



# THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 42 - Spring 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

**S**pring is just around the corner and it is to be hoped that warmer weather will soon prevail. As I am typing this it is snowing heavily, but by the time you receive your copy of 'The Patriot', this should just be a memory.

This year the AGM will be held on **24th April** and once again the Society has been granted the use of Hampden House for this event, giving members the opportunity to not only walk in the footsteps of John Hampden, but also to meet the Executive Committee and discuss your thoughts on how the Society should progress.

Unfortunately a poor response was received to the questionnaire circulated with the Winter edition of 'The Patriot' leading to speculation that it is not outings that most members want. Please give some thought to what activities you would like to take part in and come along to put forward your suggestions. If you are unable to attend, e-mail or post your ideas to the Secretary for discussion either at the AGM or at a subsequent Committee Meeting.

**Following the AGM there will be a short talk about the Battlefield Walks at Turnham Green and Brentford.**

The afternoon always ends with tea and cake, affording the opportunity to relax and socialise. The Committee hope to see as many of you as possible this year. Please put this date in your diary and come along to make your views known.



## GEORGE DOWNING OF DOWNING STREET – HERO OR SCOUNDREL?

This was the title of a talk given on 5<sup>th</sup> November to the Cholesbury and Saint Leonard's Local History Group by Henry Roseveare.

**F**or many members of the John Hampden Society Sir George Downing is chiefly remembered as the rogue whom tried to evict Hampden's mother from her London home. Mr Roseveare painted a more rounded picture of an arrogant, energetic and talented man.

Young George, newly graduated from Harvard College, worked his passage to England in 1645 as Ship's Chaplain. Coming from a politically active Puritan family he was determined to enlist on the side of Parliament. His mother was sister to John Winthrop, the Governor of Massachusetts. George's abilities and connections saw him rising quickly through the ranks. He became Scoutmaster General of Cromwell's Army in Scotland and an MP.

During the Protectorate he represented England at The Hague, a key diplomatic posting, and he became one of Cromwell's main foreign policy advisers. George detested the Dutch and the feeling was mutual. However he was impressed by their system of public finances, and their commercial skills. He took the unusual step of learning to read and write Dutch in order to learn more.

Shrewd political footwork before the Restoration saw him aligned with General Monck and able to make his peace with the King who confirmed him in his official posts. Charles II dispatched him on a successful undercover mission to capture the regicides Barkstead, Corbet and Okey who were living in exile in Holland. Okey had once been Downing's commanding officer.

Samuel Pepys, who worked for Downing, characterised his conduct in this

affair as odious although useful to the King. Downing was created a baronet in 1663.

Downing prospered under Charles II. He served as Secretary to the Treasury Commission and as Head of the Customs Commission. He amassed a huge personal fortune invested largely in property but financed by income derived in mysterious ways from the official positions that he held. His reforms of the administration of the public finances were fundamental and effective. The arrangements that he made for the sale of public debt (government stock) paved the way for the policies pursued by the Bank of England founded ten years after his death.

In 1671 the King sent Downing to Holland as Ambassador specifically to incite another war between Holland and England in furtherance of the French policy. He was unpopular with the Dutch and after only three months he fled to England in fear for his life. King Charles was not amused at his unauthorised return and sent him to the Tower but only for a few weeks.

He was a hardworking member of parliament and sat on a huge number of committees, many of which he chaired. Downing was undoubtedly a man of great political and diplomatic ability, but his character was marked by all the mean vices, treachery, avarice, servility and ingratitude. In New England 'a George Downing' became a proverbial expression for a false man who betrayed those who trusted him. It is said that even Charles II was in awe of a man who it was rumoured at one time maintained six mistresses.

Henry Roseveare was also clearly in awe of George. A scoundrel - yes. A hero - maybe. Strangely Mr Roseveare, a former Professor of History at King's College, London, and author of a number of works on financial history and the Treasury, omitted to tell his audience that he himself is an alumnus of Downing College Cambridge.

