



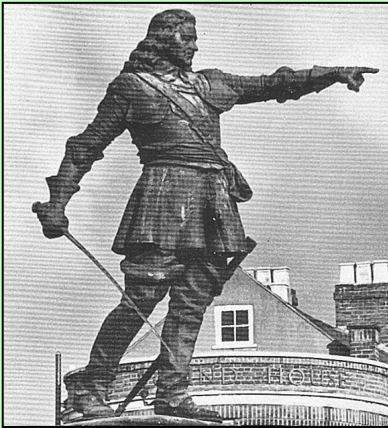
THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 57 - Winter 2008/2009



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



YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Can you spare us ninety minutes of your time? We have decided to hold a workshop event, immediately after the AGM, to gather members' thoughts and ideas on how best to attract new people to join us. For those of you who have not experienced such an event all will be revealed on the day. This has been provisionally booked for Saturday, 25th April, at The Barns Centre, Thame. Confirmation of this date and further details of the day will be circulated nearer the time.

The basic idea is to generate options, suggestions and conclusions by working for short sessions in small groups. The output from these sessions will be summarised by spokesmen nominated by each group. The Executive Committee will subsequently discuss the results of the workshop and agree what actions will be taken. It will be more fun than it sounds – honest!

No one will be forced to contribute or speak if they don't want to. You may simply choose to listen to what others are saying. However this is obviously a golden opportunity to share your ideas with other members of the Society. If you cannot make it to the AGM or need to rush away afterwards, then please put your thoughts in writing and send them to the Honorary Secretary Anthea Coles.

The Society has achieved much of which it can be proud in its first sixteen years. However if we are to continue to flourish we must find practical ways of attracting and retaining new members. All contributions will be valued equally.

Sam Hearn

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Dear Roy,

The Hampden (Maine) Historical Society was pleased to receive No. 56 - Autumn 2008 issue of *The Patriot*. The articles contain so much interesting information.

I am back at Reeds Brook School as a volunteer from the HHS, teaching two classes of grade 7 and grade 8 pupils one day a week about Hampden history. Once again information from "The Patriot," the materials you have sent the Society are very much appreciated. Following the upcoming holidays, and a new school term, I will serve mainly as a resource to them and to a graduate student from U of Maine who will be learning about the history of our town.

The students were especially interested in the town's having been a ship building center in the late 18th through the 19th century, and to find there was a ship built in 1801 named the "John Hampden." The cargo capacity of the ship was 213 tons. The John Hampden was built by a prominent Hampden resident Simeon Stetson, who was involved in the statehood proceedings when Maine separated from Massachusetts, and was active on the committee that wrote the constitution for the State of Maine. Simeon's son Reuben K. Stetson commanded the ship in the West Indies trade for many years.

Alice Hawes

THE NEARLY MAN - WILLIAM HAKEWILL MP (1574 - 1655)

This is the first of three articles about William Hakewill. John Hampden and Hakewill supported many of the same causes and probably worked together on several occasions. This article sets out some of what is known about Hakewill's life and career up until 1629. The second article will explore Hakewill's importance to Hampden and to our understanding of The Patriot. The final article will cover the last thirty five years of his life and include an assessment of his achievements.

Hakewill was a notable lawyer, MP, historian and antiquary. He came close to high office twice and was acknowledged by his contemporaries as an expert on Commons privileges and procedures. Twenty years older than John Hampden he was already a well known figure at the Inns of Court and at Westminster when Hampden was first elected in 1621. Outliving Hampden by twelve years he survived the Civil War and participated in the establishment of the new political order.

Although not in the conventional sense a prolific author William Hakewill's thoughts on constitutional matters were widely circulated amongst politicians and lawyers in the form of notes and treatises. He remains a key source for our understanding of the epic struggle for the control of Parliament in the first half of the seventeenth century and beyond.

