

**The Bowles Family were the last family to own Forty Hall – they lived here until 1951.** Look at the photographs in the inner corridor and at the portrait of Dolly Bowles in the Chamber. They tell us about the Bowles family and what it was like to live at Forty Hall in the last century.

Symbols you might see in portraits	
Symbol	Meaning
Papers held in hand	Person involved in important business
Scholar's cap	Clever/well educated
Velvets/ gold/jewels and furs	Richness
Pearls, Moons	Being pure
Flowers	Youth
Sword of State	Justice
Sun / Bright skies	Bringer of peace and plenty
Storm clouds	The person in the picture drives them away
Gloves	Elegance
Dogs	Faithfulness
Snakes	Cunning

## People, Portraits and Pictures at Forty Hall

### Understanding Portraits...

Think about what people are **holding**, **wearing**, what the **lighting** is like and what the portrait is trying to say about the person. See how many of the people in our portraits are wearing **red**. In the past, red fabric was a sign of wealth as it took a lot of dye and was very expensive to make. *See the back page of this booklet for information about symbols in portraits.*

### The Parlour

This portrait of Sir Nicholas Rainton hangs in **the Parlour**.

What fabrics and decorations can you see in his portrait? Notice Sir Nicholas's family crest in corner of the painting.



### Ruffs

Nicholas is wearing a **Ruff**. A Ruff was so stiff it forced the wearer to stay upright. This gave good **posture**. It also reflected **light** onto the face. It used so much material and was so impractical to wear that only the richest in society had them.

## The Great Chamber

This is a Portrait of Henrietta Anne, the daughter of King Charles I. He was King of England from 1625 – 1649, during Sir Nicholas Rainton's later life.

She's not connected to Forty Hall but it's a beautiful painting that we have in our collection that would have hung in a house like Forty Hall. It tells us what rich people looked like at the time.



## Portrait of a lady, c1700

This woman is wearing national costume and holding a rose – we think the painter is Central European. Again, it's a beautiful painting from our collection that would have hung in a house like Forty Hall. What fabric is she wearing?



*Queen Elizabeth I reigned from 1558 to 1603 which was during Sir Nicholas's younger years. She had a palace which was on this estate.*

### Can you see pearls in these portraits?

The 16th century was often called The Pearl Age, as they were very rare and popular.

The Queen at the time, Queen Elizabeth I, was often painted wearing strings of pearls,

## The Meyer Family

The Withdrawing Chamber shows members of the Meyer family who lived in Forty Hall from 1799 to 1896



Margaret Meyer



Anna Maria Meyer



James Meyer I



Louisa Meyer



Philip Meyer



James Meyer II

The Meyers were a wealthy family who were important in Enfield. There is a card in this room that tells you more about the portraits and when they were painted. Notice that Philip is wearing a dress. Boys wore dresses when they were young.