



THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Journal of the John Hampden Society

No. 8 - Autumn 1994



JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD The Hampden Bicentenary Celebrations

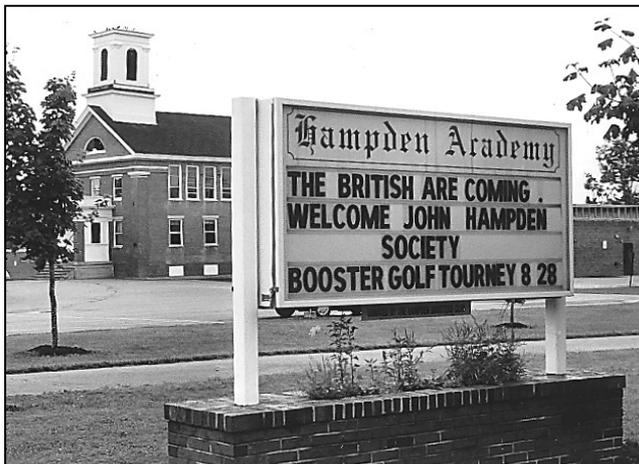
by Roy Bailey, Hon. Secretary

The visit by members of the Society to Hampden, Maine, in August to participate in the town's bicentenary celebrations was a resounding success. The residents of Hampden, led by members Alice and Robert Hawes, made us all feel so welcome that the week flew by, and we were all very sorry to have to leave.

The party consisted of eight people; myself (as official representative of the Society), Dr Frank Hansford-Miller, Mrs Adele Parker, John Goodall, William Wood, Derek Lester, Dr Rachel Hahn and Dr John Whitehead. The last three are all members of Colonel John Hampden's Regiment and took their uniforms with them. Muskets and pikes were obviously impossible, but great consternation was caused among the baggage handlers at Heathrow when their swords were discovered in their luggage!

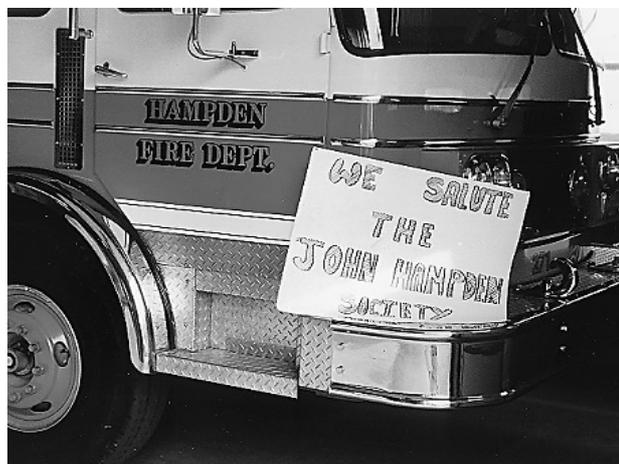
We were due to fly by American Airlines to Boston, but there was a slight hitch when Bill Wood, who hadn't heard the announcement, went missing in the departure lounge. While the rest of us sat waiting in the aircraft, search parties were sent out, his luggage was unloaded, and he only made it onto the 767 with 90 seconds to spare! At Boston we hired two cars and drove north along the freeways to the town of Brunswick in southern Maine.

The overnight stop was at a very pleasant motel, and the following morning we drove a few miles in heavy rain to Lisbon Falls, where, as we were not due at Hampden until 4 pm, Derek had arranged for us to visit a board mills. We spent the morning watching the manufacture of fibre board in very noisy conditions, and continued our journey after an excellent lunch of Maine seafood.



One of the welcoming 'marquees' in the centre of Hampden

We actually arrived at the Municipal Offices of Hampden, where a Union Flag was flying, at 3 minutes past 4, which was pretty good going after more than 36 hours and 3,000 miles. I apologised to Alice Hawes for the unpunctuality, thereby establishing from the outset that we were genuine English eccentrics! We were introduced to the rest of the reception committee and I was promptly interviewed for local television. The result was transmitted with almost monotonous regularity over the next two days!



Another welcoming sign, waiting to be used in the Children's Day parade

CHALGROVE - 'MAKE A CASE FOR IT', SAYS ENGLISH HERITAGE

English Heritage launched their draft Battlefields Register on 6th September and, as forecast, Chalgrove is not included in it.

The Hon. Secretary and Mrs Jill Eisele, who are both also members of the Battlefields Trust, attended the launch in London, which was chaired by Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage. Also present were such luminaries as HRH the Duke of Gloucester, President of the Richard III Society, and actor Robert Hardy, who is a member of the National Army Museum's Panel which selected the sites for inclusion.

At the reception following, conversations with the various experts produced the distinct impression that the exclusion of Chalgrove had been very much a borderline decision, and that the production of new evidence about the battle and the battlefield could well result in a change of mind by English Heritage.

Dr John Adair had previously suggested that research to establish more clearly the boundaries of the battlefield would assist our case, so we have written to a number of interested groups suggesting that each one persuades its members to do this where possible, and that the results be pooled in order to present one coherent case to English Heritage. We have suggested that this loose consortium be called 'The Chalgrove Battle Group'.

