



# THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society  
No. 43 - Summer 2005

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

## MORE ARTEFACTS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Two more pieces of John Hampden memorabilia have come to light, thanks to the generosity of one of the Society's members.



At the AGM in April, Charles Woodd presented the Society with a lock of hair (*above*) encased in a frame with the handwritten subscription:

*'A lock of hair taken from the corpse of John Hampden, when his coffin was opened on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1828 - William James Smith.'*

This relic is on semi-permanent loan to the Society and it is Mr Woodd's wish that it should reside on public display in the Museum in Thame, or any other institution where it can be appropriately displayed, as long as the Society wishes.

Mr Woodd also showed members a miniature (*below*) which he owns and which he is in the process of selling to his cousin David Woodd. The inscription on the back states that it is John Hampden, although there is no evidence that he was the sitter. According to Mr Woodd, most expert opinion agrees that it is the work of Richard Gibson (born 1615).

The Woodds are descended from John Hampden through the marriage of the Patriot's daughter Ruth to Sir John Trevor, and both Charles's father and grandfather bore the second name of Hampden.



## HAMPDEN ON TELEVISION

Though the Society's proposed video about John Hampden has stalled, the Patriot will appear on television this autumn - in Japan!

We recently received an enquiry from Ms Kishi Yamamoto, a London-based producer for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), who is working in partnership with UNESCO's World Heritage Archive on a programme about the Palace of Westminster - part of a series entitled 'The Wonders of World Heritage'.

As well as featuring the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, the programme will look at eminent Parliamentarians, including John Hampden (naturally!), with their descendants talking about their long family heritage. Ms Yamamoto is naturally keen to interview our Patron, Lord Buckinghamshire, and arrangements have been made to film him at Hampden House at the beginning of August.

By coincidence, Lord Buckinghamshire's grandfather was fluent in Japanese, and his father was actually born in Yokohama.



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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT  
& BANQUETING

## THE HOUSE OF WHARTON Part 2

Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton, enrolled at Exeter College, Oxford<sup>1</sup> when he was twelve along with his eleven-year-old brother, Thomas, on the third of March 1626. Usually when a minor succeeded it meant reduced income as the Court of Wards was unscrupulous in its methods. However, the fourth Lord Wharton reached maturity with his fortune enhanced when he married in 1632 Elizabeth, the sole heiress of Sir Rowland Wandesford of Pickhill, Yorkshire. Their only daughter benefited from the size of her mother's dowry to obtain marriage to the third Earl of Lindsey. Philip, the fourth Lord, served as a volunteer under the Prince of Orange fighting on the continent.

From 1631 to 1637 Philip was commanded by King Charles to present himself at Court for the customary Masques. The handsome young Puritan Lord was proud to show off his fine legs. For most of this period he was living in Yorkshire so he was considered a 'Country Lord' and not a 'Court Lord'. In 1637 his wife died so he moved from his Yorkshire home to London. He entered Lincoln's Inn to gain some legal knowledge as he had much property to look after.

In the same year he married Jane, daughter and sole heiress of Arthur Goodwin of Winchendon in Buckinghamshire. During the mid to late 1630s many Puritans cemented their relationships by marrying their sons and daughters into each other's families. These families were heavily involved in Puritan Colonisation schemes (which were strongly opposed to the 'government' of Charles I) and in 1642 took up arms for the Parliamentary side.

Arthur Goodwin's father, Sir Francis Goodwin, had in his will a wish that his granddaughter, Jane, should marry a son of Lord Saye and Sele, a leading Puritan Lord. It was also worth noting that Sir Francis Goodwin was involved in the famous Buckinghamshire Election Case of 1604 with Sir John Fortesque, a prominent Buckinghamshire figure.

Sir Francis won the election to represent the County but when the King was advised that he was an 'outlaw',<sup>2</sup> James had the result rescinded. The House of Commons did all they could to assist Goodwin as they felt the King was interfering in matters outside of his jurisdiction. In the event, Goodwin was elected two years later. Almost immediately it could be seen and felt that the arrival of a 'foreign' King was causing friction with Parliament as to who had the authority to govern.

