

No 38 DEC 1992

# WILLOW

The journal of  
**THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

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

Meeting date may be amended by Statutory holidays

AT

PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice-Presidents	£7.00 per annum
Members	£6.00 per annum
School Members	£0.50 per annum
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A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

AND

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

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## EDITORIAL

The present season, 1992/1993, is the twenty-fifth season of the Leyland Historical Society. The Society was founded in July 1968 after a series of lectures on Local History under the auspices of the Lancashire Education Committee. The inaugural lecture was given by Mr. R. Sharpe-France of the Lancashire Record Office, to an audience of over one hundred people at the Methodist School, Canberra Road, Leyland. The "Inauguration Souvenir" produced shortly afterwards contains the names of 106 Vice-Presidents and 135 Founder Members!

It would be interesting to compare the Leyland of to-day with the Leyland of twenty-five years ago, but that is outside the scope of this editorial. It is timely, however, to record the work done in the early years of the Society by the President, Mr. J. Nowell Banister, and the Committee Members of the time. Their efforts laid the foundation for the Society which to-day has a membership of around eighty, a well attended monthly lecture programme and an established annual Journal. All-in-all a good springboard for the next twenty-five years.

Congratulations to member David Hunt for following up his "History of Leyland and District" of 1990 with his "A History of Preston", published this year by Carnegie Publishing, in conjunction with Preston Borough Council. This beautifully produced book, following in the footsteps of Hardwick, Hewitson and Clemesha, brings the history of Preston up to the present day and its publication in the Guild Year of 1992 is particularly appropriate.

In presenting this issue of the Chronicle (No. 38) to the Membership, sadly, I must record that three members have passed away this year. Mr. R. Wildman, a Vice-President and founder member; Mr. F. Chamberlain, who had been a member for many years; and Mrs. Florence Oldham who returned to Leyland some years ago and had been a regular attender at the monthly meetings.

Thanks are due to the Lancashire Record Office and the Leyland, Chorley and Preston Libraries, whose facilities have been used by many members in the past year. Also, to the contributors, South Ribble Borough Council for printing this issue, our new typist Mrs. J. Cooper, and particularly to Mrs. M. Courtney who had been our typist since 1986.

The deadline for the next issue is the September 1993 meeting at Prospect House.

W. E. WARING

### NOTE

Any opinions expressed in the contents of this journal are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society.

THE NELSONS OF LANCASHIRE

In the Parish Churchyard at Leyland lying just to the south-west of the tower of Leyland Church there is, apart from some small damage to the top left hand corner, which is missing, a beautifully preserved stone overlay from 1686. The letters are carved in relief which probably accounts for the memorials exceptional condition. It records the death of Margaret, wife of Thurstan Leyland. The marriage of Margaret Nelson, of Ulneswalton, with Thurstan Leyland, of Clayton, took place at Leyland Church on December 6th 1678.

The inscription reads:

\* LIETH \* INT  
RRED \* THE BODY  
OF \* MARGRET \* THE  
WIFE \* OF \* THVRST  
AN \* LEYLAND \* OF  
CLAYTON \* WHO \*  
WAS \* BVRIED \* THE  
5 DAY \* OF \* AVGVST  
ADGED \* 27 \* 1686  
AS \* YOU \* ARE \* WA  
L KING \* SOE \* WAS  
I \* DEATH \* DID \* ARR  
EST \* AND \* HERE \* I  
LIE \* AND \* MVST \* RE  
MAINE \* VNTILL \* T  
HE \* IVDGMENT \* DA  
Y \* VNTILL \* THE \* TR  
VMPET \* SOVND \* A  
ND \* CALLS \* ME \* HE  
NCE \* A \* WAY

6' 9"

2' 9"

Is this gravestone then connected to that most celebrated hero, Vice-Admiral of the White, Lord Nelson of the Nile, and Burnham Thorpe, who was born at Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, 29th September 1758. At first sight no, but the answer is, almost certainly, yes. It belongs to one of the original Nelson family members after that branch of the famous admiral's family had removed to Norfolk in or after 1608.

All of the Leyland Parish registers before 1653 have been lost. They were first started on the 27th April 1538 on the orders of Thomas Cromwell and had been dutifully kept up for the whole of that time. During the disturbed period of 1645 to 1660, Vicar William Rothwell of Leyland, who was not sufficiently "puritanical for the zealots" of the time, was driven out of his office and into hiding. Until Charles II, Parliament, and to some extent law and order was restored, he was unable to resume his duties. Unfortunately this first register has not been seen since this period when it was then in the possession of a certain Robert Abbot. There are a few transcripts remaining for the years 1622, 29, 30, 31, 37, 39, 40 and 41. Therefore it is now difficult to make the connection to this ancient branch of the Norfolk family who went on to fame, glory and indeed immortality. The exact relationship to the famous Admiral is uncertain. However the registers are complete after 1653 and there are several key facts along the way to connect this Leyland branch to that of the family of Lord Nelson.

