



# THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of The John Hampden Society

No. 40 - Autumn 2004

The John Hampden Society is a registered charity which exists to bring together people with an interest in John Hampden, and to encourage wider knowledge of this great 17th century Parliamentarian, his life and times

Summer will soon be over and before we know it we will be heavily into Christmas shopping. Before going down this road, however, it is time once more for what it is hoped will prove some interesting reading.

If you would like *The Patriot* to contain an article on a particular subject connected with the times of John Hampden or the Civil War, don't be afraid to let us know and we will do our best to oblige. It is our wish to produce a newsletter that you wish to read.

To start the ball rolling, the following charming article was sent in response to the plea contained in the Spring edition of *The Patriot*, being a piece adapted from the author's book 1 of "A Jarvis Tapestry", a history of her Bucks family from Tudor to Victorian times.

## LEONARD

### 'HARDY, BRAVE & STRONG'

When Hampden House appeared through the distant beech trees glowing in their Autumn tints my senses quickened. For I was on my way to the banquet in the house that my ancestor, Uncle Leonard, knew in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His intimacy with the Hampden household is evident in his Last Will and Testament of 1692 in which appears at the head of a long line of beneficiaries: 'Mr Richard Hampden and Madam Leticia Hampden sonne and daughter of my honoured Master John Hampden Esq. To each of them a guinea'.

The wording of the next bequest ends on a touching personal note: 'Unto Mr. William Keats and Mrs. Anne Reade servants to my honoured Master Richard Hampden Esq. To each of them ten guineas of lawfull English money to buy them gloves in remembrance of me'. Thus commemorating a mutual friendship deeply felt. Gloves were costly for their exquisite workmanship, especially the richly embroidered cuff. By savouring the pleasure of drawing them on over the hand time, the wearer could not fail to recall the donor of cherished memory.

Leonard is named as Yeoman of Great Hampden, but left land in Haddenham and the Friarage, Aylesbury. In 1642 he had been 25, his brother, Edward, 20, when, farming an area of Jarvis family land in Pollicott field below Ashendon, they refused to subscribe to Charles I's request to the population for money to put down the Irish rebellion. The list of subscribers for Ashendon reveals that the brothers, though taking the oath of allegiance, gave not a penny – a brave act. But they remembered the shining example of John Hampden's refusal to pay Ship Money a few years before that had championed the rights of Englishmen to be governed by Parliament, and not by decree of absolute monarchy.

It is not known when Leonard's association with the Hampden family began, but his yeoman status points to him being yeoman in the sense of Steward or Major Domo in the household.

As the recent memorable banquet drew to a close in the fading October afternoon light, candles miraculously appeared, for the power cut of midday was still on. But candlelight lent a mellow period touch.

It was time to retrieve my coat from the cloakroom. Returning to the gathering, I slowed down to take in the scene through into the banquetting hall, with the servants in period dress moving silhouettes against the candlelight. It was a moment to hold in the memory – a stepping back into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Was long ago Leonard smiling from the shadows?



Servants in period costume taking a bow before clearing the debris of the banquet.

Leonard was an unusual name for those days. It stood for 'hardy, brave and strong', which he lived up to, for he was a long-liver showing his hardiness – and he was brave and strong in defying the King. Altruistic in the 'share and share alike' bequest to his family, and though not having a family of his own he was kind to children, not least John Hampden's great-grandchildren. He's a favourite in my family history.

*Gloria Jarvis Smith.*

Gloria Jarvis Smith has written two interesting books, entitled "A Jarvis Tapestry - the early history of a Buckinghamshire Family from Tudor to Victorian Times" and "A Jarvis Tapestry Part II – The story of an Edwardian Family of Aylesbury at Home and Beyond, through the twenties and thirties to modern times".

## WHERE IS THE 'ESSEX LETTER' FROM JOHN HAMPDEN TO SIR THOMAS BARRINGTON?

Recently I bought a book at the Oxfam bookshop in Marlow, called 'Essex Heyday' by William Addison, pub. 1949. It is a wonderful sketch of life in 17<sup>th</sup> century Essex. As is my wont, I looked first in the index to see if there were any references to John Hampden or the Civil War, etc. Sure enough there was one and it surprised me.

On page 34 in a chapter titled 'Good Estate' and dealing particularly with the gentry of Essex, there is the following statement; 'the frequently quoted letter of John Hampden to Sir Thomas Barrington in which he said "The power of Essex is great, a place of most life of religion in the land".'

The Barringtons lived at Hatfield Broad Oak, an ancient and attractive village, so characteristic of this part of Essex, that if the family were to incarnate they might well recognise it. Sir Thomas was a first cousin of our John through his mother Joan Cromwell. It seems likely that Elisabeth Hampden, being Joan's sister, spent some time in Essex, when

John was young, visiting members of her family. Her niece Lady Masham; Sir Thomas's sister, lived in High Laver about 15 miles north of Hatfield Broad Oak.



