

## NOTES

ON FOUR INVENTORIES OF GOODS OF MEMBERS OF THE  
FAMILIES OF HAMPDEN AND LEE OF HARTWELL.  
FURNISHED BY JOHN LEE, ESQ., LL.D.,  
OF HARTWELL HOUSE.

By G. H. SAWTELL, Esq.

These curious and valuable family documents are Inventories of the moveable possessions of three generations of the House of Hampden of Hartwell, in the reigns of Henry VIII., Elizabeth, and James I., and of Thomas Lee their kinsman, in the year 1572.

It need scarcely be observed that at the date of these documents, and until a much later period, the growth of commerce equalized (as it has since, to our loss, reversed) the relative importance of land and personal, or moveable effects, the list of a great man's goods afforded a very inadequate criterion of his real position. These chattels, but not his lands, were liable to his ordinary debts, while if he contracted obligations under seal and died intestate, the heir was liable to them—on the other hand, if he devised away his lands, the bond creditors came but poorly off.

The Ordinary (or chief clerical authority) of the district exercised the sole jurisdiction of committing to the nearest of kin of a deceased person, the administration of his personal effects, stipulating, however, that an account should be rendered, which obligation appears in those days to have been punctually fulfilled. In our own times the custom was "honored in the breach," so far as the Ordinary was concerned, until the entire suppression of his jurisdiction, four years ago. The Crown, which has (now) resumed the rights once exercised by the Clergy in this respect, has, for a long series of years, required an account with Inventories, from the executor, in connexion with the payment of Legacy duty.

The Surtees Society has published a small volume of ancient Inventories connected with the North Riding of

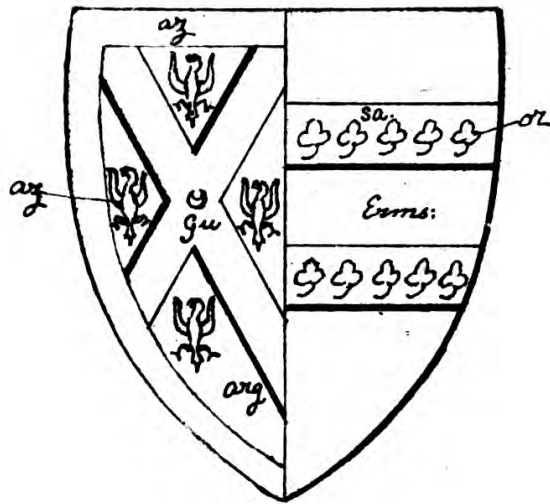
Yorkshire. The items set out in those before us offer no special topics on which to comment, and it has not, therefore, been thought worth while to transcribe them at length. Like their descendants, our forefathers recognised the necessity for tables, chairs, joint-stools, hangings and bedsteads, and even books, though the entire library comprised in one of the Inventories before us is appraised only at that significant fraction of a pound inseparably connected, in the minds of men, with the process of seeking legal advice.

1. Of the Inventory-Rolls which the kindness of Dr. Lee has supplied for our inspection, the first is a list of the Goods and Debts of *Jerome Hampden* of Hartwell, in 33rd Henry VIII. (1541), upon which a similar list of the goods of Dame Alice Hampden is endorsed, Jerome having been her executor. Jerome Hampden was sixth in descent from Richard Hampden of Great Hampden, who married Elizabeth Singleton the heiress of Hartwell, which her father had obtained by marrying Agnes, the heiress of Thomas Stokes, whose wife Eleanor was the heiress of Sir Robert Luton, Knight, whose grandfather married Alice, the daughter and heiress of William Hartwell of Hartwell.

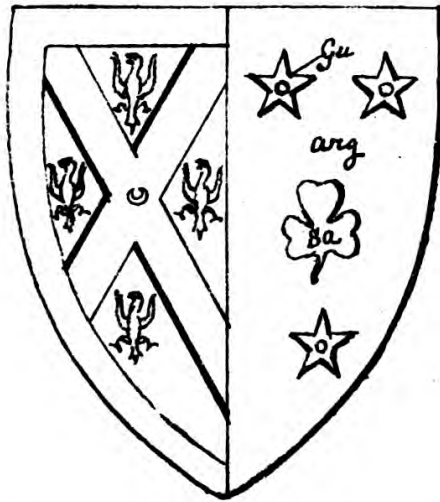
It is to be feared that Jerome was the reverse of a domestic character, barely a third of the Roll is occupied by his goods, one of the most valuable articles of which, is "a payre of Virginalles," worth 13s. 4d. There is also a "littell bottell," basons and ladles suggestive of punch, and one statute-book, no doubt owing to his being in the Commission. But far longer is the list of his "apparell"—cloth slashed and guarded with velvet—black satin doublet—gorgeous caps and hose, and so forth. Then comes a modest shew of "Stock," 3 oxen, 41 kyne, 1 bull, 2 calves, £91 in all, and 6s. 8d. ready money, wherewith to pay £230 11s. 1d. of debts owing to thirty-five creditors, among whom appear Sir Anthony Lee £21 6s. 8d.,—Churchmen of Hartwell 7s. 6d.,—Master Hampden forty Shillings, school master 8s. 3d.,—Sir Rauf Verney forty Shillings, Richard Hampden £3 6s. 8d.