Already the Chalgrove Local History Group have been delving into old maps and aerial photographs of Chalgrove Field, while members of Col. John Hampden's Regiment have been busy researching various archives.

We have again written to all the towns of Hampden or Hamden (plus two new ones discovered in Australia) pointing out that John Hampden must have been a man of great importance to have so many communities named after him, and requesting their support in our campaign.

'The Times' ran a story about our campaign just before our trip to the USA, and a short article on the subject appeared in the October issue of the Battlefields Trust's newsletter.

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The members of the party were all accommodated by members of Hampden Historical Society in the town. I was the guest of Alice and Bob Hawes, whose lovely wooden house stands on a small creek overlooking the Penobscot River, within a few hundred yards of the site of the first settlement.

After a quick freshen-up, we were whisked off to cocktails and dinner with Lew and Marion Vafiades. The three members of Hampden's Regiment arrived in uniform and caused the first of the sensations that they were to produce. The dinner was superb, the conversation flowed freely, and we all went away with a large bag full of magazines, brochures, badges, tins of blueberries, etc., put together by another of the hostesses, Miriam Hart - known to everyone as Mim.

Friday was one of the two big days of the visit. In the evening, the visiting members of the Society were to be guests at the Dinner for Descendants of Early Settlers, where both Frank and I had been asked to make speeches. The morning was devoted largely to a briefing by Alice Hawes at the Municipal Offices, when we went through the schedule for the week - and a pretty heavy schedule it was, too!

After lunch was free time, but I had to write my speech for the dinner, and at 4 pm we all had to meet at Kinsley House, the Hampden Historical Society's headquarters, to register.

The dinner, which was held at Reeds Brook Middle School, was attended by people of all ages, from babes in arms to the elderly, all of them descended from one or more of the original settlers of Wheelersborough (as Hampden was originally known). The meal was a traditional New England one of pork and beans with brown bread and coffee - and very good it was, too.

In my speech, I briefly outlined the history of the John Hampden Society, mentioned some of our activities, and spoke of the other towns called Hampden or Hamden around the world. I then presented to the Hampden Historical Society, on behalf of the John Hampden Society, three biographies of John Hampden, plus some articles about Great Hampden and the family. The biographies were a two-volume set of Lord Nugent's 1833 work, which was autographed by a previous owner, Lady Antonia Fraser; a copy of Hugh Ross Williamson's 1933 biography; and Dr John Adair's version of 1976. The articles were photocopies carefully prepared by George Morris of Aylesbury. I finished by wishing the town and its inhabitants at least another 200 years of happiness and prosperity, and proposed a deliberately ambiguous toast to 'Hampden'!

After stating that he could understand how the early settlers could have left so many descendants if they fed as well as we had



John Whitehead, Rachel Hahn and Derek Lester in the Children's Day parade

tonight, Frank Hansford-Miller went on to talk of his interest in John Hampden and how he had stood for Parliament as a John Hampden Freedom Party candidate, which led to him being commissioned to write his illustrated biography of the Patriot. He gave an enthralling outline of John Hampden's life, and a stated that Hampden deserved to be recognised for his contribution to Parliamentary democracy. He could not think of a worthier man for a town to be named after. This was followed by a short resume of the history of the town by one of the younger generation, Katie Arsenault, and then a monologue by Richard Newcomb in the guise of Benjamin Wheeler, founder of the original settlement.

The evening finished with the singing of the two National Anthems - both, of course, to the same tune.

Saturday was Hampden Children's Day, and we were honoured guests in the parade through the town. Derek, Rachel and John Whitehead walked in uniform; John Goodall, Bill Wood and I rode in a beautiful red 1950s open Cadillac; while Frank and Adele were asked to be judges of the floats, and sat on the dais. It was a beautiful hot, sunny day and all of the town seemed to be taking part; either on the floats, of which there were a great number, or lining the route. The three members of Colonel John Hampden's

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'Now all the youth of Hampden is on fire' to try conclusions with Derek Lester at the Children's Day fete

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Regiment enthralled the spectators by either addressing them in flowery 17th century language, or engaging in ferocious running sword fights along the main street of the town, with Rachel, in her demure female role, trying to separate Derek and John!



Frank Hansford-Miller lays the Union Flag at the grave of the British soldiers, watched by (left to right) John Whitehead, Derek Lester and John Goodall

By midday the parade had finished and we moved to one of the schools where Derek and John put on an exhibition of swordsmanship for the benefit of the children, some of whom were keen to participate. The whole school was en fete, with side-shows and stalls, including one by the Hampden Bicentennial Committee. From here we were whisked away by Mim Hart to visit the gallery down by the river run by her son Forest, where we saw the most beautiful sculptures of wild animals and birds, for Forest Hart is as much a naturalist as a sculptor.

The busy day continued with the dedication of a plaque at the Heritage Stone, which had been placed beside the Souadabcook Stream at the site of the first settlement. Richard Newcomb, again in his persona and dress of Benjamin Wheeler, outlined the history of the site, and the plaque was unveiled by Morton Wheeler, a direct descendant of the founder. He was fascinated when I told him that this year's High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire was John Wheeler!

