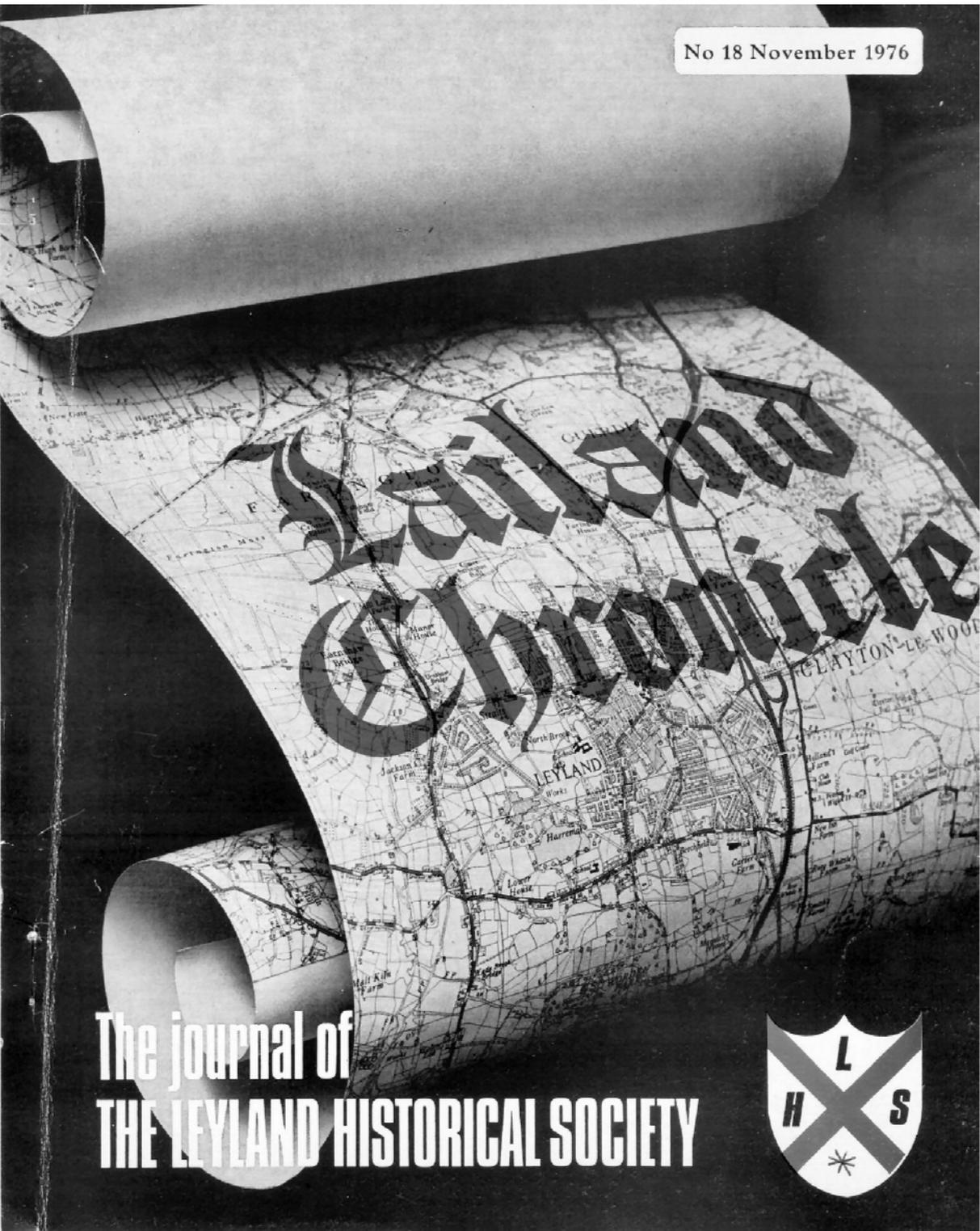


NOTE :- THIS ISSUE WAS SCANNED FROM A POOR ORIGINAL AND THEREFORE
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No 18 November 1976



Leyland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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71 Crawford Avenue, Leyland

Tel.No: 21825

* * * * *

AIMS

To promote an interest in History generally
and of the Leyland area in particular

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month
(September to June inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents £1.50 per annum

Adult Members £1.25 " "

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Casual Visitors £0.25 per meeting

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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

* * * * *

"LAILAND CHRONICLE"

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL NOTE

On behalf of the Society we, the Editorial Staff, would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Mr. F. Cumpstey for his most valuable services as Chairman of the Leyland Historical Society for the past six years; in addition to which we would also like to recognise and thank him for his advice and assistance in the production of the Lailand Chronicle. We feel sure that he will continue to serve the Society in his capacity of Committee Member just as well as he has carried out his duties as Chairman.

* * * * *

In Retrospect.

by F. Cumpstey.

It is pleasant to look back on my six years as Chairman and to think how the Society has developed in that time. Many changes have occurred, not least amongst the officers and committee, as I think that only four of the original committee remain active. During this time has come the development of the 'Laird Chronicle' for which we, as a Society, can be justly proud. And more recently our change of meeting place has been definitely a move in the right direction.

What a wide variety of speakers we have had with such contrasting styles, as for instance Mr. Sherdley on the one hand and Miss Kathleen Eyre on the other, but generally speaking we have had a very high success rate - and we can quietly forget the few disappointing ones.

Our outside visit programme has gone from strength to strength and outings that particularly stick in my memory are the day trip to York, the visit to Chingle Hall (not forgetting the ghostly sabotage!!) and of course, the delightful evening visits to Alston Hall. And, of course, our Annual Dinner Dances have really been so successful and have become occasions to look forward to.