The pedigree of the Nelson family was first published in 1809 in the 'Official' Life of Lord Nelson by the Rev. James Stanier Clarke and John M'Arthur, just four years after Nelson's death. The pedigree for that work was taken from the record in the College of Arms and signed by Nelson himself on being knighted after the battle of St. Vincent, 14th February 1797, and has generally been accepted as final.

It took the descent back to the birth of William, described as being born 1552 and descended from the ancient house of Nelston or Nelson, seated at Mawdesley, Lancashire. It is from this side of the family that we find a Margaret Nelson. She was the sister of Thomas Nelson, the great, great, great grandfather of Lord Nelson born about 1590 and removed to Norfolk after 1608. It is now difficult to identify Margaret Nelson Leyland as we shall call her. Her birth is not recorded in the Parish registers which is not uncommon for the time but according to her memorial she was aged 27 when she died. Therefore born in 1659 and likely to be of that same branch of the family. There is Thomas Nelson, described as a gentleman in 1636, and one who 'weare the Sheriffs Cloath' in the House of William Ffarington at the summer assize, Lancaster in that year.

William Ffarington, Squire and Lord of the Manor of Leyland was appointed to "undergoe" the office of Sheriff of Lancashire in 1636 and would probably have taken all his retainers with him. He was very unfortunate to bring upon himself the ill-will of the Judges of Assize. Various charges of neglect in matters of etiquette and administration were made the excuse for the infliction of heavy fines. Also family tradition holds strong when in 'A Family Historial Register', by the Rev. Edmund Nelson (Lord Nelson's father), he wrote in 1781 before his son became famous, "John Bland, my maternal G: Father, was of some reputable family in Lancashire, who (as presbyterians) seemed to have suffered by the Royal party in the Great Rebellion. How they came to Camb: I never learned, nor who his wife was."

We know from the descent of Thomas Nelson, 1621, that a son Maxey Nelson of Fairhurst (Fairhurst Hall, Eccleston), in the same parish as Mawdesley, who was a Captain of foot in the King's Army, was killed in the civil war at the battle of Marston Moor (1644).

What of Margaret Nelson Leyland herself; from the various returns and surveys of the time we know the population of Leyland in 1664, five years after her birth to be about 650 to 700, half of which, like Margaret, would have been children. There were 146 houses listed in the Leyland township which included the Leyland moss side area just on the boundary of Ulneswalton, where she was born, which was and still is a predominantly farming area two or three miles from the village of Mawdesley, the traditional seat of the Nelson family. There are still many farm buildings remaining from the period in the area including Great Nelson's Farm, just on the edge of the River Lostock and in Ulneswalton.

The average number of burials in the period 1680-1690 for Leyland township was 17.1 this probably excluded infants and very young children which may have gone unrecorded. Of these burials there are now no remaining memorial stones of such high quality, most surviving to this day have only quarter or half stones. Those which have survived have a very simple inscription and are very difficult to read. The grave of Thurstan Leyland, who was the son of Ralph Leyland and born the 12th August 1655 just four years before Margaret is also located within the churchyard at Leyland but in a different quarter. It is similar to those described but a small block of stone has been used, which is a little unusual. The year of his death is illegible in common with the other memorials but it seems he died in January 1731 at the age of 76 years.

We do know at the time of his death he did become a benefactor to Heapy Chapel giving a bond for £80 to provide a preaching minister, a very considerable sum in those days.

It would seem he was a yeoman of some standing, his family holding land of at least eight and a half acres near Hough Lane at what was to become known later as Thurstan's Farm in the area of the present day Thurston Road. He would therefore have had an average annual income of £70, well above a shopkeeper or tradesman and on a similar living with the best clergy. All this may suppose her family to have been of some note and well known in such a small village community. There are several entries for Thurstan Leyland in the register for that period and it appears there are two separate families, both seem to have originated from Clayton. Clayton le Woods, as it is now known, was one of nine townships within the parish of Leyland, then a small hamlet only two or three miles from the church. The original family were of yeoman rank and resident for many years in Clayton, from at least 1390.

All very tantalising. Does Leyland then have a part claim to that great family of Nelson? if not, Lancashire certainly does.

I am very grateful to Mr. W.E. Waring who brought to my attention after my initial research was completed some research material contained in the April 1987 Chronicle, No. 33 "Hough Lane in Leyland" - Later History of Houghs Tenement.

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KEN FLEMMING



## HOGHTON - AN ECHO OF THE PAST

The area in and around Hoghton and Withnell just off the modern highway is wild and overgrown but is a fascinating place for the enterprising local historian who is prepared to venture out to walk the ancient rights of way between the hamlets. One such walk, circular and approximately three miles long, starts and finishes at the Hoghton Arms situated on the main Chorley - Blackburn road. Before starting the walk however a short history of the area might whet the appetite for things to come.

The first record of Hoghton in 1204 spells it 'HOCTON'; in 1290 'HOGHTON' - the modern spelling; but lapsed to 'HOGHTONG' in 1306.

