

Oak settle, Thomas Reresby 1621, from Derbyshire

A seventeenth-century oak settle, carved with the name and date 'Thomas Reresby 1621', was sold at Tennants Leyburn on 13 July. The back support is carved with the motto 'Gods Providen[c]e is Mine Inheritance', above panels of dragons, lozenges and scrolls, above a hinged and boarded seat. A paper label from an earlier sale catalogue gives its lot number 212 and history:

From Eastwood Hall, Ashover, Derbyshire, which residence, with all the fine carved oak furniture (see *Old Records of Ashover* for full and interesting account), was

sold in 1623, by Sir Thomas Reresby, the then owner, to the Rev. Emanuel Bourne, Rector of Ashover. After allowing them time to remove their chattels, the hall was blown by gunpowder in 1646, by the Commonwealth Army. The clerk of the Rev. E. Bourne, Wheatcroft by name, and who was a stout Royalist, composed the following lines:-

‘The Roundheads came down on Eastwood’s olde hall,
And they tryed it with matlocke, [...] tryed it with ball;
And they tore up the lead work, and splintered the wood,
And as firmly as ever the battlements stood;
Till a barrell of powder as last did the thing –
And then they sang psalms, for the fall of the king!’

The settle is from a deceased estate; it was purchased at an auction in the North East several years ago before being housed in County Durham.

With grateful thanks to Jeremy Pattison of Tennants Leyburn.

Susan Stuart



Oak settle, carved inscription 'THOMAS RERESBY 1621'. *Courtesy of Tennants Auctioneers*