He was born in Exeter the son of merchant John Hakewill and Thomasine his well connected wife. Thomasine's father John Peryam was twice Mayor of Exeter and her brother William Peryam represented the city in the Parliament of 1563. This Puritan uncle was to prove important in Hakewill's career. Hakewill began his legal training at Staple Inn and became a member of Lincoln's Inn in 1598. In 1601 he entered Exeter College at Oxford, his uncle's old college, and was returned as MP for Bossiney, a Cornish seat which his uncle controlled. He was called to the bar in 1606.

In May 1617 Hakewill married Elizabeth Wodehouse, a niece of the Attorney General Sir Francis Bacon, and was appointed Solicitor General to Queen Anne. Unfortunately for Hakewill, the Queen died in 1619 and Sir Francis Bacon was disgraced in 1621. The marriage, however, was a famously happy one. The Puritan divine William Compton dedicated his sermon *A Wedding Ring* to the couple when it was published in 1632.

In his parliamentary career Hakewill represented three Cornish seats: Bossiney (1601),

Michell (1604-11) and Tregony (1614 and 1621). He represented Amersham in the Parliaments of 1624 and 1628-9.

In his first Parliament he was an active speaker on a variety of topics. Hakewill strongly opposed Monopolies, an important source of income for the King. He commented sarcastically in a discussion on Monopolies in November 1601 "Is not Bread there? If order be not taken for these, Bread will be there, before the next Parliament". He steered two short bills through the Commons in 1604 and was appointed to various Committees in 1606. In a 1607 he intervened in the debate on a bill to prevent



Chequers - once owned by Hakewill

arrests on the Sabbath to say that it was "the absurdest bill that ever passed from a committee".

Hakewill chaired five legislative Committees in the 1610 Parliament. His growing stature at Westminster was confirmed when he spoke out against Impositions. Hakewill presented a well researched case against the legality of the King's right to impose Impositions, i.e. duties on imports and exports without the permission of Parliament.

He was one of the most active committee men in the so called Addled Parliament of 1614. Not surprisingly he was selected to be part of the delegation to discuss Impositions in conference with the Lords. King James dissolved Parliament before this meeting could occur and ordered that all the notes prepared for it be destroyed.

By 1619 Hakewill and his new wife were living at Ellesborough in Buckinghamshire at Chequers, the house that many years later was to become the official country seat of the Prime Minister.

Parliament devoted much time in 1621 to attacking Monopolies and discussing the punishment of the disgraced Bacon and various corrupt officials. He was given the

task of researching precedents for the Commons' prosecution of delinquents against the State and those who had offended the Commons. This work foreshadowed the celebrated trials of Strafford, Charles Stuart and the Regicides. John Pym noted in his diary in 1621 that of all the speakers in a debate on parliamentary privilege it was Hakewill who was the "most versed of any therein".

Following the dissolution of the 1621 Parliament he and several other MPs were summoned before the Council. However, unlike Sir Edward Coke and the others he was not imprisoned. He had been held briefly in 1620 for alleged complicity in the writing of a treatise against the proposed Spanish marriage of the Prince of Wales.

Like Hampden, he did not seek a place in the Commons at the General Election in 1624. In April 1624 he was retained as counsel by the boroughs of Amersham, Marlow and Wendover who petitioned jointly for the restitution of the franchise. Despite the King's objection to the enlargement of the House, the Commons ordered the issue of the necessary writs. The electors of Amersham duly conferred on him one of their two restored parliamentary seats. He chose, however,

not to serve in the first two Parliaments of Charles I.

Hakewill resumed his parliamentary career in 1628. It is clear from his speeches that he believed that, like the earlier issue of Impositions, the King's Forced Loans of 1626-7 raised fundamental issues about the King's powers. He said that anyone who doubted that the subject had an absolute right to his property was "not worthy of his coat or his life".

Hakewill had grave reservations about the efficacy of The Petition of Right proposed by Sir Edward Coke and supported by the Commons. However he accepted the Commons' decision and defended the draft Petition when the Lords tried to dilute it. During the 1629 session he made only one recorded speech. Although he remained Chairman of the important Privileges Committee, his profile seems to have been diminished. Like Hampden, he was not directly involved in the incident in March 1629 when the Speaker was held down in his seat so that the House could hear Sir John Eliot's Petition before Parliament was prorogued. Hakewill retired into relative obscurity and Parliament did not sit again for another eleven years.

