meeting-room in the Library. So we have booked the United Reform Hall for the October and November meetings.

## THE SIEGE OF SHEFFIELD CASTLE

A Journal or true and exact relation of each days passage of that party of the Right Honourable the Earl of Manchesters Army under the command of the ever honoured Major General 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 and articles of the same. Purposely set forth for the honour of that party.

Published by authority

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Anno Domini 1644

August 1 Thursday The Major Generall drew out of Doncaster and the adjacent villages to the east end of the said town his own regiment; Colonel Pickerings and Colonell Montacute their regiments in all not above 1000 marching men. Lieutenant -Colonell Rich drew out his Colonell, Colonell Sidney, his regiment of horse. And thus with a great deal of patience we marched through a very rocky and almost inaccessible country in and about Conisborough, an old ruinous strong Castle where our ordnance were ever like to be overturned. Our foot came at night to Rotherham, our ordnance and carriages were left behinde with a sufficient guard to follow us; who came to Rotherham about midnight. The same day the Major-Generall omitted no opportunity, went the nearest way from Doncaster to Sheffield being accompanied with Colonell Bright (who at first valued not the castle), but when the Major-General had viewed it he found it to be a very considerable strength both for natural situation being in a triangle between two rivers, the water deep in the west and east sides of the castle flackered\* on all sides, a strong fort

before the gate pallisaded, a trench 12 foot deepe and 18 broad about the fort, and the other parts of the castle and a breast-worke pallisaded within the trench betwixt it and the Castle.

\* flanked?

The Major-General returned at night to Rotherham, and sent the Earl of Manchester a draught of their workes, and his opinion of the place, desiring his Lordship's further orders. The said colonell returned the next morning August 2<sup>nd</sup>. with a letter from the Earl of Manchester, wherein the Major-General was left to his own discretion, with this proviso; not to endanger men; which letter the Major-General did communicate to the rest of the officers, who were very willing to go in on that enterprise and to be directed by him. And thereupon they marched towards Sheffield, and Colonell Bright went towards Yorke to bring

two battering peeces from thence against Sunday night; we were to Sheffield Manour, being received and welcomed with great acclamations, and the prayers of that well-affected people. 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 Governor's chambers and thereafter we marched through the upper part of the Parke and drew a great circumference with our ordnance to eschew the danger of the Castle, and entered at the upper end of the towne where the townsmen with great joy drew down the ordnance to the market place; and thereafter the Major-Generall summoned them by a trumpeter in the Earl 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

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CASTLE

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not get audience.

All this night all degrees and sexes with all cheerfulness cut sods and brought them to make the battery across the street within 40 yards of the castle where the careful and diligent Major-Generall was himself working, encouraging others with his presence, cheerfull words and example the battery was well nigh perfected this night.

August 3. Captain Sands captain of the pioneers and the Master gunner attended the Major-Generall to view the little toure [tower?] by the river that flaunted\* two quarters of the castle, and the mount before the gate to the end that they should find some convenient place to raise a battery to beat it down which might be very advantageous for us to the gaining of the Castle.

Whereupon the Captaine and the gunner were both shot, the one through the thigh and the other through the shoulder, whereof they both after dyed. They were shot in a place which was out of view of the castle having both houses and hay betwixt them and it; this night we helped and raised the battery made the platforme, and the Major-Generall with Major Hamilton went to view the castle more narrowly.

August 4. [Sunday] After two sermons this day all the people went to erect a new battery, and at night the Major-Generall with

Major Forbes and Major Hamilton went to view a sluice which was stopt to keep the water deep about the moat side of the Castle which he thought to drain the more to facilitate his business. This night was spent by him in great toile and no small danger the ordnance was planted without all hurt.

August 5. 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 entrusted unto him by his Majestie, which trust he valued more than his life.