**Sam Hearn**

## BUCKS LOCAL HISTORY FAIR & CONFERENCE

held at The Civic Centre, Aylesbury on  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Once again the Society was represented at the Fair by members who manned the bookstall and mobile exhibition, and answered questions about the Society and The Patriot.

Over forty leaflets advertising the Day School Event were given away. Ian Beckett's lecture and the introduction to it by David Thorpe generated at great deal of interest in the Society's stand. It pays to advertise.

Ian Beckett's lecture was largely the same one that he delivered at the Day School and is reported on elsewhere in this newsletter. It was clear from the audience reaction that the Civil War is a popular topic and that the speaker's style of delivery went down well.

The next lecture 'The household accounts of Sir Edward Don of Horsenden a Tudor Gentleman' did not a first sight seem promising material. However Professor Griffith's soft welsh cadences would have made even the telephone directory sound interesting. For students of Hampden, Sir Edward Don's Household Accounts (published by the Bucks Records Society) are particularly interesting. There are several references in the book to The Patriot's great grandfather, Sir John Hampden, who was a near neighbour of Sir Edward. Both men were knighted by Henry VIII in France in 1513.

Dr Leigh Shaw Taylor provided a fascinating insight into property ownership in Bucks and the impact of parliamentary enclosures on rights to common land. Suffice to say that Dr Leigh is challenging many of the long held assumptions about the effects of enclosure and the scale of access of the wider rural population to common land.

Richard Wheeler's enjoyable discourse on West Wycombe: an 18<sup>th</sup> Century landscape of politics, sex and nature, rounded off a great day. Many of us will be heading back to West Wycombe with a deeper appreciation of both the politics and the perversions of the Dashwoods. It was unfortunate that although the speaker was prepared to quote several salacious poetic Latin inscriptions used at West Wycombe he would not translate them.

The Society would like to thank Maurice Kirtland, Valerie Horne, Liz Morris and Sam Hearn for volunteering to represent the Society at the Fair. Anyone who wishes to help out next year should contact the Hon. Secretary. For those interested in local history the Fair is an event not to be missed.



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ACCOMODATION, RESTAURANT  
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### WEDDING BELLS

A wedding has been announced and will take place between Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at St Mary's Parish Church, Chalgrove, with a reception and ceilidh afterwards in Chalgrove Village Hall.

Derek is member of the Society's Executive Committee, and Commanding Officer of Col. John Hampden's Regiment of Foote in the English Civil War Society. Gill is Clerk to Chalgrove Parish Council, and an admirer of Prince Rupert.

Although John Hampden's Ale is only normally available in bottle, Richard Jenkinson of the Chiltern Brewery is supplying a couple of barrels on draught especially for the reception.



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## THE HOUSE OF WHARTON Part 1

In December, 1915 The House of Lords Committee for Privileges met to discuss the petition of Mr. Charles Theodore Halswell Kemeys-Tynte to the barony of Wharton, in the peerage of England, then in abeyance.

The Barony was created in 1548 and was hereditary. It was awarded to Thomas Wharton who was the Governor of Carlisle and Lord Warden of the Marches. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Solway Moss<sup>1</sup> where he led a small force of three thousand men against a much larger Scottish army.

The Scotch upon facing the English withdraw almost immediately, it is thought they believed they were facing only a small portion of a much larger army. Wharton's forces captured two hundred Scottish nobles, eight hundred soldiers and twenty four cannon. James V took the news of this defeat badly. He died three weeks later at Falkirk Palace and his daughter, Mary<sup>2</sup>, who was only six days old, succeeded him.

