

**THE CIVIL WAR IN
WORCESTERSHIRE,
1642-1646; THE SCOTCH
INVASION OF 1651**

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The Civil War in Worcestershire, 1642-1646; The Scotch Invasion of 1651 by J. W. Willis Bund

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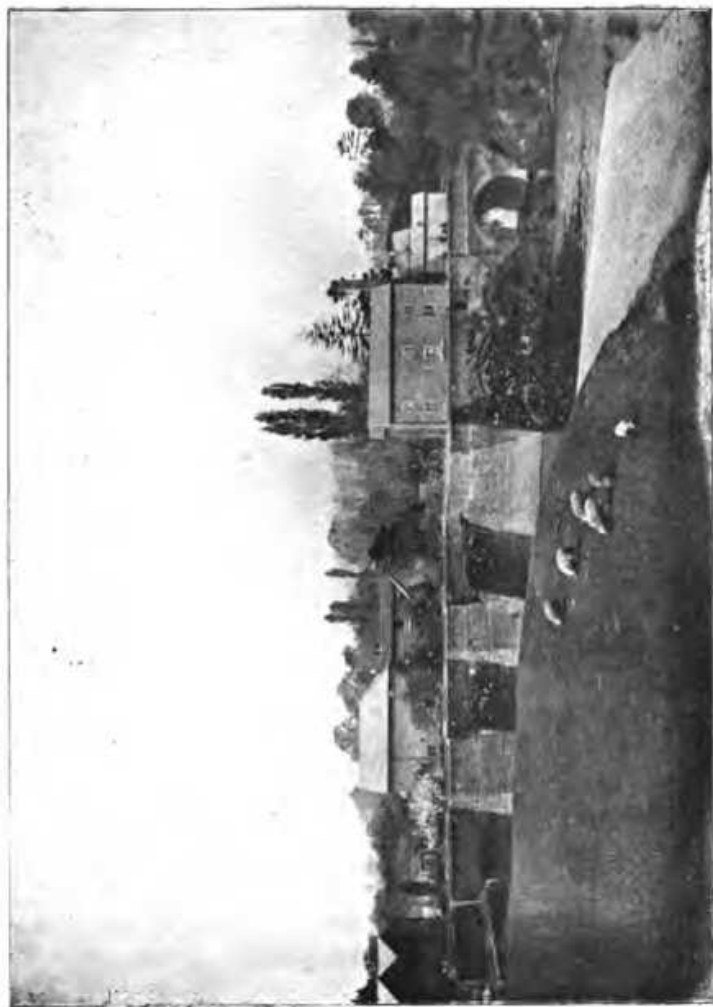
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J. W. WILLIS BUND

**THE CIVIL WAR IN
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1642-1646; THE SCOTCH
INVASION OF 1651**



POWICK OLD BRIDGE.
THE SCENE OF THE FIGHTING, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1650, AND 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1651. THE ARCHES BROKEN DOWN IN 1635 AND THE TWO ON THE
RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.

M.I.V.
1911

THE CIVIL WAR IN
WORCESTERSHIRE,

1642-1646;

AND

THE SCOTCH INVASION

OF 1651.

Thos. Cadman

BY

J. W. WILLIS BUND.

Long Hyde

1906



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P R E F A C E .

In the Autumn of 1904 the Worcestershire County Council organised courses of lectures for teachers in the elementary schools, and did me the honour to ask me to give one of the courses. The subject I selected was the Civil War in the County, and this for two reasons. First, that there should be some connected account of the part the County played in the great struggle; none existed, and ideas as to the fighting were disconnected and vague. Secondly, I hoped that if once an interest could be excited in the subject that some of the legends of the war that still remain might be preserved. After all, 250 years is not so very long. I knew, when a boy, an old lady who told me that her nurse's father, as a young man, was on duty on Worcester Bridge at the battle. Mr. Burton, in his History of Bewdley, tells of an old inhabitant who had been informed by his grandfather that he had heard the sound of the guns at the battle. There are numbers of legends as to where Charles I. slept when in the County, and some few as to where Cromwell stayed; but all are stated to relate to the Battle of Worcester. Possibly most of them have a foundation of truth, and they are at least worth preserving.

I cannot lay claim to any original research, or to having done anything to throw light on some of the dark places of the County history. I have failed to get any clear account of several of the less known incidents of the Civil War, such as Lord Willoughby's fight before

Edgehill with Rupert's cavalry; Wilmot's attempted relief of Dudley; Fox's carrying off Sir Thomas Lyttelton; the fight at Corse Lawn; the Clubmen; the plots in 1647 and 1648. These are only some of the points on which further information is wanted.

Except that certain additions (mainly extracts from different authorities) have been made, the lectures are printed substantially as they were given. Various points which deserved to be treated at length are consequently very briefly noticed.

The book is only a concise summary, not a history, of the Civil War in the County. On one point I have ventured to depart from the generally received opinion, and to put forward my own views,—the campaign of 1651. I do not believe that Cromwell ever intended to finish the battle in the way it was finished, but when the chance came to him he took advantage of it.

I have to thank various persons for help. Mr. Duckworth, of the Worcester Victoria Institute, for the old plan of Worcester as it stood fortified; Rev. J. R. Burton, for view of Bewdley Old Bridge; Mr. Wm. North, Tewkesbury, for permission to reproduce Old Bridge at Upton-on-Severn; and Mr. Mason, of the County Education Office, for arranging the lectures.

J. W. B.

*Shirehall,
Worcester,
31st August, 1905.*

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INTRODUCTION.

The following pages are an attempt to give an account of the great Civil War so far as it concerned Worcestershire.

Usually, the Battle of Worcester has been taken as synonymous with the Civil War in the County, but it was quite an isolated incident, that did not occur until five years after the great war had ended.

Shortly, the story of the Worcestershire fighting was as follows :—

1642. The King moved from Nottingham to Shrewsbury. The Earl of Essex, who commanded the Parliament army, was ordered to prevent the King advancing on London, so marched from Northampton to Stratford-on-Avon, Pershore to Worcester. Charles, having completed his preparations, marched by Wolverhampton, Birmingham, towards Banbury, thus getting between Essex and London. Turning round, he defeated Essex at Edgehill, and slowly marched on towards London. The result was that the Parliament troops evacuated the County.

1643. The King established his head-quarters at Oxford, and was most anxious to win the Highlands of the Cotswolds and the line of the Severn. The Parliament had two armies. Their plan was that the two armies, one of which was engaged before Reading under Essex, the other under Waller had its head-quarters at Bristol, should unite and take Oxford. Essex took Reading. Waller, operating from Gloucester, cleared the county, and by taking Hereford cut off communication with Wales. To make all safe in the Severn Valley, Charles besieged Gloucester, but Essex was able to raise the siege.

1644. Again the Parliament tried the same plan as the previous year. Essex and Waller were to join and march on Oxford. They did so, and very nearly caught Charles, but he escaped, marched by Broadway to Evesham, Pershore to Worcester, and on to Bewdley. Waller followed him, but the two armies did not come to close quarters; the only fighting was Wilmot's attempt to relieve Dudley Castle, which was being besieged by Lord Denbigh. Charles retired towards Oxford, followed by Waller, who was defeated by Wilmot at Cropredy Bridge. Charles then returned into Worcestershire, and stayed at Evesham for some days.

1645. Massey, the Governor of Gloucester, stormed and took Evesham, thus severing the Royalist line of march from