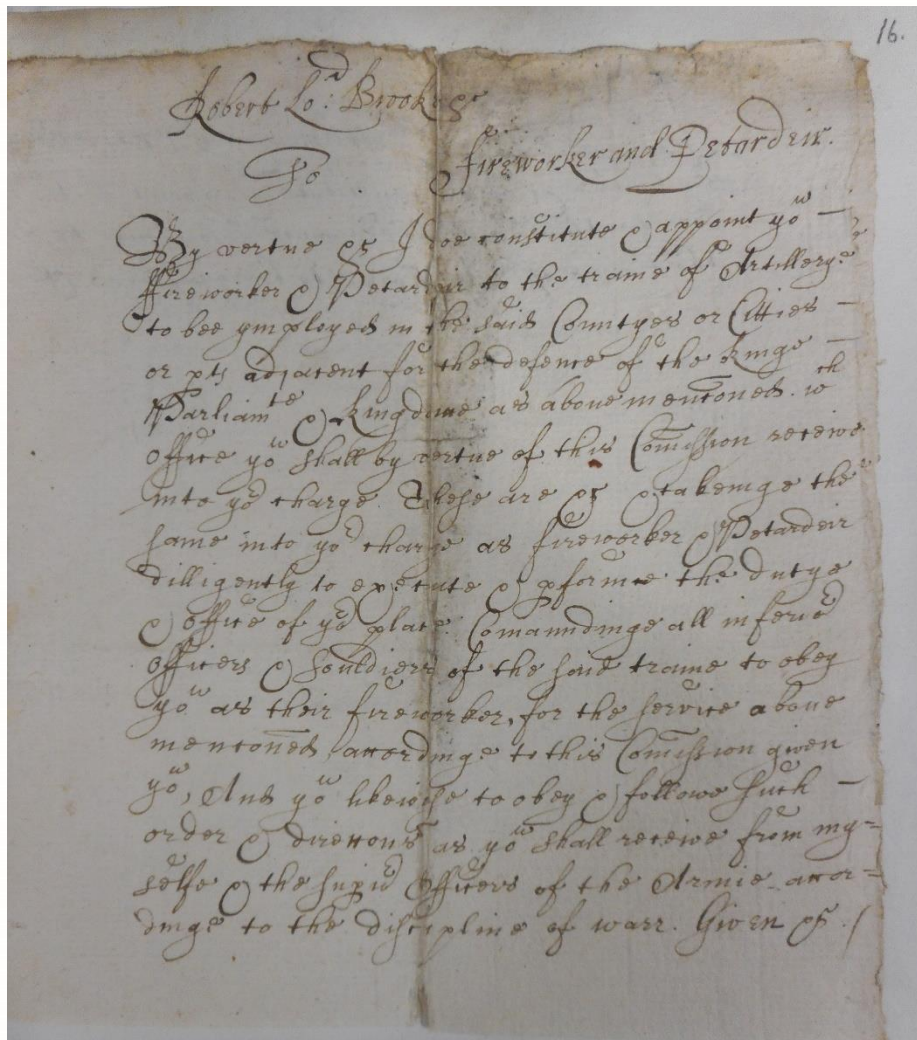


Civil War appointment forms and the life of Robert Greville, 2nd Baron Brooke

CR2017/C9/16

The Document of the Month for March is a series of forms of appointment signed by Robert Greville, 2nd Baron Brooke, in around 1643. The forms can be found at CR2017/C9/16, one page of a volume which contains letters and administrative documents from the English Civil War period. The writings belong to the Feilding family of Newnham Paddox collection, with most concerning the wartime affairs of Basil Lord Feilding, the 2nd Earl of Denbigh, during the 1640s. A full transcript of the first of Lord Brooke's appointments, pictured below, is provided separately.



A form of appointment made by Robert Greville, Lord Brooke, c. 1643, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR2017/C9/16

During the First English Civil War, Lord Brooke was the Parliamentarian Commander for Warwickshire and Staffordshire, having inherited his title and Warwick Castle in 1628.¹ In these forms, Lord Brooke appears to be appointing a Fireworker and Petardier, a Gentleman of the Ordinance, a Treasurer, a Cornet, and a Quartermaster, though the men who took these positions are not named on the forms. The positions give an idea of the style of warfare in which Brooke's forces were engaging. The Fireworker and Petardier would likely have been responsible for explosives; the title petardier in fact comes from the French *pétard*, a type of bomb which was attached to doors, walls or gates in order to create a hole through which troops could enter. A bomb like this would have been suited to the siege warfare which commonly took place during the English Civil War.

An unlikely inheritance

Robert Greville was not born into his inheritance; his father was in fact a minor member of the gentry, but his cousin Fulke Greville was the first Baron Brooke. Having no children of his own, Fulke Greville adopted Robert as heir when he was a young boy.² When Fulke Greville died, Robert became the second Greville to inherit Warwick Castle, which would go on to remain in the family for over 300 years.

Shortly before the death of the first Baron Brooke, Robert Greville served as MP for Warwick in 1628, but on assuming his new title he took his place in the House of Lords.³

Robert Greville's politics and the English Civil War

Before the outbreak of the English Civil War, Robert Greville had already established himself as an opponent of the monarchy and a proponent of puritanism. Lord Brooke was briefly imprisoned in 1639 for refusing to side with the King on the matter of the First Bishops' War, a conflict concerning religious reforms imposed by Charles I.⁴ Brooke had previously pursued his puritan beliefs through the Providence Island Company, a trading company founded by notable English Puritans for the purpose of establishing a Christian settlement on an island off the coast of Nicaragua. The

¹ GREVILLE, Robert (1607-1643), History of Parliament <http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1604-1629/member/greville-robert-1607-1643> (accessed 04/02/2022)

² Greville, Robert, second Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court, by Ann Hughes, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/11518> (accessed 04/02/2022)

³ GREVILLE, Robert (1607-1643), History of Parliament <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/11518> (accessed 04/02/2022)

⁴ GREVILLE, Robert (1607-1643), History of Parliament <http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1604-1629/member/greville-robert-1607-1643> (accessed 04/02/2022)

colonial project involved the purchase of enslaved Africans, who were forced to work the crop fields for profit.⁵ The short-lived Providence Island colony had fallen to the Spanish by 1641.

However, Lord Brooke's attention was soon turning to home soil. Initially commanding Warwickshire soldiers, Brooke was appointed to the joint command of Staffordshire and Warwickshire in 1642.⁶ Brooke is believed to have been absent when Warwick Castle was besieged by royalist soldiers led by the Earl of Northampton, but his involvement in the siege of Lichfield led to his death after he was shot by an enemy sniper in March 1643.⁷ The loss of Lord Brooke was lamented by parliamentarian supporters, with one pamphlet entitled *Englands losse and lamentation* describing him as "a pillar of the Kingdome".⁸

⁵ Providence Island Company, by Karen Ordahl Kupperman, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/95346> (accessed 04/02/2022)

⁶ Greville, Robert, second Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court, by Ann Hughes, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/11518> (accessed 04/02/2022)

⁷ *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 8, the City of Coventry and Borough of Warwick* (1969), Victoria County History, edited by R.B. Pugh. Oxford University Press, London, p. 459.

⁸ *Englands losse and lamentation* (1643). London, L. Chapman. Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership <http://name.umdl.umich.edu/A83971.0001.001>