I then had to be interviewed by a reporter from the Bangor Daily News, so I was late for the next ceremony, which was the burial of a number of time capsules at the Municipal Centre. According to Alice Hawes, the Hampden Historical Society's capsule contained information about the John Hampden Society, so it was appropriate that the visiting members participated by helping to fill in the hole afterwards. Frank and I expressed our desire to be invited back for the disinterment of the capsules in 50 years time!

We were entertained to dinner that evening by Wesley and Joyce Hedlund, who lived in a beautiful big house on the outskirts of Hampden, about 2 miles from the town centre. I think the feeling of space was the most abiding impression of New England in general and Hampden in particular.

All the houses were well spread out, with large, unfenced gardens, so to get from one end of the town to the other entailed a journey of some 4 miles! Wesley informed us that building was not permitted where they lived unless the plot was of two acres or more. Practically all the houses are of wood (Maine is known as the Pine Tree State) and almost the only brick buildings we saw were the Hampden Academy and Michael and Sharyn Hastings' house,

where Derek was staying.

It was back to school after dinner for the fireworks display, which was a very spectacular and imaginative one, and only slightly marred by a mist that came down and hid some of the high-flying rockets. At the finish, the announcer asked for the 'chief honcho' of the John Hampden Society, which we took to be American for Honorary Secretary or official representative! We were presented with a brass plaque mounted on wood and engraved:-

**Presented to
THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY
for participation in the
Hampden Children's Day
Bicentennial Celebration
August 20, 1994**

This was by no means the only gift we were given, but it will be very much treasured by the Society, and we have decided to hang it in Hampden House at Great Hampden.

After the fine weather of Saturday, Sunday was overcast and drizzly, which was great pity because we had been invited to visit Mount Desert Island, the big holiday area on the coast of Maine. We were due to attend a matinee performance of Agatha Christie's 'Ten Little Indians' at a small theatre in Somesville, but first of all we were bidden to lunch at the home of Lou and Marion Vafiades' daughter Susan and her husband Hector Diaz at Southwest Harbor. This was a typical example of New England hospitality at its best; what had been described as 'crab sandwiches' turned out to be a full-blown salad lunch with wine, in which the delicious local crab

formed an important part.

The play at the Acadia Theatre was a delight, and the American cast's excellent English accents only slipped a little towards the end, when the excitement built up. It had been Mim Hart's intention to take us to a place where we would be served tea and 'popovers'- a form of cake made with a batter identical to Yorkshire pudding. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented this, so we took a drive around the island, calling at the famous Thunder Hole, where the waves hitting a long narrow cave produce spectacular geysers of spray when the conditions are right. Sadly, they were not on that occasion, and the overcast and drizzly weather prevented us from enjoying Mount Desert Island at its best.

Monday was a free day until the evening, so we all did our own thing. Derek and John Whitehead drove up to Baxter State Park, about 120 miles north of Bangor, to look for moose, while Rachel took another trip to Mount Desert Island. I spent the morning going around Hampden taking photographs and video footage for the official record of the trip, using the camcorder kindly loaned by Elizabeth Morris of Aylesbury.

I was shown around the telephone exchange by Linda Gamble, manager of the Hampden Telephone Company, and met Ed Murphy, one of the Hampden Fire Department's officers who had helped to organise Saturday's parade. I was intrigued by the messages of welcome to the John Hampden Society that appeared on the various 'marquees'- illuminated boards bearing plastic lettering that could be easily changed. These are very popular in the USA.

After an excellent lunch in Michael's Restaurant in the middle of the town, I had another speech to prepare for the evening's reception. This was at the invitation of the Town Council at the Municipal Offices, but before this we held a little private ceremony at the old cemetery by the Fire Station. Here Frank placed a small Union Jack (which he had been waving around all week) beside the memorial stone to the two British soldiers killed in the Battle of Hampden in the War of 1812.

The Town Council reception was quite informal, and my speech was largely abandoned, but we were each presented with a ceramic tile bearing a picture of Kinsley House and a black coffee mug bearing, in gold, the Hampden Bicentennial logo and the inscription 'Hampden, Maine; A Proud Past, A Promising Future'. Derek also received an elaborate statuette as third prize for the best display in Saturday's parade.

In return, we presented the Council with a copy of Frank's 'Lifelines' biography of John Hampden, autographed by all the visiting members. As well as the members of the Council, we had the great pleasure of meeting State - Representative

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Deborah Plowman. Some of our party had arranged to visit an old silver mine that evening, so only Frank and Adele stayed for the Council meeting, but in his opening remarks Mayor William Romano officially thanked the John Hampden Society for participating in the town's bicentenary celebrations.

Tuesday was our last full day and, as if in compensation for Sunday, was warm and sunny. I had arranged to visit Mount Desert Island again in the company of Martin Stokes, an expatriate colleague of Bob Hawes', and a most amusing man. Bar Harbor is a beautiful seaside resort, containing many large houses that were once the 'summer cottages' of the wealthy. In the harbour was an enormous ocean-going luxury cruiser that was flying the Blue Ensign and receiving the attentions of a TV crew.



