



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 59 - Summer 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

The Annual Dinner - 2009



The Mermaid Tavern

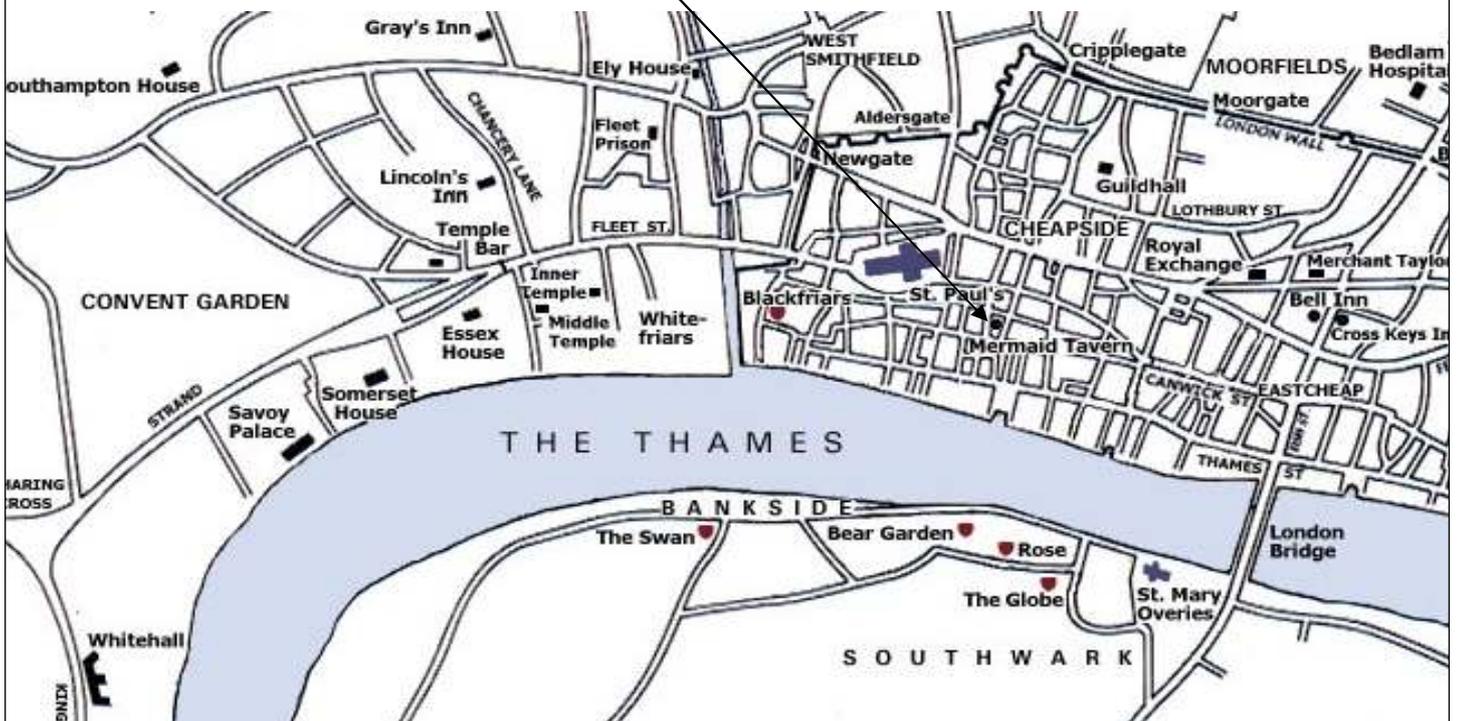
This year's Annual Dinner was hosted as usual at our traditional venue of The Spread Eagle Hotel in Thame, now under new management. It was a convivial if rather select affair. Only twenty one members braved 'the credit crunch' and were undeterred by the lack of an advertised speaker. The Society's new Chairman, Sam Hearn, stepped in with a short talk.