There is no doubt that I have had tremendous amount of enjoyment and satisfaction from the job. This must be due in no small part to the wonderful support I have received from the Officers and Committee Members over the years and, of course, from the members of the Society who attend the meetings so well.

* * * * *

CHRISTOPHER WREN'S MASTERPIECE

by Francis Knight

For over thirteen hundred years a cathedral dedicated to SAINTE PAUL has stood on LONDON'S LUDGATE HILL. The glorious building we see today is the fifth great church to stand upon the site.

The first was probably a wooden structure founded by ETHELBERT, KING OF KENT, in the first half of the seventh century.

The peril of fire has beset all five churches down the centuries.

ETHELBERT'S church was destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt in stone between the years A.D.675 and 685, only to be fired by the VIKINGS in the ninth century. Again rebuilt, fire destroyed it in 1087.

The fourth church to arise on the site was the greatest and had a spire 489 feet high. By the middle of the seventeenth century this great church had become a ruin.

Eventually a ROYAL COMMISSION was set up with a view to having OLD ST. PAULS restored.

The commission agreed that CHRISTOPHER WREN should be entrusted with drawing up the plans.

No better choice could have been made, for WREN was a genius, the cleverest architect in the land. Born in the little Wiltshire village of East Knoyle in 1632, he was educated at Westminster and Oxford, where he excelled in Mathematics and Science.

But architecture was his true love and after long study in many lands he came to London where his remarkable talent brought him rapid fame.

On 1st May, 1666, WREN presented his plans for restoring ST. PAUL'S.

On 2nd September of that year occurred the GREAT FIRE OF LONDON. It started in a bakery in PUDDING LANE and in four days had devastated 500 streets, over 13,000 houses and 89 churches - including ST. PAULS, which was completely destroyed.

To WREN, the GREAT FIRE OF LONDON proved a wonderful opportunity, for he was now able to design a completely new church, inspired by the style of ST. PETERS, ROME. The Commissioners were hard to please.

They rejected his first two plans and only grudgingly agreed to the third.

WREN might not have started the work at all had not the KING agreed to allow him to make such alterations as he thought fit.

The COMMISSIONERS were doubtless highly indignant, but they dare not oppose their Sovereign's ruling. Needless to say, WREN made the most of this extra freedom and ST. PAULS is the more beautiful for it.

The foundation stone was laid with great ceremony on 21st June, 1675 and the last stone at the apex of the lantern above the cupola was laid by SIR CHRISTOPHER'S son in 1708, forty-two years after the GREAT FIRE OF LONDON. To adorn his masterpiece, WREN gathered round him a remarkable team of craftsmen.

One was the DUTCHMAN, GRINLING GIBBONS, perhaps the most famous woodcarver of all time.

WREN found this then unknown craftsman working on a wood figure in an old shed.

WREN instantly recognised the man's genius and set him to work in ST. PAULS without delay.

The Bishop's Throne and the most wonderful casing of the organ are but two examples of GIBBONS craftsmanship.

Another great craftsman was JEAN TIJOU, summoned from FRANCE by WREN to execute ornamental ironwork.

There is an interesting story concerning SIR JAMES THORNHILL who painted the eight cartoons on the inner dome depicting scenes in the life of ST. PAUL.

SIR JAMES was working on a staging 100 ft. above the floor. He stepped back to admire his handiwork, unaware that he was on the very edge of the staging. His assistant, realising that if he shouted, the artist would almost certainly fall to his death, promptly smudged the freshly painted work with his brush. The enraged SIR JAMES rushed forward to prevent further damage - and so saved his life.

Visitors are always intrigued by the acoustics of the WHISPERING GALLERY, which encircles the great dome. The merest whisper spoken by a person at the opposite side of the gallery - a distance of 107 ft. - can be heard distinctly.

The great cathedral is built in the form of a LATIN cross, measuring 500 ft. in length, with the short arm 250 ft.

The magnificent dome, visible from many parts of the city, has an extreme height of 365 ft. and a diameter of 102 ft.

Even today its construction would be considered a great engineering feat.

WREN had many difficulties and disappointments to contend with. At one stage during the building, some MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT complained that progress was much too slow and demanded that WREN'S salary should be cut by half. It was only by appealing to QUEEN ANNE that WREN was able to obtain the arrears due to him.

Incidentally, the great architect's salary was pitifully small - a mere £200 a year.

At the age of 86 he suffered the humility of being dismissed from his post of H.M. SURVEYOR OF WORKS AND BUILDINGS, as a result of unjustified complaints. It was a bitter blow for, in addition to his work on ST. PAULS, he had also been responsible for the plans of fifty LONDON churches to replace those destroyed by the GREAT FIRE.

During his days of retirement his greatest pleasure was to sit quietly beneath the great dome of ST. PAULS.

After a visit on a cold day in February 1723, he returned to his London home. That evening, at the great age of 91, sleeping in a chair at his fireside, he passed away.

He died a poor man, for his great achievements brought him little worldly wealth.

The great master builder lies buried in the crypt of the glorious cathedral he created.

On the wall above his tomb is a simple memorial on which is inscribed in LATIN:-

"IF YOU SEEK HIS MONUMENT, LOOK AROUND"

* * * * *

SEARCHING FOR HISTORY

By Mr. A. R. Woodward

I must admit, I felt terribly guilty! You see, I had attended a very enjoyable evening at the opening meeting of the Leyland Historical Society for the 1976/77 season. The speaker was Dr. Marshall of Lancaster University and we had heard a very interesting and informative talk about the development of Local Government at County level. And then it came! Our Chairman, Mr. Ray Williams, put on his best smile and asked the members if they would PLEASE make a contribution to the Society magazine, the Lailand Chronicle, as articles were in rather short supply. Having heard similar requests from our previous Chairman, Mr. Cumpstey, over the last couple of years, it suddenly dawned on me that such comments were not just another aspect of the Chairman's work but were made in all good faith and with the hope that some kindly souls would respond in a positive manner! As I have said, I felt terribly guilty.

