

Selected Sources for the Seventeenth Century – English Civil Wars period

STATE PAPERS

For SP16 to SP27 Series see TNA Lists & Indexes Vol. 43. See also TNA Information Leaflet. State Papers Domestic: The Commonwealth [1642-60]

Published calendars online through British History Online and mostly searchable with images from ProQuest/TNA State Papers Online

<p><i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i>, J Bruce, WD Hamilton & C Lomas, eds. 23 Volumes 1858-1893. Each volume is indexed</p>	<p>State Papers Domestic, Charles I 1625-1649 Mostly the papers of the Secretaries of State. They are very thin for 1641-1649 when papers that would normally have been deposited in the State Paper Office were instead carried round the country by the king and his Secretaries. Few actually found their way into the State Paper Office (in London, in Parliamentary hands) unless they were captured in battle. The main series is SP16: outsize papers are in SP 17</p> <p>Committee of Both Kingdoms (Derby House Committee): Books 1644-1650 The same calendar also includes, for 1644-1649, the papers of the Parliamentary Committee of Both Kingdoms, the principal executive committees of Parliament created when the Scots Army entered England by invitation in January 1649</p>	<p>SP16 SP17</p> <p>SP 21</p>
<p>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, of the Commonwealth MAE Green ed., 13 vols 1875-1886. Each volume indexed</p>	<p>Council of State, Navy Commission and related bodies: Orders & Papers 1649-1660 Working papers of the Councils of State (The Parliamentary version of the King's Privy Council) and of Parliamentary Committees. Scattered amongst them are papers of the Admiralty Committee and the Commissioners for the Navy 1649-59 (244 volumes).</p> <p>Order Books of the Councils of State 1649-59 (139 volumes.)</p>	<p>SP 18</p> <p>SP 25</p>
<p><i>Calendar of Proceedings of the Committee for the Advance of Money 1642-1656</i>, MAE Green ed, 3 vols, 1888</p>	<p>Committee for the Advance of Money: Books & Papers 1643-53 Assessed and collected money from all men of substance who refused to lend voluntarily to Parliament. Met at Haberdashers Hall, London & originally was intended for Londoners but committees further afield were later called to account for funds. By 1646 the assessments were restricted to royalists. Not all material is in the calendar. For example, long assessment lists of Londoners were excluded because the series included indexes to them. See Introductory Note to the list of SP 19 at the TNA</p>	<p>SP 19</p>
<p><i>Calendar for the Committee for Compounding etc 1643-1660</i> MAE Green ed. 5 vols, Index in vol 5 available on microfiche from SoG and online</p>	<p>Committee for Compounding with Delinquents: Books & Papers 1643-1660 Papers of the Committee for Compounding with Delinquents 1643-59 responsible for negotiating the conditions upon which the delinquents regained their estates. Sat in Goldsmiths' Hall, London. Initially Catholics and the Kings political advisors were not permitted to compound although some certainly did. From 1644, after sequestration of their estates, most royalists and non combatant catholic delinquents who were prepared to sacrifice part of their estate to safeguard the rest and protect themselves could/were permitted to pay compensation and were allowed to "compound or appeal to have their lands restored in return for a fine expressed as a fraction of the capital value of the property". Can contain "vast amounts of information about marriage contracts, dower rights, annuities to younger sons, etc. which were deductible from the pre composition assessment in certain circumstances Contains most of the papers of the Committee for Sequestration. 266 volumes (once known as Royalist Composition Papers. W P W. Phillimore <i>Royalist Composition Papers Index Nominum: BRS Index Library Vol. 3</i> (1889). Only A-F published) lists names omitted from the formal calendars above.</p>	<p>SP 23</p>