The seventeenth century was the century of Puritanism. Almost halfway through the century its force and ambition reached a climax, when even the aristocracy succumbed to this form of democracy, whilst a section of that same aristocracy challenged the monarchy. The Civil Wars were more to do with grievances than ideas. Previously those in power agreed with the Monarch because it

was in their interests to do so. James, as mentioned earlier, clashed with his subjects and it was in religion where his utterances and actions calling Puritans extreme Presbyterians and suppressing Catholics especially after the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 caused widespread dissent.

These 'Puritans' and Catholics used their power to assert their religious beliefs, and the abrasiveness and coarseness of this King, along with the ineptitude of his son, would result in a bloody civil war ultimately solving very little, but at great expense to the nation.



Philip, fourth Lord Wharton, aged 19

In 1640 Wharton was one of the 'popular noblemen' appointed to talk to the invading Scottish army in the Northern Counties. The Treaty of Ripon resulted in the Scots receiving a subsidy of £25,000 a month until their grievances were finally resolved. This payment forced Charles to call a Parliament<sup>3</sup> in November 1640 to seek the necessary funds. This Parliament skilfully prolonged measures to pay the Scots and outmanoeuvred the King on several issues.

Pym and Hampden, the two great Parliamentarians, manipulated the House of Commons and with the popular support of the London merchants<sup>4</sup> behind them, made it impossible for the King to govern. The King fled his capital in 1642 and raised his Standard in Nottingham. The country was at war with itself.

Wharton was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in 1642. He led his regiment at Edgehill in October 1642. His was one of four regiments that fled the field and for a time he had to hide in a sawpit to evade capture. Prince Rupert taunted him and called him Saw-Pit Wharton. This jibe was to stay with him for most of his life.

Wharton never took to the field again and immersed himself in Parliamentary matters. He was placed in the 'Chair' in the absence of the Speaker on a couple of occasions. Wharton became an Independent, that is one who wanted total victory as opposed to those Presbyterians who would have preferred a negotiated settlement with the King.

Independents believed in a less rigid form of religion allowing some form of liberty of conscience whereas Presbyterians favoured an enforced single Church state religion with no tolerance to other faiths. The Independents had a minority in both Houses, but this minority had powerful figures like Vane, St. John and Cromwell in the Commons and Wharton and Lord Saye and Sele in the Lords.

Wharton was involved in two measures that transformed the conduct of the war. The Self-Denying Ordinance and The New Model Ordinance were measures that meant that no Member of Parliament could hold a commission,<sup>5</sup> that the individual armies of Parliament were placed under the command of a single Lord General, and that there should be a 'New Modelled Army' able to act cohesively. The next big decision was the choice of a commander. It was a difficult choice but eventually Sir Thomas Fairfax<sup>6</sup> was appointed.

Wharton was also involved in the 'Heads of Proposals' in 1647. Although the concept was Ireton's, it was formulated with the help from other leading Independents like Wharton. Among the Proposals were reforms to the legal and financial systems, religious issues and a redistribution of Parliamentary seats according to rates and not population.<sup>7</sup> Whilst these 'Proposals' were being discussed, Wharton was appointed as a Parliamentary Commissioner at Army Headquarters.

The 'Proposals' lacked one element, however, as they were proposals from the officers and not those of the ordinary soldier. The agitators in the Army wanted to be represented in all discussions now and in the future. John Lilburne, best known as a Leveller, viewed Wharton's and Saye's close involvement with Cromwell and Vane with much suspicion and resentment.

Lilburne accused the leading Independents of "oppressing the people of having conspired in many private councils to enable themselves to hold the reigns of government in their own hands, not for a year but forever". Although one could argue this is what eventually happened in the case of Cromwell, at the time with the King's non-acceptance of the 'Heads of Proposals', it split the Independent Party into two parts.

Marten and Rainsborough wanted the abolition of the Monarchy and voted that no more communication be had with Charles, whereas Vane and Cromwell held genuine hopes that a compromise could be made with the King. Even Hugh Peters attacked Vane and Cromwell for their moderate views.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

In September, 1649 Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, died resulting in the weakening of the Presbyterians in the House of Lords. Essex was buried in Westminster Abbey with his funeral effigy placed below the dismantled High Altar in a splendid catafalque designed by Inigo Jones. With the passing of Essex the Parliamentary Lords became more fragmented and less important, although Wharton, Saye and Northumberland still had significant roles as Independents.

