



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 58 - Spring 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

RETURN TO THAME – 17th AGM (Saturday 25th April 2009)

The Society returned, after a ten years absence, to the Barns Centre in Thame for its AGM. The Centre is situated next to the historic building that housed the Grammar School reputedly attended by John Hampden. Several members visited the new Thame Museum in the morning and inspected the John Hampden display including the exhibits on loan from the Society.



The Old Grammar School, Thame

22 members were in attendance and apologies were received from 14 members. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman Sam Hearn. Ian Hollenden had advised the Honorary Secretary before the meeting that he did not wish to stand again as Chairman but was happy to remain a member of the Executive Committee. Sam Hearn paid tribute to Ian's many years of sterling service on behalf of the Society. A minute's silence was held in remembrance of the life of Frank Hansford-Miller, a founder member of the Society who contributed to its success.

The Vice-Chairman reported another busy and successful year for the Society. *The Patriot* newsletter continued to go from strength to strength and six talks had been given to other societies and organisations. Members had enjoyed the talks by Dr Lucy Worsley at last year's AGM and by Dr Diane Purkiss at the Annual Dinner. A members' area had been inserted into the website and new material had been added to the website's archive section.

The acting Treasurer reported that 2008 had been another financially positive year for the Society (accounts available to members on the website). He praised the Membership Secretary's tenacity in pursuing members who were late in paying their subscriptions. The Committee had agreed that due to the Society's strong finances and the poor economic situation the subscription rate would not be increased from January 2010 as originally planned. Dissenting opinions were expressed in the meeting and the Committee agreed to keep the matter under review.

Membership Secretary Roger Paynter was pleased to report that membership had increased in the year from 117 to 128. He made a special plea for those members who pay by cheque to put standing order arrangements in place for their annual subscriptions. This would save him considerable time and effort and reduce the costs incurred by the Society in chasing late payers.



The Barns Centre, Thame, venue for this year's AGM

The meeting elected Sam Hearn as the new Chairman, Roy Bailey as Vice Chairman and Derek Lester as Honorary Treasurer. Anthea Coles was re-elected as Honorary Secretary and Roger Paynter was re-elected as Membership Secretary. John Gabbitas, Maurice Kirtland and Ian Hollenden were re-elected as Committee members.

Following a short break, Susan Hearn led the members of the Society in a visioning workshop to consider firstly what the membership of the Society should look like in five or ten years time and secondly how this could be achieved. This was a novel exercise that members have not engaged in before. The session was extremely productive and feedback will be provided to all those took part and anyone else who would like a copy. The Committee will use this input to help devise a recruitment strategy.

Thanks are due Graham Barfield who brought a huge selection of books on historic topics to the meeting which he offered for sale to members. Graham donated the £48 he raised to further the work of the Society.

THE NEARLY MAN - WILLIAM HAKEWILL MP (1574 - 1655) – PART 2

This is the second of three articles about William Hakewill. The first article set out some of what is known about Hakewill's life and career up until 1629. This article explores Hakewill's importance to Hampden and to our understanding of the Patriot. The final article will cover the last twenty-five years of his life and include an assessment of his achievements.

One important fact about Hampden and Hakewill, that historians have ignored, is that they were related by marriage. The two men are linked by the explorer, diplomat and politician Sir Jerome Horsey MP (1550 to 1626) of Great Kimble. Hakewill's mother, Thomasine neé Peryam, and Sir Jerome were first cousins. Sir Jerome's first wife was Elizabeth Hampden, sister of the Patriot's father, William Hampden. Sir Jerome referred in his will to Hampden as "*my nephewe Mr John Hampden*".

Although Hampden and Hakewill's careers overlap, they were from different generations. In his second Parliament Sir Francis Goodwin, the father of Sir Francis in 1604 had been disallowed the records for precedents that Hampden would have been no more was granted the lucrative reversion to the reversion in nine southern counties in that this had been arranged by the Jerome Horsey. Hakewill inherited his professional activities required to settle near the home of his kinsman



Ivan the Terrible shows his Treasures to Sir Jerome Horsey

In December 1616 Hakewill became a member of the county bench of Buckinghamshire. This brought him into the heart of the local establishment and almost inevitably into contact with his relative by marriage, the 21-year-old John Hampden. According to his biographer Lord Nugent, Hampden had, by 1624, already employed Hakewill's legal services on a number of occasions. Nugent goes on to state that although Hakewill was a "shrewd and industrious lawyer" he "had no very eminent reputation for ability at this time". This seems a little harsh given that Hakewill had been appointed Queen Anne's Solicitor General in 1617.

