

# Scolton Manor, near Haverfordwest

**Saturday, afternoon, 19 May**

Scolton is associated with the Higgon family, originally from Carmarthenshire, who first arrived here in 1600. Their first house is believed to have existed on the site of the present Home Farm, adjacent to the present house, but this was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in the middle of the 18th century. The family then moved to Haverfordwest where they remained for nearly 100 years. During their time there they became involved in local politics and coal mining. They also became friendly with a local firm of architects, builders and cabinet makers, William & James Owen. It was this firm that designed, built and furnished the existing house at Scolton for James Higgon.

Plans were drawn up in 1833 and the house was completed in 1842 for a cost of £3,000. It was inhabited by the Higgon family until 1972 when it became unmanageable and the house and contents were auctioned. The house and a few items of furniture were bought by Pembrokeshire County Council. Most of the furniture on display today is on permanent loan from St Fagans.

During our tour Luke Millar explained how the Owens were not only responsible for building houses in Pembrokeshire for the landed gentry but also for furnishing them. They produced a complete range of items from sideboards and tables to chairs and sofas. Most of their recorded furniture is from the period 1820 to 1840.

Adjacent to the drawing room we examined a fine bookcase with a secretaire drawer by William & James Owen, made for Scolton c.1842. The secretaire drawer had a combination of line and dot inlay, which was a signature of the Owens.

In the kitchen we saw a large dog kennel dresser, grained to simulate oak, which had been made for the house. Also in the kitchen was a deal settle bearing the stamp of W. Morgan & Son of Haverfordwest. Other items of note were a fine rent table with eight numbered drawers, a glazed oak dresser from Clunderwen, Pembrokeshire, c.1865, and an elm bacon settle from south Wales. There were also fine examples of flowing line inlay on a box on stand in oak from St Botulphs near Milford Haven and on a chest from the same area in the hall.

*David Hannah*