The King was executed in January, 1649 and the country was ruled by a Commonwealth Government until 1653. Wharton had already withdrawn from public life after Pride's Purge in 1648. The Commons nominated him to be made an Earl but this was refused by the King.

In 1653 Cromwell assumed power as the Lord Protector. Towards the end of his reign in 1658, he nominated sixty three men for the Upper House, as it was now styled. Nine were Peers of the Realm but only two of them took their seats. Those who did not include Wharton and Lord Saye and Sele, both of whom were former close associates of Oliver Cromwell. With Cromwell visibly ageing and the future uncertain, maybe the Lords did not want to jeopardise their future if and when the Upper House would return to being the House of Lords.

### Mike Portsmouth

<sup>1</sup>At one time Oxford was fiercely Puritan, until Laud introduced his High Church reforms; however, there remained one Puritan Don at Exeter College, John Prideaux, which along with his grandfather's experience of Calvinism, probably instilled in him a dislike of Armenian ways. There were other Parliamentarians who came under the influence of Prideaux, Sir John Eliot, the leading critic of the Crown in the 1620s, William Strode, one of the five members that Charles attempted to arrest in 1642, and John Blackmore who signed the King's Death Warrant.

Interestingly there were supporters of the King at Exeter College, Sir Bevil Grenville who was killed at Landsdown in 1643 and William Prideaux, the son of John, who died fighting for the King at Marston Moor.

<sup>2</sup>In the late sixteenth century, Goodwin was in dispute with another landowner over rents. The matter was resolved but Goodwin was still labelled an outlaw.

<sup>3</sup>The Long Parliament 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1640 to 20<sup>th</sup> April 1653 when it was expelled by Cromwell.

<sup>4</sup>The 'purse' of Parliament.

<sup>5</sup>Cromwell was an exception because he was a brilliant commander of the Horse and it was accepted that he was indispensable.

<sup>6</sup>Sir Thomas' father had correspondence with Wharton over this issue which may have helped his son achieve this command.

<sup>7</sup>This proposal would have resulted in more seats for London, already the centre of power in England.

• The concluding part of this article will be published in the next issue of 'The Patriot'.

## IN MEMORY

As well as the Annual Dinner, another Society tradition is the laying of a wreath on the Hampden Monument at Chalgrove on the anniversary of the battle.

Normally this is undertaken by Mrs Gill Lester (née Blackshaw) in her dual capacity of Clerk to Chalgrove Parish Council and a member of the Society.



This year the anniversary coincided with the date of the Annual Dinner, so a number of members en route to Thame were present to see the Society's Vice-Chairman, Bob Hammond, perform the ceremony.

The wreath (pictured) is produced each year by florist Anne Frost of Chalgrove.



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## DIARY DATES

### 2005

**Saturday 1st October.** Bucks Local History Network 2005 Local History Fair and Conference at Winslow Adult Education Centre. See website 'Diary' page for full details.

**Sunday 23rd October.** Edgehill Wreath-Laying by The Sealed Knot, including the unveiling of the Interpretation Panel.

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)

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Published by  
The John Hampden Society  
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Hungerford, Berks RG17 7ED

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Registered charity no. 1098314

## SOCIETY WEDDING

Members of the John Hampden Society, Col. John Hampden's Regiment, and residents of Chalgrove were among the large number of guests at the wedding of Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw at St. Mary's Church, Chalgrove, on 4<sup>th</sup> June.



Contrary to some expectations, the bridegroom, who is Commanding Officer of Hampden's Greencoats, did not wear his uniform, and only one member of the regiment was attired in 17<sup>th</sup> century dress, but the happy couple were escorted from the church by a party bearing the regimental colours (*above*). A rather bizarre regimental tradition was maintained when the members of Hampden's raised their arms during the singing of the final hymn, *Jerusalem*, which happens to be the regimental song.

The reception was held in Chalgrove Village Hall, and as our picture shows, the cake was cut with Derek's sword. This was followed in the evening by a ceilidh which involved much energetic country dancing and the consumption of a certain amount of John Hampden's Ale and local cider.