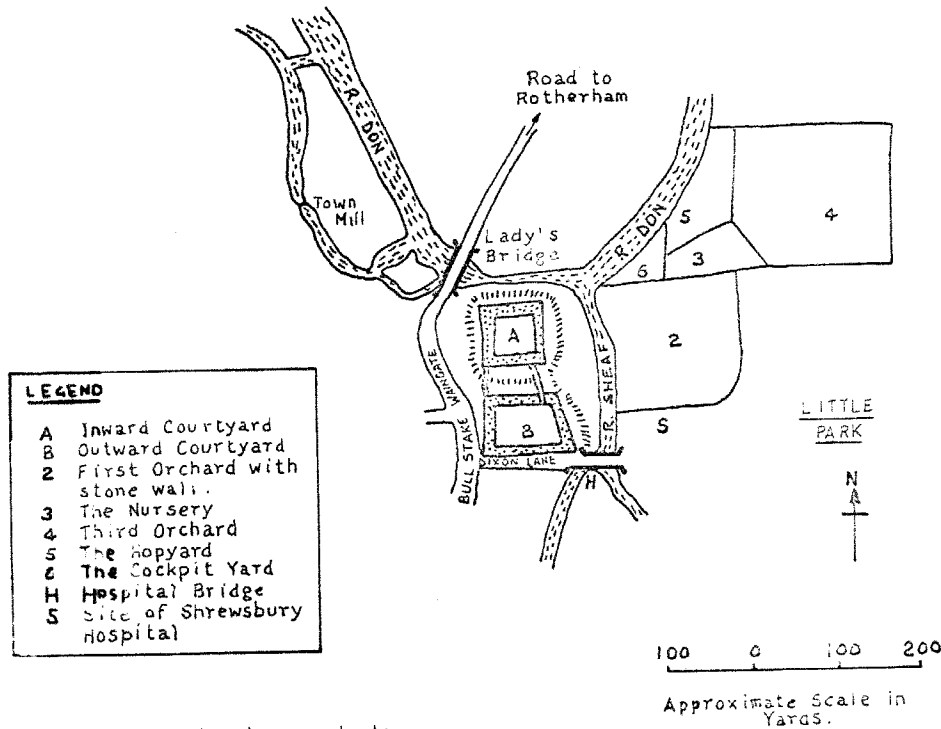
At night the Major-Generall by threats, promises and moneys got together some colliers to myne the castle which they found not so feasible it being buildd on a rock. This day the Major-Generall wrote to the Earle of Manchester that ammunition and ball was likely to be wanting, and the Major-Generall went to the Iron Mills and set men awork to make moulds for to cast balls for our pieces which was forthwith done; this night the Major-Generall attempted to break up the sluice through the dam to let out the water of that corner against the orchard on the east side of the castle which could not take effect. And this night we perfected the battery and platform that flaunched\* the drawbridge of the Castle with intention to beat it downe with one of our

Sakars, whereby they might not have passage to relieve the fort from the Castle.

August 7. This day we received some powder from the Earle of Manchester, some Sakar shot from the Iron works and newes of Coll Bright that he was on the march with 500 foot and 300 horse to convey an iron Demicannon and the Queen's Pocket Pistoll to us. Whereupon the Major-Generall sent to hasten their march and this day the towne of Sheffield sent a petition to the Earle of Manchester desiring his honour to continue his forces with them untill the Lord would be pleased to

deliver it into our hands, otherwise of all men would be the most miserable; for if they aboad after our departure their consciences would be overburthened, their estates plundered and themselves become subject to all slavery and misery or otherwise they would be necessitated to follow the Army; hereupon his Lordship was pleased of his own goodness to take into consideration their present condition, and the ensuing dangers of so good a people and did grant a positive to reduce the castle and not to depart from it until it surrendered. And this night the Major-Generall raised a new battery against the west side of the Castle and then

N.B. THIS IS NOT PRESENTED AS A PLAN OF THE CASTLE, BUT MERELY AS A POSSIBLE SCHEME TO SATISFY THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION.  
The basic river scheme is taken from "A Correct Plan of the Town of Sheffield in the County of York" drawn by Wm. Fairbank in 1771.



An attempt has been made to make the areas drawn approximately to the correct scale. The first item has been taken to mean the courtyards and the mote.

placed the culvering which made a small breach the next day.

August 8. Our Sakars beat downe the battlements and part of the towne that flaunched\* that quarter of the Castle, and dismounted a *drake* planted thereon. This day the enemy shot some great *granadoes* into the towne and churchyard which did no execution; the same day two gunners were shot through the portholes in the fingers by the enemy. The Major-Generall sent Major Alford to conduct the ordnance with four troopes of horse from Doncaster to us, hearing that the 500 foot were diminished to one, and that the horse were not above 200 in all. He likewise sent to the adjoining Constables to provide draughts [horses] to further the ordnance speedy march.

August 9. This day at 6 o'clock in the evening the ordnance came to us and the Major-Generall both day and night with indefatigable paines did see the battery raised higher, the portholes mended, the ground levelled, the platformes made and the ordnance planted.

August 10. This day the Culverin, the Demi-cannon and Pocket-Pistoll plaid at the breach, the sakers at the battlements very soundly, which made a good breach, and thereafter summoned them the second time to yeeld the place for King and Parliament; in answer whereto they desired a parley; which was granted, and the Commissioners authorised by the Major-Generall were: Colonell Pickering, Lieutenant Colonell Grames and Major Hamilton; and for them were Captain Heinsworth, Mr. Samuel Savill and Mr. Robson, which parley continued till sixe of the clocke at night without effect but that Captain Heinsworth with his associates desired that they might acquaint the Governour with the debates controverted, which was granted, and that they should returne an answer within a quarter of an houre, or otherwise stand to their hazard. And they returning no answer within the time prefixed we discharged six shot more, which brought them to a desire to a continuation of the treaty which was continued till night, and thereafter agreed on these articles inclosed and they sent out hostages to us for performance of the Articles viz: Sir John Key and Captain Heinsworth.