All on parade on the final evening at Mlm Hart's house. From left to right (standing) Roy Bailey, (at rear) Dersk Lester, Bob Hawes, John Whitehead, John Goodall, (seated) Bill Wood, Rachel Hahn, Mlm Hart, Alice Hawss, Adele Parker and Frank Hansford-Miller

Apparently it was supposed that the Princess of Wales was on board, and when the reporter discovered that I was English, I was hauled in front of the camera and interviewed about my opinions of the Royal Family. The comments of the rest of the party when I imparted this news on my return was, "Oh, no - not again!"

They had also had a very enjoyable day. Marion Vafiades owns what she calls a trawler (actually a 25ft motor launch), moored at Castine on Mount Desert Island, and the other Society members had spent the day cruising around the coast in it. We all had to be back in Hampden reasonably early, because we were being entertained to cocktails and dinner by Mim Hart, before going on to Bangor for a concert which was part of the Arcady Music Festival.

We had also been invited to a reception afterwards, but most of the party were early start in the morning. Only the indefatigable

Frank, accompanied by Adele, accepted the invitation.

Our flight on Wednesday wasn't until 7.15 pm, but we had decided to leave at 6 am to allow plenty of time for sightseeing in Boston. We rendezvous at the Municipal Offices again, where Alice and Bob Hawes, Mim Hart and Ruth Steams were there to see us off. By the time all the luggage, swollen with gifts, had been stowed and farewells made, it was 6.30.

As it was freeway all the way, we made very good time, and I was dropped off at Newbury, Massachusetts, at 10.15. I re-joined the others at Boston Airport by bus, having spent an enjoyable few hours in Newbury and Newburyport, to find that not all of them had been able to visit Boston. Thanks to favourable winds, the return flight was faster than the one out, and we

arrived back at Heathrow at 6.45 on Thursday morning, having once more been well fed and watered by American Airlines.

It is impossible to fully describe the kindness and hospitality that we experienced in Hampden. Everyone went out of their way to entertain us and ensure that our week was a full and enjoyable one. Special thanks must go to Alice and Bob Hawes, Mim Hart, Wesley and Joyce Hedlund, Michael and Sharyn Hastings, Linda Gamble and Ruth Steams, who accommodated us, and to Lew and Marion Vafiades, Susan and Hector Diaz, Jeanne Whit-ten and Martin Stokes. The generosity of the Hampden Bicentennial Committee in inviting us to celebrate with them will not be forgotten.

We have made many new friends and forged a link between John Hampden's native land and the town that, like the John Hampden Society, honours his memory. May that link never be broken.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS

The recent article about the Society in 'The Times' (see page 1) contained a number of glaring inaccuracies (such as Cromwell being Hampden's Lord General), which required correction by means of a letter from the Hon. Secretary.

This resulted in a flood of correspondence to the Society - all of great interest. One letter was from a confirmed Royalist lady who, while deploring John Hampden's part in the impeachment of the Earl of Strafford and what she described as his 'treason' against the King, respected Hampden and was pleased to see the record put straight.

Others were interested enough to require membership details, and we are happy to welcome several new and interesting recruits to the cause. Three of them are life members; William Eason of Whitchurch, Berks, who is Hon. Secretary of the John Hampden War Memorial Scholarship Trust, an educational charity based on Lord Williams's Grammar School at Thame; Hugh John Hampden Pearson of London, who is a great-great nephew of Bishop Renn Dickson Hampden; and Mrs Olive Entwistle of Chorleywood.

Other new members include Professor Ian Beckett of the University of Luton, who is Conference Co-ordinator of the Battlefields Trust; Stephen Sharp, Chief Education Officer for Buckinghamshire; and Howard Giles of Cuddington, who works for English Heritage.

● Anyone interested in becoming a member of the John Hampden Society is reminded that those joining after 30th September receive the remainder of the year's membership free, and that their membership continues until 31st December of the following year.

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BANQUET IN BATH

Wednesday 5th July 1995 has been declared 'Lansdown Day'. To commemorate the 352nd anniversary of this important battle, a special 17th century banquet is being planned to take place in the beautiful Great Hall of Abbey Church House, Bath (formerly Hungerford House, which was owned in 1643 by Sir Edward Hungerford, a keen supporter of Parliament and an active member of Sir William Waller's army).

Local tradition claims that Waller conducted briefings in the Great Hall prior to the battle and that troops were quartered in the Long Gallery above. The setting for the feast, therefore, could not be more authentic. The banquet, prepared by Stuart Peachey of Historical Management Associates, will consist of 24 dishes based on 17th century recipes and served in three removes. Appropriate entertainment will also be provided.

For full details, please send a SAE to Dr John Wroughton, 6 Ormonde House, Sion Hill, Bath BA1 2UN (Tel: 01225 420050).

Hampden bicentennial attracts English visitors

By Roxanne Moore Saucier
Of the NEWS Staff

HAMPDEN — When Derek Lester brandished his sword during the Hampden Children's Day parade on Saturday, he was wearing green, not blue or gray. That's because he's a re-enactor not of the American Civil War of the 1860s, but the English Civil War of the 1640s.