He invited us to travel back in time with him to May 1609 and the heart of the City of London. The purpose of this whimsy was to join members of the Mermaid Club at their monthly meeting at the Mermaid Tavern immediately after the publication of Shakespeare's sonnets. Members of the club included senior lawyers, members of parliament, poets, playwrights and investors in the Virginia Company.

William Hakewill, who later worked with Hampden on the enfranchisement of the three Buckinghamshire boroughs, was a member of the Mermaid Club. Sam argued that it would have been obvious to most members of this well-connected and literary-minded group that the

mysterious Mr WH to whom Shakespeare's sonnets were dedicated was none other than William Hakewill.

Miles Buckinghamshire rounded off the evening with some anecdotes about his recent trip to Hampden Sidney College in Virginia, USA. He was clearly impressed by the warm welcome that he had received there and recommended that members should visit the college if they had the chance.



BROUGHTON CASTLE VISIT BY THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY



The Gatehouse and bridge over the moat

Saye related, they vented their anger upon the Castle with cannon fire; he showed us the cannonballs they had taken out of the moat.

The résumé of the paintings was enlightening with so many stories regarding the family portraits that were scattered around the walls. One particular miniature in the cabinet, said by the Ashmolean to be of John Hampden, has been found through the endeavours of the Society to be incorrect.

The writer has since been back to the Castle with a photographer and has taken many photos of the paintings for our knowledgeable membership to identify; more later, when the CD is produced.

We finished our tour with a lovely cream tea and then strolled to the car park taking in the splendour and history of the estate.

After a gap of 15 years or so, the John Hampden Society have made a too-long delayed return visit to Broughton Castle, where we were welcomed into the Castle by Lord & Lady Saye who proceeded to guide us through the Great Hall pointing out the nooks and crannies and giving personal insights of the treasures within. We were able to handle and examine the precious objects, asking questions and receiving knowledgeable answers. The Castle was not open to the public on this occasion and we were privileged to have a private viewing, including a peep into the kitchen, where today's meals are cooked and breakfast eaten. So warmly were we welcomed that it was like visiting family.

Lord Saye's family were on the front line in the Civil War. They were great Parliamentarians and close friends of John Hampden. Such was the ferocious hate of the Royalists that after the Battle of Edgehill, Lord



**The Room That Hath No Ears
(The Council Chamber)**

Let's hear three hearty cheers for Sam who arranged such a wonderful day out.

Derek Lester



Gathering in the Great Hall at the start of the tour



The Great Hall

THE NEARLY MAN - WILLIAM HAKEWILL MP (1574 - 1655) PART 3

This is the third 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. The second article explored Hakewill's importance to Hampden and to our understanding of the Patriot. This final article covers the last twenty five years of his life and includes an assessment of his achievements.

Around 1633 Hakewill acquired the manor at Wyvelsgate and moved to Wendover from nearby Chequers. He is said to have lived first at Bucksbridge House but by 1634 he had moved to the Hale, on the outskirts of the town, where he lived until his death. He had not actually retired and continued to work in London. In 1631 he was appointed to the Commission for the repair of St Paul's Cathedral and remained an active member of Lincoln's Inn, where he had kept chambers since 1609. In 1637-38 he held the senior post of Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn.



Hakewill set down in writing much of his profound knowledge of the workings of Parliament. However he did not rush to publish, but, when a corrupt copy of a treatise he had circulated in 1610 was published in 1640, he responded by publishing the hugely influential *The Manner of how Statutes are Enacted by Passing of Bills*. In 1641 he published *The Manner of Holding Parliaments in England*, another key work.

Hakewill's reputation and specialist knowledge meant that he took on some unusual assignments. In 1641, for example, he was employed by Queen Henrietta Maria to search the records on her behalf regarding the rights of her Court. Also in 1641 Algernon

Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland, employed him to restore the franchise to Cockermouth in Cumberland. In May 1642 the House of Lords appointed him counsel to Sir George Strode and Richard Spencer, who had Articles of Impeachment imposed upon them by the House of Commons.