Aerial view of part of Hatfield Broad Oak as it is today

It is worth noting that Sir Francis Barrington and Sir William Masham were both imprisoned in the Marshalsea in 1626. Like John Hampden they had refused to pay the illegal forced loan. Lady Barrington went and stayed in prison with Sir Francis, which seems to underscore the strong character of these Cromwell women. Unfortunately he died soon after his release due to the rigours of his time there. Such was the way that King Charles dealt with those who had rendered him years of faithful service.

Coming back to the frequently quoted letter from John Hampden, can I enquire if any of our members know of it's whereabouts or maybe have a copy. We have so few letters of John Hampden. Primarily they consist of the letters sent to Sir John Eliot in the Tower.

Having made this request, it is likely I will hear from **John Adair**, our President, who is undoubtedly the greatest authority on John Hampden, or from **Roy Bailey**, who will give me chapter and verse on it. Failing that is there anyone who knows where the Barrington papers are; possibly the Essex Record Office; and would be prepared to do a bit of research. I know these things are available on the net, but I am not over competent on it and am so beset by viruses on it that I dread to use the thing...

*Bibl.*  
*Essex Heyday* by William Addison 1949.  
*The Patriot* by John Adair, repub. 2003.

After writing this article I happened to notice that **Paul Hooper** mentioned Sir Thomas Barrington in his very informative and readable book on the Isle of Wight, covering the period of the civil war. Although, as I have already mentioned, Sir Thomas's main seat was at Hatfield Broad Oak, he also owned the Manor of Swainston on the Island.

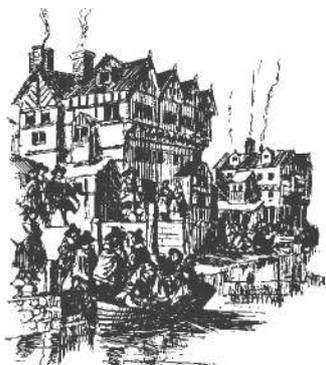
To quote from Paul's book, the title of which is '**Our Island in War and Commonwealth**', "His agent on the Island was John Hall, who lived at Swainston Manor. Already in December 1641 he was buying arms on the Island and sending them up to Barrington in London.

The bill of the Armes Mr Hall bo in December 1641.....and paid in full of it £31.0s.6d.

|  | £  | s  | d    |
|--|----|----|------|
| 30 swords and belts                        | 10 | 00 | 00   |
| 12 bandoliers                              | 1  | 8  | 8    |
| 74lb of powder @ 1s. per lb and 30 barrels | 3  | 18 | 00   |
| 53lb of Match @ 4d per pound               |    | 17 | 8    |
| 34lb & 13oz of powder                      | 1  | 16 | 6    |
| 15lb & 10oz of fine powder                 |    | 17 | 6    |
| 2 barrels                                  |    | 1  | 6    |
| A C-waight of bullets & 2 baggs            |    | 15 | 00   |
| 20 head pieces                             |    | 10 | 6    |
| 4 washers and scourers                     |    | 1  | 00   |
| 2 powder horns                             |    |    | 10   |
| 2 chargers                                 |    | 2  | 6    |
| 6 purses                                   |    | 2  | 00   |
| 2 great saddles & furniture                |    |    |      |
| Mr Cyrill bo **                            | 2  | 10 | 00   |
| 4 muskets he bo                            | 3  | 00 | 8    |
| For a hamper to put the headpieces in      |    | 2  | 00   |
| A sacke to send matches                    |    | 2  | 00   |
| A cart to carry these things to Aldgate ** |    | 1  | 8    |
| 5 belts                                    |    | 4  | 2    |
|  | £  | 31 | 00 6 |

*\*\* Here we see another person on the Island is also purchasing arms for Sir Thomas.*

*\*\* This suggests the arms were brought by boat from the Island up the Thames to London.*



With only one bridge, the Thames was the quickest way to travel.

Thus it appears that Sir Thomas realised that there was unlikely to be an agreement with the King and war should be prepared for. This illustrates how one person of good estate, and a kinsman of John, who had just cause to feel disillusioned with the King, was making his precautions, no doubt in concert with many others.

It was not until January 20<sup>th</sup> 1642, that Hampden successfully moved the first reading of a bill 'for putting all the forts, castles and garrisons into the hands of such persons as they could confide in.' It is often said that **John Hampden** directed matters but did not take the lead position and yet it seems to me there are innumerable examples, apart from Ship Money, of him placing himself right at the van when others were not acting expeditiously enough. This courageous

attitude was what inspired so much loyalty from those who followed him and so much wariness in those who opposed him.



