



# DOWNTON

ONE  
AMERICAN'S

# SHABBY

ULTIMATE

DIY

ADVENTURE

RESTORING

HIS FAMILY'S

ENGLISH CASTLE



This book is a memoir and as such, it reflects the author's recollections of experiences over time. Some names and characteristics have been changed, some characters and events have been combined and created, some events have been compressed or expanded, and some dialogue has been re-created.

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FIRST EDITION

*Designed by Elina Cohen*  
*Key art courtesy of Shutterstock / AVA Bitter and Vector Tradition*

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Hopwood and sisters visiting Hopwood, Pennsylvania, 1976  
*Photo by Deanna DePree*



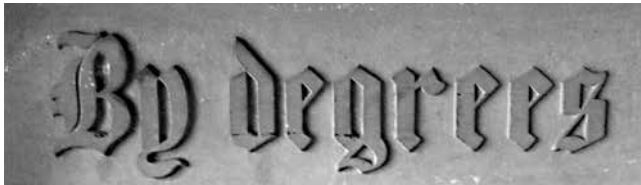
Hopwood Hall Estate, 1950s *Printed with kind permission of the De La Salle Trust, Oxford*



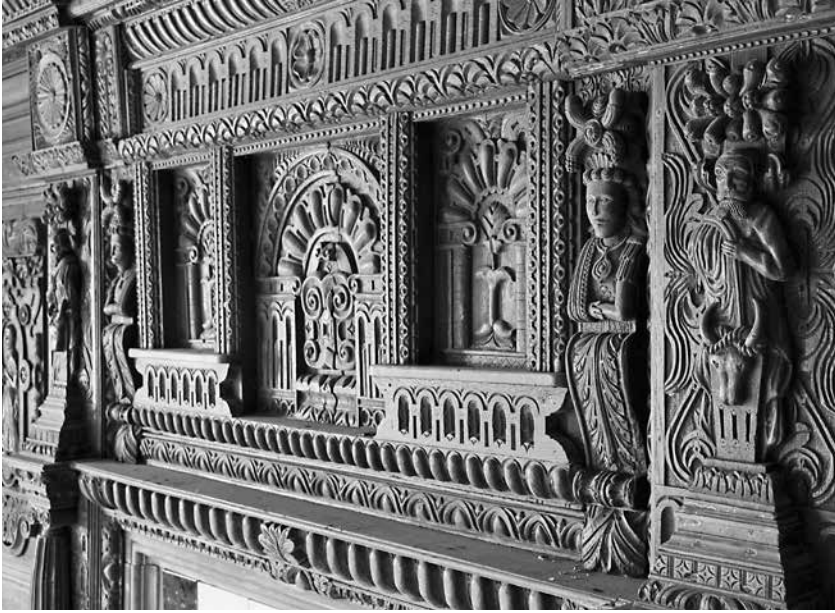
Luc-sur-Mer pier, Normandy, France *Courtesy of the author*



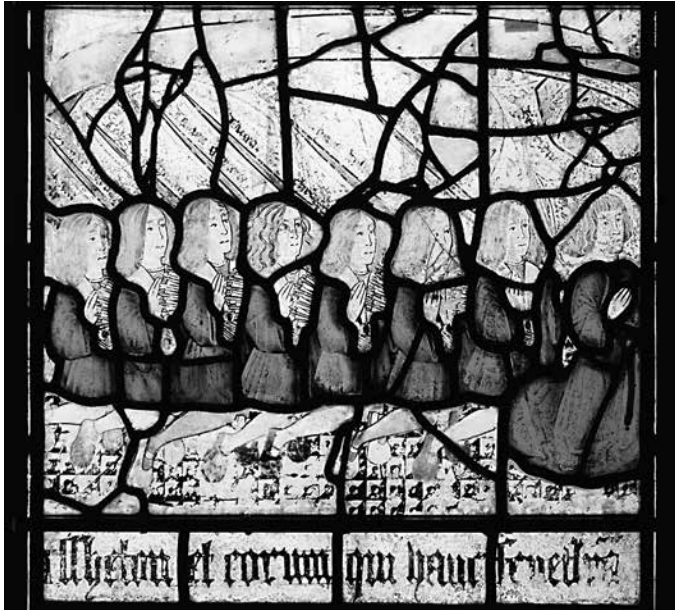
The fireplace in the Reception Hall, Hopwood Hall Estate *Matt Wilkinson*