Hakewill was appointed to the senior legal post of Master of Chancery in November 1646 and was sworn in as legal assistant to the House of Lords, a post that he held until the Lords were abolished in 1649.

In May 1652 Hakewill sold his chambers and, in July, he retired as a Master in Chancery. He drew up his will in September 1653, whilst still in good health. He asked for no more than £40 to be spent on his funeral. Most of his estate had already been conveyed to his eldest son, William. He left his son Robert £400 in his will plus furnishings and linen. He died at Wendover on 31st October 1655, the day after his 81st birthday.

Space allows me only the briefest of mentions of Hakewill's younger brother, George, puritan divine, Anglican theologian and impressive academic. He was briefly chaplain to the young prince Charles (later Charles I) and, although not active in the Civil War, he remained a royalist supporter. The two brothers were always on the best of terms and did not allow the war to mar their friendship. There is also, unfortunately, no space to elaborate on Hakewill's involvement with the rebuilding of the Bodleian Library, and his membership of the influential, if obscure, Mermaid Club in the early 1600s.

I have called Hakewill the 'nearly man' because, although he was successfully engaged in a great many different activities, none brought him the wider recognition that arguably he deserves. Others have said that I have been a little harsh and that many would be happy to have done even a small part of what he managed to achieve. His development of the intellectual underpinning of Parliamentary governance and his opposition to the abuse of power in the early Stuart monarchs were, it is true, remarkable. Ultimately



DIARY DATES

2009

Wednesday 9th September

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

Saturday 3rd October

A talk entitled 'John Hampden - the Buckinghamshire Connection' as a part of the [Buckinghamshire Local History Network's](#) Annual Conference and Fair, to be held in The Kermod Hall, RAF Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5PG. Attendance is by pre-booked tickets; see the Network's website. Doors open at 9 am; first lecture at 10.

Tuesday 20th 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

A Service to commemorate the life of John Hampden at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden, commencing at 11.15 am, to be followed by lunch at Monkton.

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

it is a little sad, if understandable, that the inscription on his burial slab in Wendover Church mentions only his most senior legal post and his role as Solicitor General to Queen Anne

I would like to thank Bob Hammond and Rita Lamb, whose research and support have made this series of articles possible. The main sources for all three articles have been Hakewill's entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and an unpublished paper on Hakewill prepared by the History of Parliament Trust. Additional information can be found in *The English Wits* by Michelle O'Callaghan, published by Cambridge University Press.

Sam Hearn

BOOK REVIEW

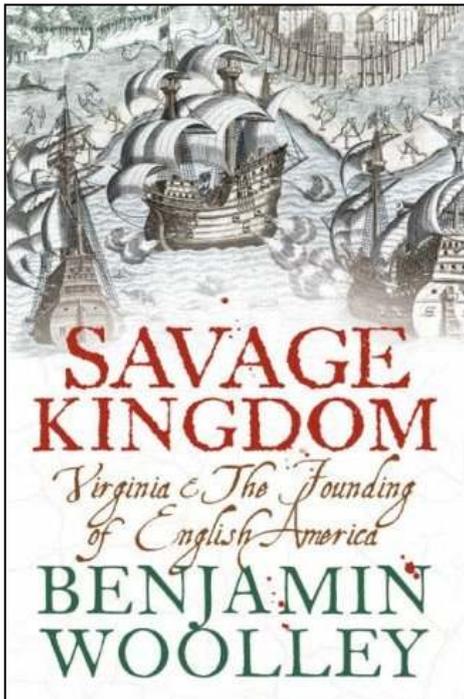
Savage Kingdom: Virginia and the Founding of English America by Benjamin Woolley. ISBN 978-0-00-713169-3, 467 pages plus 14 illustrations and seven maps. Published in hardback in 2007 by Harper Collins.