Wharton's seat was Shap Abbey, situated between Kendal and Penrith in Westmorland, The family is said to derive its name from a 'fair Lordship' upon the River Eden. Thomas Wharton was summoned to Parliament in 1544 to serve Henry VIII until 1546. He was later promoted by the strongly Protestant Lord Protector, Somerset<sup>3</sup>, and later by another strong but reckless Protestant Protector, Northumberland. He also served both Queen Mary and, in his old age, Queen Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth granted Letters Patent to Thomas Wharton in 1566 for permission to establish a Free Grammar School in his name at Kirkby-Stephen, Cumberland. Thomas, the first Lord Wharton, died in 1568 and is buried in St. Stephens Church, where there is an unusual monument. His statue lies between his two wives, Eleanor and Anne. There is an Latin inscription beneath the tomb<sup>4</sup> which is humourously translated thus:

*Here I, Thomas Wharton, do lie,  
With Lucifer under my head,  
And Nelly my wife hard bye,  
And Nancy as cold as lead.  
O, how can I speak without dread?  
Who could my sad fortune abide?  
With one devil under my head,  
And another laid close on each side  
And another laid close on each side.*

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

His son and heir, also called Thomas, was devoted to the Catholic Princess Mary Tudor. Thomas was Steward of her Household before her succession and the fall of Northumberland. He was her escort to Framlingham Castle, Suffolk during the abortive attempt to get the Protestant Lady Jane Grey on the throne. Mary was proclaimed Queen in July, 1553.

For his services he became Master of the Henchmen, a Privy Councillor, Sheriff of Cumberland and Warden of the East and Middle Marches. He was granted manors in Essex and Steward of several crown estates in Yorkshire. He was a Member of Parliament between 1542 and 1559.

Thomas travelled with the Earl of Arundel to Southampton in 1554 to invest Philip of Spain with the Order of the Garter. He was a witness to Mary's will in 1558, and on the accession of Elizabeth he was excluded from Parliament and in 1561 sent to the Tower for carrying out unlawful religious practices.

Whilst he was in the Tower his wife died and he submitted his 'wrong doings' and was released all within a couple of months. During the Northern Rebellion<sup>5</sup>, Cecil said, "Lords Scrope and Wharton lie still and do nothing". Thomas died in 1572 and is buried in Westminster Abbey, his father having died only three years earlier.

Thomas, the second Lord Wharton, died leaving a minor to succeed him. Philip, his son, thus became the third Lord Wharton and was brought up as a Protestant under Lord Burleigh and the Earl of Sussex as a royal ward. When he was eighteen years old he was travelling the continent and was in Paris when the massacre of St. Bartholomew was taking place (August 1572). He was sheltered by the English Ambassador Walsingham. Wharton's school master was slain and he and Philip Sydney were ordered home.



Philip – 3rd Lord Wharton

Philip became a Member of Parliament in 1580 and was present at the christening in August, 1594 at the Chapel Royal Stirling Castle of Prince Henry, with the

Earl of Sussex. He married Frances Clifford in June, 1577 in the presence of the Queen at St. Mary's Overy, Southwark<sup>6</sup>. In spite of entertaining James I at Wharton Hall in 1617, it brought him little success of advancement at Court. His daughter, Margaret, married Edward Lord Wotton who was a Privy Councillor and Treasurer of King James' Household, but Wotton's career ended when he was excluded from the Court on the accession of Charles I for being a Catholic.



Remains of Wharton Hall, Kirkby-Stephen

Free Grammar School, founded by 1st Lord Wharton



Tomb of Thomas, 1st Lord Wharton, in St. Stephens Church

Another of the third Baron's family, Sir George Wharton<sup>7</sup>, had a reputation for being a quarrelsome young man. The King managed to stop a duel between him and the Earl of Pembroke over cards.

However, in another incident in 1609 again over cards, Sir George and Sir James Stuart, a royal favourite, fought a duel with swords; "at the first thrust each of them killed each other and fell dead in each other's arms". The King ordered that they be both buried together at Blantyre.

This disaster ended any hope of the Whartons advancing themselves at Court. In fact James I's lavishness in an age of inflation brought hardships to many Peers. Wharton at the turn of the century had an income of just over two thousand pounds per annum and in 1626 this had been reduced to just over four thousand pounds per annum. The Manor in Essex, the gift of Queen Mary, was lost in this period.

