



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 80 - Winter 2014/2015



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

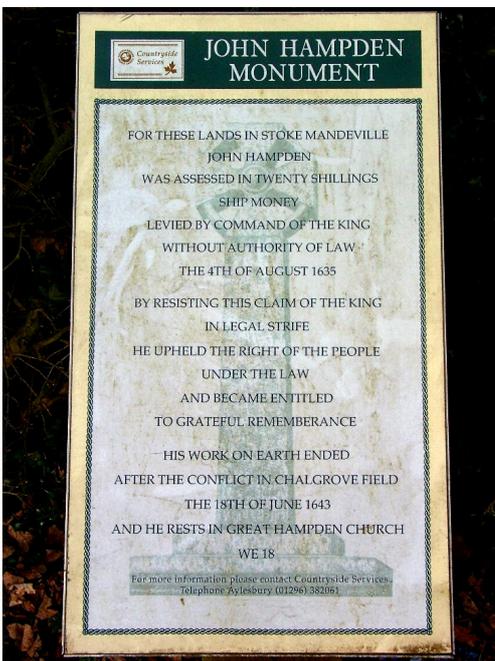
REVISITING THE SHIP MONEY MEMORIAL



The Chiltern Society (CS) recently took over responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ship Money Memorial at Prestwood (*left*), and has contacted the John Hampden Society with a view to working with us on the text and design of a new information board. CS volunteers plan to replace the existing damaged Bucks County Council sign (*below*) in 2015 with one that better explains the purpose and history of the memorial and the significance of Ship Money (and John Hampden) to British history and the development of our constitution.

Our initial thoughts are that the new board should, amongst other things, record the text that was inscribed on

the monument when it was erected in 1835 by Lord Nugent, John Hampden's first biographer. The original inscription on the monument is still just about legible, but in a few years' time it is likely have become eroded beyond recognition. One of the longer term management challenges that the CS will have to address is whether or not to have the text recut.



The monument itself has some lichens growing on it but the CS does not plan to remove these since they don't seriously interfere with the inscription.

The tiered base of the monument is a good place to sit and admire the view. CS volunteers will in future keep this area clear of moss and dirt.

It is proposed that the John Hampden Society will, in addition to assisting with the information board, upgrade the content relating to the memorial on its website and then link this to the CS website (www.chilternsociety.org.uk), which has recently been revamped.

ANGELA RODDA - IN MEMORIAM

The Executors of the estate of former member Angela Rodda have transferred a bequest from her estate to the Society.



The Trustees are extremely grateful that Angela chose to remember the Society in her will and with the agreement of her husband, Jim Rodda, we have agreed to use the funds to establish an annual John Hampden competition for schools.

We intend to run an initial pilot competition at one school that can then be extended elsewhere in future years. Please do not hesitate to contact the Honorary Secretary Anthea Coles if you have any suggestions or would like to assist in the running of the competition.

Once established the scheme will probably require additional funding and the Trustees will consult members on the options available.

ANOTHER HAMPDEN PICTURE?



The Society was recently contacted by Dominic Winter Auctioneers, a firm specialising in antiquarian objects who were selling a large collection of books, paintings, historical documents and other fine art items.

Among them was a drawing (*left*) purporting to be of John Hampden, with the attached description:

328* **Stained glass window design.** An original drawing of an English Civil War soldier, late 19th/early 20th century, *charcoal on paper, highlighted with body-colour, full-length portrait of a gentleman wearing a buff coat with sash, and holding a hat, some folds and creasing, executor's oval ink stamp at foot, 83 x 45.5cm (32.5 x 18ins), mounted, framed and glazed, with old manuscript label on back board 'Study for Hampden'*

Possibly a portrait of parliamentarian John Hampden (1595-1643), one of the Five Members whose attempted unconstitutional arrest by King Charles I in the House of Commons in 1642 was an important precursor to the Civil War. Hampden is immortalised in a number of ways, including stained glass, statuary, the naming of schools and other establishments after him, and his heroism is even referred to in Thomas Gray's 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'.