Alice Hampden left no debts, but good store of kitchen stuff and bedding, and a modest little display of salvers, cups, and spoons—worth £15 odd—total £38.

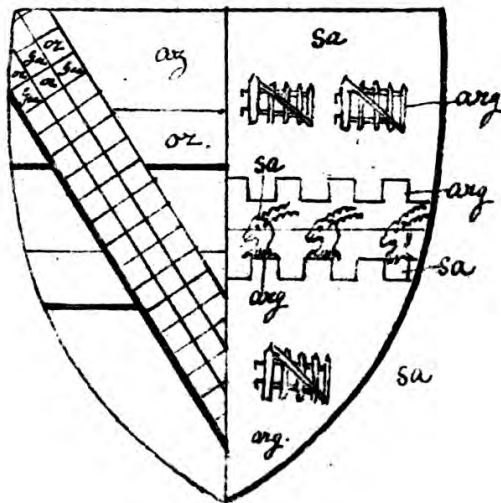
Richard Hampden, the brother of Jerome, was buried



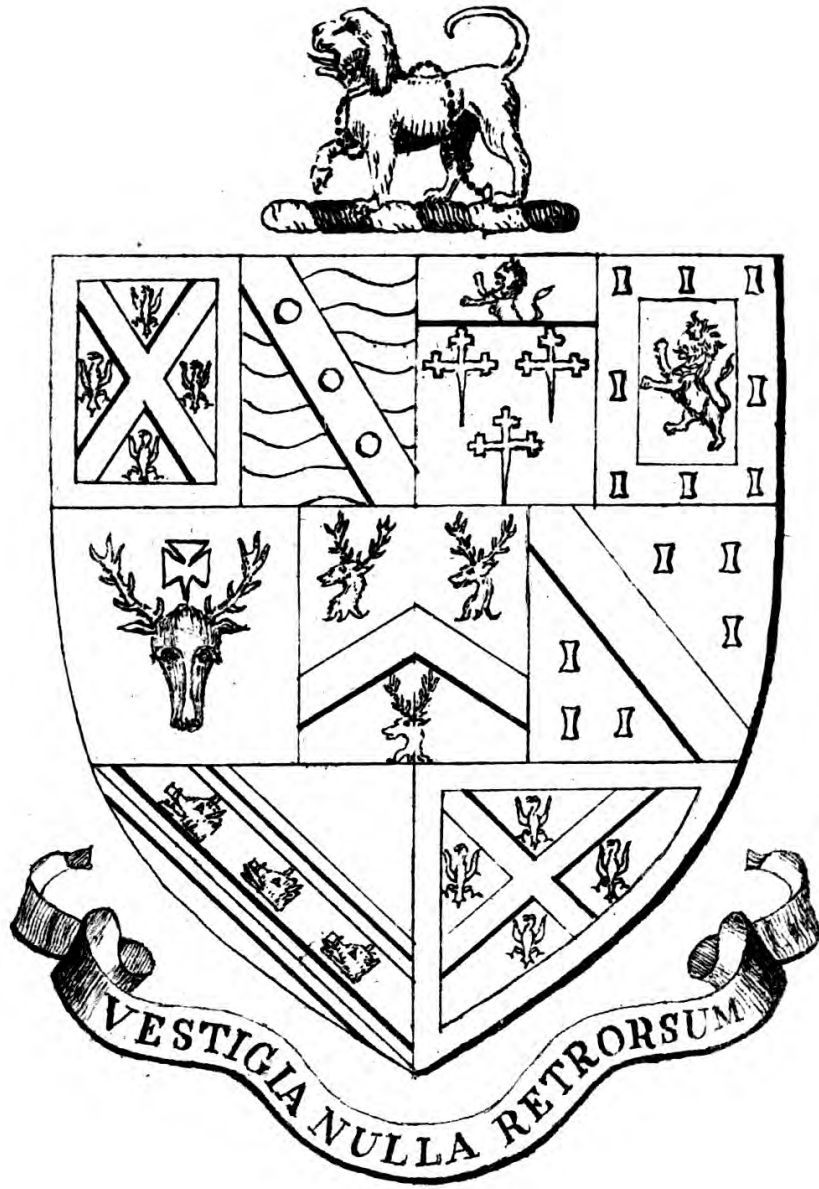
*Jerome Hampden impaled with Elines.*



*Michael Hampden with Ashfield*



*Thomas See with Yate.*



*Sir Alexander Hampden.*

at Great Kimble, in 1567—his heart was taken to Hartwell and there interred.