I, therefore, decided to see if I could do something about it. History will not come to you, I reasoned, so you had better go and find history! I set off on my search, deciding to make my way to Leyland, using the car to get there and then taking Shanks's Pony around the town. On the way I noticed the sign-posts at Heald House Lane but reflected, somewhat ruefully, that they hardly looked historical. Travelling towards Leyland, I soon came to Bent Bridge and decided that the only bit of history in that connection was in the name! Keeping half an eye open for any other inspiring sights (the other half was kept firmly fixed on the road), Balshaw's High School came into view. My heart leaped! Surely from this ancient Seat of Learning I would derive some inspiration - but no, I was doomed to disappointment; except, that is, if you exclude the rather antique looking character coming out of the gates (one of the staff, no doubt!)

On towards the car-park I drove, glancing at the rows of modern houses as I went. Not much chance there, I thought, for at least another 100 years, presuming that they will still be standing at that time. (Oh dear, these present-day buildings). But stay, what is this? A Hall no less! My heart sank again. I doubt if Lord Stokes would consider himself of historical interest as yet. On to the car-park where I locked the car from possible intruders and duly set off, convinced that the only way to achieve my goal was by sheer foot-slogging.

My first port of call was The Cross. The Cross? All that remained was one of the ruins that some-one knocked "abhat abit". Press on regardless you seeker of history! I suddenly remembered that somewhere near at hand was the Masonic Hall. Now, I knew that the Masonic movement went as far back as the Old Testament Egyptians, so it seemed reasonable to presume that there must be something of an historical nature there. What a hope! Apart from the odd 'banger' reposing in the car-park, nothing archaic was to be seen.

Forward down Lancastergate to Broadfield I strode with youthful gait. Soon into view I espied an imposing looking building which straightaway I realised was different it was round instead of the usual square. Leyland's St. Pauls, I thought. How wrong can one be? Of course, it was St. Mary's Catholic Church, which can certainly claim originality in regard to its shape, but historic? Hardly.

By now my feet, as well as my spirits, were beginning to fail me. Back to Westgate and on to Towngate I dragged my wearying limbs, recalling as I staggered past that I must put some more petrol in the car at the old Congregational Church forgive me, I mean Leyland Garage. At least they both give spirit to the needy, so I wasn't too far out.

Talk about the last mile home being the longest! That is how the distance from Westgate to the car-park felt to me. Thank-goodness the car was still there!

As I drove away on my homeward journey, I realised how much easier it is to make history than to find it. After all, the accepted places of historic interest have already been noted and it would be unlikely that any new interest would be found in them (in an old sense you appreciate).

Anyway, the next time our honourable Chairman puts on one of those ingratiating smiles and again mentions the Lailand Chronicle, I will look him straight in the face and give him a knowing wink. I may even be tempted to display my stockinged feet to him!

By the way, do you believe in fairies?

* * * * *

Editorial comment:

We print the above article without comment but would express the hope that members of the Society will respond with their own comment, or, better still - comments!

THE BALDWIN'S OF ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

Part 6

by J. N. Banister

THE LEGEND

There is a curious and oft quoted legend about Whittle-le-Woods and Leyland Parish Church. It states that the foundations were laid for a church at Whittle. A whole pile of building material was brought to the site. The following morning the whole lot mysteriously disappeared.

A report came to the priest that the stones had been found at Leyland. The priest went to Leyland and found the report to be correct, so he and his companion, assisted by the miller from Leyland, got all the material back to Whittle.

To make sure that this did not happen again, two men were on duty as night watchmen. They became weary and fell asleep and upon awakening they were surprised to find that the material had vanished once more. Again the materials were found at Leyland and once more they were carried back to Whittle.

MONSTER CAT

On the second evening another watch was kept. This time the priest stayed with the men until midnight. As soon as he had left, one of the men was suddenly startled by a monster of a cat, with big eyes and a barbed tail.

The monster immediately took off with a large stone, and quickly returned for another. One of the men tried to stop him and struck the animal on the head with a stout stick. He tried a second blow, but before he could deliver it the monster sprang at him, and fixed its teeth in his throat. The other man ran for the priest and when they got back the poor fellow was dead, and the building material gone.

No further attempts were made to remove the material and the church was built on the site chosen by the huge cat. It is also stated that there is a correct image of the cat forming one of the gargoyles on Leyland Church.

Another version of the story has been related which gives an angel the credit for the transference of the material. With the utterance of the following rhyme:-

Here I have place thee,
And here thou shall stand,
And thou shalt be called
The church of Leyland.

There is buried in Leyland churchyard a man who was hanged in 1825 at Lancaster Castle. This was Robert Robinson, known as "Robin o'Jacks". He was hanged for burglary. It was suggested that he was innocent, or hanged by mistake.

His body was brought to Leyland. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Gardner Baldwin. A copy of the sermon preached on this occasion was printed in pamphlet form. The Church which holds more than 1,000 was packed to overflowing.

THE LAST OF THE BALDWINS

The funeral of the Rev. O.de Leyland Baldwin, who died on January 16th 1913, took place in the burial ground of the Parish Church of St. Andrew. Flags flew at half mast on both the Parish and St. Ambrose Church. The bells in the tower rang muffled peals. From the bungalow where he died he was carried across church lands to enter the churchyard at the eastern end.