Philip Wharton's second son, another Thomas, married Philadelphia Carey, daughter of the Earl of Monmouth. Sir Thomas did not wish to pursue a career at Court, so he co-purchased Aske Hall in Yorkshire and shared it with his widowed cousin, Lady Bowes, sister-in-law of the wife of John Knox. During this period Sir Thomas became deeply Calvinist and was the first Puritan Wharton. The Minister of Morley describes Sir Thomas thus, "He was the



## DIARY DATES

### 2005

#### Wednesday 30th March

The Buckingham Archaeological & Historical Society - an illustrated talk on John Hampden at The University of Buckingham, 7.30 p.m.

#### Sunday 24th April

The Society's Annual General Meeting. 2.30 pm, in the Great Hall, Hampden House, Great Hampden.

#### Saturday 18th June

The Society's Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame.

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)

professed enemy of Popery and profanes, a true friend of all godly preachers, frequenting God's house several times on the Lord's Day". The Puritan Sir Thomas died in 1622 when his eldest son was only nine years old. Three years later the third Lord Wharton died and the title passed on to the twelve year old grandson, Philip.

Mike Portsmouth

<sup>1</sup> Situated five miles north of Carlisle between the Rivers Esk and Lyne.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Queen of Scots.

<sup>3</sup> Wharton was one of the Peers who tried and condemned the Duke of Somerset in 1551.

<sup>4</sup> There is also a replica of this tomb at Healaugh in Yorkshire, where the family moved their seat to. Thomas' descendants were brought up as Yorkshiremen. It is also disputed as to which tomb he is actually buried in.

<sup>5</sup> In November 1569 the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland, Percy and Neville, started a 'religious' rebellion by celebrating mass in Durham Cathedral and set off to rescue Mary Queen of Scots from Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire. They were eventually defeated. Northumberland was later executed.

<sup>6</sup> Frances Clifford's brother, George, also married on the same date and place. He married Margaret, daughter of the Second Earl of Bedford. Their daughter was the famous lady Anne Clifford. Lord Wharton was her godfather.

<sup>7</sup> Married Ann Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland.

**CROMWELL ASSOCIATION  
Day School - 2005**

The Secretary of The Cromwell Association has advised The John Hampden Society that it hopes to hold this year's Day School in November at The Royal Armouries in Leeds.

The arrangements still need to be finalised but details will be published in the Association's newsletter in July and in the Autumn edition of *'The Patriot'*.



Professors John Morrill and Blair Worden [right], two of the speakers at the joint Day School last November

*This poem was submitted by Beryl Cross, whose ancestors farmed in the Chilterns and who loves this part of Buckinghamshire. She states that Hampden was a hero of hers since she first learned about him. An account of the march from Thame to Hampden's burial place, which she read many years ago, remained vividly in her mind and inspired her poem:*

**LAST MARCH OF  
JOHN HAMPDEN'S ARMY**

Once more I hear the tramp of marching feet  
And see those sombre faces as we stride  
Over the Chiltern hills; bereft, deplete.

Our solemn pace a rhythm'd, measured beat  
Timed to the deadened drum, we bear our pride.  
Once more I hear the tramp of marching feet.

That day all fighting ceased, psalms bitter-sweet  
From hearts grief-laden echoed, multiplied  
Over the Chiltern Hills; bereft, deplete.

We trudged, our arms reversed, your winding sheet,  
Your coffin, at the head, your horse beside.  
Once more I hear the tramp of marching feet.

On beech-fringed paths, our goal your country seat,  
We walked from Thame, your death-place, God our guide,  
Over the Chiltern Hills; bereft, deplete.

Now at this harvest time - golden with wheat,  
I stand before your tomb, head bowed, sad eyed.  
Once more I hear the tramp of marching feet  
Over the Chiltern Hills; bereft, deplete.