<p>No printed calendar. See the Introductory Note to SP 20 at the TNA</p>	<p>Sequestration Committee: Books & Papers 1643-1653 Papers of the committee for Sequestration 1643-9 which administered the estates of those accused of having voluntarily helped the royalist cause or of being Catholics and whose lands were thereby confiscated to the service of the state. Moveable goods were to be inventoried and sold, the landed property leased for the profit of the state. Based on an informant's information rather than detection, if delinquency was proven the owner was permanently deprived of his estates and property but allowed back a fifth for the maintenance of his children while another fifth went to the informant. In cases of recusancy the offender was allowed one third of his estate back. When it was merged with the Committee for Compounding its working papers were absorbed by the new committee (SP23). The 13 volumes are largely the order books and are an important and neglected source.</p>	<p>SP 20</p>
<p>No printed calendar: see the Introductory Note to SP 24 at the TNA</p>	<p>Committee for Indemnity: Books & Papers 1647-55 Granted protection to all civilian officials for actions undertaken upon ordinances of Parliament and to all soldiers for things done in time and place of war. The order books are in chronological order and are indexed by IND 1/8899-8903, the petitions and case papers are in alphabetical order of supplicants. (87vols)</p>	<p>SP 24</p>
<p>No printed calendar: see the Introductory Note to SP 20 at the TNA</p>	<p>Committee of Plundered Ministers: Orders & Papers Assisted in finding livings for and augmenting the stipends of ministers loyal to Parliament, 3 volumes. Often cites the names of recusants whose estates have been sequestered to provide a living for the "plundered" minister. Incomplete indexes at TNA</p>	<p>SP 22</p>
	<p>Commonwealth Exchequer Papers (so-called) A miscellany of documents which were artificially grouped together. Many of them are properly not State Papers but stray records from the King's Remembrancer papers of the Exchequer. Randomly collected, its existence is the responsibility of nineteenth century archivists who consigned to this class most things they failed to accommodate elsewhere. The most important are:-</p> <p>Vols. 1-119 orders and warrants by the Committee for the Army and Military Commanders for payments to troops and contracts (1642-60) Vols. 120-139 military accounts (arranged by county). Vols. 145-204 assessments, loans, contributions, etc. (arranged by county). Vols. 205-218 sequestrations papers (arranged geographically). Vols. 252-260 papers of the committees for taking the accounts of the kingdom. Vols. 271-317 papers of the Trustees for the sale of crown lands.</p> <p>Indexes online in 2011</p>	<p>SP 28</p>
	<p>Trustees for Fee Farm Rents and of the Committee for Crown Lands: Papers (during the years when Parliament was selling them off. 10 volumes.)</p>	<p>SP 26</p>
<p><i>Calendar of State Papers Colonial 1573-1739</i> on British History Online and Colonial State Papers ProQuest</p>	<p>America and the West Indies in the Calendar of State Papers Colonial 1573-1739 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/america-west-indies-calendar-state-papers-colonial-1573-1739/</p>	<p>CO 5, CO 1</p>

Examples of published QUARTER SESSIONS

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

BEDFORDSHIRE

Notes & extracts from the county records being a calendar of Vol. 1 of the Quarter Sessions Minute Books 1651-60 in Bedfordshire County Records Vol. 11 (n.d.).

CESHIRE

Quarter Sessions records 1559-1670 in Lancashire & Cheshire Record Society vol. 94 (extracts).

DERBYSHIRE

Three centuries of Derbyshire annals (extracts) - J.C. Cox (ed.) (1890)

DEVON

Quarter Sessions from Queen Elizabeth to Queen Anne (extracts) - A. H. A. Hamilton (ed.) (1878)

ESSEX

Essex Quarter Sessions Order Book 1652-61 in Essex Record Office Publications no. 65

HERTFORDSHIRE

Extracts from Quarter Sessions Rolls 1581-1698 and calendar of Quarter Sessions Minute Book 1619-1700 in Hertfordshire County Records Vols. 1, 5 & 6.

MIDDLESEX

Quarter Sessions Extracts in Middlesex County Records Vol. 3

NORFOLK

Quarter Sessions Order Book 1650-7 in Norfolk Record Society Vol. 27.
Notes books of Robert Doughty 1660-62 Norfolk Record Society Vol. 54
Quarter Session Records, Norfolk County Council, Indictments for religious offenses 1665-83

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Quarter Sessions Records - 1630, 1657-8 in Northamptonshire Record Society Vol. 1.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Nottinghamshire county records of the 17th century (notes & extracts) - H. H. Copnall (1915).

OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire JPs in the 17th century (extracts) in Oxfordshire Records Society Vol. 16

SHROPSHIRE

Quarter Sessions Abstracts & Orders etc. 1638-1708 in Shropshire County Records Vols. 1-2.

SOMERSET

Quarter Sessions Records transcript for 1646-60 (reputedly unreliable) in Somerset Record Society Vol. 28 and Somerset Assize Orders 1640-8 in Somerset Record Society Vol. 71

SURREY

Quarter Sessions Records, the Order Book for 1659-1661 etc. in Surrey Record Society Vol. 13.

SUSSEX

Quarter Sessions Order Books Order Book 1642-9 in Sussex County Records Vol. 54.

WARWICKSHIRE

Quarter Sessions Order Books 1637-65 in Warwickshire County Records Vols. 2-4.

WILTSHIRE

Calendars of 17th century Quarter Sessions papers in Records of the County of Wiltshire - B. H. Cunnington (ed.) (1932) & Historic Manuscript Commission Various Collections Vol. 1 (1901).

WORCESTERSHIRE

Calendar of Quarter Sessions Papers 1591-1643 in Worcestershire Historical Society Vol. 11 & Notes on the Office of Justice of the Peace in Worcestershire Hist. Soc. New Series Vol. 5.

YORKSHIRE

Quarter Sessions Records 1634-77 in N. Riding Rec. Soc Vols. 4-6 & W. Riding Sessions Records orders 1622-42. Indictments 1637-42 in Yorkshire Archaeological Society 2nd Series Vol. 67

**PRINTED PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE PAPERS**

BEDFORDSHIRE

Sequestration business 1646-7 in Bedfordshire Record Society Vol. 49

DURHAM & NORTHUMBERLAND

Records of the Committees for Compounding in Surtees Society Vol. 111 (pp. 1-38 are the papers of the Durham Sequestration Committee. The rest of the volume is extracted from TNA SP 23, Committee for Compounding).

DORSET

Minute book of the Dorset Standing Committee 1646-50 - C. H. Mayo (ed.) (1902)

KENT

Account book of the County Committee 1646-7 in A Seventeenth Century Miscellany, Kent Records Vol. 17.

LANCASHIRE

Plundered Ministers Accounts in Lancashire & Cheshire Record Society Vols. 28 & 34 (papers of the Committee for Plundered Ministers & Maintenance Trustees 1634-54. 1650-60). Royalist Composition Papers (proceedings of the Committee for Compounding 1643-60) in L&CRS Vols. 24, 26, 29, 36, 72, 95, 96.

STAFFORDSHIRE

The Committee at Stafford 1643-5 - D. H. Pennington & L. A. Roots (1858)

YORK

Proceedings of the Commonwealth Committee in Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series.

Further information about sources printed in County Record Society publications can be found in Texts & Calendars, An analytical guide to serial publications & Texts & Calendars 2, both by E. L. C. Millins, Royal Historical Society 1958 & 1983.

See also Quarter Session Records a select list - Jeremy Gibson, 2007. (New edition in preparation)

See also [2019YoungCLphd.pdf.pdf](#) 'The Gentry are sequestered all': A study of English Civil War sequestration. A Phd thesis submitted by Charlotte Young 2018

PRIMARY SOURCES

RECUSANT ROLLS

1591-1691 Chancellors' Series (TNA E376), Pipe Office Series (TNA E376-379). A Recusant was one who refused to comply with the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church of England - most commonly used for Roman Catholic and Nonconformist and other Protestant dissenters. Fines were enforced for non attendance at Sunday service. Details of the fines were recorded in the Pipe Rolls. Failure to pay fines led to seizure of recusant goods and land. From 1592 the information was recorded in Recusant Rolls on a county by county basis. The rolls give the names of the Recusant, rent, description, date of seizure, payments or arrears of payments.

