



NEWSLETTER

44



Autumn 1994

Skipton, North Yorkshire

The Craven Museum, Town Hall, High Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1AH, tel 01756 794079

April-Sept: weekdays 10-5 (closed Tues), Sat 10-12 & 1-5, Sun 2-5

Oct-March: weekdays 1.30-5 (closed Tues) Sat 10-12 & 1.30-4.30, Sun closed.

Admission free

Display: 2 long stem plain bowls; 1 cadger - Crystal Palace with flag on top; 1 cadger - plain bowl, spiral decoration on stem; 1 cutty; 2 19th-century plain bowls (1 stem marked - unreadable); 5 decorated lead tobacco boxes or jars; sundry smokers' requisites.

Excavated from a well in the town: 1 complete churchwarden; 1 half wig curler.

Recovered from local lead mines: 1 whole pipe and 2 part pipes - MINERS PIPE; 1 bowl only - with thorns; 2 bowl only - leaf decoration to seams; 1 small bowl and 4in. stem - single figure of a boxer on one side (reverse unseen), caption reads: 'End of bare fist prize fighting 1860 TOM SAYERS J.C.HEENAN. Found in upper level of Buckden Mine'.

In store: several 17th-century bowl fragments (unmarked) and a large bag of stem fragments.

[Ron Dagnall, visit 1994]

USA

Wilson Museum, PO Box 196, Castine, Maine 04421

Open from late May to late September. Permanent exhibits and special activities.

The pipes may be seen by advance notice. (See below for an article on the pipes found at the John Perkins House.)

Winston-Salem, Old Salem, North Carolina

Moravian pipe collection - pottery. Moravian life exhibited in several buildings. Collection includes pipes, tools, presses and working pottery display.

Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Weekdays 9.30-4.30; Sun 1.30-4.30.

Admission: fee charged

[Information from Harriet Kronick]

SCPR GUIDE: STRICKLAND KETEL

Ron Dagnall

As mentioned in *SCPR Newsletter 43*, I am able to provide further information on the entry for Tolson Hall, Strickland Ketel, in Cumbria. Tolson Hall lies in the village of Burneside in the parish of Strickland Ketel, two miles north-west of Kendal. It is a private house, the residence of Mr James Anthony Cropper.

The details given in the SCPR Guide, taken from a published paper by Adrian Oswald (1970, 233 and pl.209a) are repeated in his later volume (1975, 30-1) in which he illustrates a glass pane depicting clay tobacco pipes and the inscription

God by this means
Hath sent
What I on this house
Have spent
T.T. 1638

The Westmorland volume of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (1936, 220-1) describes the Hall built by Thomas Tolson, tobacco merchant, in 1638 and details the following inscriptions to be found there:

1) Plaster panel over fireplace with foliage and the initials and date T. and A.T. 1639 and C.R.

2) Similar plaster panel with date and initials 1638 T. and A.T. and I.R.I., a goats head and a stags head.

3) Preserved in the house are a number of quarries of painted glass, one with three pipes, two plugs of tobacco and the inscription 'God by this means hath sent what I on this house have spent T.T. 1638', a second quarry bears three tobacco plugs and the same initials, date and inscription with the additional words 'All prayes be unto Ilis name, that gave me meanes to build the same', a third has a female figure, probably Faith. Other quarries bear the arms of France, England, Scotland, the Clothworkers Company dated 1637, Tolson, Robinson, Braithwaite

dated 1637, and those assigned to Robert Townson, Bishop of Salisbury 1620. In the porch are the royal Stuart arms, much dilapidated.

In a history of Burneside first published in 1912, schoolmaster Thomas Jones states that the Hall was built by Thomas and Ann Tolson but he differs slightly in his interpretation of the plaster inscriptions (Jones and Willink 1945, 14-15).

For 1) above he reads 1639
C.R.
T.T.A.

For 2) above he reads 1638
T.T.T.R.
I

For the glass pane he interprets this as 'a roll of leaf tobacco on one side, a cable of thick twist on the other and three clay pipes'.

As part of his history Thomas Jones reproduces an essay composed by the late James Cropper of Ellergreen for the Tolson Hall Essay Party in 1893 from reliable and authentic sources (Jones and Willink 1945, 26-33). The essay is in the form of letters, supposedly found in an old Escrêtoire at Bristol, written by Ann Tolson to her sister Elizabeth Askew in Bristol in June 1648 and August 1664. The first letter largely concerns the effect on Ann and her husband of the Civil War (Thomas took the Royalist side) and the second with the trial at Bristol of four young men of Kendal charged with the preaching of George Fox's doctrines and with other Quaker sufferings. The essay ends with a note that 'a torn sheet, without date, refers pathetically to the funeral of Thomas Tolson and to the subsequent sale of the property to enable his wife and daughter Elizabeth to go back to the family at Bristol'.

If James Cropper's 'authentic sources' are to be relied on then it would appear that Tolson had connections with Bristol. Could it be that he obtained his 'meanes' in the tobacco trade, or even the pipe trade, of that city.

One of Burneside's worthies dealt with at length by Thomas Jones was Robert Kitchen, sheriff of Bristol in 1572 and mayor in 1588, and the charitable trusts for relief of the poor within Bristol and Kendal set up by

his will of 1594 (Jones and Willink 1945, 19-21). This gives a factual link between Burneside and Bristol.

Tolson Hall was bought from the Bateman family in 1876 by Charles James Cropper who added an east wing to the building. He was a descendant of an old family of Quaker yeomen from Bickerstaffe in Lancashire (neighbouring parish to Rainford). His father James bought the Burneside Paper Mills in 1845 and founded the company of James Cropper & Co. Ltd. The Cropper family fortunes were established early in the 19th century by James and John Cropper who were prominent in the shipping lines of the port of Liverpool. I note that one of the ships carrying pipes from Bristol to New York for pipemaker R.F. Ring in 1831 was named the *James Cropper* (Price and Jackson 1984, 274).

If any of our members, particularly those in the Bristol area, can substantiate the Bristol connection or would like a fuller account from the quoted history, please let me know.

References

- Jones, T. and Willink, A.H., 1945, 'James Cropper & Co. Ltd. and Memories of Burneside 1845-1945', *Westmorland Gazette*
Oswald, A., 1970, 'The clay tobacco pipe: its place in English ceramics', *English Ceramic Circle* 7, pt 3
Oswald, A., 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Reports 14
Price, R. and Jackson, R. and P., 1984, 'The Ring family of Bristol, clay tobacco pipe manufacturers', *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 18
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 1936, *Westmorland Volume*

[Price and Jackson 1984 is available as an offprint from SCPR Books, price £1.30 - please make cheques payable to S.K. Atkin/SCPR Books - Ed.]

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