

ART. XIII.—*The chronological record of Tytup Hall :
A re-appraisal.*¹ By J. MELVILLE.

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ACCORDING to F. J. Butler "Between 1647 and 1709, Sir Thomas Preston of the Manor and of the Abbey of Furness, created trusts giving the whole of his estates to the Jesuits. Titeup and other property was vested in the name of his sister, Lady Catherine Stourton, &c." Butler adds, "None of the authorities uncover the secret transactions by which Titeup was held from the Jesuits through penal times."²

Recent investigations, however, indicate that Sir Thomas Preston never owned Titeup.³ In 1582, only 45 years after the dissolution of the Abbey, Thomas Sanderson of Lindal in Furness, yeoman, gave his son John, one messuage with appurtenances at Titeup, of the yearly rent to the Queen's Majesty, 12/4d. (the lord's rent). A Thomas Bolton seems to have claimed certain rights at Titeup, but in 1585 surrendered to Sanderson in open court any interests he may have had.

1604. Catherine Sanderson, then in the Isle of Man, and aged 23, daughter of John Sanderson of Titeup in Furness, quit claimed, for the sum of £10, to her father her whole right in any part of the goods, chattels, tenements, due to the said John.

1676. Thomas Sanderson of Titeup, yeoman, and Mary his wife, granted Titeup to William Matson of

¹ Tytup is spelt in different ways in documents, but as it is most frequently Titeup, this will be used throughout.

² CW2 xlii 181.

³ Lancs. Record Office. Tytup bundle, 1582-1843.

Scalebank (i.e. the adjacent farm) for £100. This was on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter, Isabel, to William Matson. The latter allowed Thomas and Mary to have half of Titeup for one year. Thomas also handed over "Two pairs of bedstocks in the kitchen, one pair in the little room, one cupboard in the parlour and all the scaffolding (?) in the said house".

Further documents confirming William Matson as owner of Titeup are dated 1681, 1688, 1690 and 1693, but a William Matson was in occupation as early as 1633.⁴

1713. Agreement between William Matson senior of Titeup, yeoman, and William Matson junior (son and heir). For the sum of £200 the father conveyed to his son Titeup, excepting widow-right, iron ore pits, etc. The father continued in possession of half of Titeup, viz. the beast house, one stable in the new building with rooms over them, half of the barn, liberty in the kitchen in the other house to brew and bake in, half of the garner over the kitchen, during his father's life, he to pay half the rents and dues. This is the first mention of the new building, which must have been erected early in the 18th century.

1723. Agreement between Isabel Matson of Titeup, widow, and relict of William Matson late of Titeup, deceased, on the one part and William Matson of Titeup, son and heir of William Matson, yeoman, on the other part. "For a yearly rent of £10, she granted all her full third part or widow's-right of Titeup . . . always

⁴ Alfred Fell, *The Early Iron Industry of Furness & District* (Hume Kitchin, Ulverston, 1908).

reserving liberty for the said Isabel Matson to come again and have her own use of the new house at Titeup, where she now dwells.”⁵

The foregoing documents appear to confirm that the tenants at Titeup after the dissolution of Furness Abbey, became “Customaryhold”, i.e. the tenants were practically owners who only paid a small rent (12/4d.) to the lord of the manor. At first this was the Crown, but in 1662 was the Duke of Albemarle.

A William Matson, evidently the younger mentioned in the 1723 agreement, later moved to Kendal, where he became J.P. in the 1740's.

1766. Under the will of this William Matson, deceased, late of Titeup Hall, Titeup and other farms were conveyed to trustees for the use of Ann Matson, his daughter, until she reached 21 or married. As she reached 21 in 1766, the properties were in fact conveyed to her.

Ann Matson married Thomas Morland of Court Lodge, Kent, who in his will (1774), left properties in Westmorland and Lancashire and £200 to his wife in trust. These properties included Titeup. This was the time that Father West lived at Titeup and when he compiled his *Antiquities of Furness*.

1793/4. Correspondence of these dates³ refers to the letting or sale of Titeup at 20 guineas a year and 10 guineas for lands. Thomas Morland's trustees sold Titeup to Myles Sandys about 1794.

F. J. Butler's statement that Titeup and other properties were vested in the name of Sir Thomas Preston's sister, and that the Petre family once held Titeup but never occupied it, evidently arose from the fact that Sir Thomas (who never settled his Furness estates on the Jesuits) secured three small farms,

⁵ C.R.O., Kendal. Matson bundle.

comprising about 60 acres, for the foundation of a Noviciate. That was not practicable in England, so the income was, for many years, devoted to the assistance of Catholic Missions in the Furness district.

Two of these farms were in Dalton parish and the other in Urswick. In 1711 they were vested in trust for the Society of Jesus, in the name of Lady Catherine Stourton and in later years in the family of Petre. Out of the rents, £20 per annum was allowed for the maintenance of a father to serve the district.⁶

There do not appear to be any records naming the three farms, but Titeup cannot have been one of the two in the Dalton parish.

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⁶ Gillow, *Catholic Record Society*, xx, 3 and 8.