**Some lines of enquiry prompted by the anthology:**

**William Tilney, Walsingham, No. II [the “Tilney ms.”]**

Note: census returns and summaries of Wills have been accessed through *ancestry.co.uk*.

The manuscript is written with clarity and care.

Inside the back cover is a lengthy quotation, “Remarks on Scotland,” taken from Sir Walter Scott’s *History of Scotland,* vol. 2, page 20. [The *History* was first published in or around 1829.] The quotation refers to Hugh McKail, a Covenanter who was executed during the reign of Charles II for refusing to accept the reintroduction of the episcopate in Scotland. A “Google” search reveals that, to this day, Hugh McKail (or MacKail) remains a celebrated figure in some Protestant and Evangelical circles. He’s even referred to extensively in [www.ianpaisley.org](http://www.ianpaisley.org). Pages 388-392 of the “Tilney ms.” contain a composition by C.W. Bannister entitled “Maccail” [*sic*] with a cross-reference to the quotation from Sir Walter Scott, “vide 437 page post.” This piece is one example of the apparent connection between the anthology and Nonconformity.

There are several references which connect the anthology specifically to Wesleyan worship. Wesley is referred to by name 8 times. On pages 242-243 we have “Isaac Williams Symphony composed by Isaac Williams for, and performed at Saint Peter’s Chapel Norwich on Christmas Day 1824.” It seems that Saint Peter’s Wesleyan Chapel, Lady’s Lane, Norwich was opened in that year (1824). An old photograph of it can be seen on:

<http://www.georgeplunkett.co.uk/Website/Album/Otherplacesofworship07.jpg>

about half way down that page.

Lady’s Lane (or Lady Lane), Norwich appears to have been located in the area now occupied by The Forum, Norwich. This is immediately SW of St. Peter Mancroft.

Two or three of the names of the hymn tunes in the “Tilney ms.” appear to recall Wesleyan Chapels:

* “Wesleyan Chapel” by Strutt
* “Tower Street Chapel.”

There was a Tower Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in King’s Lynn. It had been founded in 1812, see:-

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/cgi-bin/churches?CCC=NFK,GR=11643,FT=Kings%20Lynn%20Assoc.%20Chapel%20North%20Clough%20Lane%20Wesleyan%20Methodist>

Another tune is called “Queen Street Chapel” of Durham: it’s not clear to me whether this is meant to indicate the City of Durham or a composer by the name of Durham. [It seems rather unlikely that this is a reference to the Great Queen Street Chapel at Lincoln’s Inn Fields.]

A further Dissenting reference includes “Hy. 298 – Dr. Watts 2º Bk. ‘Sing to the Lord ye heav’nly host’.” This reference is, of course, to Isaac Watts, the famous Dissenting poet and native of Southampton whose portrait hangs in the vestibule of Avenue St. Andrew’s U.R.C., Southampton.

A possibly contrary indication is found in the Magnificat in B-flat major which is copied into the “Tilney ms.” This Magnificat appears to consist of chorus parts + some instrumental cues but without a complete organ part or instrumental score. It is not clear to me whether Wesleyan Methodists made use of the Magnificat in the English translation found in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer (1662) although there can have been no doctrinal objection to it as the text is Biblical (Luke, chapter 1). Little Walsingham’s Parish Church is, as is well known, dedicated to St. Mary, too.

 ---------------------------------------------------------

Further research has been undertaken on Isaac Williams (c.1787-1865) and William Tilney (c.1796-1863) mentioned in the “Tilney ms.,” though not necessarily identical, but were around at the right time and place. This text is available from the author and site creator.

John Dover, May 3rd 2011.