Sam Hearn

MEMBERS' AREA

At the behest of Vice-Chairman Sam Hearn, I have devised a Members' Area and set it up on the website.

It is a simple affair and should be readily accessible by any member with access to a computer, however unfamiliar they are with computer technology. At present, the page contains Minutes of AGMs back to 2000 and Annual Accounts, plus an up-to-date Membership List and the John Hampden Chronology. It will also include minutes of Executive Committee meetings from January 2009. The Committee will be considering adding other items which are of interest only to Society members, so if you have any suggestions, let them know.

To go to the section, enter <www.johnhampden.org/members/> into your browser or click on the link on the website menu. A new page will appear which requires you to enter a password.

At present only subscribers to the Society's Googlegroups mailing list have been given the password, but if you wish to avail yourself of this facility without joining the list, write or e-mail me for it, quoting your membership number.

The password will be changed at every issue of *The Patriot* (or more frequently if it becomes evident that the security of the site has become compromised), and you will be advised. Keep the password to yourself!

Entering the correct password takes you into the Members' Area proper, where there are links to the various documents. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the files, so in the unlikely event that this program is not already installed on your computer, it can be downloaded free from: <<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>>. As the login page states, you will also need Javascript installed on your computer. Any reasonably modern machine running Windows XP or Vista will almost certainly have this anyway.

A word about the Membership List. It can be read by members but not amended (to avoid any tinkering!), so if you find any errors, let me know. Each of the blue e-mail addresses is a clickable link, which will open up as a ready-addressed e-mail in your software. (At least, it will in mine!)

The John Hampden Chronology is intended as a detailed diary of the events in the Patriot's life day by day. At present it only extends to June 1628, but members are invited - nay, urged - to send me further information, with references if possible, for incorporation into the record. Once it is reasonably complete it can be transferred to the Society's main website for public viewing.

Roy Bailey



DIARY DATES

2009

Thursday 9 April

An illustrated talk by the Society's Patron, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, entitled 'John Hampden - a Descendant's Perspective' to Aston Clinton [University of the Third Age](#) History Group at Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club, London Road, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5LE, commencing at 10 am.

Saturday 25th April

AGM at The Barns Centre, Thame.

Wednesday 13 May

An illustrated talk about John Hampden to Old Beaconsfield Probus Club at The Fitzwilliam Centre, Windsor End, Beaconsfield Old Town, Bucks HP9 2JW, commencing at 10.30 am.

Wednesday 9 September

An illustrated talk about John Hampden to Great Kingshill Ladies Club at the Village Hall, New Road, Great Kingshill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6DW.
(Time to be advised.)

Tuesday 20 October

An illustrated talk about Sybil Penn, née Hampden (*nurse to Edward VI*), to Stone Local History Group at Stone Methodist Church, Eythrope Road, Stone, Aylesbury HP17 8PG, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The Society's 2009 AGM will be held on Saturday, 25th April at The Barns Centre, Thame. The Honorary Secretary, Anthea Coles would be happy to talk to any members who would like to take a more active part in the running of the Society. All paid up members are eligible for election to the Executive Committee at the AGM. You do not have to be present at the AGM to be elected although this would obviously be desirable!

Each member of the Committee brings his and her own special blend of skills and experience to the role. We are however especially looking for people who can share the work associated with publishing the newsletter, organise events and carry out general secretarial duties. The Society is also still in need of a new honorary treasurer. Anyone wishing to learn more about the role should contact the acting treasurer Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666. This is an important role but does not necessarily require the skills and knowledge of a qualified accountant.

STOP PRESS...

Preliminary arrangements have been made for a long awaited visit to Broughton Castle on Saturday, 6th June at which time the castle will be closed to the Public and we will probably be the only visitors. Arrangements can be made for a light lunch at the Castle at a cost of £6 - £8, or alternatively a meal can be purchased at The Saye & Sele Arms. The cost of a guided tour of the Castle will be £7 per head and we need a minimum of 15 bookings. Following the tour, tea can be purchased at the Castle for between £4 and £5.50, if desired. It is suggested that we meet at the Castle at about 2 pm to start the tour.