In the 12th century Hoghton seems to have been part of Gunolfsmoors. This included the existing townships of Heapey, Wheelton (with Brinscall), Withnell (with Stanworth, Roddlesworth and Ollerton), and, perhaps, part of Hoghton. Gunolfsmoors is a name that survived until about 1600. 'Gunnolsmoore Waste' is a name in 'Pleadings' of the time of Henry V111 and is perpetuated in the 'Moor Quarter' of the parish of Leyland which includes Heapey, Wheelton, Withnell and Hoghton.

The whole parish was in the 'Barony' or 'Fee' of Penwortham. It is recorded that Richard Bussell gave to Alan, son of Swain, in marriage with his sister, 4½ ploughlands in Gunolfsmoors. It is probable that the grant was made by Richard's father Warine Bussel, for in 1160 he gave to Richard Fitton 8 ploughlands in Elswick, Clayton-le-Woods, Whittle-le-Woods, Wheelton, Withnell, Hoghton and Roddlesworth.

Richard Fitton was a tenant of Hoghton in 1212 holding Gunolfsmoors of the Barony of Penwortham by Knights service. In 1280 Edmond Fitton granted his Lordship to Sir Henry de Lea, from whom some 40 years later it descended by marriage to the Hoghton family. Later Hoghton seems to be held by two mesne lords - one surnamed Hoghton the other Ollerton. Later Sir Adam de Hoghton becomes prominent.

Lets start from the Hoghton Arms by walking back towards Chorley and looking for a five barred gate on the opposite side of the road - this leads to Brimmicroft Lane, an overgrown and at times a very boggy track. It is hard to imagine that this track and the one passing by what is now the Hoghton Arms were of equal importance to travellers (where the pub now stands was a farmstead and Blackledge Smithy). Brimmicroft Lane leads to Brimmicroft - an isolated hamlet.

After a boggy patch, the enclosed track suddenly turns sharp right; here a footpath comes down from Knowles Farm that will be passed later in the walk. Look in the corner of the track and a 'Tenon-Top' gatepost will be revealed hidden behind a holly bush. These carved stone posts have stumped the experts as to their function, and only appear as one of a pair of posts in a gateway.

The track now widens and is enclosed by old hedges leading down to the ancient hamlet of Brimmicroft. John Wesley is believed to have visited here. A Roman road coming through Ollerton Fold passes Brimmicroft finally coming out on the Bolton road near Riley Green. This appears to be a Roman Vicinal way branching off from the military road between Wigan and Walton-le-Dale. This appears to be the track mentioned in an early deed entitled 'The way from Alfston'.

Continue down into Brimmicroft passing to the right of what seems to be the principle building in the hamlet: the right of way passes the front door of this house. Notice the letters and date on the door - T.H.E. 1718 - this is a fine early 18th century farmhouse.

The name Brimmicroft means 'The field where Broom grows', and is old English 'BROMIG-CROFT' and was spelt 'Bromicroft' in 1246. Some references to Brimmicroft and the lane can be found in Quarter Sessions records dated 8th November 1682 : Item - 'We order and present John Hodson, Katherine Whalley, Widd., and Thomas Shorrock that they severally cause their hedges to be cutt (at) ye sides of ye lane behind Brimmicroft and the Clay Pitt Yate before 2nd March next'.

On entering the field behind the house and garden via a gate, turn left and follow the left hand hedge into two fields. Then pass through a gap in the hedge on the left to follow a muddy track into the yard of Laund Fold Farm (Laund is an old French name meaning pasture or glade, and Fold is an enclosure for animals). The barn on the left has two date stones : the first D.D.A. 1800, the second C. de H. 1890. The latter indicates that this farm belonged to Charles de Hoghton. Notice that the farmhouse had the original 17th century stone mullioned window-lights downstairs, whilst upstairs the windows are modern replacements.

Leave the farmyard via a gate adjacent to a modern garage opposite the barn. Cross some rough land to the left hand corner and a stile leads down a valley into Ollerton Woods: this is the ancient way between the hamlets of Brimmicroft and Ollerton Fold and in severe weather becomes very boggy. Descend to a footbridge over the stream - this seems to be the boundary between Hoghton and Withnell - ascend the opposite slope and notice that this side has stone steps set into the hillside. In the second World War, inhabitants of Ollerton Fold sheltered here during an air raid.

In the field follow the well-made stone wall on the left to some sheep shelters, and from the stile go right to walk around them to a gate giving access to Ollerton Fold. 'Ollerton' is Old English meaning 'Alor' or 'Alder' - this is 'Owler' in many dialects - thus its meaning is 'The Tun among the Alders'. There are many 17th century buildings in this hamlet and old maps indicate that an ancient cross once stood here. This is not surprising for the hamlet stands on a crossroads of ancient highways - from the west from Brindle, from the south Withnell Fold, and from the north Brimmicroft.

Leave the hamlet via a track to the left, noticing an eroded 17th century datestone over a blocked up doorway. Just as the track bears right, climb over a stile close to the right of a gate built into the garden wall of a bungalow. The path crosses the garden to a stile into a field beyond; this is an elevated position and many local features can be seen from this vantage point. Notice a stone post atop a hillock here; it looks ancient and important, but I was informed that this post had been dug up from a nearby pit and placed there recently!