Aldgate, looking east to Whitechapel. Bow on the horizon. St Botolphs just outside the Gate, today has a steeple. Based on drawing by H.W.Brewer c.1600

*Bob Hammond [Vice Chairman, John Hampden Society].*

## THE MISSING SPEECH

An interesting little anecdote contained in a book published in 1943, dealing with the history of Batsfords, well-known booksellers and publishers, which firm celebrated its centenary in that year. When it moved into publishing, it's forte was books on art, architecture, history topography and related fields. Whilst most of the publications were commissioned by Batsfords from suitable authors, the firm's talented directors, on occasions wrote some of the books themselves. This frequently entailed specialist research and there are a few paragraphs about the problems of researching in the Bodleian during the second world war, when heightened security awareness and temporary librarians, unfamiliar with the faces of regular readers at the Bodleian, sometimes made it hard for the latter to establish their bona fides. The narrative then continues:

"A similar experience long ago befell the late Earl of Buckinghamshire, a descendant of John Hampden. He had found two copies of an unknown pamphlet of a speech by the Patriot and, highly delighted, he had put them in his tailcoat pocket and gone off to present one to the Bodleian. His reception was discouraging. "Well, sir, what do you want?" He was told that the Bodleian had everything about John Hampden and that no such pamphlet existed. Drawing himself up to his full 6'6" the indignant peer slammed the papers down on the table and thundered "I am the Earl of Buckinghamshire and I came to present you with a copy of this unknown speech, but since you have been so abominably and damnably rude, I will see you in hell first." When the position was realised, they were all over him, but he shook his head, grabbed the pamphlets and stalked forth."

It would be interesting to know at what date this event occurred, which Earl was involved, whether a copy of the pamphlet was

subsequently given to the library and what the subject matter was. Maybe one of our more erudite members can enlighten the rest of us.

*Graham Barfield*

Another 17<sup>th</sup> Century recipe for you to try.

## EGGS IN MUSTARD

4 Eggs  
1oz butter  
¼ pint double cream  
1 teaspoon White Wine Vinegar  
English Mustard  
Salt and white pepper

Put eggs in cold water and bring to boil. Boil for 5 minutes.

**Meanwhile** put butter into the saucepan and brown it.

When brown add wholegrain mustard, white wine vinegar and cream.

Reduce until thick and add English mustard salt and pepper to taste.

When eggs are cooked peel them (**Tip** place them under cold running water for 10 seconds to make the shells should come away more easily).

Place in a serving dish, pour over mustard sauce and serve.

## The Hampden-Warren family connection

John Hampden is said to have been born in London in 1594. So far we have not been able to discover the church in which he was baptized, nor the date of his christening.

Some months ago, by chance, I found a reference, to his brother's christening – in Barking, in Essex, in 1596. The Essex Record Office kindly looked up the parish register for the year and confirmed that there is an entry which reads:

*Richard Hampden, son of William Hampden, Esq. Of Bucks, christened.....*

There is no entry for a John Hampden two years earlier.

Why should Mrs. Hampden have travelled to Essex to have her baby?

As we know, Elizabeth Hampden, John the Patriot's mother, was a Miss Cromwell, a daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell of Hinchinbrook. Her mother, Joan Warren was the only daughter of Sir Ralph Warren, twice Lord Mayor of London and, by all accounts,

one of the most successful and wealthy businessmen of his day.

This lady, Joan Cromwell, nee Warren, had only one brother, Richard, who, when his father died, inherited some of his immense wealth. This included the manor of Claybury in Essex where he was living when Richard Hampden was born. (William Hampden had married Sir Richard Warren's niece.) Sir Richard Warren, was thus William Hampden's uncle by marriage.



Claybury Manor

There is strong evidence of the close friendship that William Hampden felt for Richard Warren. This shown in his will:

*"I bequeath to my Uncle Warren one of my beste frendes my best grey amblinge geldinge in speciale signification of my good will towards him and to my Aunt Warren, his wife I give and bequeath a ring of gold in token of like speciale good will...."*

A month after writing these words in his will, William died and was buried in the chancel of Great Hampden church on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1597.



Great Hampden Church

Uncle Warren's will was proved in May 1598, so he did not long survive his nephew.

We know a great deal about Sir Richard Warren's father, Sir Ralph Warren, his life and some of his business dealing in London in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Sir Ralph Warren who was born about 1486, was the son of a fuller and served his apprenticeship before being admitted to the Mercers' Company in 1507. He soon attained the highest position as a merchant and belonged to the two great mercantile corporations of Merchant Adventurers and Merchants of the Staple. He was Warden of the Mercers' Company in 1521 and Master in 1530 and 1542. Along with Sir Richard

Gresham and other leading mercers, he procured the premises and established the hall for the Mercers' Company.

He was in trade in the parish of St. Benet Sherehog in 1524 and in that year was assessed at 3000/- one third more than any other leading merchant. He was then still only 40 years old.