The coffin was carried in at the western door. The organist, Mr. H. G. Lockett playing "O Rest in The Lord" by Mendelssohn. Messrs. J. T. Whalley and E. Platt were at the head of the procession, carrying their staves of office, followed by the vergier, Mr. F. Barrow, Mr. J. T. Norris, evangelist in St. Andrew's Parish Church walked in front of the surpliced choir, followed by the clergy, with the Lord Bishop of Whalley bringing up the rear.

The coffin carried by sidesmen, followed by the mourners. The body of the church, and the two galleries were filled with people from all walks of life.

The remains were in an oak coffin, with brass mountings. The inscription on the plate was:-

Leyland Baldwin, priest.

Born April 17th 1837

At Rest January 16th 1913

R. I. P.

The service was taken by two of his former curates, the Rev. E. G. Marshall and E. Evington. The Epistle associated with the Burial Service was read by the Lord Bishop of Whalley.

The Psalm - "Lord Thou Has Been Our Refuge" and the hymn "Now The Labourer's Task Is O'er" were sang. During the reading of the last few sentences of the service the congregation stood while Chopin's Funeral March was played on the organ. As the mourners moved down the centre aisle, it was to the singing of the Nunc Dimittis.

* * * * *

T H E E N D

DURHAM CASTLE

by L. M. Lazenby

Three years after the Norman occupation, in 1066, there occurred a revolt in Durham against the new rulers, and stern repressive measures followed. A Castle was built at the northern, open end of the peninsula, and a curfew instituted. This still sounds from the Cathedral nightly at 9.00 p.m. on weekdays.

The Castle was the main seat of the Bishops of Durham from 1072 until 1637, when it became the home of University College. The doors of oak and iron belong to Bishop Tunstall's time, (1530-1559). Below, on the extreme right, one Tunstall's chapel and the passage leading to the Keep.

The Great Hall was first built by Bishop Bek about 1300. It was altered and enlarged by Bishop Hatfield in 1350 then reduced again to its original length in 1499 by Bishop Fox. The Hall is now used as the dining hall of University College. One historic occasion was when Sir Walter Scott and the Duke of Wellington dined together with Bishop Von Mildert on October 3rd 1827, the last Prince Bishop (1765-1836).

The Black Staircase, leading from the north end of the Great Hall was built by Bishop Cosin in 1665. Durham contains many beautiful staircases, but this is the most famous of them all.

The Chapel in present use is the work of Bishop Tunstall, although it was enlarged by Bishop Crewe. The eastward extension is easily distinguished by the rougher stonework. The carved oak stalls were mostly brought from the Bishop's chapel at Bishop Auckland, and are of the early 16th century. There are some curious carvings under the seats at the west end. The organ consists in part of an old "Father Smith" instrument which was once in the Cathedral.

Turning back up the Black Staircase, we pass the Bishop's rooms on the next storey, with some interesting 17th century tapestry. On the north side are undergraduates' rooms which were inserted in 1840. Going down the spiral staircase we reach the last feature of interest which is also the earliest: the Norman Chapel, built late in the 11th century. The capitals of the pillars are curiously carved with human figures, animals and geometrical designs. The windows were much altered in 1840. The herring-bone pavement is probably original Norman work.

* * * * *

TOWNELEY HALL

by Mrs. D. Mather

On Wednesday the 25th August, several ladies and gentlemen of our Society were taken for a ride

It was a sunny summer day and we drove through some of Lancashire's loveliest countryside (and I confess to being biased) to Towneley Hall, Burnley.

It is a delightful house, well preserved and full of interest; and of history.

We were split into two parties and two knowledgeable and friendly guides took us on our tour of the house.

My party was taken first to the kitchen, where all the wonders of science of three centuries ago were described to us. We visited the servants dining hall, and the dungeons, where we were shut up in the dark, to give us a slight idea of what wrong-doers suffered in those days.

We followed in the footsteps of those intrepid priests, who daily risked their lives to bring the Mass to those who preferred to follow their old religion, and marvelled at the thick walls that could provide so many well concealed hiding places; especially the one where the whole family were hidden and fed for two weeks.

We were all amused by the family portrait of the heiress who, determined that the family would not die out in her generation, gave birth to twenty-two children, and was painted with them kneeling round her. We were no less amazed by the courage and skill of John Towneley who, for his faith, spent most of his life in prison, in solitary and total darkness for most of the time. Freed when in his seventies,

blind and infirm, he carved one of the most beautiful doors I have ever seen - tragic to think that he could only touch the beauty he had created, but what a legacy to leave.

The altar piece in the chapel is another masterpiece of carving. Attributed to the Netherland school of sculpture, it has spent part of its existence in the Towneley chapel, and part in the Convent of Notre Dame in Sussex. A lifetime's work for one man, our guide described it, and a thing of beauty that must enrich many generations still to come. What are we leaving for our successors, masses and masses of concrete and metal! Ah well!

Our last visit was to the long gallery and there our romantic ideas of hauntings by grey, brown or white ladies were dismissed by an explanation so simple that it has to be true.

The old Catholic families would have died rather than give away the hiding places of their priests but servants were not always so loyal. Servants had more contact with the world outside the estate and servants were inveterate gossips. Fortunately they were also mainly untutored and very superstitious, and so they believed the stories they were told, that in a certain part of the house at a certain hour they just might see a ghost - a grey lady, or white, or brown, depending on the colour of the habit of their particular priest. If by any chance they did see a hooded figure gliding along a corridor, only to disappear through the wall, they would be convinced that the house was indeed haunted and any tales they told in the village, losing nothing in the telling, would be readily accepted by country folk who believed implicitly in "gnostic and ghouls and long leggedy beasties"

Our visit had come to an end and we literally came back to earth to find that we had spent two hours wandering and marvelling at the treasures of Towneley.