From the stile cross the field to a stile in the bottom left hand corner. Look for a footbridge in the next field and from here look for a stile tucked away in a holly bush. From here straight across a large field to the road with a large white house just to the right; this is 'The White House Rest Home', but an earlier name was 'The Heyes'. A stile leads to the main road opposite Bury Lane. Turn left to walk down the road but stop to view the milestone, a reminder that this was a turnpike road in earlier times. It indicates that Chorley is 5 miles away, and Blackburn 4 3/4 miles.

Continue down the road to Knowles Farm on the left, there are datestones on farmhouse and barn showing again that Charles de Hoghton was the landowner in 1890. A footpath leading off from the farmyard finishes at the right hand bend of Brimmicroft Lane visited earlier. Descend to the Hoghton Arms along the road to finish a fine walk.

#### REFERENCES

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Lancashire Record Office.
2. O.S. Map Blackburn 2½".
3. O.S. Map Hoghton Area 25".
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5. William Yates, Map of Lancashire, 1786.
6. The Village Atlas, 1840 - 1912.
7. Victoria County History of Lancashire, Vol. 6, P.36.
8. Eilert Ekwall, 'The Concise English Dictionary of English Place Names'.
9. David Miller, 'The Place Names of Lancashire'.
10. George Birtill, 'Over a Five Barred Gate', P.70.
11. George C. Miller, 'Hoghton Tower'.
12. Leyland Guardian.



GRAHAM THOMAS

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Advertiser

Sat. 3rd March 1917

#### CRIMEAN VETERAN'S DEATH

The death occurred at Farington on Sunday (25th Feb. 1917) of Mr. Thomas Beesley, a Crimean veteran, and holder of the long service medal of Militia. He was 82 years of age.

Mr. Beesley was the son of the late Mr. George Beesley, rope and twine manufacturer, Fishwick, Preston.

He enlisted at the age of 18, and was drafted to the Crimea in the 97th Regiment. He took part in most of the engagements, and endured the terrible hardships there.

The funeral took place on Wednesday the 28th at Preston Cemetery, with military honours.

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## THE ENIGMA OF THE STONE

For a substantial period the Editor of this journal and the present writer were occupied in the Lancashire Record Office in the perusal of a considerable number of documents, mainly in the Farington and associated Huddleston muniments, with the objective of building up a picture of the people and places of early Leyland.

This can be a demanding and sometimes tedious task. Just occasionally a word or phrase leaps out of the document and for no obvious reason captures the imagination and so stays in the memory. One such phrase will now be described.

A very large proportion of the muniments described above consists of transfers or surveys of land holdings of the families concerned, not surprisingly, as land was their chief source of wealth. One such survey of the Farington lands (LRO DDF 52) was started in 1569 and the document was continued up to about 1614, adding to the survey the new lands obtained by purchases. The writing is in different hands and about 1590 it is clear that the writer was William Farington (the "Old Comptroller") 1537-1610, himself. Now William's handwriting, once seen, will never be forgotten. It was idiosyncratic but consistent, a badly formed letter "n" for instance was exactly like every other of his badly formed letter "n's". I mention this because it means that a reading of his work is likely to be reliable. Incidentally his writing was very small, about 30 words to the square inch.

In the portion of the document concerned William is describing in minute detail the location, lineal dimensions and area of some relatively small strips of land which lay in the upper and lower Town Fields of Leyland. Unlike some strips in the town fields of other parts of the country, which were reallocated (by lot) to the villagers each new season, the Leyland strips were allocated to the villagers on a more or less perpetual basis. This arrangement seems to have applied both to the tenants of the manor and to the freeholders, and makes identification of particular strips less difficult than otherwise.

The strip of land presently of interest is described as follows:-

"One other dowlle (dole) lying in the upper towne field there here unto the stone of the hille .....and extendeth north and south, conteyns in length xxvii rodes and a half (131 yards) ....and one rode ii yards and a half (10 yards) in bredthe ....." The account goes on to name the occupiers of the similar strips of land located immediately to the north, south, east and west of the strip in question. The strip on the east is of special interest and will be referred to again.

With this minute description to hand and by comparison with other documents and maps and plans dating from 1725, it is possible to pinpoint with considerable accuracy the location of this long narrow north-south strip of land, incidentally it is about 1350 square yards or just over a quarter statute acre in area.

Continue down the road to Knowles Farm on the left, there are datestones on farmhouse and barn showing again that Charles de Hoghton was the landowner in 1890. A footpath leading off from the farmyard finishes at the right hand bend of Brimmicroft Lane visited earlier. Descend to the Hoghton Arms along the road to finish a fine walk.