PROTESTATION RETURNS

1641-2 held at Parliamentary Archives(formerly House of Lords Record Office). Listed in Historic Manuscript Commission 5th Report 1876, pp. 120-134, and in Gibson & Dell - Protestation Returns, etc. See also check list by L. W. Lawson-Edwards in Genealogists Magazine Vol. 19 (1977) & later offprint. One of the principal objects was to discover the number of Roman Catholics in the country. Where they survive they provide a virtual census of male population

<https://archives.parliament.uk/research-guides/protestation-returns/>

FREE & CHEERFUL GIFT.

1625 grant of two subsidies made popish recusants convicts of seventeen or over and persons over 21 who had failed to take Holy Communion within the previous year liable to double rating of the Poll Tax like aliens or denizens. Possibly the Recusant Rolls were used as a means of reference to ensure no one escaped.

SHIP MONEY

1630-1640 based on rents, annuities & offices but limited scope. Few extant lists of payments in State Papers Domestic (TNA SP16). Writs & orders directed to sheriffs in Privy Council Register (TNA PC2).

**COLLECTION IN AID OF DISTRESSED
PROTESTANTS IN IRELAND**

1641 (TNA E179 & SP28 vols. 191-195). Listed by Cliff Webb in Genealogists Magazine Vol. 21 No. 9 (1985) and Gibson & Dell. An act to receive loans & free gifts for the relief of refugees from rebellion in Ireland. Sometimes linked with

Protestation Returns - the two may have been charged at the same time. Lists names of donors.

PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT

Opportunity to show loyalty to Parliament & the protestant church. 1) Vow & Covenant June 1643 & 2) Solemn League & Covenant September 1643. All men above the age of 18 as well as lodgers & inhabitants to subscribe their names in a book or roll with their neighbours. No national collection was made & was probably only taken in strongly parliamentarian areas. Occasionally found in parish records. Listed where found in Gibson & Dell.

SUBSIDIES, LEVIES & GRANTS

1640/1 (TNA E179). Various acts passed for the relief of his majesty's army. In general only the wealthier were taxed. Collection at the discretion of the county Commissioners but based on goods worth £3 and upwards, offices or annuities providing income of 20 shillings and aliens and popish recusants paying double or if not liable to subsidy paying a poll tax of 2s. 8d. a head along with non communicants aged 21 or more. Listed in Gibson & Dell.

POLL TAXES

1641-1660 some record survive in the lists of Exchequer, Kings Remembrancer & Lay Subsidy Rolls (TNA E179) described in Lists & Index Society Vols. 44, 54, 63, 75, 87. Laid down prescribed sums from every one over the age of sixteen and not in receipt of alms according to status in life. Lowest contribution six pence, the highest £100. Catholics paid double, widows a third. For printed returns see Texts & Calendars I & II (Mullins). Listed in Gibson & Dell.

FREE & VOLUNTARY PRESENT TO KING CHARLES II

1660 (TNA E179). One of first attempts to raise money for King on Restoration. Listed in Gibson.

HEARTH TAX

1662-89 (E179 & Quarter Sessions). Occupiers of houses taxed 2s. on each hearth. Collected Michaelmas & Lady Day. Poor exempt but often listed. See Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists and Association Oath Rolls – Jeremy Gibson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL REBUILDING FUND

1677/8 (LMA former Guildhall Library MS 25565) lists of original returns from parishes throughout England and Wales recording the contributions made towards the rebuilding of the Cathedral after the Great Fire

E179 DATABASE.

Lists all various taxes for the period and can be searched by place via the Discovery catalogue on TNA's website

RECUSANTS & CLERGY, etc.

