



The rear view of Old Manor Farm from the field which is rapidly being turned into a garden

Photography: Cyril Lindley

THE HOMES OF CHESHIRE—24

OLD MANOR FARM, MARPLE—II

The Home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Adams Jones

(by whose permission this article has been specially written by William A. Singleton, M.A., Ph.D., B.Arch.)

THE restoration of the house has been carried out very carefully and the original accommodation has been adapted, with the minimum of alteration, to provide a lounge-hall, lounge and dining room, together with various kitchen facilities on the ground floor and four bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. As much of the original timber and masonry as was

practicable has been retained and repaired, every effort being made to display to the full the various interesting details, such as carpenters' marks on the timber joints also the panels of "wattle and daub".

A house of this type calls for furnishings which are predominantly of old oak with the natural exclusion of mahogany.

The owners have taken great care to choose, over a period of years, every piece of furniture and have in fact a selection which must be of great interest to the collector and a joy to themselves.

The "Hall", with its original timber work revealed and extending up to the rafters, contains an Elizabethan settle and a long low dresser of the Jacobean period. On the wall above the latter can be seen a pair of excellent Dutch paintings by Albert Cuyp and signed by the artist. According to a well-known London authority, one appears to be a self-portrait and the other of the artist's mother.

In the lounge is to be found a rare oak food hutch on its original stand, while a piece of special interest is a Windsor chair in yew-wood, designed in the Gothic style. There is also an eight-day striking clock by John Allen of Macclesfield (circa 1760), which has an effective engraved brass face showing seconds and displaying a calendar including



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moon phases. It is enclosed in an oak case with walnut crossbandings.

The dining-room contains an example of an early Yorkshire dresser and a fine oak gate-leg table which, it is understood, was at one time in the collection of the first Lord Leverhulme and which the present owners discovered in a doctor's waiting room in Lancashire.

There is no happier combination of antiques than that of old oak and early Staffordshire pottery. Here are to be found some fine examples of Staffordshire cottages and Toby jugs displayed to perfection amongst the well-polished furniture.

The upper floor contains two pieces which are worthy of note; an early example of a full-length hanging wardrobe



Another view of the lounge, showing the eight-day clock by John Allen of Macclesfield



The portion of the medieval "smoke-hole" in the roof, which has been preserved by the present owners

in oak and a Queen Anne table, now used as a dressing table.

Much more could be written about this most interesting and attractive house and its furnishings, but the allotted space does not permit of it. However, most of its history is a matter of surmise as very little documentary evidence, other than that displayed in the building itself, has been found. The owners would welcome any information relating to the history of their home, both regarding the house and its previous owners, as the present deeds only go back to 1710.



The dining-room, illustrating the charming early Yorkshire dresser referred to in the article