**Beryl Cross**

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**The Funeral of John Hampden**



**Lord Buckinghamshire studying the portrait of his ancestor displayed at the 'Buckinghamshire in the Civil War' Exhibition.**

# JOHN HAMPDEN AND THE PROVIDENCE ISLAND COMPANY

## Part 1

I can still remember how Providence Island first caught my attention. As a callow teenager the books of C V Wedgwood had been recommended to me as an excellent introduction to the English Civil War. It was whilst ploughing through the elegant prose of 'The King's Peace' that I first caught sight of this Island. I discovered to my surprise that John Hampden, along with fellow 'leading Puritan Adventurers', had been a shareholder in something called the Providence Island Company. This body, influenced by Puritan ideals and interests, had converted its antagonism to the Crown into actively promoting the establishment of English settlements in the Caribbean in the 1630's.

In a couple of pages Wedgwood painted an extraordinary picture of Puritan settlers planted on the islands of Providence, Association and Henrietta. This Godly band quickly set about creating a world of primitive virtue where cards and dice were banned along with whoring and profanity. As a special concession chess was apparently tolerated. A Calvinist minister, carefully chosen, for his godliness was sent home in disgrace for the crime of 'singing catches on a Sunday'.

During their brief decade on Providence Island the settlers were assailed, according to Wedgwood, by a multitude of problems. The might of the Spanish Empire proved an ever present threat, African slaves imported to work the land grew mutinous, a plague of rats swept the Island and the tobacco and cotton crops failed. The idealistic Puritan shareholders then turned to licensing pirate captains in exchange for a share of the loot.

This was heady mix for an impressionable teenager; a desert island, pirates, treasure, slaves, rats and puritan fanatics. Where exactly was Providence Island or Santa Catalina as Wedgwood insisted on calling it? Most confusing of all was John Hampden's involvement. How had Buckinghamshire's hero come to be mixed up in all this?

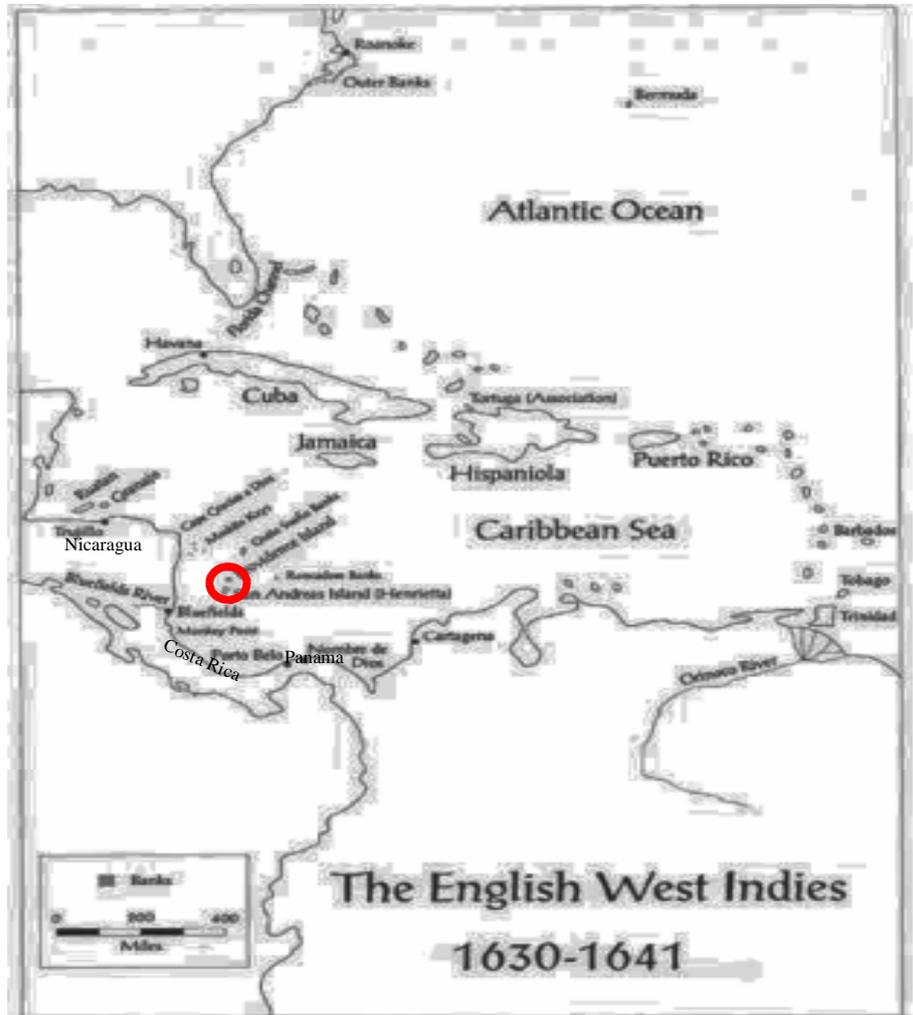
Over the years Providence Island surfaced as a footnote in several books but none added much to Wedgwood's narrative. The Island had a strong grip on my imagination and yet I could not find it on a map. Could it perhaps be off the coast of the Dominican Republic?