As part of the bicentennial celebration of the town of Hampden, Lester came to the United States with seven other members of the John Hampden Society, the organization which honors the English patriot for whom the town is named.

It almost didn't happen that way. The plantation along the Souadabscook Stream was originally known as Wheelersborough after early settler Benjamin Wheeler. One of his descendants, Merton Wheeler, was on hand for the dedication of a plaque Saturday afternoon down by the waterworks, where the town was first settled in 1768.

In 1794, residents petitioned the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to become the town of Oliveco. But by the time the incorporation was approved, the townspeople had asked that the name Hampden be substituted for Olive. The act of incorporation did not specify why the change was proposed, but local histories over the decades have made the connection to John Hampden.

For the past year, the town of Hampden has held a variety of celebrations to mark its bicentennial. On Saturday, a time capsule was buried outside Hampden Academy.

The John Hampden Society is a new group, having formed in 1992 to honor the Englishman and parliamentarian who dared to oppose King Charles I. "We think John Hampden is one of the great men of the 17th century," said Roy Bailey, who founded the society in England with Frank Hansford-Miller.

In addition to participating in activities in Great Hampden, England, the founders wrote to the seven other Hampdens around the world. Bailey soon found himself corresponding with Alice Hawes, a teacher and member of the Hampden Historical Society and Hampden Bicentennial Committee.

Committee members hoped that someone from the society would come over in honor of the bicentennial and John Hampden's 400th birthday, and were pleased to find that eight were willing to make the trip.

Their week in Hampden will have included a dinner for descendants of the town's early settlers, Children's Day activities, a tour of Mount Desert Island, and attendance at the Hampden Town Council meeting and Arcady Music Festival.

"There's a really good community here," Bailey said, "a lovely spirit."

All the visitors agreed that the trip had lived up to their expectations. Maine has a lot more forests and wilderness than England, they pointed out.

Rachel Hahn, a medical doctor in Norwich, displayed an album of re-enactment photos from England. "My brother invited me to see the English Civil War Society, and I loved the drumming," she recalled. She now participates as a drummer, a skill she taught herself.

Some of the pictures showed soldiers using 16-foot pikes, designed as weapons against cavalry, she said.

Lester, who is from Waltham Abbey outside London, is a member of Col. John Hampden's Regiment of Foot. Lester

described himself as "a modest expert at swordplay, but musketry is my first love." The society could only bring swords to Maine, however, because English Customs handles muskets in the same category as assault weapons.

The issue of the English Civil War 1642-1651, explained John Whitehead, was "whether the king had the power to rule — the divine right of kings." Groups such as the John Hampden Society not only pay tribute to an individual who died in the English Civil War, he said, but hold up the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Contact with Hampdens around the world was encouraged by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, a descendant of John Hampden, and the even London Times has made note of the anticipated visit to Maine, Bailey told those attending the dinner Friday evening. He presented the historical society with a collection of biographies on John Hampden, and wished the town and its inhabitants "a happy and prosperous future for at least another 200 years."

An extract from the Bangor Daily News - Monday 22 August 1994

THE CHALGROVE CASE

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Any member who has anything useful to add to the pool of knowledge should send it to the Society. It would also be useful if any letters of objection addressed to English Heritage could be sent to the Hon. Secretary first, so that we know who is participating in the campaign, and can therefore present a body of evidence to English Heritage. We have already received a such a letter from the Hampden (Maine) Bicentennial Committee.

The address is:-

Dr Andrew Brown,
English Heritage
23 Saville Row
LONDON W1X 1AB

Closing date for objections to the proposed Register is 1st December, so submissions to us need to arrive by the middle of November. English Heritage have also set up a special Battlefields Inquiry line on 071 973 3226.

● Strange to relate, both the John Hampden Society and Col. John Hampden's Regiment were originally excluded from the list of interested parties invited to the launch of the Battlefields Register, but a strenuous objection on our part resulted in invitations and an assurance that the omission was an oversight! Hampden's Regiment were not so fortunate.

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HAMPDEN'S FURNITURE

The following news item appeared in 'The Thame Advertiser' of 2nd September:

John Hampden's Table to be sold

JOHN Hampden's Table, missing from Thame for more than half a century, has come to light in Cornwall. Now the historic piece of furniture is to be sold by auction in Penzance in two weeks time.

The oak refectory-style table used to be at the original Lord Williams's Grammar School in Thame where it was commonly known as John Hampden's Table.

Local councillor and historian Mrs Beatrice Dobie says the furniture was probably at the school when Hampden attended it. It was more than likely that he would have sat at it.

The grammar school moved premises in the 1870s but the table remained where it was until the buildings were bought by Mr and Mrs Harold Purser. The table was sold in 1939 and left Thame.

In fact it made its way to Cornwall where it will be sold at David Lay's Penzance Auction House on September 16 by the un-named family who bought it just before the war.

The estimated sale price was £3-4,000, but, in fact, it was sold to an un-named London dealer for £2,000.

