



The Great House at Aynho in 1683. The flanking wings were part of the Elizabethan house, used by both Charles I and the Earl of Essex during the Civil War. It is featured on the leaflet for the Cartwright Archive Appeal.

AYNHO and BANBURY in the CIVIL WAR

In the foregoing article Kevin Lodge refers to the use of Aynho as headquarters by both sides during the Civil War, and the unsurprising demonization of the Duke of Cumberland (Prince Rupert) in subsequent Mummings' plays. The Cartwright family were involved on both sides, as described in Nicholas Cooper's *Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village* (BHS 20, 1984). The book was, appropriately, dedicated to the memory of the family's agent Robert Weston, who did so much to preserve this collection of family and estate papers. It is therefore timely to remind readers of the threat to the Cartwright archive, such an important source for the history of north Oxfordshire (especially Deddington) and southern Northamptonshire (see *C&CH* 16.8, Spring 2006, pp.262-3).

Prince Rupert also features on the front cover of the 'Letter' describing an incident during the siege of Banbury Castle in 1644, of which we print a facsimile of the original. Its content is well known, and was included in full in Alfred Beesley's *History of Banbury* (pages 367-70), but the flavour of the times somehow is conveyed much more compellingly by sight of the equivalent of the 'press reportage' as it happened and looked.

For the full story, see Beesley (1842), Potts/Clark (2nd ed. 1978), and of course the *Victoria County History, Oxon.* vol. 10, *Banbury Hundred*.