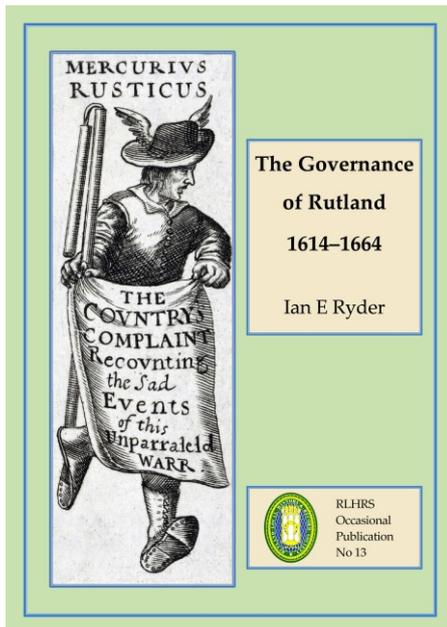


RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700273

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW



***New Publication to be launched on
Friday 3rd December***

The Governance of Rutland 1614–1664

by Ian E Ryder

**RLHRS Occasional Publication No 13
(A4, 130pp, illustrated) ISBN 978-0-907464-63-1**

This new book describes how the county of Rutland was governed in the unsettled times of the seventeenth century. At that time, many tasks of government were almost exclusively undertaken at a local level. Fortunately many Rutland Justices of the Peace papers and Lieutenancy archives survive from this period, enabling us to illustrate how Rutland's ruling elite approached their responsibilities. These included managing criminal law and the poor, handling an outbreak of plague in Oakham in 1642, maintaining the county militia, impressing men for national service, ensuring that local markets operated freely, and organising taxation, both local and national.

Into this established local environment stepped the royal government of Charles I. His increased use of prerogative powers placed new demands, both civil and ecclesiastical, on the county authorities. His subsequent decision to dispense with Parliament removed the traditional route for counties to express grievance. The clash between these two sources of power, local and national, eventually broke out into civil war. Although the majority of Rutland's major landholders supported the king, its parliamentary minority was able to control the county through outside military support. Examples of the war's impact on Rutland include a belated rush to secure the county's munitions stored at Oakham and an individual hurriedly burying a substantial hoard of coins at Ryhall. With the war came large demands for money, for goods to supply the garrisons at Burley and Rockingham, and for the billeting of soldiers, with each faction exacting penalties on their opponents.

Once the fighting was over, local bureaucracy slipped back into well-oiled routines – and was soon chasing up pre-war back taxes. Likewise, the restoration of the monarchy saw little change apart from royalists taking control, but with some members of the magistrates' bench of the Interregnum transitioning into the new order. At the same time security concerns changed from suppression of royalists to that of religious dissent.

Tim Clough, the Society's honorary editor, said, 'We are so lucky that many hundreds of Rutland individuals are listed in the various taxation, military, voting, poor and other records which form the basis of Ian's study. We are making their details available online as a supplement to the book because they form an immensely valuable resource for local and family historians. This will be found at www.rutlandhistory.org/governanceofrutland'.

About the author

Ian Ryder is the Society's Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary and has written previously about the civil war in Yorkshire and Ireland. He is the author of the Society's *Common Right and Private Interest: Rutland's common fields and their enclosure* (Occasional Publication 8, 2006). His article on the State of Education in early Victorian Rutland in *Rutland Record* 31 (2011), 16-38, was short-listed in the British Association for Local History's awards for research and publication in 2013.

The new book will be launched at a meeting of the Society to be held at the Rutland County Museum at 7.00pm on Friday 3rd December. Ian Ryder will give a talk entitled '1642 – a difficult year for Rutland and a Civil War'. Copies will be available at members' price and wine and soft drinks will be served after the talk.

Price: £15.00 (£12.00 to RLHRS members) plus £3.00 UK p&p. Copies can be ordered by post, or online via www.rutlandhistory.org, or purchased in person at the Rutland County Museum during opening hours.

For further information, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, Rutland Local History & Record Society, email editor@rutlandhistory.org.