

## A Description of Goadby Marwood Hall

Walter Evelyn Manners visited Goadby Hall in the early 1890s as part of his research into the Manners family, and he also attended the auction which took place following the death of George Norman in 1891. The following is a transcription of his notes on the building.

*The façade which [Peter Wyche] added to the old building is frankly "Queen Anne", and part of its right wing is false, and merely screens the lower building behind it which are in quite a different style. In general appearance the house is a long, low building of dark grey stone, consisting of a centre portion higher by a story than the two wings, which consist of a ground and first floor only. The centre portion is flanked by two high, white pilasters, surmounted by a heavy pediment and cornice – the latter extending across the wings. The pediment, cornice and dressings of the windows are all white which relieves considerably the sombre tone of the house. Beneath a portico in the centre, a very old and heavy single entrance door, studded with huge nails, hung when I visited with Mrs. Paget in 1890. This door opened immediately upon the hall, which is very large and distinctly the feature of the house.*

*One's impression on arriving at Goadby Hall is that it stands close to and is bounded by the Melton Road, but a large map in my possession shows that it really stands well in the centre of the estate, which is however intersected by several roads one of which is separated from the house by a short carriage drive.*

*This idea is also aided by the position of the park which stands almost at the back of the house. To return to the entrance hall, the height of which is striking, Peter Wyche is said to have arranged and decorated it on the model of the Louvre in Paris.*

*It is intensively ornamented with raised scroll-work round the doorways and fireplaces, and high pilasters support a cornice on which, forming a sort of frieze beneath the ceiling, were busts, curious odds and ends, and pieces of ancient armour which tradition says came from the Tower of London. Two large fireplaces and doorways pierced the walls opposite the entrance. Pictures, engravings, and some signed proclamations of the celebrated Marquis of Granby hung round the walls, and beneath them were ranged carved chests, old chairs, a grandfather clock or two, and other curious furniture.*

*In one of the vestibules leading to the stairs stood a very remarkable life-size figure, carved in oak, of Jesus Christ. This figure is mentioned in the catalogue of Otho Manner's sale in 1832 when it was probably bought by the Revd. Edward Manners, and it was again sold at Mr. George Norman's death in 1891. The dining room was well-proportioned and of considerable size, intersected at one end by pillars behind which two sideboards stood. It contained some good pictures and two full-length portraits of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke and "the beautiful Duchess of Rutland" by Peters R. A. This peculiar artist, - parson, who at one time had the supervision of the Belvoir Collection, was an acquaintance of the Manners of Goadby and painted several pictures of them.*

*The fireplace and mantelpiece were old and handsome, and between the window hung an exceedingly beautiful pier-glass, 5 ft by 3 ft, in a gilt and walnut frame embodying in its design a coat of arms. The glass formed one of a pair which were brought to Goadby Hall by Peter Wyche. The arms are his, and the glasses were included in the purchase of Goadby by John, Marquis of Granby, in 1765. Except for a short interval this glass must have hung at Goadby from 1735 to 1891 when I tried to buy it. But it was secured by Lady Granby for £8.15 – (nothing like its value) and I saw it this year (1892) in a conspicuous position at Belvoir Castle. Its fellow is now in the possession of Mrs. Hubbersty at "The Gables", Wirksworth.*

*The two drawing rooms contained no old furniture, but were hung with a very fine collection of engravings of the Manners family. For one, after C. Jervas of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Rutland, I again unsuccessfully bid, it being bought for £7.10 by Lady Granby who purchased many of the others.*

*The bedrooms were all extremely old-world in their fittings and furniture, most of the bedsteads being "four-posters", and some of them – presumably meant for children – were so low between the mattress and the tester as to resemble little gypsy tents. One of these, I was informed, was of great antiquity, and would shut down to form a substantial ottoman.*

*The offices were large and rambling, the kitchen being a particularly bright and cheery room.*

*The paths and grounds I did not see, but of the water sheets, which formerly must have been so distinctive a feature of Goadby, only two remained. They were named the "Bellemere", the "Blackborne Pond" and the "Dog Kennel Pond" originally.*