

Lantou Hall

Lantou Hall, in which our English Ancestors resided, is thus described in Armoro's History of Cheshire, England - Vol. III -

"Lantou Hall is a handsome and spacious building of brick, standing on a natural terrace, the offices are disposed of as wings. Its architecture is chiefly of the reigns of James 1st, and George 2nd.

New wings were built about half a century since, and the interior of the house has undergone some additions since then.

A small oak-panelled dining room is said to have been used by Charles 2nd and must therefore have formed part of the older residence. Beneath a passage leading from the lesser drawing room to the library exists an apartment approached by a trap door, to which tradition points as the hiding place of the King.

The pictures in Lantou Hall are chiefly portraits. Those by Lely of the King, and Monmouth, hanging in the dining room.

In front of the house is a sheet of artificial prater, about one third of a mile long, and the grounds extend to the Parish Church at the back of the Manor. From the above it is seen, that before the Restoration, Charles the 2nd was in hiding in Lawton Hall, which on account of its position was peculiarly well adapted for the purpose. Tradition says that during that time he stood sponsor for his hosts' eldest son. The drinking cup presented by the king to his 'god child' on the occasion, with the remark - that he had naught else to offer, is still in existence. The mother of the infant here, so highly honored, moved from Lawton Hall, and later, through intermarriage, the trophy fell into the hands of the Bails of Longford.

A curiously carved snuff box bearing the royal arms and cipher, and also as a memento of the occasion, the coat of arms of Lawton was also left by the afterwards "Merrie Monarch" at Lawton where they still remain.

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Subsequently, the King presented his own portrait, and that of the Duke of Cornwall, painted by Lely as previously mentioned as being at the Hall."

The book "Vale-Royal of England" by Daniel King, published in London in 1656 - has an interesting excerpt referring to the Lawton family of Cheshire. p. 77

Armourde also states that the Lawtons being "Latune" in France, came to England with "the Conqueror."

(There is a mass of detail which was too long for me to copy - I can use the book, in the N. Y. Public Library - 5th Ave. & 42nd St.)