

LYPIATT PARK D

A Threatened Mansion

IT is with feelings of regret that residents in this part of the county have learnt that the beautiful old residence, Lypiatt Park, has suffered damage by landslip on the east side of the house, and that the threat of further damage has by no means disappeared.

The manor first finds mention in a charter of Hugh, Earl of Chester, in the reign of John (1199-1200), and when a residence was built is not known. From an entry in the Bishop of Worcester's register for 1367, referring to the existence of a chapel there, it is evident that it stood adjacent to the house of Thomas Mansell, then lord of the manor of Over Lupeyate, and that it probably supplied the need for a family place of worship. It is to be feared that this beautiful, recently restored chapel, lies with the threatened zone.

The present mansion bears little resemblance to the house depicted by Jan Kip in his engraving, made soon after 1707; and this Flemish artist seems in addition to have relied on his imagination in depicting the surrounding countryside. As regards the house, however, it is to be remembered that from the early part of last century, successive owners of Lypiatt Park made considerable alterations and additions to the residence. These architectural changes in its general appearance terminated about 1880, when the late Sir John Dorington had that former fine old residence at Througham, Slad, known as The Grays, demolished and its main staircase taken away to Lypiatt Park to be re-erected there.

The mansion's historic associations include a room to which is assigned the unconfirmed tradition that Robert Catesby and his fellow conspirators met there on occasion while hatching the Gunpowder Plot (1605). In this room are preserved the original manuscript safeguards granted by Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice to Samuel Webb, of Dolman's Ham (Ham Mills) to protect him against plundering by the Royalist troops under their command. And on the east side of the house the damage to the stone-work that is to be seen is attributed to the cannon balls of Sir Jacob Astley when, about the spring of 1644, he attacked and overcame the Roundhead detachment that garrisoned Lypiatt Park.

Sold by Auction on July 17 1952.

Following Judge Woodcock's

deposition to 1216 - James Court

H. S. Kay (present home)

N. M.

J. E.

1-
s,
ig
at
of
rs
ry
or
ill
id,
a.
at
ld
v.
er.
re
to
b-
sh
K.
ed
ns,
nd
bs.
ed
ud
rr-
en
tor
rs.
el-
a
an
oid
ud
on
he
he
ms,
of
r.
ar-
ng
eral
eek.
Mrs.
en's
the
L.
L.
W.
be
th.
efer
and
nth
les,
ome
oon.
ing
The
ally
day
eg.,
ley
uffe
The
the
so