The Hopwood family motto inscribed on the Reception Hall fireplace  
*Courtesy of the author*



The Jacobethan overmantel in the Oak Parlor, Hopwood Hall Estate *Andy Marshall*



A panel from the Flodden commemorative window in St. Leonard's church, Middleton, thought to be the UK's oldest war memorial, dating to the 1500s *Fred Leao Prado*





Lord and Lady Clitheroe with Hopwood DePree at St. Leonard's church,  
Middleton, September 2013 *D. DePree*



The Morning Room, Hopwood Hall Estate, 2013 *Dave Broga*



The famous "Lord Byron bed," as nicknamed by the ladies of the house,  
Hopwood Hall Estate, 1850s C. Stuart MacDonald *"A History of  
Hopwood Hall,"* Waldegrave Ltd.



Lady Hopwood and her driver with her beloved dogs in front of the  
Hopwood Hall carriage entrance, 1880s *Local Studies Centre Touchstone*  
*Rochdale, Rochdale Arts & Heritage Center*



Hopwood in traditional English  
country wear *Courtesy of the author*



A view of Hopwood Hall from the woodlands *D. DePree*



Note: Unexpected figure is circled. *D. DePree*

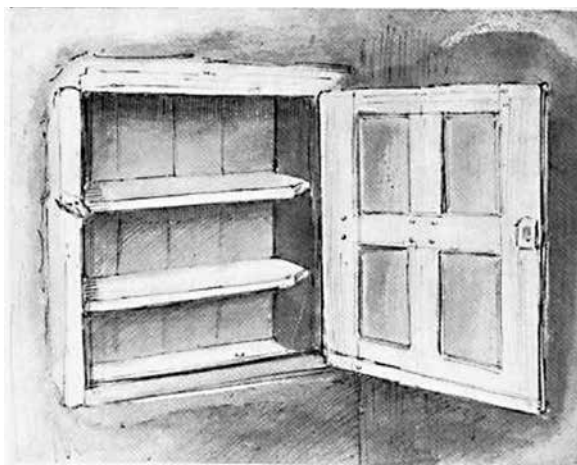


Upon closer inspection, the ghostly figure bears a striking resemblance to Lady Hopwood, who often wore a white mask to protest the Industrial Revolution.  
*Local Studies Centre Touchstone Rochdale, Rochdale Arts & Heritage Center & D. DePree*

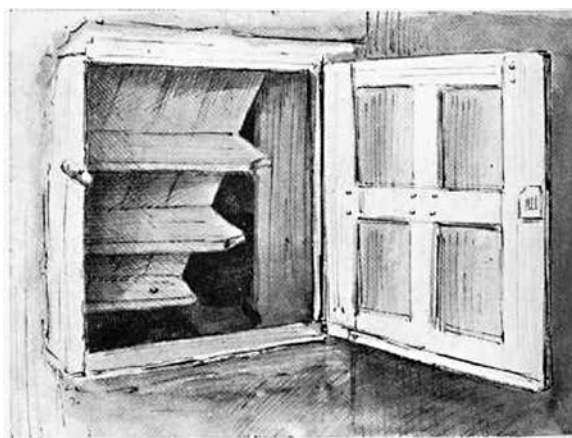


Lady Susan Hopwood, 1850 *Local Studies Centre*  
*Touchstone Rochdale, Rochdale Arts & Heritage Center*





A sketch of a similarly designed priest hole that appears to be a normal cupboard *Allan Fea, illustrator*



The back of the cupboard could swing open to create a secret hiding place. *Allan Fea, illustrator*



Watercolor painting of Hopwood Hall Estate by local artist  
Steve Whitworth *Steve Whitworth, artist*



