

CIVIL WARS ~ RHYFELOEDD CARTREF

The divisions of the Tudor times worsened in the 17th century. Crown and Parliament were at odds over taxes, religion and the king's behaviour. Sir Thomas Myddelton, owner of Chirk castle declared for Parliament. However, the local Welsh gentry stayed loyal to the king.

In 1642 Charles I addressed enthusiastic crowds in Wrexham, but Parliament's forces were just across the Dee in Cheshire. Holt was the constant scene of skirmishes and surprise attacks during the Civil War. Both sides knew Holt bridge was the gateway to north Wales. In 1646 with the fall of Chester, Parliament's forces finally secured north Wales. Holt castle held out until early 1647.

Life during the Republic was strict. Morgan Llwyd, a radical preacher, became vicar of Wrexham, and the Commission for the Propagation of the Gospels in Wales made the town a centre for Puritanism. Soon the local gentry were plotting for a return of the monarchy and Sir Thomas Myddelton backed the Restoration.

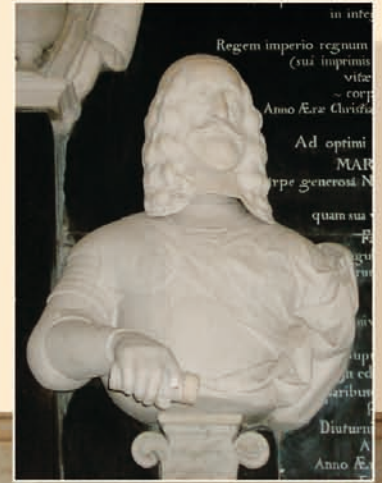
The religious divides took longer to heal. In the early 18th century, there were many Jacobites, the supporters of the exiled Stuarts, in the town. The Jacobites had a secret club based at the Eagles Inn, now the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, from where they encouraged the local mob to attack the meeting houses of the Nonconformists.

Gwaethygodd rhaniadau cyfnod y Tuduriaid yn y 17eg ganrif. Roedd y Goron a'r Senedd yn methu cytuno ar drethi, crefydd ac ymddygiad y brenin. Yn lleol, cyhoeddodd Syr Thomas Myddelton, perchennog Castell y Waun gefnogaeth i'r Senedd. Arhosodd y boneddigion lleol o Gymru yn ffyddlon i'r brenin.

Yn 1642, rhoddodd Siarl I araith o flaen torfeydd brwdfrydig yn Wrecsam, ond roedd lluoedd y Senedd ar draws y Ddyfrdwy yn sir Gaer. Gwelodd Holt olygfeydd cyson o ysgarmesau ac ymosodiadau annisgwyl yn ystod y Rhyfel Cartref. Roedd y ddwy ochr yn gwybod mai Pont Holt oedd y fynedfa i ogledd Cymru. Yn 1646, pan oresgynnwyd Caer, llwyddodd lluoedd y Senedd i gael gafael ar ogledd Cymru. Gwrthsefyllodd castell Holt yr ymosodiadau tan ddechrau 1647.

Roedd bywyd yn ystod y Weriniaeth yn llym iawn. Daeth Morgan Llwyd, pregethwr radical, yn ficer i Wrecsam ac o ganlyniad i'r Comisiwn dros Ledaeniad yr Efyngyl yng Nghymru trodd y dref yn ganolfan Piwritaniaeth. Cyn bo hir roedd y boneddigion lleol yn cynllwynio i weld y frenhiniaeth yn dychwelyd ac roedd Syr Thomas Myddelton yn cefnogi hyn.

Cymerodd y rhaniadau crefyddol fwy o amser i wella. Ar ddechrau'r 18fed ganrif, roedd nifer o Jacobiaid, cefnogwyr y Stiwardiaid alltud, yn y dref. Roedd gan y Jacobiaid glwb cyfrinachol wedi'i leoli yn nhafarn yr Eryrod, sef gwesty'r Wynnstay Arms erbyn hyn. Yno, byddent yn annog y werin leol i ymosod ar fannau cyfarfod yr anghydfurfwyr.



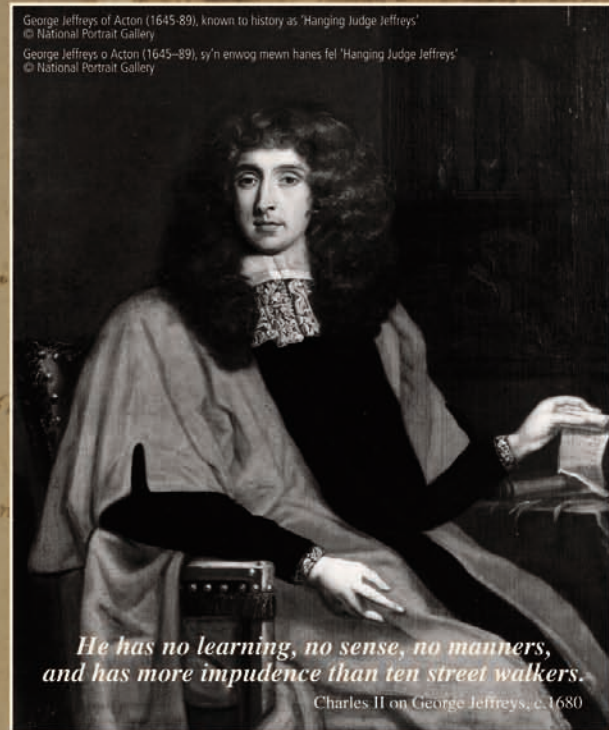
Memorial to Sir Thomas Myddelton, Parliamentary general during the Civil War, Chirk Parish church.
Cofrestrir i Syr Thomas Myddelton, cadfridog seneddol yn ystod y Rhyfel Cartref, Eglwys y Pwyl, Y Waun.

17th century illustration of Holt castle, Harleyan Manuscripts © British Library
Darllun o gastell Holt o'r 17eg ganrif, Harleyan Manuscripts © British Library



October 20th 1715 – The king's Coronation Day. The Bells rung, but at night great Riots and Disorders committed. The Dissenters' bonfires put out, the Meeting Houses threatened, and the Mob beat at the door. Treasonable songs sung about the town.

John Kenrick, Wrexham diarist & Nonconformist minister
John Kenrick, dyddiadurwr a gweinidog Anghydfurfaeth yn Wrecsam



George Jeffreys of Acton (1645-89), known to history as 'Hanging Judge Jeffreys'
© National Portrait Gallery
George Jeffreys o Acton (1645-89), sy'n enwog mewn hanes fel 'Hanging Judge Jeffreys'
© National Portrait Gallery

He has no learning, no sense, no manners, and has more impudence than ten street walkers.

Charles II on George Jeffreys, c. 1680



Memorial to Sir Richard Trevor of Thewlyn, 1638, Gresford Parish church.
Cofrestrir i Syr Richard Trevor o Thewlyn, 1638, Eglwys y Pwyl, Gresford