Despite having come originally from Lord Williams's Grammar School, Thame Historical Society do not believe that the table had any close connection with John Hampden other

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Another very successful function was the Adult Education Residential Weekend at Missenden Abbey on 10th and 11th September, which was organised, under the above title, in association with the John Hampden Society. Nearly 40 people attended, of whom almost half were members of the Society.

The students were welcomed on the Saturday afternoon by the Hon. Secretary, who then gave an illustrated talk entitled, ‘The Search for John Hampden’. This dealt largely with the unknown factors of Hampden’s life and the legends that have surrounded him, and went on to show some of the various alleged portraits and representations of the Patriot that have been produced over the years.

This was followed by ‘John Hampden’s Buckinghamshire and the Civil War’ by the Rev. Arthur Taylor, a local historian. This was a vivid account of the comings and goings of the various military units of both sides through the county during that particular period, and how their activities affected the people of the county.

After dinner there was an entirely different view of the conflict by Irene Lizzie Jones. Dressed as a yeoman farmer’s wife of the 17th century, Lizzie presented a dramatic monologue in the persona of a poor woman from Lancashire who was following a Royalist regiment around the country in search of her soldier husband. This was so superbly done that it was difficult for many of the audience to remember that they were in a lecture theatre in the 20th century, and not tramping the roads of Stuart England. The first lecture on Sunday morning, ‘Puritan Cavalier and Cavalier Puritan’, was also presented by Lizzie Jones, who is an admirer of Prince Rupert. Here she compared the Prince’s background and character with that of John Hampden and showed that, despite his German birth, Rupert’s greatest desire was to be accepted as an Englishman.

The final formal lecture was by our President, Dr John Adair, who gave his usual polished extempore talk on ‘The Life and Times of John Hampden’. This sparked off a lively discussion session afterwards, with many of the students taking the opportunity to question Dr Adair on various points - especially the vexed question of Hampden’s death wound and the exhumation of his body by Lord Nugent.



The course finished after lunch with a living history demonstration of Civil War uniform and weaponry by Derek and Julia Lester of Col. John Hampden’s Regiment. After describing and displaying the hardware in the lecture theatre, the weekend finished with a bang (literally) when Derek (*above*) demonstrated the firing of a musket on the lawn at the front of the Abbey.

As well as the interesting talks, students appreciated the excellent accommodation and food supplied by Missenden Abbey, and many expressed the hope that such an event would be repeated next year. The John Hampden Society would like to thank the Abbey’s Head of Residential Adult Education, April Halton, and all her staff for making such an informative and enjoyable weekend possible.

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FUTURE EVENTS

As we have nothing planned, other than the AGM next February, there is no Diary this time.

If anyone has any ideas for future events, other than a repeat of the excellent Missenden Abbey weekend, please write to the Hon. Secretary

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APOLOGIES AND THANKS

We regret the rather late appearance of this issue of ‘*The Patriot*’, which should have been published on Michaelmas Day. This was due, in part, to the necessity for an 8 page issue, and also to pressure of business.

We would like to thank Shire Publications of Princes Risborough for their help.

BOOK REVIEW

We have recently been sent a copy of ‘Eye and Ear Witnesses’ by Anna Milford. Published by the Partizan Press to mark the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the English Civil War, this is a fascinating collection of extracts from contemporary writings of the period.

The writings are organised in chapters under such headings as ‘Overture to War’, ‘Royal Family’, ‘Church Militant’, ‘Battles and Seiges’, ‘Home & Family’ and ‘Press’, and there are over 65 illustrations, together with brief biographies and on-site information of interesting places to visit. There are a number of tracts about John Hampden but no portrait.

Mrs Milford, whose Civil War credentials include being born on the anniversary of Dunbar and Worcester (3rd September) and choosing the English Civil War as her specialised subject on ‘Mastermind’, has written an absorbing book that gives an insight into the thoughts and feelings of those who lived through that momentous period of our history.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS RECEPTION

Sadly, it has proved impossible to organise the proposed reception in the House of Commons for this year, and we must apologise to all those members who were looking forward to the visit.

The various rooms in the House are booked well in advance - as indeed are the Members. We were advised of a cancellation in November, but no suitable MP was available at short notice to host the function, as is required.

However, special thanks for her efforts must go to Mrs Sarah Barrington of the Spread Eagle Hotel in Thame, who actually persuaded President of the Board of Trade Michael Heseltine to agree to act as host, subject to availability. Mr Heseltine, MP for Henley and a regular visitor to the hotel, made one caveat - he refused to dress up in what he describes as ‘17th century kit’!

We may try again next year.

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WORLD CHAMPION

Fresh from his triumphal tour of Maine, Dr Frank Hansford-Miller has now decided to conquer Australia. At the beginning of October he entered the World Master’s Games in Brisbane and became World Champion in the 75-79 years category, winning gold medals in the 3,000 metres Race Walk, the 5,000 metres Race Walk, and the 10 kilometres Road Walk.

If this were not enough, Frank also won a Silver Medal in the 10 kilometre Cross Country and Bronze Medals in the 2,000 metres steeplechase and the 13 miles Half Marathon.