Further details will be notified to you as soon as they have been finalised, but in the meantime if you would like to be included in this visit, please contact either Sam Hearn or Anthea Coles.

A Glorious and Happy VICTORY ... continued

Reproduced below are two further reports on happenings at High Wycombe during the Civil War. Together with the reports included in the last edition of *The Patriot* these would seem to confirm that there was at least one skirmish in the area, most probably on, or close to, the area of The Rye. It would be interesting to know the full story but official records do not seem to exist or, if they do, they do not seem to be easily accessible to the public. If you know of any information not already included in these two articles, please either pass it on or point us in the right direction to locate it, for inclusion in a future edition.

Report 3:

MERCURIUS AULICUS (page 330)

Communicating the Intelligence and
affaires of the Court, to the
rest of the KINGDOME

The fifth and twentieth Weeke
SATURDAY June 24.

This day we were advertised that master *John Hampden* (the Principal member of the Five) was dead of those wounds he received on Sunday last. If so, the Reader may remember, that in the 15. weeke of this *Mercurius* we told the world what faire warnings Master *Hampden* had received since the beginning of this Rebellion (whereof he was a chiefe incendiary;) how he had buried his Sonne and heire, and his two daughters, two onely sonnes surviving, whereof one was a cripple, and the other a Lunaticke, which Though this desperate man was unwilling to make use, yet sure it may startle the rest of his faction; especially if they consider that *Shawgrave* field (where he now received this mortall wound) was The same place where he first muster'd and drew up men in Armes to rebel against the King. But whether the life and death of the Lord *Brooks* or Master *Hampden* be the better lesson against Treason and Rebellion, let posterity judge. Also this day Colonell Sir *William Hurrey*, Captaine *Fretwell*, And some other Commanders went forth to meete some parties of the Rebels horse, who it seemes had little mind of their company; for the Colonell scoured the Countrey above twenty miles together; And in *Wickham* Town he met with some new raised souldiers that should have repaired the Rebels fainting Army, who upon his coming ran away, leaving 70 good horses, armes and some of their clothes behind them, all of which the Colonell brought a-long with him to *Oxford* having killed some, and taken others prisoners. Their Commander in Cheife most valiantly hid him-selfe. Whence you may learne, that the Kings Army is sure to be besieged in *Oxford* for beating the Rebels most uncivilly out of *Wickham*, and unkindly chasing them up and downe *Buckingham*.

A new addition to the Society's Facebook page is Rich Howell, who wrote:

"I am an historian and greatly value the contribution John Hampden made during the long and ongoing fight over natural rights and laws. Had he survived the Great Civil War he would have been the prime leading force in the Commonwealth.

I have looked at your web page and was quite impressed. I believe that more should be done to promote men such as Hampden on both sides of the Atlantic as well as the English speaking world.

I happen to live in Hampden County Massachusetts named in 1812 actually. It was named for him. One of our towns in the county is named for him as well, which next to us.

It is a great pleasure to be accepted."

Report 4:

THE
PARLIAMENT
SCOUT

Communicating His Intelligence
TO THE

KINGDOME

From Tuesday the 20. of June, to Tuesday the 27. of June, 1643

This last Sunday, in the night time an Alarm was given to the City, that the *Cavaliers* had surpris'd a Troope of the Parliaments at *Wickham*, where (as it is informed), *Sir Samuel Luke* hath with a great party of Horse en Compas'd the enemy, that he cannot without fighting.

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Have you remembered to renew your membership? All subscriptions are due at the beginning of January and cheques should be sent to:

Roger Paynter
The Membership Secretary
Patrochal, Barteliver Hill
Grampound
TRURO
Cornwall, TR2 4SA.
Tel: 01726 882594

E-mail:
membership@johnhampden.org

Alternatively payment can be made by Standing Order, and details can be obtained from Roger to facilitate setting this up.

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