Our grateful thanks must go to the committee who care for Towneley Hall and have preserved the estate and collected so many family mementos; to the guides who so obviously loved their work and passed so much of their enthusiasm to their visitors, and last but by no means least, to the ladies of our Social sub-committee for making the arrangements for an enjoyable and instructive evening - Oh and to our coach driver - thanks for the ride.

* * * * *

HELP WANTED!!

Information wanted on SOD HALL.

I would be very grateful for any information on the Sod Hall, off Junc Lane.

I can be contacted at LOSTOCK HALL LIBRARY. Telephone Preston 39775 or at any Historical Society Meeting.

Dorothy Kazer.

LEYLAND - ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGOPart 3

by Miss M. Kizer

Local History Librarian
South Ribbles Libraries.THE LOCAL BOARDMeetings in 1876.

The Local Board was the forerunner of the Leyland Urban District Council.

Reports of the monthly meetings of Leyland's Local Board appeared in the "Preston Herald". In 1876 the Board Members were Messrs. Morrell, Dobson, Jackson, Stanning, Forrester, Quin and Moulding.

JANUARY MEETING

This was held on 3rd January. Among the matters discussed were:

Street Improvements:

It was resolved at the meeting that the money which had been received for the old materials which had formed four thatched cottages in Towngate should be deposited in the Lancaster Bank to the credit of the account which it was found necessary to open when the houses were bought from Mr. R. Cottam together with the money to be received from Messrs. E. Cocker and William Bamford, for the land not required by the Board in carrying out improvements in Towngate.

Messrs. Morrell, Dobson and Jackson were appointed to form a committee to arrange with William Bratherton Esq., for the purchase of the plumber's shop occupied by John Hesketh, and also for land required by the Board for widening Towngate near the Ship Inn.

Sewerage:

The Surveyor was instructed to supply the Local Government Board with information required by them, and in accordance with their 'suggestions' so far as the latter were applicable to the district to be sewered.

Messrs. Morrell, Pilkington, Jackson and Dobson were appointed to form a committee to deal with the Gas Company as to the course of the sewer through their road.

Other Matters:

Communications from the Local Government Board, mentioning the appointments of Mr. John Berry and Mr. R. D. Hutchins, as Medical Officer and Inspector of Nuisances respectively, were read.

Accounts:

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, the accounts were passed.

Lighting:

It was resolved that a lamp be fixed at the end of Orchard Street and the lamp proposed to be erected on the south side of Hough Lane be erected on the north side, both sites to be fixed by the committee.

MARCH MEETING

The election of Board Members: This was the first election to be held under the Act of 1875 and it would take place in April. Three members were retiring: Henry Dobson, William Forrester and John Jackson. They were all available for re-election and had been nominated by John Stanning.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held on 3rd April. Among the matters discussed were:

Sewage and Street Improvements:

A letter from the Local Government Board was read, stating that John T. Harrison, C.E., would hold an enquiry at Leyland on the 26th April with reference to their application for their sanction to borrow £3,000 for works of sewage and street improvements.

Plans:

After a report from the Surveyor, having reference to Mr. Bowling's premises, Orchard Street, the Board assented to alterations now being made in the yards attached to the houses. Plans of the following were presented:

- a) Proposed alterations of the boundary fence of the Lostock Grove Estate adjoining the public highway near the Seven Stars Inn.
- b) The proposed conversion of the present Wesleyan Chapel to dwelling houses.
- c) Proposed new offices for John Stanning and Son.

Plan (a) A committee of Messrs. Pilkington, Dobson and Jackson was set up to deal with this matter.

Plan (b) This had not been in the hands of the Surveyor for the requisite length of time, but it was evident it did not comply with the bye-laws.

Plan (c) Was passed.

Mr. Culshaw's encroachment in Dunkirk Lane

Mr. Culshaw had been summoned for making an encroachment in Dunkirk Lane and had been fined 5/-.

Accounts:

The accounts were passed.

Mr. Hutchinson:

Mr. Hutchinson was appointed Nuisance Officer, for which he received £15 per year.

Medical Report:

The Medical Report was read.

In 1875 the number of deaths totalled 137

the number of births totalled 158

The population in 1871 was 3,859.

Among the infant deaths, nine children under five years of age died from Bronchitis.

JUNE MEETING

This was held on the 5th June.

A Plan was passed at this meeting showing the conversion of the Golden Hill Wesleyan Chapel into three dwelling houses and a stable for Mr. John Swann.

The plan for the new Congregational Chapel and School was passed.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Held on 4th September.

At this meeting it was resolved to carry out a system of sewerage for C. l. Brow, Golden Hill, Hough Lane, the "Nursery" to the railway level-crossing, Water Street, with an outfall from the main sewer on part of Balshaw's Farm and the farm adjoining, the property of Miss Farrington. Also to carry out the sewerage of Bradshaw Street, Grange Square and the neighbourhood, with an outfall from the main sewer on Lower House Farm, also in the possession of Miss Farrington, in the occupation of Mr. Daniel Swann.

Medical Report:

The Medical Officer reported two bad cases of Typhoid in Grunly Street and Hough Lane. Disinfectants had been liberally used.

OCTOBER MEETING

This was held on the 2nd October.

A committee was set up to investigate the proper supply of water in Chapel Brow.

DECEMBER MEETING

This was held on the 4th December.

Water Supply:

Chapel Brow. The Committee gave their opinion as to the fouling of the water supply. It was resolved that they should take the necessary steps to afford a good supply of water.

Proposed Weighing Machine in Towngate:

With reference to this matter the Board felt it was not justified in granting permission to Mr. Brown to place a weighing machine where he wished as it would form an obstruction to, and interfere with, the public traffic.

Police Constable:

It was also decided at this meeting to make an application for an additional constable.