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FURNITURE

continued from page 5

than that he may have sat at it - along with many other pupils of the school. There would have been considerably more provenance had he, like so many other boys throughout the ages, carved his initials on it!



A piece of furniture bearing not just Hampden's initials but his name is in existence. One of our members, a resident of Buckinghamshire, owns this little oak chest, which stands about 10" high and is about 8" square. As can be seen, the carving on the top suggests that it belonged to John Hampden in the 1630s, but, in fact, there is a persistent legend that he actually made it himself.



The date is significant. The Ship Money trial began in 1637, but it took a long time for the 12 judges to deliver their verdicts, and the last one was not given until June 1638. With no Parliament sitting, Hampden would have had plenty of time on his hands and there is no reason why he should not have amused himself by making this delightful piece of furniture.

The chest was given to the present owner's father by the 8th Earl of Buckinghamshire ('Bertie Bucks'), but it is not the only piece of woodcarving attributed to the Patriot. Nearly 30 years ago, when he first saw the chest, the Hon. Secretary was also shown a pair of wooden candlesticks, decorated with a linked chain of wood, that were said to have also been carved by Hampden. They were in the possession of two old ladies living near Aylesbury, who stated that their mother was given them by the Earl.

If anyone has any knowledge of these candlesticks, the John Hampden Society would like to hear about them, and also the whereabouts of the refectory table. The chest is in very good hands, and was on display in Hampden House at the High Sheriff's reception in July.

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WILL THE REAL JOHN HAMPDEN . . . ?

Part 2

In *'The Patriot'* No. 7, mention was made of a visit by members of the Society to Broughton Castle, seat of Viscount Saye and Sele. As well as the beautiful silver cup bearing John Hampden's name, Lord Saye and Sele possesses three portraits said to be of the Patriot.

One is a copy of the Earl of St. Germans' portrait (see *'The Patriot'* No. 4), but the other two are new to us, and art historian David Appleby has inspected photographs of them and kindly given his expert opinions.

The large oil painting (*below*) hangs on the East Stairs of the Castle, and bears on the back a tattered, faded label reading 'John Hampden by . . .'. the artist's name being missing. The writing is in ink and gives the impression of being Victorian.



D.A. This is very unlikely to be John Hampden, despite the reported inscription. The neckerchief in particular would appear to indicate that the painting is more likely to have been executed during the 1680s rather than the 1640s, and certainly well after the death of John Hampden. The feigned oval frame (not visible in our reproduction) is a common device, and often the identity of the artist and sitter is painted into the design, and thus lies hidden beneath the actual frame.

This work is competently painted, but is rather lifeless when compared to similar portraits portrayed by John Closterman (1660-1711) and Simon Du Bois (1632-

1708). It would be interesting to learn of the provenance behind this painting, which might help to narrow the search for an artist. In the absence of such information, any attribution is simply a guess. However, a follower of Gerrit Soest, such as William Reader (fl. 1672-after 1700) would fit the bill.

The miniature (*right*) is approximately three inches high, with a blue background.

D.A. It is difficult to assess such a work properly from a photograph, and I can only really make one or two general observations. Again, the neckwear of the sitter would tend to cast doubt on his identification as John Hampden; the fashion for wearing a short scarf in this manner suggests a date sometime in the late 1650 or early 1660s. Even if the dating of the clothing could be stretched back to the 1640s, the sitter himself looks far too young to be John Hampden.

As regards the identity of the artist, it would be unwise to suggest anybody without a more scientific analysis. In the seventeenth century England boasted several excellent miniature painters or limners, several of whom would have been capable of producing this work. However, some initials near the left-hand edge, partly obscured by a reflection, could be either D.G. or D.D.G.

If the former, this would be David Gibson, one of the famous family of painters who, though normal sized, were descended from the dwarf Richard Gibson. David Gibson was painting around 1658, but the initials do not appear to resemble his normal monograph.

The other alternative is David Des Granges, a Huguenot from Guernsey, who was employed by Charles 11 in 1651, when the latter was in exile.

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The following article was written in response to the feature on the alleged portraits of John Hampden in *'The Patriot'* No. 4, published a year ago.

PORTRAITS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

by Elliott Viney

My thirty year interest in this subject started in 1959 when the Bucks Record Society had their annual general meeting at Stowe. John 'Bertie' Bucks, the 8th Earl, was our president. We were looking at the bust of John Hampden in the Temple of British Worthies and he said to me 'You know we have no authentic likeness of him at all'. This had always been the family tradition dating back from at least the 18th century for in Seward's 'Literary Anecdotes' (Vol. D, p.280) he records that the last male Hampden in the direct line, John, who died in 1753 used to say 'there is no representation existing of this great man, upon which we may rely for the truth of the likeness.'