In June 2000 the present Lord Saye and Sele addressed the Society's annual dinner. This was a stroke of luck. I knew that in the 1630's the then Lord Saye and Sele had been not only a close colleague of Hampden but also a substantial investor in the Providence Island Company. Lord Saye was happy to talk about his ancestor and to lend me a copy of Karen Ordhal Kupperman's book, 'Providence Island 1630 – 1641 the other Puritan Colony'.

It is through reading this book that many of my original questions were answered but a host of others were raised. *To be continued.*

*This article is based on the notes prepared for the talk delivered by Sam Hearn at the Society's annual dinner in June 2002.*

Part 2 of this interesting article will appear in a future edition of 'The Patriot'.



## HAMPDEN IN THE DNB

The new edition of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, published by the Oxford University Press and now available in most public libraries and online at [www.oxforddnb.com](http://www.oxforddnb.com), has a completely revised section about John Hampden, running to some 7½ pages. This was written by Professor Conrad Russell (pictured), better known as the 5th Earl Russell of Liverpool, latterly Professor of British History at King's College, London, and a former Professor of History at Yale University.

Dr Maija Jansson knew him well there over a long period of time, and writes, "Conrad was a great encouragement to my teaching and research, although I took issue with him on his revisionist views. He was an archival historian, knew the sources well, and wrote history to be read. There is a generation of historians that grew up knowing Conrad and were much saddened by his death. He was a considerate and most generous man, helpful to all who came his way. He will be sorely missed in a world of scholarship too often rent by factional battles and politics".

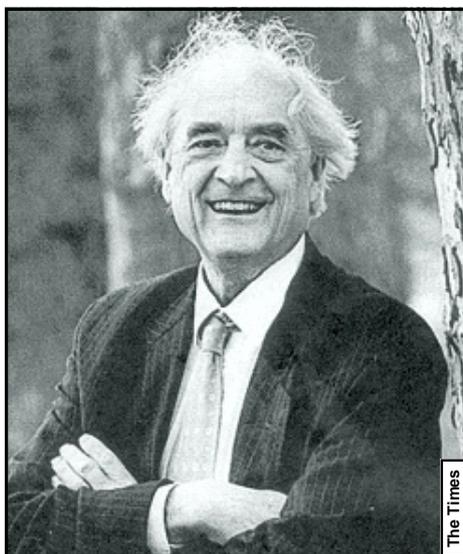
Earl Russell was a formidable historian who published six books on the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the English Civil War period, so it is sad that he died in October 2004, just after the new DNB was published. He was the son of the famous philosopher Bertrand Russell, and a great-grandson of the Victorian Prime Minister Lord John Russell, who was an architect of the 1832 Reform Bill and a scion of the Bedford family.