Articles of Agreement between the Commanders authorised by Major-Generall Craford and Major Thomas Beaumont Governor of Sheffield Castle for surrendering the said Castle to the Right Honourable the Earl of Manchester upon conditions following:-

1. That the Castle of Sheffield with all their firearms, ordnance and ammunition and all other furniture of warre with all other provisions therein (excepting what is allowed in the following articles) be delivered up to Major-General Craford tomorrow in the afternoone by three of the clocke being the eleventh instant august without any diminution or imbezlement.
2. That the Governor all Field Officers, Captaines, Lieutenants and Ensignes shall march out of the castle upon delivery thereof with their drums and colours and each his own horse, saddle sword and

pistolls to Pontefract Castle or such place as they shall desire with a sufficient convoy or Passe for their security; and the common soldiers with the inferior officers, to march out with their swords and pikes each to his own home or where else they please.

3. That all such officers and souldiers as march out upon this agreement, shall have liberty to carry with them their wives, children and servants, with their own goods properly belonging to them and have all convenient accommodation for carrying of the same.
4. That the Lady Savile with her children and familie and their owne proper goods shall make passe with coaches, horses and waggons to Thornehill or elsewhere with a sufficient guard befitting the quality of her person, without injurie to any of their persons, or plundering any of their goods, or otherwise she or they or any of them to go or stay at their own pleasure until she or they be in a condition to remove themselves.
5. That the gentlemen in the Castle being no souldiers shall march out with each of his own horse, sadle, sword and pistolls and shall have liberty to remove their goods and to live at their own houses or elsewhere without molestation, they conforming themselves to all the Ordinances of Parliament, and that they shall have protections from the Earle of Manchester or Lord Fairfax for the same and all the officers and souldiers who desire to lay down armes shall enjoy the same protection.
6. That the Governor, officers, souldiers, gentlemen and all others who are by this agreement to carry their goods with them, shall have sixe weeks time for removing of them and in the meantime they are to be left in the Castle and they secured from imbezlling and this Article is to be understood of all such goods as are at present either within the Castle or under the absolute command thereof.
7. That Kelme Homer [ "Kelham Howmer plummer and armourer in the Castle" *Hunter's Hallamshire*] now dwelling in the Castle shall have liberty to remove his goods into the towne or elsewhere without molestation.
8. That all the officers and souldiers, gentlemen and other persons shall, according to the Articles above mentioned, march out of the Castle without any injury or molestation by plundering, stripping or otherwise.
9. That hostages (such as Major-Generall Craford shall approve) be delivered by the Governor upon signing of these Articles for the delivering up of the Castle and safe returne of the convoy which shall be returned safely upon the performance thereof unto such places as they shall desire.

Signed by us the Commissioners authorised by Major-General Craford at Sheffield this 10<sup>th</sup>. day of August 1644

STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT  
HISTORY SOCIETY

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BETTY MCKAY ----- TEL 288 2269

ARCHIVE LIAISON

BRENDA DUFFIELD ----- TEL. 288 2349

MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD TEMPORARILY AT THE  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON THE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.00 PM.

THE PARAGON

NEXT EDITION—DECEMBER 2005

PUBLICATION DEADLINE—10TH NOVEMBER

MEETINGS

❁ PROGRAMME 2005 ❁

OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>.

MEMBERS EVENING – OPEN FORUM

NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.

BETTY MCKAY THE POPPY PEOPLE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.

CAROL SUPPER AT THE UNITED REFORM  
HALL

Designed & printed by Mike's DTP 014 246 4200 mike@pich.co.uk

Signed by us the Commissioners authorised by Major  
Thomas Beaumont Governor of Sheffield Castle at Sheffield  
this 10<sup>th</sup>. day of August 1644

J. Pickering                      Gabriel Hemsworth                      Marke Gryme  
Samuel Savile                      William Hamilton                      Thomas Robson

I do hereby ingage myselfe to the faithfull performance of  
the articles above mentioned agreed upon by the  
Commissioners authorised by me.

L. Craford

[identicle declaration sgned Thomas Beaumont]

August 11. This day after solemn thanks performed the Lady  
Savill with her retinue marched forth of the Castle with her  
retinue to Woodhouse wither she was safely conveyed by a  
Lieutenant of our horse. The Governour being 200 strong  
marched out of the castle and those few ( not being in all  
30 ) that had no desire to lay downe their armes were to be  
conveyed to Pontefract by Captain Gothericke one of the  
Lord Fairfax his captain of horse who expected them all day  
at the bridge under the castle, but they came forth so drunk  
that they were not apprehensive of danger, nor capable of  
anything but evil and railing speeches , whereof they were  
very lavish which cost some straglers their cloathes who went  
not with the convoy.

The Governour, Capt. Hemsworth and many others  
received protections to live in the cuntry, they submitting  
themselves to all the ordinances of Parliament. We got in  
this castle abundance of provision, which was sold for the  
use of the army to the towne of Sheffield for 250 li. [£] We  
found many hundreds of Grenados and many hundred of  
round shot from the cannon to the minion, ten barrells of  
powder, eight iron pieces, five hundred armes and some  
provisions and necessaries for the castle two mortar pieces.