These extracts have been taken from the "Preston Herald" and "Preston Guardian" of 1876.

* * * * *

EVENTS OF 1876: CHURCH NEWS

Wesleyan Independent Chapel:

December, 1875: "A sale of useful and fancy articles and a Christmas Tea was opened on Christmas Day in the schoolroom of the chapel. In the evening a meeting was also held. The proceedings throughout were of the most successful and pleasing character, no less than £20. being added to the new school building fund as the net result of the sale and Tea".
PRESTON HERALD: 1st January 1876.

March, 1876: A Spelling Bee:

This was held in the Wesleyan Day School on the 14th March. Rev. J. Newsholme, the newly appointed independent minister was in the chair and acted as referee. Mr. N. G. Fish, a teacher at the school was the interrogator. During the evening, children from the school sang.

The first prize was won by Mr. Forrester - 5/-.

The second prize of 4/- was won by Miss Anderson, who donated this to the Chapel funds. The third prize of 3/- was won by Mr. Newton.
PRESTON HERALD: 18th March, 1876.

JUNE, 1876. Whit Monday Procession:

This was held on 5th June, 1876.

The morning was wet and gloomy but the afternoon was glorious. The procession assembled at 1.30 p.m. (The time of assembly had been altered due to the weather in the morning).

The route taken was Chapel Brow to Farington; Golden Hill Lane to near the Earnshaw Bridge Mill, Leyland Lane, Fox Lane, Union Street, Towngate, Hough Lane to the School. Hymns were sung at Farington.

At the School, tea was provided and in the evening a meeting was held:

AUGUST, 1876.

An advertisement in the Preston Herald of 30th August read:-

Leyland New Wesleyan Chapel - Building Fund.

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday:

September 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th.

A Bazaar under distinguished patronage will
will be held in the Wesleyan School, Leyland
to be opened Wednesday, September 6th at 11 a.m.

BY PETER RYLANDS, M.P.

In aid of the above fund.

Parish Church:

Vicar: Rev. T. Rigbye Baldwin, M.A.

Curate: Rev. Alfred Schofield.

FEBRUARY, 1876

The Parish Church was re-opened on 27th February for divine worship after extensive alterations had been made to the interior of the church.

In 1874 the annual vestry meeting appointed a committee 'for the purpose of taking into consideration such re-arrangement of the sittings and interior of the church as may best meet the wants of the increasing population of the parish'. Two schemes were submitted by the architects Messrs. Paley and Austin. The first suggested the rebuilding of the nave, together with sundry repairs at a cost of £4,610; the second was more concerned with the sundry repairs at a cost of £890.

(The Minute Book gives a full account - June 1875).

The principal contractor was Mr. Robert Saul of Preston.

The work carried out includes the following:-

The straight-backed pews of 1817 were removed from the body of the Church and replaced by free and open benches. The West Gallery that held the old organ and choir was taken down and an Organ Chamber with new Vestry adjoining were constructed at the north-east end. The removal of the West Gallery left the interior of the Tower open to the Nave, and by raising the belfry floor one storey, the light from the west window of the Tower was imparted to the Church, whilst the west doorway became the principal entrance and exit to the church. The walls of the Tower were cleaned and the ceiling of the roof of the Nave was taken away and opened to the timbers which were dressed and varnished.

The new Organ Chamber was made to open from the north aisle with a deeply moulded pointed arch, and towards the Chancel by an arcade of two pointed arches supported by a pillar of four semi-cylinders with moulded capitals. The old Pulpit which was of the triad kind was replaced by the present Pulpit and Reading Desk and the choir stalls were constructed of carved oak. The stained west window was given by William Bretherton Esq., of Runshaw Hall, Fuxton. The organ which was not yet completed was to be a gift from Mr. Morrell and his son of Beech House.

The church was now heated by hot water apparatus, installed by Mr. Seward of Preston, and was now lighted by gas, the fittings supplied by Mr. Thomas of Manchester and Birmingham.

All seating was supplied with prayer books and hymn books by Mrs. Baldwin.

On the 27th February the preachers at the services were the Rev. T. Rigby Baldwin the vicar and his brother the Rev. Octavius de Leyland Baldwin who was then the vicar of Heapey, the collections for that day amounted to £66. 10s.

JUNE, 1876 Whit Monday Procession

The procession which consisted of scholars and teachers from the Church of England Schools assembled at 2.00 p.m. The morning had been wet and gloomy but the afternoon was glorious. They met at Union Street, and the procession formed - the girls being led by the Rushton Brass Band, the boys by the Leyland Rifle Volunteer Fife and Drum Band.

They went as far as the Ship Inn, where they were joined by scholars from the Golden Hill Free School, then back to the Cross where a hymn and the National Anthem were sung. Then on to the Vicarage where a hymn was sung followed by a selection of music played by the Rushton Brass Band. Cheers were given for the vicar and Mrs. Baldwin, and for Mr. E. Hesketh and Mr. Cockshutt who were superintendents.

The procession went on to Worden, there there was more singing, then back to the school for tea, and finally to the Vicarage Park for games.

JULY, 1876

Wednesday, 19th July saw the opening of the new organ at the Parish Church. A special dedication service was used and the preacher in the morning was the Right Reverend James Fraser, D.D., the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and in the evening by the Rev. J. H. Stanning, M.A., Vicar of Leigh. F. W. Pacey, Esq., Mus. Bac. was the organist.

In the morning there was a full choral service, the church choir being augmented by the choir of Westhoughton Church. Many visiting clergy were present including the Rev. Octavius de Leyland Baldwin, the brother of the Rev. T. R. Baldwin, who was then the Vicar of Heapey, the Rural Dean: Rev. Canon Brandeth who was Vicar of Standish, the Rector of Tarleton, Rector of Rufford, Rector of Radcliffe and the Vicar of St. James, Moss Side, the Rev. Watts Wilkinson.