Hakewill represented the Cornish constituency of Tregony in the so-called Addled Parliament of 1614 and was returned for the same seat in 1621. The young novice, John Hampden, was elected for Grampound, the neighbouring town. It is possible that they shared the long journey down to Cornwall from Buckinghamshire. In the election of 1614 Hakewill had advised Sir Edward Phelips on the tactics that his son Sir Robert should employ, if opposed, for the county seat of Cornwall. Perhaps Hampden benefitted from similar advice in 1621. Given the inconvenience of travelling to Cornwall, it is not surprising that Hakewill and Hampden hatched a 'cunning plan' to re-enfranchise three Buckinghamshire boroughs, and to then seek to represent one of them in subsequent Parliaments. As an antiquarian, Hakewill would have been aware that his seat at Tregony had itself been re-enfranchised in 1562. Nugent, in his biography, implies that it was Hampden and not Hakewill who actually prepared and put forward the Buckinghamshire re-enfranchisement cases. This would seem odd given Hakewill's acknowledged expertise in electoral law. Hakewill had earlier presented a bill in the Commons to regulate and reform parliamentary elections.

As mentioned in the previous article, the Parliament of 1621 was an extremely busy one for Hakewill. However, unlike Hampden, he did not seek re-election in the Parliaments of 1625 or 1626 although he remained active in public life. The issue that seems to have caused him to renew his parliamentary career was King Charles' imposition of forced loans in 1626-27. John Hampden and his uncle Sir Edmund Hampden were amongst the 76 gentlemen imprisoned for refusing to pay the loans assessed on them. Sir Edmund Hampden, Sir Jerome Horsey's brother-in-law, was one of the five knights who famously challenged their imprisonment with a Writ for Habeas Corpus. Hampden was released in January 1628 in time for the election of a new Parliament. Re-elected in 1628 for Amersham, Hakewill was immediately appointed chairman of the prestigious Committee of Privileges and Returns. He gave full vent, in his parliamentary speeches, to his outrage at the arbitrary detentions. He described the plight of the loan-refusers as "a civil death" and "a maceration of the body and a horror of the mind". The fact that he personally knew men who had been detained without trial, such as John Hampden and his uncle, must only have added to his indignation.

Hakewill was also alarmed at the billeting of troops on those who were known to be hostile to the King. He commented that if this continued "I should doubt whether I were in England or no". Hakewill believed that the King would desist from the further billeting of soldiers if petitioned by the House. Sir Edward Coke was chosen as spokesman for the Commons at a conference with the House of Lords on "matters regarding the ancient liberties of the subject". He selected Hakewill as one of his assistants. It was due to Hakewill's intervention that a clause regarding the King's "sovereign power", that would have undermined the whole Petition of Rights, was eventually withdrawn. Following the tumultuous ending of the Parliament of 1628-29, nine members were summoned by the Privy Council and imprisoned. These included John Selden, another constitutional lawyer who only a few months before had so skilfully presented Sir Edmund Hampden's Writ for Habeas Corpus. Hakewill did not stand for Parliament again.

It is hard to imagine that Hampden and Hakewill did not discuss the legality of Ship Money and the preparations for the Ship Money trial. There is unfortunately no evidence to suggest that they did. At the start of the Short Parliament in 1640 Hakewill was sixty-six years old and happy to leave Westminster politics to younger men. He was certainly too old and lacking in military experience to take an active part in the Civil War.

Sam Hearn

LETTERS FROM AMERICA

In my research for the Maine Historical Society's Maine Community Heritage Project at our local school, I found a second ship named *Hampden*. Hampden Maine's *John Hampden* was built in Hampden in 1801, but the second *Hampden* was a New Hampshire State brig that is referred to in historical information about the "Penobscot Expedition" in 1779.