With such a pedigree it is almost inevitable that Conrad Russell was known as a leading philosopher, had a deep interest in the events of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and sat in the House of Lords as a Liberal Democrat. In fact he came top in his party in the elections to retain some hereditary peers in 1999.

Lord Russell's obituary in *The Times* stated that he was recognised as a significant figure in the so-called revisionist school of British history, and his work challenged both contemporary and historical ideas of Britain. So it is hardly surprising that his research on John Hampden has thrown up some fascinating new material. For instance, the heading of the entry reads '**Hampden, John (1595-1643)**, politician, born about June 1595...' Hitherto, all authorities have stated that Hampden was born in 1594, but Russell writes, 'His father fell ill while visiting his cousin and namesake William Hampden of Ennington (presumably Emington), Oxfordshire. After a week's illness he died, aged twenty-six, on 2 April 1597, leaving two sons. John was reported by the inquisition post mortem as aged one year and ten months,

implying a birth date of about June 1595.'

This is an amazing piece of new (or, perhaps, newly-discovered) information, and, if true, puts the dates of Hampden's birth and death in the same month. So perhaps the Society's Annual Dinner should mark both in future.



However, we appear to have the edge on Lord Russell as far as John Hampden's personal life is concerned. He states that Hampden had 10 children (all the pedigrees show 9), and that the names of two of the daughters are unknown (they are the first Mary, who died in infancy, and Judith.)

Conrad Russell reiterates the comments made by Professor John Morrill at our recent Joint Day School - that the Hampdens at the time of the future Patriot's birth were not punching their weight among Buckinghamshire society. He also disagrees with the previous research which suggested that the family owned land in four or five counties, stating that, 'The estate was compact, being all within Buckinghamshire except for some lands in Edgware, Middlesex.' He also concludes that Hampden was not as wealthy as had previously been thought.

Naturally Ship Money is dealt with by Russell at some length, and his conclusions are revealing.

He maintains that Hampden's motive 'was not to set out on a disruptive campaign of tax refusal; it was to secure a court judgement on the legality of the demand being made upon him. Once he had that judgement, however narrow and however pyrric, there is no suggestion of any refusal to pay on his part. Hampden was campaigning for the principles of the rule of law and taxation by consent, not for an arbitrary right to refuse any tax he did not like'.

Professor Russell points out that in 1635 Hampden owed ship money in some dozen Bucks parishes, but declined to pay the assessments only for Stoke Mandeville and Great Kimble.

The whole of Lord Russell's contribution on John Hampden makes fascinating reading, though, without wishing to denigrate the style of the late Professor, you have to work at it! It certainly adds to our store of knowledge of the Patriot.

As a professional historian, Russell is rightly dispassionate about his subject and, unlike the members of this Society, he does not bestow unqualified admiration upon our hero - indeed, he is at times critical of Hampden's behaviour. He does agree with Clarendon, however, that Hampden's influence was due to his skills of man-management. 'As an organiser, a man of affairs, and the person capable of holding a cause together, he was of the highest standard.'

Conrad Russell concludes that even if Hampden's claims to fame over Ship Money and The Five Members were taken away, he 'would deserve a reputation as one of the key members of the intellectual and political powerhouse which fashioned the parliamentary cause in the English Civil War. He was a politician of no ordinary skill, whose day might have come again in the negotiations for peace after the war was over; he is a man without whom the history of England might have been very different.'

Who among us would disagree with that?

**Roy Bailey**

### HELP!!!

Would you be interested in offering your assistance to the Society Secretary or Treasurer? The Secretary would welcome assistance with the Minutes of meetings whilst the Treasurer would be interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to take over the Society accounts in due course. The Society also wonders whether any member has experience of archiving, who would be able to offer assistance in this field.

Please give this some thought, and if you feel able to help, contact a member of the Committee to discuss the matter further.

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