The basic story of the founding, in 1607, of England's first successful colony in America is well known to many of us from our school days. Most of us can recall a little of the exploits of Captain John Smith and the bravery of Princess Pocahontas. Embarrassingly the most immediate visual images that come to my mind are from Disney's Pocahontas films. Mr Woolley's account is disturbingly far from Disney's uplifting tale of colonial daring do. Death, it would seem, came to these early settlers in a variety of cruel and unsettling ways.

The story that unfolds would have been extremely familiar to Hampden. Many of his associates and fellow MPs were investors in the Virginia Company. The colonists faced the threats of disease, starvation, hostile locals and predatory Spaniards. However the most deadly threats of all would it appear have come from the machinations of the powerful courtiers at the heart of the regime of James I. This is a well told and gripping tale with several unexpected twists to it such as the references to William Hakewill.

Benjamin Woolley is an award-winning writer and broadcaster. His other books include *The Queen's Conjuror: The Life and Magic of Dr John Dee*, and *The Herbalist: Nicholas Culpeper*.

Sam Hearn



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THE HAMPDENS GREAT AND LITTLE

These two Buckinghamshire villages situated in the Chiltern Hills, south east of Princes Risborough, are first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when they were jointly known as 'Hamdena', and formed estates that were given to Baldwyn de Hampden by Edward the Confessor. The name Hampden is thought to be derived from the words ham-denu, meaning 'homestead valley' or 'home in the valley'. Early records indicate that in the year 998 Hampden House at Great Hampden was subject to the payment of Danegeld, and there is evidence of stone and iron age burial mounds in the area.



Modern-day Hampden House

In the 14th Century Hamdena was divided, and become known as Great Hampden and Little Hampden. Hampden House was partially rebuilt at about this time, and in the late 16th century this became the Buckinghamshire home of John Hampden the Patriot. It was to the adjacent Church of St. Mary Magdalen that his body was brought for burial after his untimely death, occasioned by injuries received at the Battle of Chalgrove Field. The exact whereabouts of his grave in the Church is not known as its position is not marked. Close to Hampden House, on the road from Prestwood, a memorial was erected to commemorate the Patriot's refusal to pay Ship Money taxes, which decision was announced in the Church of St. Nicholas at Kimble where documentary evidence of the event is displayed and where John Hampden was attending a meeting at the time.

The manor at Little Hampden was at one time annexed to Hartwell, being under the same ownership until it was sold to Samuel Dodd and subsequently, in about 1765, to Robert Trevor, Viscount Hampden. The Church (apparently undedicated), is quite small and is believed to have been built in the 12th or 13th century and subsequently slightly enlarged. It contains some interesting 13th and 14th century wall paintings.

Anthea Coles

18th JUNE 2009



On behalf of the Society, Gill and I laid a wreath at 9.15 this morning to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Chalgrove and the approximate time of John Hampden's mortal wounding. We said a prayer and kept a minutes silence in honour of all those who fought and died for our Democracy.

Derek Lester

I came across this poem amongst some old family papers and hope that I am not infringing any copyright rules by reproducing it here, but it seemed too good to keep to myself.

If anyone knows its origin, I would be interested to hear from them.

I think how once John Hampden stood
Within this place beneath the hill,
And set his face for freedom's sake
Against the King's unlawful will;
Whilst near - a score of fearful men
Heard clear the prophet voice again.

Though cold the air and deep the snow,
Though chill the hall beneath the tower,
No force on earth could quench the fire
That blazed within his heart that hour;
Nor shall the flame he kindled here
A stranger to my heart appear.

No...Let these stones befriend this earth
And tread the pilgrimage of clay;
And pass, these yeomen - sturdy worth -
Along their destined mortal way;
Still shall there sound his challenge true,
Still shall there live the truth he knew!

Anthea Coles

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