Jerome's Widow resided at Owlswick, in Monks Risborough.

2. The Inventory of *Michael Hampden* of Hartwell, eldest son and heir of Jerome, in 1570, is that of a more steady and prosperous person. No debts are returned as due from him, but one Watson owed him £6 13s. 4d. The old Virgin alswere still in the parlour; and ten spits in the kitchen sound hospitable, so does the garniture of the best among the many bedchambers—"A bedstead with a canopy of tafeta curtains of sarsnet—bedd of downe bolster and two pillows of downe—pair of blankets, "counterpoint" of arras with a mattress"—£20 in all.

The Chapel was furnished as a bedchamber. The plate consists of two dozen silver spoons, valued at £8—three silver salts gilt—three silver bowls and a cover, £24 13s. 4d. In the stable "item, the hobbie £5"—"item, the sorrel gelding £5"—"item, the grey mare £5"—the other horses are of less value—other noticable items are, 800 sheep £266 13s. 4d.—16 ploughing oxen £37 6s. 8d.—apparel £10—the grand total £757.

3. 1572, 14 *Elizabeth*.—*Thomas Lee* of Morton in Dinton, and of East Claydon. This gentleman was the Father by Ursula his wife (of the family of Yate of Witney), of Sir Thomas Lee, of Claydon and Morton, whose marriage with Eleanor Hampden brought the Hartwell property to the Lees.

Saving the mention of "Andyrons,"\* this Inventory might have been made yesterday.—The plate here is not abundant—two salts—1½ dozen spoons—a silver cup and a stone cup garnished with silver and gilt—worth £11 in all—clothes only £4—farming and dairy stock well kept up—brewery furnished with all things needful—oxen, 22 in the grove, valued at £50—besides yearlings, colts, and 230 ewes, worth £33 6s. 8d. Then in the marsh, 13 fat oxen, a bull, 13 rams—30 quarters of beans and barley, prised at £10—and large stocks at Bishopstone and Clay-

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\* "*Andyrons*" viz. end-irons, the ornaments on each side of the hearth in old houses which supported the dogs. The drawing fire-place at "Lilies" has still a pair of very neat andirons, and a pair of very large ones exists at the Episcopal palace at Wells, with accompanying fire-irons of very early date.



don ; horses, ploughs, "waynes" and such like—forming a grand total of £642 5s. 11*d.*, besides "dyvers beastes" given by will.

4. We lastly come to Sir Alexander Hampden, of Hartwell, 1617—the son and heir of Michael. This eminent and worthy person was Sheriff in 1591, and was knighted by James I., at his own house, in 1603. His sister Eleanor, by her marriage with Sir Thomas Lee, of Claydon, Knight, brought the Manor and Estate of Hartwell into that Family as before mentioned. Sir Alexander resided much at Hampden House, in his capacity of guardian to the celebrated John Hampden, and there is a portrait at Hampden House, supposed to represent him; the figure holds a sword with the point resting on a Bible. An Alexander Hampden, supposed to be his son, was imprisoned for engaging in Waller's plot. One of his daughters was married to Lord Wenman, the other to loyal Sir Alexander Denton, of Hillesdon, whose sufferings from siege, wounds, and imprisonment in the Royal cause form a well-known episode in the curious contemporary record called "Mercurius Rusticus."

Sir Alexander Hampden possessed abundance of goods and chattels of the usual sort. The inmates of his Mansion were many—there was "Mistress Ann Hampden's chamber (this was his cousin, who was munificently remembered in his will)—"The old Lady's Chamber"—"Sir Thomas Wayneman's Chamber" (this was Sir Alexander's son-in-law, a son of Sir Richard Wenman, of Thame Park)—"Mrs. Bowman's Chamber"—"The Armory," with £30 worth of armour in it not particularized—"Mrs. Highen's Chamber,"—and "Mr. Hawtrey's Chamber,"—Mr. Alexander Hawtrey was of the Checkers family and the testator's kinsman, and he appears to have been his steward. The books and money come to £21.—The plate forms an item of £100.—Sir Alexander had a large farming stock—in all above £2,000 worth, besides £1,343 worth at the deceased's Manor House of Burford, Oxon. Some of the items are subjoined—60 acres sown with wheat, £120,—68 beans and peas, £70,—16 barley, £32,—50 quarters of barley, £50,—30 quarters of wheat, £48,—20 quarters of peas, £14,—20 horses, mares, and colts, £60,—11 fat oxen and 4 steers, £100,—sheep in Abbot's Hill, £200.

Sir Alexander and his widow, whose maiden name is not recorded, were buried at Hartwell, and their remains were removed to the New Church.