The organ was given by Mr. John Morrell and his son Mr. J. Conyers Morrell. It had been designed by Paley and Austin, and built by Messrs. Jardine & Co., of Manchester.

SEPTEMBER, 1876 Harvest Festival

This was held in the church on 20th September, and was followed on the 21st September by a tea party and concert.

NOVEMBER, 1876

Letter received from Jardine & Co., organ builders, City Road, Manchester to J. Morrell dated 4.11.1876, concerning the repair of the organ.

"Dear Sir,

In the ordinary course of events a thousand things might happen that might make it very awkward and a great pecuniary loss to us if we undertook to keep the organ in repair for a fixed sum per annum".....

Eventually they settled on £6 per year.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

During 1876 plans were passed for a new church and school by the Local Board, and the foundation stone of the church was laid.

ST. JAMES CHURCH

The Harvest Festival was held on the 19th October. The sermon in the morning was given by the Rev. Watts Wilkinson, the Vicar, and in the afternoon by the Rev. R. M. Linden.

Collections for the day totalled £9 which was given to the Church Missionary Society.

The following Tuesday the Harvest Home Tea Party was held. Over 300 people attended this, some from outside the parish. They had a 'good substantial tea' followed by an entertainment consisting of songs, recitations, readings, glees and anthems.

The school was decorated for the occasion, among the decorations were a model of a miller's house, a model windmill and a model of a ship, full-rigged, laden with grain.

to be continued

YAN, TYAN, TETHERA (Continued)

by F. Compstey.

Since the original article appeared in the June, 1976 edition, a friend of Mr. Knight loaned to me a booklet on the Cornish language which includes details of the numbering system and the names of numbers.

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|---------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Onew | 2. Dey | 3. Try | 4. Teswar | 5. Pyp | 6. Dyth | 7. Dyth | 8. Dyr | 9. Dek | 10. Dek | 11. Dethik | 12. Dethik | 13. Dethik | 14. Dethik | 15. Dethik | 16. Dethik | 17. Dethik | 18. Dethik | 19. Dethik | 20. Dethik |
|---------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

Beyond twenty, whereas English numbers are reckoned in tens to form a hundred, Cornish numbers are reckoned in scores to two hundred, i.e., 20 --- ugens, 30 --- dek warn ugens, 40 --- deu ugens, 50 --- dek ha deu ugens, 60 --- w ugens etc., etc.

Immediately one sees some comparisons with the Berrowdale system, e.g., No.5 --- pyp and pimp and No.10 --- dek and dick, which suggests that they may both derive from the same base going back into antiquity.

It is also interesting to note similarities with the modern French language - especially the beginning --- un, deux, trois --- a connection which may have developed through the close affinity of Brittany and Cornwall - it would be interesting to compare the Breton language.

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ROAD, PLACE AND FIELD NAMES
OF
LEYLAND AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

by P. F. Barrow

The study of the old or original names of lanes, roads, places, fields and even houses, apart from the intrinsic interest, can be most informative and revealing about the appearance and layout of a village and the surrounding area. It may also give considerable insight into the inhabitants our ancestors of centuries ago, their activities, how they lived and earned their living.

Some slight understanding of the people whose languages left their mark on the countryside and how they came to be here is essential if one is to interpret the words and names and how they are derived.

The main source of my information on the etymological sources has been Eilert Ekwall's "Place names of Lancashire" and I willingly admit to taking advantage of his superior erudition and research.

One must bear in mind that the origin of many words is obscure, and research may lead to more than one apparent meaning, sometimes very different indeed from each other. On the other hand, historians of languages who have made studies of languages long since gone out of use or greatly modified over the ages have been able to commit a great deal of these to paper based on a proper understanding of the word roots and the grammar.

The earliest inhabitants of this island spoke Celtic and are usually referred to as British, or in a faintly humorous vein 'Ancient Britons'. These people gradually retreated before various invaders and the Welsh, and their language, are the modern descendants of the main tribes who survived, apart from isolated settlements mainly identified in this part of the country by the place name WALTON, e.g., Walton-le-Dale and Ulnes Walton.

Walton (Wala-tun) means Tun (Settlement) of the Welsh which is what the natives of England were called by the Anglo-Saxons.

Modern local versions of British names probably are:-

CHARNOCK
ECCLESTON.
HESKIN
PENWORTHAM
WYMOTT (BROOK)
COKERDENE (BROOK?)

Lostock (River) is obscure but may be Celtic meaning "Beaver Stream".

- CHARNOCK - from Welsh "Carn" = rock, thus meaning rocky district (Rock outcrops and old small quarries abound in Charnock Richard (and Heath Charnock?)).
- ECCELESTON - from O.E. Egles = Church + tun.
- HESKIN - Curious surname - probably from Welsh meaning Sedge - rushy - marshy.
- PEWORTHAM - Probably means "Head of the Green" or Green Hill in the sense of lush and verdant.
- WYMOTT - Possibly confluence or mouth of rivers - i.e. with the Lostock. As Wymott Brook originally drained the Southern edge of Leyland Moss the confluence would have been much less well defined than now.
- COCKERDENE - Lost stream name in Leyland. May be in Cocker Bar area? Possibly meaning "Winding Brook".
- DOUGLAS - Black stream.
(River)
- ALTCAR - Alt = Hill (or muddy river) and carr = marsh. There is, (or was), a marshy area in the high ground south and south-east of the Altcar Farm.

During the three centuries or so before that great Watershed and historical landmark, the Norman Conquest of 1066, our area was infiltrated rather than invaded by two groups or nationalities.

