

WAR REPORTS



Sir Lewis Dyve, 1599-1669

Having served with Prince Rupert, Dyve the self-appointed Royalist Governor press-ganged the locals into building the first entrenchments in the town, earthworks in Bury Field and a stone wall in Marsh End to draw water round the town. He had an estate at Bromham.



Sealed Knot re-enactors at Riverside Meadows, 1980



Sir George Booth

Booth supported Parliament at the outset of the First War but swapped allegiance becoming a Royalist as the Civil War progressed.

Tales of Daring Deeds

After the capture of the town by the Roundheads, Sir Samuel Luke scoured the area for his arch rival Sir Lewis Dyve, the local royalist leader who had a reputation as a dashing, daredevil soldier and who first governed the town. Following a raid on his home, Dyve was forced to dive into the River Ouse near Bedford swimming to safety to evade capture by Luke's forces. A method he later repeated in the Thames whilst escaping from the Tower of London.

Another escape recorded by a Civil Servant of the time was that of Sir George Booth, who led a Royalist uprising in 1659. Defeated, he fled Chester dressed as a woman and accompanied by a few loyal companions they stopped at the Red Lion in Newport Pagnell. A maid became suspicious of 'Mrs Dorothy's' abnormally large feet and later another maid observed 'her shaving' through a crack in the door. The landlord raised the alarm and 20 locals, including the vicar, burst in upon Mrs Dorothy's room at 1 a.m. arresting the fugitives at gun-point. The 'good people of Newport' bought Booth a hat, men's clothes and new boots before sending him under guard to the Tower of London. Booth was later released from gaol by Charles II, awarded £10,000 and elevated to the title of Lord Delamer.

Tales of Daring Deeds

A tale of poaching on the Hillesden estate, written in a letter dated 1642 to his former employer, a London merchant, by Sergeant Nehemiah Wharton an officer in the Parliamentarian army.

"Marched to Sir Alexander Denton's park, who is a malignant fellow, and killed a fat buck, fastened his head upon my halberd and commanded two of my pikes to bring the body out to me at Buckingham... with part of it I feasted my captain (and other officers) and had much thanks for my pains."

The National Archives