In 1528 he was elected onto the Corporation and served as Sheriff in 1528 -9. He was one of the six alderman present at the baptism of the Princess Elizabeth at Greenwich on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1533. He was twice Lord Mayor, in 1536 and 1544. He died of the stone on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1553 at his house in Bethnal Green, then a very fashionable part of London.

He was buried in the chancel of his parish church of St. Benet Sherehog in the City. (alternatively known as St. Sythes). There were monuments in the church in to him and to his two wives. These were destroyed along with the church, in the Great Fire of London in 1666. The parish registers for this church for the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century have only partially survived. (Possibly also destroyed by the fire) ( After the fire, the parish of St. Benet Sherehog was amalgamated with that of St. Stephen Walbrook, not far away.) It is therefore not possible to look up earlier entries in the registers. Is it completely beyond the bounds of possibility that his great-granddaughter may have wanted to have her firstborn baptized in the parish church where her mother's family had stood in such high esteem?

There is evidence of a continuing closeness between the two families, well into the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. When Sir Richard Warren died, his widow, the "Aunt Warren" mentioned in William Hampden's will, remarried – to a Thomas Knyvett. Mrs Elizabeth Hampden, John's mother, and the Knyvetts of Norfolk, were in close contact.

*June Wailling*



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# HAMPDEN

## John Hampden and the English Civil War 1642 – 1651

*This is a text-only version of a school project produced by 9-year old Rebecca Roddan from Christmas Common. Rebecca attends Rupert House School in Henley. The school project was the English Civil War and Rebecca was the only pupil to choose John Hampden. She contacted the Society for information on John Hampden and was kind enough to send us a copy of her finished article and give permission for the Society to use this in the newsletter. The original version was produced on parchment-like paper made by staining the paper with tea, and was illustrated with line drawings and illustrations taken from books etc.*

1594

I was born in London. I don't know where or when I was born, my parents probably forgot. My cousin Oliver Cromwell came to see me today. He is my first cousin. I like him.

1595

It's my first birthday. My cousin Oliver Cromwell has come to stay.

1596

I am ever so upset. My dear old Father has died. I have become the heir to large estates in Buckinghamshire and many other places.

1604

I am now ten. I have just finished my first day at Lord William's Grammar School. All of the teachers are very strict.

1609

I love it here at Magdalen College. I made my greatest friend ever. Arthur Goodwin.

1612

This year Arthur Goodwin and I collaborated in a book of Latin verses entitled Luctus Posthumus to mark the death of Henry, Prince of Wales. I enjoy Latin. I will never give it up.

1613

This year I have contributed verses to another anthology, 'Lusus Palatini' on the marriage of Princess Elizabeth. I have also become a member of the Inner Temple this year.

1615

I have gone home to see mother, as I am no longer a member of the Inner Temple.

1619

I have been looking forward to this year so much as I am getting married to Elizabeth Symeon, daughter of Edward Symeon of Pyrton, Oxfordshire. Today is probably going to be the best day of my life as I have enjoyed it so much. We have only just got back to my house, Hampden House, to settle in.

1621

I have become a member of Parliament for Grampound in Cornwall.

1624

I have withdrawn my seat at Parliament. I want to bring three more Members of Parliament back to Parliament.

1624 May

I have found five more Members of Parliament. I have decided to become one Member of Parliament so there are six.

1625

I have just been to a meeting with the rest of Parliament and the King, Charles I. We could not have the meeting in London because of the plague, so we had it in Christ Church in Oxford.

1626

Charles I is setting taxes to get more money. He has taxed me. I quarrelled with him so my tax is £10 rather than £18. Yesterday I was asked to list possible charges against the King's right-hand man. The charges are going to be entitled 'The Causes'

1626 September

Over the past two months relations with the King got worse. Charles tried to levy another tax on us. I, with others, refused to pay.

1626 October

I was summoned before the Privy Council having already been bound over in the sum of £500 to appear when called. I pleaded Magna Carta as a defence, but I was committed to prison in the Gatehouse.

1627

I petitioned for freedom but I was unsuccessful. I spent the last part of captivity in Hampden House. Today I was released.

1627 November

I have to pay my ship money. This time I will have to pay it.

1628 April

I want ambassadors to be chosen to support Parliament.

1628 October

The Commons have some complaints, forcing people to take soldiers into their homes and other things such as giving too much power to the King's Army. Charles agreed because he was forced to.

1642 January

I have not written in this diary as nothing really has happened in my life.

1642 February

A war has started! I am fighting in it, along on my horse. I have also been fighting on foot. My friend Arthur Goodwin has been fighting with me. He has been fighting on foot only. I also killed many soldiers in the King's army with my sword and pistol.

1643 June 24<sup>th</sup>

I have been fighting today. My pistol has exploded in my hand. I only just managed to ride to the Greyhound Inn. The Greyhound Inn is the place where I died. At least the pain is gone as I am no longer alive.

