

THE BATTLE OF OLNEY BRIDGE

4 - 11 - 1643

The English Civil war was between 1642 and 1651. Despite the fact that much of the fighting across the country was coming to an end, the famous 'Battle of Olney Bridge' occurred on the 4th November 1643 between the Royalists of Northampton and the Parliamentarians of Newport Pagnell.

Parliament held Newport Pagnell and Olney was one of its outposts. Prince Rupert held Northampton for King Charles I and marched on Olney intending to continue on to Newport Pagnell. Prince Rupert and his troops took the Olney forces by surprise and the Parliamentarians retreated to the bridge, just between Olney and Emberton, where they made a defiant stand.

The Royalists could have won, however they heard a rumour that Oliver Cromwell's reinforcements were nearby so they retreated and the battle was over.

A few years later, in 1645, Oliver Cromwell visited nearby and stayed at Weston Hall in Weston Underwood on his way to the Battle of Naseby, north of Northampton.

Artifacts are kept in the Cowper and Newton Museum from the Battle of Olney Bridge. Why not visit the museum to find out more!