

the de Etons becoming extinct, the property passed to John de Warren, and continued in that family until the sale of their manorial and baronial rights to the Corporation of Stockport in 1850, under the powers of the Stockport Manorial Tolls Act, 1847, and the Corporation thus became Lords of the Manor and Barony of Stockport.

Under the Articles of Agreement for the pacification of the County of Chester, dated the 30th of December, 1642, by which the County expressed its desire to be "spared the horrors of Civil War," the fortifications of Stockport were dismantled.

Parliament would not accept these Articles of Agreement, and we read that troops were stationed at Stockport, commanded by Colonel Duckenfield, who had a residence at Portwood Hall, Stockport, which Dr. Heginbotham tells us was then a beautiful mansion standing alone in the midst of fields and gardens. Prince Rupert, on his march through Cheshire and Lancashire in 1644, visited Stockport, captured the town, with Col. Duckenfield's army of 3,000 cavalry and infantry. During the Civil War, Stockport was an outpost to Manchester, and much property of the Royalists was seized by Committees of Sequestrators, who had extensive powers of levying upon the people. With the fall of the City of Chester in 1646 the whole of Cheshire submitted to the authority of Parliament.

During the reign of Charles the Second Stockport, like the rest of the country, was visited by the plague, from which 168 persons died.

Nothing of great historical interest is recorded of Stockport until 1745, when Prince Charles and his troops, when under retreat, visited the town. It is asserted that the Pretender himself stayed in Stockport, but it is certain that Lord Elcho, in command of the Prince's Life Guards, stayed in the town, his men being billeted in the various hostelries there. The "Stockport Advertiser" of April, 1823, in recording the death at Stockport of Martha Shepley, in her 89th year, says "Her faculties and memory she retained to the last, and was able to relate many interesting occurrences which she had witnessed, particularly the entrance of the rebels into Stockport on a Saturday night in 1745, by the ford above Mr. Marsland's works (Lancashire Bridge having been destroyed a few days before by the "Lancashire Blues," when they were fired upon by the townspeople and one of their horses killed, for which offence they threatened to burn the town."

In 1775 the ruins of the Stockport Castle were levelled by the order of the then Lord of the Manor, Sir George Warren, who caused to be built upon these old foundations a round tower, which in the year 1793 was used as a cotton factory. A previous Lord of the Manor, or Baron of Stockport as he was called, Edward de Warren, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his services in the expedition to Ireland against the rebellious Hugh O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone.

In George the Third's reign the taxation caused by the American War roused much opposition, and it was during this period that Jonathan Thatcher, commonly called "The Cheshire Farmer," (who lived at a little farm in Park Lane adjoining the Woodbank Estate), in order to expose the injustice of the saddle tax (which by the way was not repealed until 1875), rode his cow saddled and bridled to and from the market at Stockport on November 27th, 1784. This was the subject of a caricature by a local artist who depicted Thatcher on his cow at the foot of Mealhouse Brow, as shown in the accompanying illustration.