



Lucy Hutchinson 1620-1680

Writer, Diarist, poet, biographer & translator

Lucy was born in the Tower of London where her father was Governor. Her mother ensured she was well educated and when her father died when she was 10 the family moved to Richmond where she met a visiting law student who she married – John. When the civil war broke out Lucy and her husband were parliamentarians while her family were royalists.

At 27 her husband was appointed Colonel of troops defending Nottingham from the Cavaliers. She resided in Nottingham Castle as her husband was the Governor during the English Civil War. He was one of the signatories of Charles I death warrant and was later locked up in Sandown castle in Kent where he died. Lucy later lived at 23, High Pavement and wrote 'Memoirs of the life of Colonel Hutchinson' to protest his innocence.

She was an English translator, poet, and biographer, A series of original poems by Hutchinson was re-discovered in a manuscript in the Nottinghamshire Archives (DD/Hu 2) by David Norbrook. This work is likely contemporaneous in composition with the *Memoirs*. This manuscript, referred to as the "Elegies", contains 23 numbered poems. Throughout her poems, Hutchinson lamented her husband's death, honoured his life, and moved toward an acceptance of his death, while commenting on the English political structure following the Restoration.^[7] These poems were unpublished in her lifetime and the manuscript, which is not in her hand, has no dedication. Hutchinson's other works included *Order and Disorder*, arguably the first epic poem written by a woman in the English language. The work is a verse paraphrase of the Book of Genesis, offering parallels to John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Only five cantos of the work were published during her lifetime, in 1679. In 2001 the critic David Norbrook published the work in full. Hutchinson also wrote *On the Principles of the Christian Religion*, an articulation of the Puritan beliefs of herself and her husband. It was dedicated to her daughter Barbara and likely intended as a work of religious instruction. The work was posthumously published in 1817. Amongst her other religious writings is a lost translation of Congregationalist divine John Owen's work *Theologoumena pantodoupa*.