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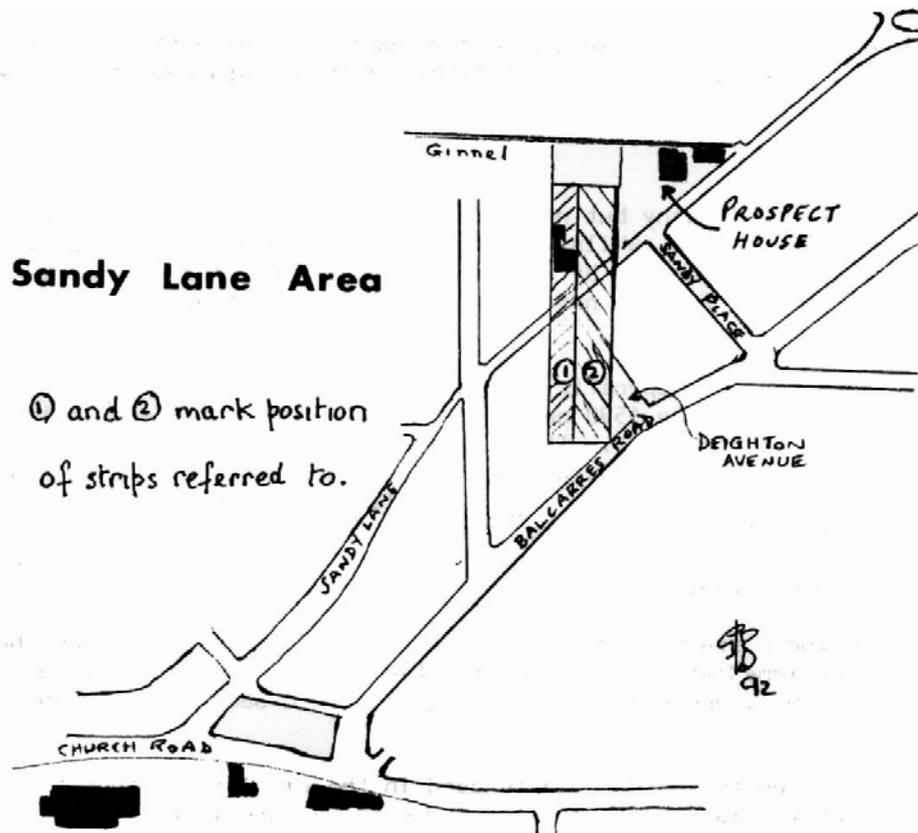
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With this minute description to hand and by comparison with other documents and maps and plans dating from 1725, it is possible to pinpoint with considerable accuracy the location of this long narrow north-south strip of land, incidentally it is about 1350 square yards or just over a quarter statute acre in area.



To those who know Leyland, the strip starts in the rear of Townfield House in Sandy Lane, follows the western boundary of that property taking in the house itself, crosses Sandy Lane and the corner of Deighton Avenue and terminates behind the houses 31/33 Balcarres Road. No trace is visible to-day but it is quite apparent, as in so many similar cases that the medieval field plan has dictated the structure and layout of the modern township.

Before going on to discuss the implications another, later reference will be described. Almost exactly 100 years later in 1690 another strip of land is being described as follows:-

"All that part or parsell of Ground lying by the Stone on the Hille conteyning by Estimation one Rood (one quarter customary acre or 2250 square yards or nearly half a statute acre)....." The occupier in this instance was not a tenant of the Faringtons but a freeholder and was the successor of the occupier of the strip on the east of the earlier strip, as described earlier. Incidentally the 1690 document was written in London but no doubt it was from information supplied from Leyland. The wording of this second reference is less full than that of the first, but its interpretation is unambiguous.

This 1690 strip can thus be shown to lie immediately east of the 1590 strip and also that it almost exactly occupies the remainder of the width of the later Townfield House property. There is every reason to believe that the

two strips were of the same length as this was a normal pattern for common field strips, forming an overall patchwork quilt appearance, some blocks north-south, some east-west.

#### DISCUSSION

The above somewhat lengthy but necessary description of these two common field strips proves that, whilst written some one hundred years apart for quite different purposes by different owners, they had one remarkable feature in common, a feature never seen in any description of other townfield strips.

They both make use of a specific physical feature as part of the identification of their location, in the 1590 case "the stone of the hill" and in the 1690 case "the stone on the hill". It seems quite reasonable to suppose that the identical feature is intended, and because of the authorship of the earlier document I believe that the stone of the hill is the correct reading. It seems quite clear that at this particular spot in the fields there was some fixed stone object referred to over a long period by that name, and its possible nature will now be considered.

Whichever is the correct reading, it is obvious at the present time there is nothing in the immediate vicinity of the two strips of land which can be described as a hill and even 300 years ago it would seem unlikely that there was.

In both references the word stone is used in the singular and thus the idea of mere (boundary) marker stones is ruled out. We are left with an impression of a single, perhaps substantial stone or monolith either erect or recumbent, clearly visible and something out of the ordinary.

I conclude that the description "of the hill" refers in some way to the stone itself and not its position at that time, and thus could refer to an earlier position i.e., the place where the stone came from. This is supported by the fact that the local surface geology of sand and gravel was unlikely to have in it a boulder of significant size.

All stone in Leyland in the historical period (including the Church structure) presumably came from the sandstone and millstone quarries at Whittle and it may be noted that in the 17th century the Whittle quarrymen were known as "the hill men". I tend to think that our mysterious stone had the same origin.

