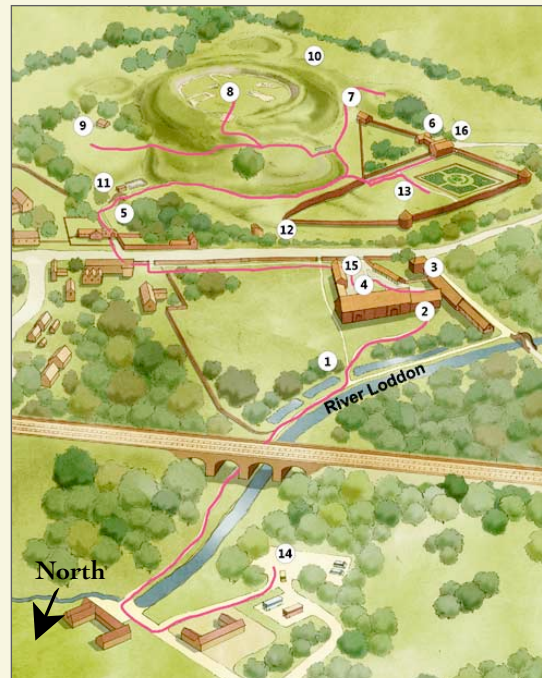




A LONG SIEGE

The siege of Basing House was a protracted one, starting in July 1643 and ending in September 1645. The early stages began with a sudden rush without formal siege lines and was easily repulsed by the small garrison. So began a prolonged siege of some two years. In November 1643, William Waller with 7000 horse and foot launched three direct assaults on the place. By spring 1644 Waller decided to blockade the place. In time he received reinforcements and batteries were set up against the place. When asked to surround the answer was, "Sir,- It is a crooked demand, and shall receive its answer suitable. I keep the House in the right of my Sovereign, and will do it in despite of your forces. Your letter I will preserve as a testimony of your rebellion. Winchester." A second demand was made "Sir, Whereas you demand the House and Garrison of Basing by a pretended authority of Parliament, I make this answer : That without the King there can be no Parliament, by His Majesty's Commission I keep the place, and without his absolute command shall not deliver it to any pretenders whatever. I am, yours to serve you, *Winchester*." Eventually Waller withdrew after two successful relief efforts were made. After the King's defeat at Naseby Cromwell arrived on the scene September 1645.



BASING HOUSE

A good description of the House as it stood before the Siege is found in the Marquis's own Diary. Basing House stood on a rising ground, its form circular, encompassed with brick ramparts lined with earth {this ran round the old Norman castle walls and new house}, and a very deep ditch but dry. The lofty Gate-house, with four turrets, looking Northwards, on the right hand thereof, without the ditch, a goodly building containing two fair courts (8); before them was the Grange (4), severed by a wall and common road, &c. The Gate-house is said to have been built in 1562 (5). Nothing remains but the arched entrance. The siege works and defenses are shown as 10. The gardens 13 were a later Jacobean addition.

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT TOWN & MANOR OF
BASINGSTOKE BY F. J. BEIGNET & J. E. MILLARD
THE BASING HOUSE MUSEUM WEB SITE
PAINTINGS BY ERNEST CROFTS

BASING HOUSE

E.C.W.



ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Basing House was the property of John Paulet, fifth Marquis of Winchester. Basing House was near Basingstoke, in Hampshire, England. Here was won a Parliamentary victory over the Royalists of Charles I. This was achieved after a siege of two years. During this time the siege went back and forth until Oliver Cromwell appeared on the scene with thousands for fresh troops as well his dominating ability.

When Clubs Were Trump

ENTER CROMWELL

Cromwell marched to the town of Winchester, which at once opened its gates. From Winchester he advanced to Basing and summoned the Marquis to surrender. The Marquis replied, that if the King had no more ground in England than Basing House, he would defend it to the last man. Cromwell set up his batteries and arranged his regiments. The attack was so sudden and so successful giving rise to the saying that the guards were surprised while playing a game of cards where, "Clubs were trumps when Basing House was taken." Now a traditional saying.

FINAL STORMING OF BASING HOUSE 1645

Cromwell's characteristic letter dated from Basingstoke on the 14th October, 1645, to William Lenthall, the Speaker of the House of Commons:

I thank God, I can give you a good account of Basing. After our batteries were placed, we settled the several posts for the storm: Colonel Dalbiere was to be on the north side of the house the Grange, Colonel Pickering on his left hand, and Sir Hardress Waller's and Colonel Mountague's Regiments nearest to him. We stormed this morning after six of the clock; the signal for falling on was the firing four of our cannon, which being done, our men fell on with great resolution and cheerfulness; we took the two houses without any considerable loss to ourselves; Colonel Pickering stormed the new House, passed through and got the gate of the old House, whereupon they summoned a parley, which our men would not hear. In the mean time Colonel Mountague's and Sir Hardress Waller's

Regiments assaulted the strongest work, where the enemy kept his court of guard, which with great resolution they recovered, beating the

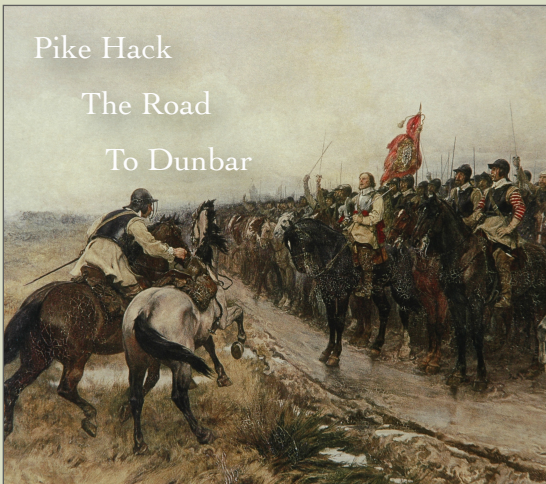
enemy from a whole culverin, and from that work, which having done, they drew their ladders after them and got over another work, and the house wall before they could enter. In this Sir Hardress Waller, performing his duty with honor and diligence, was shot on the arm, but not dangerously. We have had little loss, many of the enemy our men put to the sword and some officers of quality. Most of the rest we have prisoners,



amongst which the Marquess and Sir Robert Peake, with divers other officers, whom I have ordered to be sent up to you. We have taken about ten pieces of ordnance, much ammunition, and our soldiers a good encouragement." The booty thus referred to is said to have been worth £200,000, and Hugh Peters, Cromwell's Chaplain, in his "Full and last Elation of all things concerning Basing House," ... Peters himself presented to the Parliament in London the Marquis's own colors, which bore the motto of the King's coronation money, "Donee pax redeat terris," (Until Peace return to the earth.).



Pike Hack
The Road
To Dunbar



THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

The English Civil War (E.C.W.) is important to Americans because it was to set the stage for the founding first of the American Colonies and then the United States. The issues were not religious or economic. There was never a question of where government authority came from; government authority and peoples rights were and are Providential. The issue was whether one man, who was abrogating his covenant authority to rule, in regard to the rights of the people and their elected officials in the Parliament should continue to rule. Pike Hack will refight the battles but not the issue.