



MMT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

Nº 21

March 2009

THE DYSART MAUSOLEUM

The MMT Gazetteer records that "the Tollemaches of Buckminster Park are an ancient family claiming Saxon descent. It was Lord Huntingtower (1766-1833) who decreed in his will the construction of a family mausoleum at Buckminster, but nothing was built until after the death of Lionel William John Tollemache, the 8th Lord Dysart (1794-1872)." The delay may have been occasioned in part by the the adventures of the reprobate William Lionel Felix Tollemache, Lord Huntingtower (1820-1872), son of the eighth and father of the ninth Earl, who embroiled the family in a series of scandals culminating in a claim on the title, initiated by his common-law wife, that was only resolved in 1881.

The earldom is a peerage of Scotland, created in 1643 for William Murray (d.1655). The first marriage of his daughter, the colourful Elizabeth, 2nd Countess of Dysart (1626-1698), to Sir Lionel Tollemache (1624-1669), 3rd Baronet of Helmingham, united their respective estates and titles until the death of the ninth Earl in 1935. (Elizabeth lived principally at Ham House, and became the Duchess of Lauderdale by her scandalous second marriage, but that is another story.) Over the generations, the family have variously represented Fowey and East Looe, Orford and Suffolk, Northampton and Liskeard in the House of Commons.



The Dysart mausoleum is situated on the east side of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Buckminster, Leicestershire, half a mile from the border with Lincolnshire. The land slopes gently from east to west (*photo, p.3*), and the church is approached by a long drive that skirts the walled garden of the adjacent

The Dysart mausoleum from the graveyard of St. John the Baptist, Buckminster