The two common field strips described above lay athwart Sandy Lane and it has long been a matter for discussion whether the lane, an ancient trackway from the nucleus of Leyland to the hillier parts of the Parish (and Hundred) predated the laying down of the upper townfield or vice versa.

#### SPECULATION

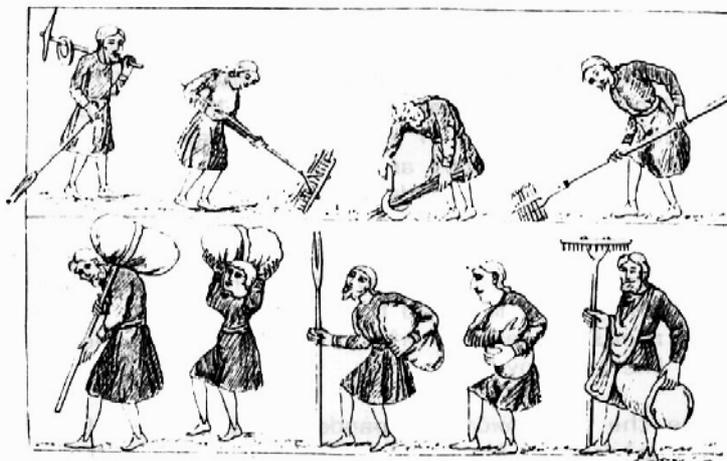
I am persuaded that the stone had nothing to do with the layout of the town fields and indeed predated them, which would make it of considerable antiquity.

It must not be forgotten that when Leyland was little more than a few huts and the church was yet to be built, it was the "caput" or head place of the hundred to which it gave its name. Hundreds had recognised open-air meeting places and one wonders if the stone might have marked just such a meeting place, a well drained area on the old and important trackway.

If there is any validity in this speculation the stone would be rendered obsolete when the town fields were laid out (what date?) and a different type of administration developed, but the stone might well remain in position, its original purpose forgotten.

Speculation without evidence is an unhealthy occupation !

G.L. BOLTON



AGRICULTURE  
Eleventh Century.  
*MS. Cott. Claud. B. ii.*

#### A MEMORIAL INSCRIPTION IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCHYARD

SERGEANT FRANK MARKLAND  
12TH ROYAL LANCERS  
SON OF THE ABOVE FRANK MARKLAND  
WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION AT  
WATERKLOOF, CAPE COLONY S.A.  
JANY. 28, 1902. AGED 34 YEARS  
HE DID HIS DUTY

His father, Frank, had died in 1900 but his mother, Alice, lived on until 1922 when she died in her 82nd year.

Another Boer War memorial was noted in Lailand Chronicle No. 34, June 1988: Frederick Wilson Hackforth, eldest son of Frederick and Mary Hackforth of Leyland, who fell in action 30th May 1900 aged 26.

Were these the only Leyland men who fell in that conflict? and how many served in that war?

JOHN STANNING ESQ., M.A., J.P.

On Sunday, 6th March 1904, the bells of St. Andrews church rang a muffled peal throughout the day in mourning for the death of John Stanning. The Reverend Leyland Baldwin, at the morning service, spoke of the awful loss suffered by his family, employees and the people of Leyland.

John Stanning was born at Lightbounds<sup>(1)</sup>, Halliwell near Bolton on the 9th May 1840. He was educated, with the aid of scholarships, at Rugby and Cambridge where he was a keen athlete and rowed for the University as stroke.

His father, John senior, came from humble beginnings starting out as a crofters<sup>(2)</sup> lad and through ability and industry became cashier at Richard Ainsworth, Son and Co., who owned a bleachworks at Halliwell. When the owner, John Horrocks Ainsworth, suffered a total loss of eyesight he was promoted to General Manager. J.H. Ainsworth died 1st April 1865 and his successor, Colonel R.H. Ainsworth of Smithills Hall, shortly afterwards took him into partnership.

On 25th January 1871 John Stanning senior left Ainsworths and with his son took over the Shruggs bleachworks at Leyland run by Holt, Pilkington and Co. On 7th October 1874 John junior married Miss Harriet Sarah Ainsworth and was on honeymoon when he received news of his father's death. He returned immediately to take charge of the company.

Under his guidance the bleachworks expanded rapidly over the next few years becoming a major employer in the town. In 1881, 159 males and 61 females were employed, some coming from Scotland and Ireland. Black dyeing was introduced in 1880 and coloured dyeing a few years later.

John Stanning was very progressive and enterprising and constantly introduced new machinery to improve efficiency at the works.

He was a great supporter of James Sumner, the founder of Leyland Motors, and allowed him to experiment with his machines along Cow Lane leading to the bleachworks. When Sumner produced a 5 ton steam wagon, Stanning used a couple to haul coal from the Basket Pit at Heskin to his works at Leyland.

There was strong opposition from the carters who feared for their livelihoods and from local residents who complained the wagons were damaging the roads and bridges.