Firstly there were the Anglians whose Anglo-Saxon forbears came from what is now North-west Germany and from whom the name England was finally derived. It appears that considerable numbers came via Yorkshire, the Aire Gap and the Ribble Valley, slowly fanning out in search of fertile farming land. It is presumably mainly for this reason that the earlier settlers came partly from the East and only partly by what is now the most obvious route - the South - which contained large tracts of moorland which were difficult to cross besides being impossible to farm, and thus for many centuries restricted easy access to large parts of Lancashire.

Secondly, but not necessarily later, came the Scandinavians or Norsemen from what is now mainly Norway via Ireland and the Isle of Man. The Lake District particularly abounds with evidence of these waterborne invaders - the Fylde was also heavily populated by them. They came here via the River Ribble, Asland or Douglas and even the Lostock which is still tidal in the lower reaches.

Again these groups first colonised mainly the dry land between the mosses and the sea before probably moving further inland.

The area of land between the Ribble and the Mersey was probably part of the Kingdom of Northumbria until about the year 923 when it was annexed to Mercia by Aethelstan. There was, however, much Mercian influence before this as is normal even today with any border area.

This pattern of settlement can be seen from the fact of the numerous Scandinavian place names, e.g.,

Beaconsall	-	Bekans Hill
Hesketh	-	Race-course. Where there was a Scandinavian Race-course - probably on the shore.
Tarleton	-	Name - Thorald's Tun.
Bretherton	-	(Probably) - Brother's Tun? - in joint ownership?
Croston	-	Tun of the Cross. (Possibly Celtic).
Blainscough	-	First syllable may be a name + wood.
Ellerbeek	-	(Stream) Alder stream. (Tributary of Douglas).
Roscoe	-	Roe wood or possibly Boundary Wood.
Brinscall	-	"Burnt Huts from Brend (M.E.), Scales (O.N.)
Ulvedale (Penwortham)	-	Valley of Ulf - now lost but in Hutton.
Sarscow (Eccleston)	-	Name(Scoefari) O.N. + O.N. for wood (skogr)
Snubsnape	-	(Perhaps only) = Snub = Cropped close + Snape = Pasture. Possibly O.N. and possibly inferior type

Other names probably are:-

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Elremure | } | - Lost - unknown. |
| Siverthesage | | |
| Thorp (Nr. Bretherton) | | - Now lost. |
| Sollom (Nr. Tarleton) | | - From brook that falls into the Douglas |
| Possibly also:- | | |
| Crook | | - Crooked + wandering. Old Crooke Farm near Brynning Brook which meanders. |
| Asland | | - O.N. for ash and Sc. 'Lane' = brook or river very slow moving, by meadows, etc. |
| Limbrick | | - Perhaps O.N. Lime Tree Slope/hill. |
| Gunnolfs Moors | | - Gunnolf = O.N. name. |
| Scalecroft (Nr. Leyland) | | - Scali = hut + enclosure. |
| Walmer (Nr. Hoole) | | - <u>Possibly</u> C.N. personal name or wald = forest + O.N. Myir = mire. |
| Moss (-Lane, -Side) | | - = O.N. for Bog, Swamp or Morass. |

Place names are derived mainly from Topographical or geological features, but the modern versions of the old English, Anglo-Saxon, Norse or Celtic words are frequently difficult or impossible to identify in a fine etymological manner. The centuries have often corrupted words beyond description, making them unrecognisable to their original authors.

Anglian or Old English place names are:-

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Leyland | - Fallow land, unhilled, grassland,
- (on large deposits of sand etc.) |
| Farington | - Tun where ferns grew. |
| Runshaw | - Run = Secret Council or discussion
and Copse.

Runshaw is reasonably central in the Hundred and could have been a meeting place - there was apparently a Tithe Barn hereabouts which may be significant. |

- Worden - Originally Werden,
from Den (Dene) meaning a valley with
a wood or copse, the river or stream
having a weir or dam.
- Earnshaw - Earn (Eagle) + wood or copse,
or
Erneshalgh (14th century spelling)
would be the haugh of Earn(e)
- Golden Hill - Area to north side of Golden Hill Lane
roughly between Wheelton Lane and the
Railway. Probably from the Gold of
Marigolds (or buttercups, which
indicates permanent pasture land).

to be continued.....

LEGEND:

- O.N. Old Norse.
O.E. Old English.
M.E. Middle English.
Sc. Scandinavian.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OUTING TO DURHAM

by L. M. Lazenby

Saturday, July 3rd., on a bright and sunny morning, the members left Leyland at 8.00 a.m. for Durham. After a pleasant journey, we were met at the Cathedral by Miss Bateson, a Leyland girl who is an ex-student of the University. Miss Bateson took us to a University lecture room where we met Dr. Roberts, who gave us a most inspiring lecture and also slides were shown of the County and City of Durham. We then returned to the Castle.

As we went through the Castle Gate, the lawn was an array of beautiful colours, a wedding had taken place in the Cathedral and as the guests were having photographs taken, a string orchestra was playing some very delightful music on top of the Castle steps. The Castle and Cathedral are built on a peninsula surrounded by the River Wear.

The tour through both the Cathedral and the Castle was enjoyed by everyone; those who were in the Cathedral during Evensong heard some lovely singing by the choir.

The rest of the day was spent at leisure.

A lovely day had by all. Many thanks to the Committee for arranging a good trip.

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Editorial note - Apology

We must apologise for an error in the June edition of the Lailand Chronicle. The error appeared in the article on page 20 giving the name of the present Minister of the Congregational Church as the Rev. G. A. Abbott. The present Minister is, of course, the Rev. W. P. Kennerley.
