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# Edmund Waller (1606-1687)

(English neoclassical Cavalier poet, b. Coleshill, Hertfordshire; son of Robert Waller, Esq.; nephew of Parliamentarian John Hampden and cousin to Oliver Cromwell, soon orphan, l. from family income, st. Eton, King's College, Cambridge; courtier and MP, m. heiress Mrs. Banks, 1 son died, one daugher, wife d. in childbed c. 1630; unsuccessfully courted Dorothea Sidney, daughter of the Earl of Leicester, "Sacharissa"; then courted "Amoret" and "Phillis", remarried, 5 sons and 8 daughters by 2nd wife, anti-taxation but conservative pro-Anglican MP for Agmondesham in Long Parliament, admired as orator, wit and conversationalist; kept seat under Revolution but helped the King, promoted counter-revolutionary "Waller's plot" to cut supplies to the Parliament's army, discovered, betrayed associates, who were executed; abject plea for pardon, imprisoned, fined and banished, exile in France, l. splendidly at Rouen and Paris, pardoned by Cromwell, l. at Hallbarn with diminished means, friend to Cromwell, panegyrist for Restoration, obtained Hampden's pardon; courtier and MP for several places in Charles II's parliaments, adversary of Clarendon, d. of poor circulation, buried at Beaconsfield)

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