

HISTORY OF LYPIATT PARK

DRAWING ROOM

This room was half its present size and was replaced in 1800 by Paul Wathen who, at the same time, pulled down the Tudor Gatehouse and built on the existing range of stable buildings, probably with the same materials. The south part of the drawing room and the porch were additions by Sir John Dorrington in 1877. Note the two Beauvais tapestries designed by Berain.

Pictures

Sandown Bay by Glover

Chepstow Castle by Glover

Conversation Piece by Schlesinger

Cattle by Sidney Cooper

Wooded Scene by Leider, 1867.

Rams by Sidney Cooper

Elizabeth Gunning after the painting by J. Russell

Mrs. Herries from a miniature by Engleheart

Windy Day by Webb

Stable and Sheep by Verboeckhoven 1863

Italian landscape by Poussin.

LIBRARY

Built by Paul Wathen in 1800 at the same time as the drawing room. The panelling is modern.

Pictures

Two boys by Peter Lely (Boys of the Hamilton family)

Woman School of Van Dyke

Queen Elizabeth Holbein school.

CORRIDOR

Also built in 1800 by Paul Wathen. The picture over the alcove is by de Cano - The Reposte of the Holy Family

Cattle Drive by Poingdestre

Mr. Gwyn. Nowell

Judge Woodcock. B. Bright

DINING HALL

Probably the oldest part of the house. At one time the original front door opened straight into it. There was a Minstrels' Gallery at the east end and open oak tracery on the south wall, thus giving added light to the hall. The north wall was taken down and rebuilt by Paul Wathen, with one bay window in the centre.

Paul Wathen was knighted by the Prince Regent in order that he might stand proxy for Lord Strangford, who was absent as Ambassador at Lisbon, on the occasion of his creation as Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, and there is a painting of him with the robes of the Order over his arm on the east wall.

Translation of motto over the fireplace - "Noise does not frighten the brave."

Pictures

Fort Elizabeth, Guernsey by Whitecombe.

Charles I. Copy of the Van Dyke

Ceiling picture of Mucius Scaevola who, when threatened with torture, put his arm into the flames.

Draught of Fishes. Lanfranco.

The Transfiguration after Raphael.

Still Life. Bayly.

Burgomaster and his Wife. Dutch School

Man wearing velvet cap. after Rembrandt

River scene. Vernet

Man with white cravat. English school.

Paul Wathen. English school.

OAK ROOM

This is commonly called the Gunpowder Plot room, and there is reason to believe that the conspirators did meet there, as the property at that time belonged to John Throckmorton, who was a Roman Catholic, and it is known that both Catesby and Winter stayed here, as there are some extant letters addressed to both of them at Lypiatt Park. The letter to Catesby is from Lord Mounteagle, probably written October 1605, and is so enigmatic as to give some ground for the tradition that he was concerned in the plot and ultimately gave it away to save himself. In this room are two interesting safe-conducts given by the Royalists when in possession after wresting the property from the Puritans - one bearing a beautifully written signature by Prince Rupert and the other a rather mean one by his brother Prince Maurice.

CHAPEL

This was an ancient Chantry Chapel, probably built at the joint expense of Sir John Clifford of Daneway and his cousin Thomas Maunsell in 1367, perhaps to be used as a burying place for the two families. Just in front of the altar is an opening with steps leading down to what was probably the entrance to the vaults, but which has now been sealed with masonry. It may be that a sealed vault lies westward of this entry, or that any coffins that might have been lying in the vault were removed during the general desecration of the chapel. There is a tradition that there was an underground passage to Bisley.

The last record of the use of the chapel for sacred purposes was in 1610 in the time of Edward Stephens, who was then owner of Lypiatt, for the marriage of his daughter. The chapel was desecrated for some 200 years and was in a more or less ruinous condition down to 1944, when it was restored and decorated by the present owners of Lypiatt, and was dedicated on the 10th April, 1945, to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the late Bishop of Gloucester, since when services have been regularly held for public worship at 6.30 p.m. each Sunday and, on certain Sundays, for the service of Holy Communion at 8.45 a.m.

GRANARY

This is a beautiful example of a building of the 13th century, said to be perhaps the oldest piece of domestic architecture in the county. Two special features are to be noted, namely the outstanding string which prevents rats having access to the upper floor where grain was stored, and the funnel for passing the grain to the ground level. This is in the form of an ox's head carved in stone. Under this the tenant held his sack and received the appropriate amount of seed-corn according to the acreage of his ploughland..

The top window at the east end is beautifully proportioned and has formed the model on which many church windows have been based. The damp course is often spoken of as a comparatively modern idea, but the builders knew its value for keeping the corn quite dry, as you will see by looking through the opening below the floor.

A very good picture of this building appears in Green's "History of the English People."

COLUMBARIUM OR DOVE-COTE.

This is about the same period as the granary. These dove-cotes are to be found only on the lands of a Lord Abbott or of a Lord of the Manor, and it was a criminal offence for any other person to have such a building.