- Facts about John Hampden 1594 – 1643
- John Hampden died when he was 51
- He is famous for refusing to pay his Ship Money.
- He was one of the richest men in England
- He was born in London
- He had two brothers
- His father died when he was three years old
- He died in the Greyhound Inn on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1643
- His best friend was Arthur Goodwin.

## ARTHUR GOODWIN [HAMPDEN'S BEST FRIEND].

Arthur Goodwin and John Hampden met at Magdalen College. They worked on verses from 'Luctus Posthumus' a Latin book as they were both brilliant at Latin. Arthur Goodwin and John Hampden fought together in the War.

Arthur Goodwin once said this about his good friend John Hampden

"He is an able and gallant man. We should honour this great Englishman".

## SHIP TAX

When John Hampden refused to pay his ship tax he became known as 'Patriae Pater' which means 'The Father of The People'. His Ship Money was twenty shillings. He could easily have paid it but Hampden refused to pay it.

Later John Hampden became known as the Peoples Hero!

## WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE KING KNEW HE WAS DEAD

As soon as the King's men and the King knew Hampden had died they shouted this poem:

"Such fatal vengeance wronged Chalgrove show,  
Where Hampden both began and ended too  
His cursed Rebellion, where his soul's repaid  
With separation, great as that he made,  
Hampden the man that taught Confusion's Art,  
His Treason's restless and yet noiseless Heart...  
Twas he that the Zealous Rout to rise  
And be his Slaves for some famed liberties.  
Him for this Black Design, Hell thought most fit  
Ah! Wretched Man, cursed by too good a wit."

## WHY WAS THERE A CIVIL WAR?

There was a Civil War for two main reasons – Religion and Power.

Religion – Charles I was head of the Church of England. The King's wife, Henrietta Maria, was Catholic. She prayed alone.

Many people were afraid that the Church of England would turn into the Catholic Church.

Power – Charles I issued taxes so he could have a luxurious life.

Many people did not like this. Parliament were so angry with the King a Civil War started.

Rebecca Roddan

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## DIARY DATES



2004

### Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October:

The Bucks Local History Network [BLHN] Fair and Conference at The Civic Centre, Aylesbury, commencing at 9 am.

### Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October:

A Joint Day School to be held with the Cromwell Association at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, commencing at 10 am.

All meetings commence at 8 pm unless otherwise stated.

For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at:

[www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm](http://www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm)

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP:

The Society has a membership of 141 and an up-to-date list is attached for your information. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining, an application form can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Liz Morris, on 01296 482448  
e-mail: [membership@johnhampden.org](mailto:membership@johnhampden.org).

Subscriptions are currently:

|                   | <u>British Isles</u> | <u>Overseas</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Adult Membership  | £10.00               | £10.00          |
| Under 18s         | £ 5.00               | £ 7.50          |
| Joint Membership  | £15.00               | £18.00          |
| Family Membership | £24.00               | £30.00          |

## PUBLICATIONS

The Society hold stocks of the following publications and products:

1. *A Life of John Hampden The Patriot* by Dr John Adair – A reprint in paperback form of this well-known and popular book, with a foreword by the Earl of Buckinghamshire. £10.00 if purchased from the Society or £12.99 from booksellers.

2. *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire – The People's Hero* by Frank Hansford-Miller. £2.50

3. *The Controversy of John Hampden's Death* by Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw. £3.50

4. *The Hampden Lectures* – a 32-page, full colour booklet produced in association with the John Hampden Society by the company that owns Hampden House. It contains a number of portraits claiming to be of John Hampden; the text of the talk given by Dr John Adair at Hampden House on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1993 [together with the question and answer session afterwards]; notes on the history and restoration of Hampden House; and some information [now somewhat out of date] about the Society itself. £3.00

5. *The Battle of Chalgrove Field* – A print on A4 cream vellum-style paper, of the battle where John Hampden received his death wound. First published in Dr John Adair's 1976 biography of Hampden, and reproduced by kind permission of the author. Ideal for framing. £1.50.

6. *In the Steps of the Patriot* – An illustrated leaflet giving a guided tour of the places in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire associated with John Hampden – 75p

7. *Colour Postcard* – A full-colour postcard of the Walker portrait of John Hampden, with details of Hampden and the Society on the reverse. £1.50

8. *Badge* – An attractive enamel badge mounted on metal and bearing the portrait of John Hampden in colour. £1.50.

You can order any of these products from

**The John Hampden Society**  
**Park Meadow Cottage**  
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Adding 50p postage and packing for up to 3 books [items 1 to 3] otherwise add £1.00.

Items 4 to 7 are post free if ordered with any of the books, otherwise add 50p per order. Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to *The John Hampden Society*.



## THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

Has asked us to notify members of the John Hampden Society that it has added a battlefield resource-centre to its website at [www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre),

## THE BIRDS THAT FLEW .....

This is the first in an occasional series of articles that will examine the lives and careers of that extraordinary group of men who, along with John Hampden, became known as “the Five Members”. Collectively they have entered the political lexicon across the English speaking world, and beyond, as a symbol of resistance to oppressive government. We will explore what these men had in common and why they were singled out for special treatment by Charles Stuart, sometime King of England.



**WILLIAM STRODE**  
(1598 – 1645) – “The Three Cranes”

In many respects William Strode’s background was similar to that of Hampden’s: He was a member of an ancient County family. The Strodes had long held land in Devonshire. However William, unlike Hampden, was a second son and therefore unlikely to inherit the estates of his father Sir William Strode. He was admitted as a student at the Inner Temple in 1614. Hampden became a member at the Inner Temple in November 1613 and would probably have met or at least heard of his younger contemporary. Like Hampden, Strode spent only a couple of years at the Inner Temple. Strode matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford in 1617 and took his degree in 1619.

Strode and Hampden entered Parliament at a similar age. Hampden in 1621 at around 27 and Strode in 1624 aged 26. Strode was elected for the Devonshire borough of Beeralston (a.k.a. Bere Alston). He represented the borough in all subsequent Parliaments up until his death in 1645. From the beginning he was actively involved in the opposition to Charles I. He took a leading role in the Parliamentary events of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1629 that were to have fatal repercussions for John Hampden’s friend, Sir John Eliot.

The Speaker, Sir John Finch, refused to put to the House Sir John Eliot’s resolution against arbitrary taxes and innovations in religion, and was held in his seat by Holles and Valentine so that the session could continue and the resolution could be heard. These actions were in support of what was believed to be one of the House of Commons’ most fundamental liberties – the right to adjourn itself. In fact this was not correct and there were many precedents that showed that an oral

request for an adjournment from the Monarch was all that was required. However until this the right to adjourn themselves was acknowledged The Commons could only sit for as long as it suited the Monarch.

Sir John Finch steadfastly refused to read Eliot’s resolution. At this point William Strode challenged the Speaker directly asking if he was the servant of the King or of the Commons. Sir John responded that he was “*no less the King’s servant than the Commons*”. He then declared in relation to Eliot’s resolution “*I will not say I will not put it to the question, but must say I dare not.*”

The session ended inconclusively with the House adjourning itself until March 10<sup>th</sup>. In fact Parliament did not meet again for eleven years and William Strode’s life was changed irrevocably. Whatever plans he had made were set aside and he was to spend most of those eleven years ‘at the King’s pleasure’ in various prisons including the Tower and the Marshalsea.

It is argued by Sir John Eliot’s biographer, Harold Hume, that much of what happened on March 2<sup>nd</sup> could not have been spontaneous. He places great significance on two meetings held by nine radical members at The Three Cranes Public House during the parliamentary recess between February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This group was led by Eliot and included Denzil Holles, Benjamin Valentine, John Selden, Sir Miles Hobart and William Strode.

For his involvement in the actions of March 2<sup>nd</sup> Strode was prosecuted, along with the Sir John Eliot and the other Three Cranes conspirators, before the Star Chamber. Strode famously refused “*to answer anything done in the Houses of Parliament but in that House*”. This was a direct challenge to the prerogative powers of the King operating through the Star Chamber Court. After Sir John Eliot’s death in the Tower in November 1632 only two of the original nine remained in prison: Valentine and Strode. Both men remained obdurate and refused to accept the humiliating conditions for release offered by the King.

King Charles finally released Strode and Valentine in January 1640. The two men emerged from confinement with their reputations intact and in many ways enhanced. It is however hard to avoid the conclusion that Strode had become an embittered and angry man. Any spirit of reconciliation that the King and his advisers might have wished to engender was not reciprocated

Strode was again returned for his old seat and was present when the Short Parliament met on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1640. The House soon turned its attention to the manner in which it had been so arbitrarily dismissed in 1629. On the 18<sup>th</sup> April the House demanded “*that the Records and Proceedings of the Star Chamber and Court of Kings Bench that concern several members of this House in the last Parliament that were questioned after the last Parliament shall be sent for immediately*”. A select

committee on which Hampden sat was appointed “*for stating the matter of fact touching the violation of the privilege of Parliament the last day of the last session and the opinion of the committee to be reported to the House*”.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> April the House debated the dissolution of the last Parliament. The specific issue of whether or not the Speaker could dissolve the House on the King’s oral command alone was raised. Hampden asked “*Whether after a verbal command (from the King) to adjourn the House and the House be not adjourned it be a breach of privilege (by the Speaker Finch) to deny to put the question*”. Finch, now the Keeper of the Great Seal, was in effect being accused of having committed a serious offence. The select Committee was ordered to prepare an address to the King regarding the privileges of the House.