The strength of feeling showed itself in 1888 when the Lancashire County Council was formed and John Stanning stood as the Conservative candidate for Leyland. His opponent was the Liberal James Nuttall Boothman who made much political capital from the use of the engines, depicting them in a cartoon smashing up the roads of Leyland. This, and the fact that the County Council's chief responsibility was the up-keep of roads and bridges, was not lost on the voters. Stanning lost by 125 votes. The steam wagon was not a great success and Stanning went back to the use of horses. However he did buy the first steam lawnmower that Sumner produced in 1892 for use on his estate and the cricket ground.

Cricket was John Stanning's main form of relaxation. He played an important role in setting up the county ground at Old Trafford, Manchester, and was a member of the Committee until his death. Although he was not a great player he was widely acknowledged as a good judge of the game.

In 1877, he and a few enthusiastic friends, hired a field near Wellington House, Church Road, from Mr. John Bretherton. The team played here for two or three seasons with Stanning as Captain. In 1880 the club moved to a field at Fox Lane leased from the Reverend Thomas Rigby Baldwin. The cricket ground was laid out under the care of Stanning's head gardener, Josiah Kirkman. In fact all his gardeners, and there was a considerable number, had to be cricketers before they would be employed.

The first match at Fox Lane on 2nd June 1880 was against United South, who were a far superior team. So to make a game of it agreement was reached that Leyland should play 22 batsmen. In the first innings John Stanning was out for 0 after hitting his wicket and in the second innings he was bowled for 1. Leyland lost by 4 runs but the match was greatly enjoyed by the spectators and afterwards there was dancing on the field to music by Clayton-le-Moors Brass Band.

Stanning always thought that the game should be 'played as cricket should be played, with keenness and good temper'. He insisted that every boy who came to the ground should be coached. During the wintermonths there were always four or five professional cricketers in the office at the bleachworks.

The club went from strength to strength under Stanning's captaincy forming 2nd and 3rd elevens and came to be regarded as a nursery for Lancashire C.C.C. producing several county players. All four of his sons played cricket with Duncan and John junior playing for Lancashire, the latter going on tour to Australia.

John Stanning also played a very important role in the public life of Leyland. He was Chairman of the Town Council and represented Leyland on the County Licensing Committee. Placed on the Commission of the Peace in October 1884 and a member of the Standing Joint Committee for Lancashire. He was Chairman of the Governors of Balshaws Trust and Chairman of the Leyland Public Hall Company which he and a few local businessmen formed.

On the 18th September 1896 the Trustees of the old Grammar School, which was closed in 1874, informed the Charity Commission that they wished to sell the building. It was valued at £90 and the Reverend Leyland Baldwin wanting it for a parish hall offered the valuation price : John Stanning stepped in and offered to pay for it. However further bids of £130 and £131 were made by two Leyland residents. Stanning was determined to acquire the building for the parish and offered £135 which was accepted.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 the Reverend Leyland Baldwin wanted to increase the number of bells in the tower of the Parish Church from 6 to 8. John Stanning bought and presented the tenor bell weighing 21 cwt. with the inscription: 'Morning, evening, noon and night praise God'.

Stanning was senior Trustee of the Osbaldeston's Almshouse Charity with the residents being selected by his wife Harriet. He was also a warden of the Parish Church for over 30 years and a generous benefactor to St. Andrews and St. Johns schools and churches and to many other worthy causes.

Personal tragedy struck the Stannings on the 15th April 1888 when their infant son, Andrew, died after living for only 6 days.

The first procession of the May Festival took place on 20th May 1889 and acknowledged by many to be the most impressive feature was the float entered by John Stanning and Sons Ltd. This horse-drawn lorry was made up to represent the deck of a ship and under a canopy stood Britannia and John Bull with Marines and Bluejackets standing guard. The floats and the beautiful shire horses were to be a feature of the Festival for many years to come.

In the 1890's John Stanning had turned the bleachworks into one of the most important in the country and leaders in the industry. It was a highly profitable business enabling him to build his mansion, Broadfield, near the works costing around £5,000. The house was a beautiful and imposing place with vast lawns, rose gardens, lakes and boathouse.

As well as being a major employer he was also a good employer and was highly regarded by his workers and the local people. There was no better example of this than on 7th October 1899 on the occasion of John and Harriet's Silver Wedding anniversary.

In celebration of the event the entire workforce were each given a sum of money and a train ticket to Blackpool. The couple were presented with a handsome silver dessert service from the parishioners of the Parish Church. The employees gave them a fine silver centrepiece and from the cricket club they received a silver dessert dish. Pupils at St. Andrews and St. Johns schools presented a silver paper-knife.

In 1900 Stanning was made joint Managing Director of the newly formed British Bleachers Association. The extra workload and a heart condition began to take a toll on his health, so much so that in 1904 doctors advised a complete rest.

He took their advice and with his son, Duncan, travelled to Egypt for a holiday. They were on a Nile steamer going to Khartoum when John Stanning was taken ill with malarial fever. He was transferred from the steamer to Luxor for medical care. A telegram was sent to Mrs. Stanning and their eldest son John set out immediately for Cairo. On Friday afternoon, 4th March, his condition worsened with the onset of pneumonia and at 9 o'clock the following night he died. His body was embalmed and buried according to custom the following day. His remains stayed the one year as prescribed and then they were brought home to Leyland and buried in the Parish Churchyard on 5th April 1905.