(1)

£100-150

The members of the Committee are no art historians, but it seems very unlikely that this is any sort of genuine representation of John Hampden, especially as it was produced only a century ago.

The auction was held on 12th November, but the drawing does not appear to have been sold.

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The Chiltern Society plans to raise all the necessary funds to complete the work on the Monument as well as at the other four sites they have leased from BCC.

Please can all those members with any information about the Prestwood memorial contact Honorary Secretary Anthea Coles and/or Honorary Treasurer Sam Hearn. We wish to gather together as much material as possible about the monument itself and the Ship Money controversy. This could range from personal reminiscences to references in scholarly works, and from amateur sketches and engravings to historic photographs.

Sam Hearn has volunteered to act as the Society's contact with the CS and has made contact with his CS opposite number, Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake. Sam is more than happy to work with other members of the Society on this project and even to relinquish the role of prime contact if someone living closer to Prestwood wishes to take the lead. You can contact Sam on his home number 0208 9995 2666 or by e-mail via the Society's website.



The Ship Money Memorial in Honor End Lane, between Great Hampden and Prestwood, with Honor End Farm in the background. In the 17th century this area was a part of Stoke Mandeville parish, hence the mention in the inscription.

CROMWELL STUDY DAY 2014

This year's Cromwell Association Study Day was held at Huntingdon Library and Archive on the 25th October and was chaired by Dr Patrick Little. The subjects under discussion included archaeology, war widows, the new dictionary of parliamentary commanders, and Cromwell's contribution to parliamentary victories.

The importance of archaeology in the study of Civil War battles was explained by Dr Glenn Foard. By the judicious study of the spread of musket and cannon shot, together with documentation and old maps, Dr Foard has radically changed the received ideas for the location of various armies within set battles. He argues that in particular the study of old maps, taking into account the location of seventeenth-century enclosures and hedges, has made a big difference to our knowledge on how battles were fought. The relevant positions of the opposing forces at Edgehill, in particular, can be reassessed giving one a better picture as to how and why the battle took place. Unfortunately a great deal of evidence has disappeared due to redevelopment, and the irresponsible use of metal detectors, but there is still a significant amount of research to be undertaken.

Dr Andrew Hopper opened his talk by giving a plug for his forthcoming seminar on the 7th-8th August 2015 at the soon-to-be-opened Civil War Centre in Newark <www.civilwarnewark.co.uk>. Whilst there are a number of local museums featuring the Civil War in their particular areas, this will be only the second museum dedicated to the Civil War in England after the Commandery in Worcester <visitworcestershire.org/Worcester-The-Commandery/details/?dms=3&venue=1392840>.

Dr Hopper went on to describe how the Long Parliament offered support and pensions to the widows and children of parliamentary officers killed during the conflict. Unfortunately (as is often the case) Parliament failed to work out the costs and logistics of undertaking this largess and a number of war widows sought to receive arrears in wages instead - with limited amounts of success. The deaths, through both conflict and disease, were greater per capita than England suffered during the First World War, and as a consequence the financial strains on Parliament would have been enormous.

Dr Stephen Roberts then explained that the mammoth task of compiling a biographical list of Parliamentary officers between 1642-9 was now complete and had been handed over to British History on Line (british-history.ac.uk) who will publish in the next few months. Visitors to the site will be able to search for free by name and district. The details will not necessarily be as comprehensive as some sites but will provide links so that further research can be undertaken. Dr Roberts and his team will welcome any feedback that viewers care to give since the nature of the document is such that it can be updated easily.

As president of the Cromwell Association, Professor Peter Gaunt gave a rather controversial talk on why he thought Cromwell was not the great general that he was often made out to be by various biographers and newsbooks of the day, such as *Mercurius Civicus*. Indeed he thought Cromwell was more a lucky general than a great one. A thought that would have warmed the heart of Napoleon Bonaparte who said he would rather have lucky generals than good ones. This is not to denigrate Cromwell's skill as a cavalry commander at Marston Moor and Naseby, but most of his victories were against armies who had fewer numbers or were disheartened by events.