During the American Revolution, the British had captured the town of Castine, on the eastern shore at the mouth of the Penobscot River. The colonies sent a fleet from Boston (including Paul Revere) to attack the British force at Castine. When the fleet reached Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the *Hampden*, a ship of 20 guns, joined the ships from Boston.

The outcome of the Penobscot Expedition (a very abbreviated summary) is that the Americans delayed their attack too long; a British fleet arrived on the scene, the American ships were trapped at the mouth of the Penobscot River. Most of the ships escaped up river, scuttled their boats, and the crews fled. The *Hampden* and others tried to escape. The *Hampden* was captured....Its fate I have yet to find out.

The best place for research will be at the Penobscot Marine Museum, which we hope to get to before summer. I will also research the *John Hampden* there and at the Hampden Historical Society, which opens for research in April.

Alice Hawes

This is a reply to an e-mail questioning that there were no contemporary sources of John Hampden quoting the phrase 'no taxation without representation' and conjectured that its origins came from America. I wonder if the other towns named Hampden have similar origins, including those outside America.

Derek Lester

An article from *American Heritage Magazine*, Feb. 1962, by Richard B. Morris, professor of history at Columbia University in New York tells about Boston lawyer James Otis. The title, "Then and there the child Independence was born." Long before [the battle of] Lexington, James Otis' fight for civil liberties gave heart to the rebel cause...'

The article states that Otis was a Massachusetts delegate to the Stamp Act Congress in New York in 1765, where he had "the satisfaction of seeing his constitutional doctrine of 'no taxation without representation' embodied by that body...'

Although far more moderate on the Stamp Act issue than either Patrick Henry or Daniel Dulaney, Otis plucked up his courage and under the pseudonym "John Hampden" published in the Boston press a sweeping denial of Parliament's right to tax the colonies.

People of Boston as well as their kinfolk in western Massachusetts may then have become well aware of Otis' 18th century articles. Possibly Otis was quoting the "patriot" John Hampden, as well as using his name.

In western Massachusetts, when the county names were selected, they continued to identify with the English patriot whose cause Otis championed.

In our area of Maine, an influx of settlers from southern New England moved here, in some cases for land granted in exchange for services rendered in the Revolutionary War. It was called "The Great Migration." Here in Hampden lived an aide to General George Washington, and who was involved directly with the "Boston Tea Party." Other veterans' services are listed in the town records.

I think your conjecture is correct.

Alice Hawes

FUTURE EVENT



Church of St. Mary Magdalene

To coincide with the anniversary of the founding of the Society, a Church service commemorating the life and death of John Hampden will be held on Sunday 25 October 2009 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden starting at 11.15 am. It is intended that the service will reflect the Elizabethan Common Prayer Book, which would have been known to the Hampden family, with suitable words and music, again reflecting what John Hampden would have known.

The Rector, Deiniol Heywood, and the Churchwardens warmly welcome members and non-members, Christians and non-Christians, to participate. During the service Derek Lester will be able to expand on his up to date research on the whereabouts of John Hampden's grave within the Church and grounds and a wreath will be laid at an appropriate time during the service.



DIARY DATES

2009

Saturday 6 June.

Visit to Broughton Castle. See website for booking form and further details.

Saturday 20th June.

Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame. Speaker to be announced. Details from Anthea Coles, 07985 607224.

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.

Sunday 25th October

Commemorative Service at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden, commencing at 11.15. Further details will be available on the website and will be circulated at a later date.

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

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It is anticipated that arrangements will be made available for refreshments after the service. More details will be circulated nearer the time of the service.

John Gabbitas



Our Patron, Miles Hobart Hampden, Earl of Buckinghamshire, was invited to visit Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia USA in February this year along with Lord De L'Isle, a descendant of Sir Philip Sidney, the uncle of Algernon Sydney. Extracts from the speech that he gave are printed below.



“Alison and I are delighted to be here to help celebrate a significant milestone in the history of Hampden-Sydney College. Many congratulations on raising more than \$100m for the future development of the College.

