

= Robert Tatton =

Robert Tatton ( 1606 ? 19 August 1669 ) was the High Sheriff of Chester between 1645 and 1646 . A supporter of King Charles I in the English Civil War , Robert is perhaps best known for the ultimately unsuccessful defence of his family home , Wythenshawe Hall , during its three @-@ month siege by a Parliamentary force in the winter of 1643 / 44 .

Robert was fined heavily by Parliament for fighting on the side of the king , but he was subsequently rewarded for his loyalty by Charles II following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 . He and his wife Anne had six children the eldest of whom , William , inherited Robert 's Wythenshawe estate after his father 's death in 1669 .

= = Early life = =

Robert 's father , William Tatton , drowned in the River Mersey when Robert was 10 years old . As the only male heir Robert inherited his father 's estate in Wythenshawe , but as a minor he was made a ward of the king , Charles I , until he came of age . On 9 January 1628 , Robert married Anne Brereton , the third daughter of William Brereton of Ashley . The couple went on to have four sons and two daughters .

Robert 's father @-@ in @-@ law William Brereton was a close relative of his namesake Sir William Brereton , who the year after Robert 's marriage was appointed Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Parliamentary troops in Cheshire following the outbreak of the English Civil War . The first pitched battle of the war was fought at Edgehill on 23 October 1642 , and Robert decided to join the Royalist side .

= = Siege of Wythenshawe Hall = =

Towards the end of 1643 the commander of the local Parliamentary forces in Cheshire , Colonel Robert Duckenfield , was ordered to seize Wythenshawe Hall and to remove anything of value that could be found . Forewarned , Robert Tatton recruited a group of more than 50 defenders from among his staff and Royalist friends . After ransacking the nearby village of Northenden the Roundheads arrived at Wythenshawe Hall on 21 November 1643 , but they did not find the task of taking it as easy as they had imagined . At one point during the siege the attackers almost took possession of the house in a struggle during which six of the defenders were killed . The Parliamentarians refused a truce to allow the bodies to be taken to the local church for proper services to be held , necessitating their burial in the garden behind the house . One of those killed was the fiancé of Mary Webb , a young woman who had been brought up by the Tattons and had remained in the house with the defenders . Towards the end of the siege Mary saw the man who had led the attack , Duckenfield 's second @-@ in @-@ command Captain Adams , sitting on a wall near the house . Borrowing a musket from one of the defenders , she shot him dead .

The siege ended on 27 February 1644 after the Parliamentarians brought two cannons from nearby Manchester , with which they " reduced " the hall . By then the defenders had exhausted their ammunition and had very little food left . The hall was confiscated ; an inventory taken after the surrender valued its contents at almost £ 1650 , equivalent to about £ 250 @,@ 000 as of 2016 .

= = Later life = =

Robert escaped and made his way to Chester , where in 1645 he was made High Sheriff of the county of Cheshire . But he was forced to flee from the city early the following year when it too was besieged by Parliamentary forces . This time he made for Oxford , where King Charles I was in residence , but it fell only a few months later on 24 June 1646 , effectively ending the war .

In the aftermath of the conflict Wythenshawe was included in a list of estates owned by Royalists that were to be forfeited to the new government . Robert 's entry is as follows :

His [ Robert 's ] Delinquencie , that hee deserted his owne Dwellinge , and went and lived in Oxford

whiles it was a Garrison holden for the Kinge againste the Parliament , and was there at the tyme of the surrender ... Hee hath neither taken the Negative Oath nor Covenante , but prayes to be exempt upon the articles of Oxford and the Vote of the House of Commons pursuante .

Parliament allowed Robert to keep his estate on payment of a fine of £ 804 10s , reduced to £ 707 13s 4d in December 1646 , and Wythenshawe Hall was returned to him two years after its confiscation . Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 King Charles II rewarded Robert 's loyalty to the Crown by presenting him with a silver snuff box .

Robert Tatton died on 19 August 1669 and was buried at St Wilfrid 's parish church in Northenden , which contains a wall monument in his memory . His eldest son William ( born 1636 ) inherited the Wythenshawe estate .