William Strode went on to figure prominently in the Long Parliament when it met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1640. He was the first to propose parliamentary control over; how long the House should sit; ministerial appointments and the militia. He supported the Grand Remonstrance and displayed great zeal in the prosecution of Strafford. He went so far as to propose that all those who appeared as the prisoner’s counsel should be charged as conspirators in the same treason.

King Charles and his advisers were left in no doubt that William Strode remained an implacable enemy and it is surely not surprising that the King should have included him among the five members impeached for treason on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1642. The historian C V Wedgwood tells us that a ‘truculent’ William Strode initially refused to flee when the news that the King was coming to arrest the five members was first received. Strode wished to confront the King and did not understand the more subtle intentions of Pym. There was however no time for argument or explanation and his friends, including presumably Hampden himself, dragged Strode away by his cloak!

In one of History’s neat coincidences the triumphal return of the five members from the City began when they stepped into a barge at Three Cranes Wharf, close to the pub where Strode and his fellow conspirators had met in 1629.

Strode consistently opposed all suggestions of compromise with the King and urged on the preparations for war. He was present at the battle of Edgehill on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1642.

Strode applied the same relentless zeal to the prosecution of Archbishop Laud that he had applied to that of Strafford. On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1644 he carried the message from the Commons to the Lords asking them to hasten on the ordinance for the Archbishop’s execution. In the event he did not long outlast the Archbishop. He died on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1645 and was accorded a public funeral in

Westminster Abbey by order of Parliament. Needless to say his body was exhumed after the Restoration. He would appear not to have married but the Strode family line only became extinct in 1897. Beeralston, like Wendover, continued to return two MPs until the Great Reform Act of 1832.

Clarendon was uncharitable in his assessment of William Strode. In contrast with the qualified respect that he clearly felt for Hampden he had nothing but contempt for Strode. To Clarendon he was a man of low account and esteem, who gained his reputation only by his accidental association with those greater than himself. However he was respected by his own 'party' for his unwavering dedication to the cause. He remained resolute at a time when the ancient Liberties of the English People and their Parliament were under attack and seemed likely to be crushed.

William Strode's role was pivotal and his unwavering commitment was equalled by few if any of his contemporaries. There are those who would accuse him of being over zealous and embittered. These charges are hard to refute. However his contribution to England's constitutional development is worthy of respect and he should be remembered as a founder member of that great and much undervalued institution – the parliamentary awkward squad.

There is, so far as this writer can discover, no biography of William Strode nor any portrait painted from life.

Sam Hearn

## JOHN HAMPDEN AND KING CHARLES

A year or two ago I got into hot water from Roy Bailey for saying that I thought Hampden would have approved of the execution of King Charles. Despite that, I still hold to that opinion for the following reasons.

I think Hampden's attitude towards the King went back to the dissolution of the Parliament in 1629 when his friend Sir John Eliot was imprisoned in the Tower. Eliot died of tuberculosis after repeated requests to be set free to recover his health, when he would return to his prison. The final insult was when his family asked that his body be returned to Cornwall for burial at the family home, and the King's reply was "Let Sir John Eliot be buried in the parish in which he died", (i.e. in the common graveyard by the Tower). As we all know, Sir John committed the care of his sons to Hampden who must have noted the effect of a father's death on the boys.



Sir John Eliot

After 1629 Hampden retired to his home at Great Hampden to act the part of a landlord and magistrate, and it was well known that he carried around with him a copy of d'Avilla's *History of the French Wars of Religion* (his *Vade Mecum*) which took place in the previous century. There can be little doubt that, along with others, he anticipated and feared the outbreak of civil war.

At his Ship-Money trial in 1637 Hampden would have been aware of the pressures exerted by the court on the judges to obtain a verdict favourable to the King. He was essentially an honourable and upright man and he would have despised those who sought to influence the impartiality of judges.

When the Short Parliament met in the spring of 1640 and was dissolved in six weeks he must have wondered if it was possible for Parliament and the King to come to an amicable agreement. The day after the dissolution Hampden and other members of the Lords and Commons were arrested, their lodgings ransacked and their pockets turned out in an attempt to discover evidence on

which to indict them. Nothing was found against Hampden and he was released.

In the Long Parliament he played a leading role with Pym and others in pressing for Parliamentary control of taxation and the militia and the reformation of church government and doctrine; but most of his work was behind the scenes in committees using his "exceptional abilities as a parliamentary tactician". But he came into prominence in the passing of the Grand Remonstrance in November 1641. This was passed by a very small majority and immediately afterwards Hampden rose and proposed that it should be printed and published. This was most unparliamentary; nothing could be published from Parliament without the consent of both Houses and the Lords had not even been consulted. A furious row erupted in St Stephens Chapel and some members drew their swords, but a short speech by Hampden brought calm and the matter was postponed till the next day when it was passed. This was a courageous act on his part and shows his determination to press the charges against the King. It is said that at this time when asked what he would have replied "The King must put himself and his family entirely into our hands". It was about this time that it was suggested the he should be appointed tutor to the Prince of Wales.