Mr and Mrs Lester's honeymoon was spent on a cruise to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, followed by a visit to the Inca sites of Peru.

## EDGEHILL ANNIVERSARY

Once again The Sealed Knot will be holding their annual wreath-laying ceremony at the battlefield memorial at Edgehill, which stands inside the Army depot just off the Kineton-Edgehill road. Always held on the Sunday nearest to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, this year it falls on the actual anniversary of the battle.

For security reasons, all wishing to attend **must** contact **Stephen Barker** on **01280 824877** to add their names to the entry list.

The second of the five interpretation panels, part of the *Edgehill to Edgcote via Cropredy Bridge Trail Project* funded by the Local Heritage Initiative (Heritage Lottery Fund), will be unveiled at The Castle Inn at **1.30 pm**.

Meeting time at the main gates of the depot is 11am.



Photographs by Valerie Horne

## AGM 2005.

Once again, thanks to the generosity of Tim Oliver, the Society was able to hold the AGM at Hampden House. This took place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April and was unusually well-attended by 27 Society members and two visitors, who have since joined the Society. This level of attendance was due, no doubt, in part to the promise of an interesting talk by two members of The Battlefields Trust, Simon Marsh and Steven Porter, who fulfilled this promise, giving illustrated descriptions of the Battles of Turnham Green and Brentford.

Prior to the talk, the meeting followed its usual course, the Chairman reporting on the year's activities, the Treasurer reporting that the Society funds were in a satisfactory state and the Membership Secretary reporting that 21 new members had joined the Society during the preceding year. There had been one or two losses for various reasons and the actual membership had increased by 13, to 130.

There were no changes to the composition of the Executive Committee following the election.

Later in the afternoon, Bucks County Councillor Richard Pushman suggested a liaison between the Society and the Chilterns Conservation Board, which might prove beneficial for both organisations. Contact has subsequently been made with the Board in order to set this up. Mr Charles Woodd offered the Society a lock of hair claimed to be that of John Hampden (see 'More artefacts of John Hampden').

A very successful meeting ended at 3.25 and was followed by the Battlefield talks and then, as usual, refreshments in the dining room.

**Anthea Coles**

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Siege of Reading, April 1643**

**by Malcolm Barre-Baker**

**@BooksLib Publishing - 2004**

**ISBN 1-55449-999-2**

This is a remarkable book that will find a place of honour on the bookshelves of anyone interested in the First Civil War and the military career of John Hampden. The author's research is thorough and his manner of exposition clear but never dull. Wherever possible he quotes from contemporary primary sources, often comparing and contrasting different points of view.

Mr Barre-Baker reveals that he originally intended to write about the Chinnor raid and the Battle of Chalgrove but as he researched the background for this he quickly discovered that the siege of Reading was "a much more suitable subject". It had never been written about in detail and several of the published assumptions about the siege were clearly wrong.

Chapter 19 nevertheless contains much fascinating information about the Battle of Chalgrove. Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw's book, *The Controversy of John Hampden's death*, sponsored by the Society, is quoted as a source.

I am convinced by the author's rehabilitation of the character and military reputation of the Earl of Essex. Mr Barre-Baker emphasises the impact of typhus (camp fever) on both armies and civilian populations in the war zone such as the inhabitants of Thame.

There is less in the book about John Hampden than I would have liked, however if there was any more in the primary sources I am sure that the author would have referred to it. Once again I am afraid Lord Nugent has been found out 'gilding the lily' of Hampden's reputation.

My thanks to Mike Portsmouth who pointed me in the direction of this book and shame on the staff of Reading Museum who do not stock it in their shop – heads should roll!

**Sam Hearn**

## DAY SCHOOL LECTURES

The next edition of the Cromwell Association's publication *Cromwelliana* will be published in August. It will contain the text of the lectures presented at the joint 'Patriot and Protector' Day School, held in November 2004.

To secure your copy please send a cheque for £6.00, made payable to 'The Cromwell Association', to Miss Pat Barnes, Dawgates Cottage, Dawgates Lane, Skegby, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 3DA. The price includes postage and packing.