

them with breastworks into a strong point. And these Roundheads began requisitioning beasts and corn wholesale.

Sir William Vavasour, the Captain-General of the King's forces in Gloucestershire sent for two small cannon from the Royalists' main headquarters at Oxford, and then marched on Painswick.

His first onrush cleared the houses by the Church, and the Roundheads then barricaded themselves inside the Church itself. Hand grenades were hurled in through the Church windows by the Royalists, whose cannon opened up. Blazing torches were used to fire and burn down the doors, and St. Peter's Chapel and the whole north isle were soon ablaze. The Roundheads inside came out and surrendered. But others held out in other houses. And Sir William Vavasour sent a hastily written note from Painswick, urgently calling for "20 Barrells of Powder more, with some hand Grenades" and "some more Cannon Bullets". Then at long last the town was cleared.

#### ROUNDHEAD CAVALRY

Roundhead cavalry from Gloucester rode into Painswick in December, 1644, with a Puritan divine called Dorwood. They arrested the Anglican Vicar of Painswick, Mr. Wyld as a "Malignant" and removed him to Gloucester—installing Dorwood in his place. Though it was mid-winter, these troopers turned Mrs. Wyld and her children out of the Vicarage into the streets.

Dutton fought for the king till the end came, and then—escaping to France—was shipwrecked and drowned. And Painswick's bells were silenced, her maypole felled and all dancing and horse racing forbidden under the Puritan dictatorship of Cromwell.

Bonfires blazed and maypoles sprouted to welcome the return of Charles II and a free Parliament in 1660.

Painswick's renowned bell-ringers revived their art and proclaimed in 1685 "our Lord the King" James II, being rewarded with a shilling by John Cooke, the Deputy Constable—enough money in those days to buy 10 gallons of cyder.

#### COCKFIGHTING

Cockfighting was held at the Falcon, built in 1711—big well-advertised matches being staged between Painswick and Stroud. secretly this so-called sport continued in Painswick long after the Act of Parliament which banned it in 1830. Few who walk down Holcombe Lane would notice a stone-framed opening in a bank high above the lane. Yet that opening lets air and light down into a well-built underground chamber—reached by a secret underground passage leading from a trap door in a stone shed at Yew Tree Cottage, opposite Upper Holcombe Farm.

The coming of the turnip immensely increased Painswick's sheep population in the eighteenth century—and her cloth trade. By 1800 over 20 cloth mills were powered by the Wick Stream. Other mills driven by the stream began in 1794 to turn out pins and other goods.

German airmen—reluctant to face the defences of Gloucester—unloaded their bombs on Painswick in 1941, killing civilians and destroying many fine storehouses in Friday Street and St. Mary's Street.

This bomb damage has now been made good, an excellent Nurses Home—the foundation stone of which was laid on Coronation Day 1953—has been erected and the Roman Catholic Church rebuilt, though to an Italian design which many residents felt was out of character with the town.