ROYALIST CLERGY

An attempt towards recovering an account of the number and sufferings of the clergy of the Church of England, Heads of Colleges, Fellows, Scholars who were sequestered harassed etc. in the late times of the Grand Rebellion occasioned by the Ninth Chapter (now the second volume) of Dr. Calamy's Abridgement of the Life of Mr. Baxter together with an examination of the chapter by John Walker, 1714. (Known colloquially as Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy.) see also *Walker Revised: being revision of John Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy during the Grand Rebellion 1642-1660, Oxford University Press, 1948*

PARLIAMENTARIANS

Calamy Revised. Being a revision of John Calamy's Account of the ministers and others ejected and silenced, 1660-2 by A G Mathews Oxford University Press 1934.

CATHOLICS (with thanks to Michael Gandy)

Catholics During the English Revolution 1642-1660. Politics, Sequestration and Loyalty – Eilish Gregory, 2021.

Catholics and Parliamentary Sequestration - Aveling, Amp jnl. (June 1956)

The part played by Catholics in the English Civil War - Lindley I.N. Politics, Religion and the English Civil War - Manning (ed.) (1973)

Roman Catholics in pre Civil War England: the problem of definition - Newman, R. H. vol. 15 No. 2 (Oct. 1979)

Roman Catholic Royalists, Papist Commanders under Charles I & Charles II R.H. vol. 15 No. 6 (Oct. 1981)

The Civil Wars and the Catholic North West: A selected bibliography - anon. N.W.C.H. vol. 21 (1994)

Catholic Royalists of Northern England 1642-45 - Newman. N.H. No. 15 (1979)

Catholic Royal Activists in the North 1620-46 - Newman, R. H. vol. 14 No. 1 (May 1977)

The Catholic & Protestant Gentry of Lancashire during the Civil War Period - Blackwood L.C.H.S.T. Vol. 126 (1976)

The part played by Roman Catholics in the Civil War in Lancashire & Monmouthshire - Lindley - Manchester M.A. (1965).

QUAKERS

Extracts from the State Papers relating to Friends.
First series 1654-58, Second series 1659-64.
Journal of the Friends Historical Society supplements 8 & 9, 1910 & 1911

GENERAL SOURCES FOR THE CIVIL WAR & COMMONWEALTH -

"All embarked in one bottom". An introduction to sources for soldiers, administrators, and civilians in civil war Britain and Ireland. Martin Bennet in the *Genealogists Magazine*. vol. 25 no. 8, Dec. 1996 (contains an overview of useful sources including constables accounts [as collectors and compilers of local tax lists], parish rating lists, accounts of the parish overseers and church wardens.)

Bridging the gap. A guide to State Papers and other seventeenth century sources Else Churchill in *Ancestors the Family History Magazine of the Public Record Office* Issue 11 Dec 2002/Jan 2003 (contains an overview of this lecture –State Papers, printed genealogies, clergy, recusants, Protestation Returns, tax records, Quarter Sessions, soldiers of the civil war)

General titles illustrative of background material available to readers. Most titles taken from Caliver Books on line List "the English Civil Wars".816-8 London Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 2NH 01702 473986 www.caliverbook.com

Army lists of the Roundheads & Cavaliers containing the names of the officers in the royal & parliamentary armies of 1642, Edward Peacock (1874).

Atlas of the English Civil War – PE Newman

By the Sword Divided. Eyewitness Accounts of the English Civil War – John Adair

Civil War & Interregnum, sources for local historians - P Aylmer & J Morrill
Civil War & Salt Fish - Military and civilian diet in the mid 17th century - Peachy

Community of Kent and the Great Rebellion – Everitt

Contrasting Communities -M Spufford (English villagers & village life in the 17th century.)

Cromwell's Army – C E Firth,
Cromwell's Family - Cooper

English Army for Ireland 1641-2 - Ryder (The last army raised prior to the Civil War)

English Army Lists of the Early 1640s – S F Jones (Contains ten army and navy lists covering the Bishops' War of 1640, the English Parliament's response to the Irish Rebellion of late 1641, and the outbreak of the first English Civil War in 1642. All are transcribed directly from copies of the original documents, giving the names of 2,200 men including officers of horse and foot, naval commanders, and auxiliary staff.)