Many of us are of the opinion that, had he survived, Hampden would have made a greater leader than Cromwell. Perhaps it was just that Hampden's luck ran out.

Steve Barriff



DIARY DATES

2015

Sunday 19th April The Society's Annual General Meeting, to be held at Hampden House, Great Hampden HP16 9RD commencing at 2pm.

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

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

YOUR 2015 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single Member - £15.00

Joint Members - £20.00

Junior/Student - £10.00

Payment can be made by cheque or through your PayPal account, but preferably by standing order on **1 JANUARY** each year to our bank account at:

The Co-operative Bank, Skelmersdale

Account no. 65557909 Sort code 08-92-99

CORRECTION

In the best tradition of newspapers like *The Guardian*, we sometimes make mistakes, which we correct when they are noticed.

In *The Patriot* no. 79 I stated in the lead article, *The Funeral of John Hampden*, that Robert Lenthall, minister of Great Hampden parish, was the brother of William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Thanks to the detailed research by Patricia Claus for her book (*see page 4*) we now know that Robert was, in fact, William's cousin.

Facts are sacred!

Roy Bailey

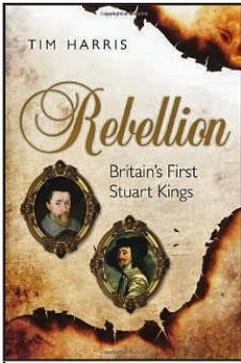
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BOOK REVIEW



Rebellion, Britain's First Stuart Kings 1567-1642

by Tim Harris

Published in 2014 by Oxford University Press.

ISBN 978-0-19-920900-2

588 pages and 14 illustrations

This book is a wide-ranging and deeply researched new account of the reigns of King James VI & I, and his son King Charles I. It covers the reign of James as king of Scotland from 1567 and as monarch of the three kingdoms from 1603-1625 followed by that of his son Charles, but only up to 1642. It is a story of a failed monarchy. It is interesting that this book has been published in the year of a Scottish referendum, which may have ended the term Great Britain, a concept ascribed to King James.

In his account of these two contentious reigns, Harris demonstrates the problems that both monarchs faced, and how and why all three kingdoms were ultimately to rise in rebellion against the house of Stuart. He is much concerned with their efforts to create a fully united kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland and considers that this ambition, as much as their differences with English Parliaments, led to the downfall of Charles I. Harris is more sympathetic with Charles than earlier writers and considers that his English Parliaments were unfairly antagonistic to him from the very beginning of his reign. He quotes a wealth of contemporary accounts and, although very readable, this is a book largely written for the specialist reader.

An account of the raising of the king's standard at Nottingham and a brief description of the Battle of Edgehill is included but his narrative only extends up to 1642. It does not cover the Civil War in full, nor the trial and regicide of the king. The reader is therefore left looking for more. Will this perhaps be the subject for a further book?

The author is the Professor of English History at Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, and has also published two earlier books of Stuart history covering the Restoration and the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89.

Brian Cox

A MAGNUM OPUS

One of our American members, Patricia Claus (*pictured*), who lives just across the river from Hampden, Maine, has written a book about her 17th century ancestor Robert Lenthall, entitled *Conscience is My Crown*.

This was occasioned by the gift by a cousin in 2012 of a family tree which revealed that Patricia was descended from Lenthall, who had spent 4 years in New England in the late 1630s before returning to England and becoming the Rector of St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden.

As a result Robert was a contemporary and friend of John Hampden, and was also the cousin of William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons in the Long Parliament. The Lenthalls were also related by marriage to Robert Southwell, a Jesuit priest executed for high treason in 1595.

Patricia draws together the threads of the lives of these four people in a monumental piece of historical research, running to nearly 40,000 words, which is to be published in the UK by Gracewing. She sought the help of the Society, and several members, including our President, Professor John Adair, have assisted with advice and suggestions.

Hampden Historical Society are publishing extracts from the manuscript in their newsletter, but we must hope to see this important and fascinating work in book form as soon as possible.



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