The last straw came on the 3rd of January 1642 when he was accused by the King of High Treason and the following day the King broke into St Stephen's Chapel to arrest Hampden and four other members and Lord Kimbolton in the Lords. Happily "the birds had flown" and taken refuge in the City. It was said of Hampden at this stage that "when he drew his sword he threw away the scabbard". From this time on there was no turning back; he mobilised his Greencoats and went to war. His attitude to Charles had gradually hardened over the years and now there could be no compromise.

One of the great "ifs" of history is how different would things have turned out of John Hampden had survived the war. What would have been his attitude to the tergiversations of Charles in the years 1645-48? I cannot believe that, knowing his character, he would have come to terms with the King's many devious plots, especially his actions while on the Isle of Wight. Here Charles was at the same time negotiating with the Parliamentary Commissioners and plotting with the Scots for an invasion of England and the onset of the second Civil War. Charles was not to be trusted; his deviousness, so well described by S.R. Gardiner, would have decided John that the only option was to dispose of Charles.

An excellent article in the September issue of 'History Today' by the History of Parliament team on Hampden's attitude to church reform shows conclusively how by stages he strove for the abolition of bishops, pluralities, and the canons enacted by Convocation when the Houses were not sitting.



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His aims were determined well in advance, but he had to persuade Parliament by stages to achieve those aims, both in church and constitution.

*Dr. Paul Hooper*

**MORE MATTERS**  
**EDITORIAL**  
by  
**Anthea Coles**

Poor old chap! My heart bleeds etc.....

This young and spritely Assistant Editor would like to express her thanks to all those who have contributed articles for this, the Michaelmas edition of *'The Patriot'*, and I hope that you will all enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed producing it. I particularly hope that you will appreciate the efforts of Rebecca Roddan for her school project, which shows great imagination for a 9-year old and must have entailed a lot of work. Well done Rebecca and thank you for allowing us to publish this in *'The Patriot'*.

I hope that more members will feel moved to put pen to paper and send contributions, either to Roy or myself, for future editions. I am happy to receive either handwritten or typed copy, or articles can be sent by e-mail. Any illustrations, photographs, etc can be scanned and will be returned on request.

I am sure that there is a wealth of interesting information out there, so think about it and see what you can do. Alternatively, if you are unable to contribute an article or story, perhaps there is a topic you would like to read about. In this case we will be happy to carry out the necessary research and try to come up with the information. Just let us know what you would like to read about in *'The Patriot'* and we will do our best to include it in a future edition.

**THE HAMPDEN**  
**BOMBER**



It was a coincidence that the day previous to reading Graham's absorbing article in *The Patriot*, I had visited, the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede. Over 20,000 Fallen have their names inscribed there. The site of the Memorial overlooks the Thames and the riverside meadow, where Magna Charta, enshrining man's basic freedoms and rights under Law, was sealed on June 15th 1215. A poem etched on the glass tells that the final sacrifice of these men and women was to defend and enhance those very Liberties won on the meadow below, against autocratic despotism.

We all remember that it was **John Hampden** whose ancestors were no doubt in that very meadow, who chose to stoutly affirm before the Privy Council, 'I would be content to lend, as well as others but fear to draw upon myself that curse in the Magna Charta, which is to be read twice a year to those who infringe it.' Immediately, with many others who responded the same way he was committed to prison. There is little doubt that this return to the ancient English Laws was in order to engender a spirit of righteousness in those supporting Parliament's cause. One imagines they had met before and sworn their response.

Going now from the pristine and serene memorial, with the sun shining on the 'field called Runnymede,' below, and on the left the glinting white towers of Windsor Castle, to rural Buckinghamshire and to the little village of Edgecton which **Miles** and **Alison Buckinghamshire** know and love well, where in a book of memories of wartime I noticed the following cryptic sentence.

**"A Handley Page Hampden crashed and all the crew got out. They thought they were in Holland and they set fire to it!"**

*Bob Hammond*



**MATTERS EDITORIAL**  
by  
**Roy Bailey**

The Executive Committee has decided that, because I am becoming old and decrepit, the Editorship of *'The Patriot'* should be shared with Anthea Coles, who is still young and spritely! Evidence of this was in the last issue, where I described Winston Churchill as an ancestor of John Hampden.

Consequently, I shall continue to edit the Summer and Winter issues, due out on Midsummer Day and Christmas Day respectively, while Anthea will be responsible for the Spring and Autumn issues, due out on Lady Day and Michaelmas Day.

It would be helpful if contributions could be sent to the relevant editor, but it is not vital. The important thing is to keep the contributions coming in.



Autumn Colour near Great Hampden – a taste of things to come!