There is an interesting entry in George Lipscomb's 'History of Buckinghamshire', published in 1847, where he is describing Hampden House:-

It is to be regretted that, with few exceptions, the numerous family portraits of the Hampdens have neither, names, dates, or coats of arms, annexed to them and, promiscuously distributed throughout the house, are not identified. Even the portrait of the Patriot is not exactly ascertained, although much pains have been taken to establish its genuineness. The head of a man in armour, with a serene countenance, his hair parted, and descending to his shoulders, holding in one hand a scroll or role of papers, commonly supposed to be designed for the Patriot, is obscurely placed at the top of the staircase, ascending to the old library, but has no marks to prove it being an original; tradition, however, says that it is the same, respecting which the following letter is preserved. It is from William Henry, Dean of Killaloe to Robert Trevor-Hampden, later Viscount Hampden.

'The letter which I had the honour of transmitting to Mr Hampden thro' the favour of Mr Trevor, seems to me to be a genuine original of his famous ancestor, the great John Hampden, for the following particular reasons.

June 16 1743 I purchased this portrait at the Auction of the Goods of Mr Copping, late Dean of Clogher, by the advice of an eminent painter. Dean Copping had brought it over, together with many other valuable collections; which were the Furniture of a House near Ipswich, belonging to an antient Lady, Aunt to the late Duke of Devonshire, who had bequeathed this to Mr Copping, her Chaplain.

This House and Furniture had belonged to the great Lord Russell who lost his life for the Protestant Religion and Liberties of his Country.

Upon a visit made to me, at my House in Strabane, by Doctor Reynel, then Bishop of Derry (who had been Tutor to the late Duke of Devonshire Ld Lieut. of Ireland, immediately on seeing this Portrait, the Bishop started, and in kind of surprise asked me, 'Where did you get this original of the great John Hampden?' I gave him an account of the manner in which it came into my hands. Whereupon he said that he knew the picture well: and gave me this account of it. 'Mr Hambden sate for this Picture before the beginning of The Civil Wars, and gave it to his Friend Sir William Russell. From Sir William it came to Lord Russell:

From Lord Russell, this picture together with his House and Furniture near Ipswich, came to this Lady (I believe was his Daughter or Grand daughter) and from her to Dean Copping'.

William Henry, Dean of Killaloe
Dublin, Oct. 19 1762

This all raises several interesting points, First the provenance is convincing. Sir William Russell, to succeed as 4th Earl of Bedford in 1641 and later to be the first Duke, was a noted Parliamentarian, a fellow MP of J.H. in 1640-1 and a Major-General in the Army. His son, the Lord Russell, was executed after the Rye House Plot in 1683; one of his daughters married the Duke of Devonshire but it was probably a grand-daughter who had the house at Ipswich.

If it survives which portrait is it? Some years ago I took photos of three portraits all labelled J.H. I marked them 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

'C' is obviously late 17th century; 'B' is picture number 2 in *'The Patriot'* No. 4; 'A' seems to agree more with the description.

'B' was obviously considered important around 1905 - it occupies the place of honour in the hall in an old photo taken at the time.

The Ellis print (number 3 in *'The Patriot'*) This was engraved twice by Houbraken in 1741 and again in 1750 for Peck's 'Life & Writings of Oliver Cromwell'. I would not put too much reliance on the gossipy Granger; what is interesting is that Sir Richard Ellis, the owner of the picture from which the engravings were made was the great-grandson of J.H., his mother being Isabella Hampden, daughter of Richard, the Patriot's eldest surviving son.

I noted that Ellis' widow married Sir Francis Dashwood, the builder of West Wycombe, and wondered if the picture had come there. The present Francis D. however has not been able to locate it in his ample collection.

There was supposed to be a portrait at Broughton Castle, Banbury; this would not be surprising as the first Viscount Saye & Sele was arrested with Pym and Hampden in 1641. With the present owner, Nat S & S., I photographed it (*this is reproduced on page 7*) but he says several experts have dismissed it and he has the feeling that it was a Victorian purchase.

I found another full-length labelled J.H. at the National Book League in Albemarle Street. This turned out to be on loan from the historian Dame Veronica Wedgwood. She wrote to me:

'I bought it at Christie's in the 1950s for £18 under the name of Montrose. It is based on the well-known Montrose by Honthorst, but it clearly isn't him, as Montrose was not so clean-shaven. I had assumed the picture was a copy, 18th century, or even 19th, of an earlier original. It was very dirty. When I had it cleaned, it turned out to be mid-17th century all right, and fairly probably a Robert Walker. The next suggestion was that it could be a Cromwellian soldier of some kind and I put a little note under it asking if anyone had a suggestion. It was then that I was offered the suggestion that it resembled a sketch of an apparently lost portrait of Hampden previously in the possession of the Earls of Bucks ... My recollection is that the picture came from the Earl of Yarborough's collection'.

The bust in the Temple of British Worthies at Stowe is either by Scheemakers or Rysbrack - they did eight each - but probably the latter; it dates from 1733. The terracotta bust at the N.P.G. seems to be the model for it.

The bas-relief head in the porch of Hartwell House dates from 1743 as it was put up to commemorate the centenary of the battle at Chalgrove.

Elliott Viney is President of the Bucks Archaeological Society and a former High Sheriff of the county.

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REMINDER

You are reminded that telephone dialling codes change next April, with the addition of a '1' after the initial '0'

These new codes are already working in parallel with the existing system, so the next membership list will show all telephone numbers as in the box below.

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