This evening is a chance for all of us to reflect on those qualities which have ensured the success of Hampden-Sydney since 1776 and which will continue to ensure its success in the future. A liberal arts college needs to both look backward and forwards in order to flourish in the years ahead. Backwards in order to understand and appreciate the core values that makes everyone in this room honoured, but humble, to be associated with Hampden-Sydney. I am reminded when I talk to each of you of your late President John Kennedy’s words “Think not of what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” It is no accident that your founding fathers chose to name the College after John Hampden and Algernon Sidney. According to Professor John Adair, Hampden’s foremost biographer, Hampden was known for his blazing integrity and moral courage. To Professor Adair, Hampden was the Winston Churchill of the 1640s. He was immortalized in Gray’s *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* “some village-Hampden that with dauntless breast the little tyrant of his fields withstood.” A man of principle and courage, Hampden was no dour puritan. He had a lighter and more humane side. Friendships, once made, were held firm no matter the circumstances. Sir John Eliot who died in the Tower entrusted his children to his care. He understood the value of education and at one stage thought he might become a tutor to Charles I’s son, later to become Charles II.

It was to Hampden and Sidney that the Fathers of the American Revolution turned. Sidney through his “discourses concerning government” gave you the groundwork for your constitution. Hampden, through his opposition to paying the Ship Money tax, gave the early Americans a legitimate reason to oppose the perceived tyrannical and corrupt British Parliament. It allowed Franklin, to write in 1774, “Have you then forgot the incontestable principle which was the foundation of Hampden’s glorious lawsuit” that “what an English King has no right to demand, an English subject has a right to refuse.” This went on to be translated into the slogan –“no taxation without representation “

So what of the future; we live in uncertain and dangerous times but the challenges are not so dissimilar to the ones that Hampden and Sidney faced - meanness of thought, tyrannical and cruel regimes, the stifling of freedom of thought. Both Hampden and Sydney faced the open and insidious threats to our individual freedoms. Today’s terrorism & some States responses to these threats remain a real threat and there is no easy answer to how these twin threats to our individual liberties can be reconciled and ultimately defeated. Amongst all this potential chaos, there is hope. Hampden-Sydney with its strong traditions and supported by the affections of all those associated with the College will, I know, continue to flourish. It will no doubt, change as it rises to meet new challenges. By holding fast to those core values, Hampden-Sydney will continue to offer hope, comfort, and as President Elect Dr. Howard said last night, a real understanding of the difference between right and wrong. Sentiments Hampden and Sidney would have applauded.

Arthur Goodwin, Hampden’s life long friend, wrote these words to his daughter Jenny after Hampden’s funeral. He was a “gallant man, an honest man, and an able man.” I recalled these words today as I listened to your Gaelic pipe band play the lament for John Hampden, being an intensely moving combination of Shenadoah and the 90th Psalm. We remember that “Through These Gates” also commemorates those who laid down their lives generously for their country and their beliefs, as well as those, who have now donated so generously to the future development of Hampden-Sydney.

I should like to close by mentioning both the Hampden and Hobart family mottos. “No Backward Step” for John Hampden. A fitting motto for a man of Hampden’s calibre. For the Hobarts, the motto reads “The Giver makes Precious”. Tonight you are the “Givers” by your donations to the future of Hampden-Sydney. You increase the value of your gifts by your friendship and generosity in welcoming Alison and myself to your campus. Your gifts are made truly “precious”. John Hampden & Algernon Sydney would have been proud to know that they are remembered through your College. We would do well to remember the words from Ecclesiastes, put to music by Parry “Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us.”

Now Walter, I hope that you will be able to receive, from a direct descendant of John Hampden, these two engravings of John Hampden dating from 1822 & 1851, together with John Hampden’s family tree tracing his lineage back to before the Norman Conquest in 1066. These small mementos of our visit to Hampden-Sydney are given as a true reflection of our gratitude to be invited to join in celebrating what has been a significant event – the raising of more than \$100m for the good of current & future generations of young men proud to have been students here.”

The College derives its name from [John Hampden](#) and [Algernon Sydney](#). These two English MPs and proponents of religious and civil liberties were much admired by the founders of the College, all of whom were active supporters of the cause of American independence.

Hampden-Sydney College, a liberal arts college with 1,106 students, was founded in 1775 and is the tenth oldest institution of higher education in America. Its all male student body is drawn from thirty states and several foreign countries.