Hopwood Hall Estate, December 2019 *Courtesy of the author*



Hopwood outside the Hopwood House,  
Hopwood, Pennsylvania, 1976

*Photo: Deanna DePree*



Lady Susan Hopwood with her dogs and horse on the lawn at Hopwood Hall Estate,  
1880s

*Photo: The Middleton Collection, care of Local Studies, Touchstones, Rochdale*



Hopwood Hall Estate and the sunken rose garden, circa 1993

*Photo: Mrs. Christine Pierce Jones*



The Reception Hall fireplace showcasing one of the Hopwood family coats of arms, which could change due to marriages between other prominent English families

*Photo: Fred Leao Prado*





Geoff and Hopwood discussing Hopwood Hall and his family lineage

*Photo: David Rowlinson*



Hopwood discussing plans with members of Rochdale Council and the renovation team

*Photo: Fred Leao Prado*



A corner of the Banquet Room, 1880s. A portrait hangs of Lady Susan Hopwood, who utilized the space primarily as a drawing room.

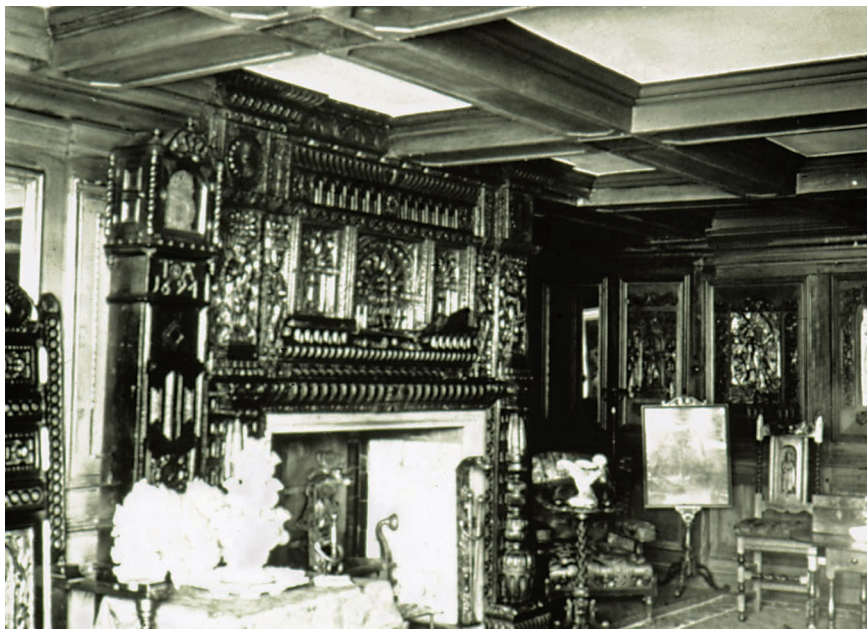
*Photo: The Middleton Collection, care of Local Studies, Touchstones, Rochdale*



The same corner, Hopwood Hall Estate, 2013

*Photo: Fred Leao Prado*





The Oak Parlor, 1800s

*Courtesy of Hopwood Hall Estate*



The Oak Parlor at Hopwood Hall Estate, 2013, the oldest known room in the Hall, dating to 1426. In the mid-twentieth century, “improvements” were made to the Hall, including the modern lighting fixtures.

*Photo: Fred Leao Prado*





The west wing of the Gallery Corridor, a main walkway through Hopwood Hall  
*Printed with kind permission of the De La Salle Trust, Oxford*



The east wing of the Gallery Corridor after the floorboards were removed  
*Photo: Dave Brogan*



The east side of Hopwood Hall, late 1800s. The two-story bay window looks into the Banquet Room.

*Photo: The Middleton Collection, care of Local Studies, Touchstones, Rochdale*



A similar angle. The ground floor windows look into the Morning Room and the Library.

*Photo: Fred Leao Prado*





Hopwood DePree celebrating the first Hopwood family Christmas in Hopwood Hall in over 100 years

*Photo: Charlotte Graham*