English Civil War Times formerly English Civil War Notes & Queries (issues 1-50 & index now quarterly from Partizan Press c/o Caliver Books)

English Civil Wars. Local Aspects – Richardson, ed. (useful chapter on land sales and repurchases as a result of sequestrations and compoundings)

English Family 1450-1700 – R Houlbrook (Thematic approach using a wealth of manuscript sources).

Going to the Wars. The experiences of the English Civil Wars, 1638-1651 – C Carlton

Officers & Regiments in the Royalist Army. A revised edition of the List of Indigent Officers 1863 - S. Reid (ed.) (Commonly known as Indigent Officers or "IO" this was a list of officers claiming the sixty thousand pounds granted to his sacred majesty for the relief of his true, loyal & indigent party. Lists only those who survived the wars and this therefore a companion to Royal Martyrs below.)

Parliamentary Army Chaplains 1642-1651 in Royal Historical Society Studies in History No. 59 - Lawrence. (Useful biographies).

Reconstructing the New Model Army, Volume I: Regimental Lists, April 1645 to May 1649, 2015 – M Wanklyn

Regimental History of Cromwell's Army – C E Firth

Royal Martyrs or A List of the Lords, Knights, Officers & Gentlemen that were slain (By the Rebels) in the Late Wars – P Young (ed.).

Royalist Officers in England & Wales 1642-60 – P R Newman (Biography, rank & regiment of 1600+ field officers commissioned (down to Major) during the period. A major source.)

Scots armies of the seventeenth century vols 1-3 S Reid

Seventeenth Century England: A Changing Culture Vol. 1 - Open University (Primary sources. 23 sections including levellers, army, social structures, etc.)

Seventeenth Century England: A Changing Culture Vol. 2 - Open University (Modern studies, politics & economics, witchcraft, social mobility, etc.)

Seventeenth Century Lancashire - Kermerod (Essays include recusant riots, plague, parties & issues of the English Civil War, militia 1600-1680, etc.)

Strangers in Oxford - Toynbee & Young (When those members of Parliament who remained loyal to the King assembled in Oxford in January 1643/4 surveys were made of the royalist lodgings in the City. Only the survey for the parish of St. Aldgate survives, the MS being held at the Bodlian Library. Using this MS as a basis, the authors used local sources such as parish registers, wills, accounts of the evacuees' landlords, local surveys, university records, leases, and the City Act Book to compile a portrait of those individuals who were evacuated to Oxford and on whom they were billeted.)

Weaker Vessel – A Fraser (The lot of women in the 17th century including marriage, education, religion and a large section on the English Civil War and fighting women.)

See Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentary Officers, Originally published by British history Online <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers/intro>

Civil War Petitions for Civil War Petitions is a fully-searchable digital edition of over 4,000 petitions for relief from maimed soldiers and war widows. It includes the accompanying certificates from military commanders, medical practitioners and local communities in support of their cases. There are additional details of tens of thousands of names of those who received military welfare for injuries and bereavement sustained during the Civil Wars. The material is organised by county with ten counties currently online. Four more will be added every quarter until completion in June 2021.

www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk

Petitions from Quarter Sessions for some counties and examples of Petitions made to the House of Lords and those found in State Papers can be found in the English petitions transcribed on the British History Online website

GENERAL FINDING AIDS

Protestation returns 1641-2 and other Contemporary Listings; Collections in Aid of Distressed Protestants in Ireland; Subsidies; Poll Tax; Assessments of Grant; Vow of Covenant; Solemn League and Covenant - J. Gibson & A. Dell, 1995.

Lay Taxes in England and Wales 1188-1688. Public Record Office Handbook, No. 31 - M. Jurkowski, C. L. Smith & D. Crook, 1998

Quarter Session records for Family Historians. A select list - J., Gibson,

Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists and Association Oath Rolls – Jeremy Gibson,

Land and Window Tax Assessments – Jeremy Gibson, Mervyn Medlycott & Dennis Mills,