A small terrace of houses, which still stand, was being built on Leyland Lane at the time of his death, and was named Luxor Terrace in his memory. It seems a shame there is so little to commemorate such a major industrialist, public figure and benefactor of Leyland.

#### HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

Probate, London, 3rd May 1904 to Harriet Sarah Stanning, widow and William Kevan, Chartered Accountant.  
Effects £227,122. 12s. 5d.

#### HIS WIDOW

Chorley Guardian Saturday 15th April 1916.

The funeral of Mrs. Harriet Sarah Stanning, widow of the late Mr. John Stanning of Broadfield, Leyland, took place on Wednesday 12th April 1916 at the Leyland Parish graveyard. Mrs. Stanning died on Saturday 8th April 1916 at 63 Kent Road, Harrogate, aged 65 years.

## NOTES

(1) Lightboulds. A large house which took its name from the family of Lightbown who had lived there since the early 17th century.

(2) Crofting. The oldest process of linen bleaching which consists of spreading fabric out in a field of short grass after it has been soaked in an alkaline solution and letting it lie until the sun has whitened it.

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MICHAEL PARK



**John Stanning**

*John Stanning & Son, Ltd.*  
LEYLAND.

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**Employees' Excursion  
and Dinner**

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GIVEN BY  
**JOHN STANNING, Esq., J.P.,**  
*Broadfield, Leyland, Preston,*

In celebration of the Marriage of Miss  
STANNING, on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 1903

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**WINTER GARDENS,**  
BLACKPOOL.  
September 8th, 1903.

MAXWELL & CO., BLACKPOOL.

## SARAH ESTHER FFARINGTON

Approaching Leyland from the west, the spire of St. James's Church in the distance, rising above the rich flat moss lands, is a familiar landmark to all Leylanders.

The church was founded in 1854 by Sarah Esther Ffarington as a memorial to her late husband, James Nowell. It was to be the testimony both of her Christian beliefs and her love for the husband she had so tragically lost. Consequently everything about St. James's, from the selection of Ewan Christian as Architect to the very last detail of its construction, was chosen with loving care. Built in the early English style, it was and indeed continues to be, an architectural gem; not just because of the beauty of its interior and stained glass but because of its external symmetry and that square tower with its fine buttresses and graceful spire. Anyone wanting to know more about St. James's need look no further than the excellent booklet by Nessie Markland produced originally in 1974 but reprinted in 1986.

My concern here is with its founder, Sarah Esther Ffarington about whom relatively little was known until the reappearance of a Victorian scrapbook in 1988(1) shed valuable new light on her life. This in turn prompted what I can only describe as a quest, the results of which are to be found in this article.

Sarah Esther Touchet(2) was born in 1818, the eldest daughter of John Touchet of Broom House, Pendleton, Salford. Pendleton was of course a country area at this time and Broom House was one of several large and desirable residences standing well back from the road between Eccles and Pendleton. Each was surrounded by extensive gardens and parkland, the fields beyond running down to the Ship Canal and from 1830, when Sarah was twelve, to the new Manchester/Liverpool railway. It would be pleasant to think that the young Sarah witnessed the triumphant opening of Stephenson's new railway and indeed, considering the importance of that occasion and all the attendant publicity, it is not unlikely.

John Touchet was a wealthy business man, a manufacturer of fustian and checks with premises in King Street, Manchester. His forbears, having originated in Cheshire, had been prominent in Manchester business circles for over a hundred years. Thomas Touchet, the first to settle and make his name in Manchester back in the early 18th century, was a strong nonconformist and a prominent member of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, where the great Henry Newcome preached and where the title of "Presbyterian" was coined. All succeeding generations of Touchets retained the family's connection with Cross Street Chapel. Being dissenters they tended to play little part in public life, although John Touchet, Sarah's father, became Constable of Manchester in 1810 and was for some time Chairman of the Manchester Exchange.

Sarah took her name from her mother, the daughter of Scrope Colquitt(3) of Liverpool, whereas her second name, Esther, came from her grandmother Touchet. There were two other children of the marriage between John Touchet and Sarah Colquitt; a second daughter, Frances, b. 1820 (who eventually married the Rev. Nicholas Ridley of Newbury and bore him nine children) and a son, James, b.1821, who tragically died whilst still a boy.(4)

Sarah's life was to be drastically changed by the death of her mother in 1836 closely followed by that of her father on 6th October 1837. She was just nineteen at the time, her sister two years younger. Victorian young ladies were not encouraged to be independent. They had both led very sheltered and privileged lives and the loss of their parents left them particularly vulnerable and in need of protection.

Help came in the form of their uncle, Archdeacon Bayley, Canon of Westminster and Rector of West Meon, Hampshire. The Bayleys of Hope Hall, near neighbours of the Touchets in Pendleton, were related to them by marriage in several generations. The Archdeacon and his wife, Sarah's aunt, welcomed the two girls into their home. This was a handsome, three-storeyed rectory standing then, as now, in extensive grounds and built of local flint like most of the houses in the Meon Valley.

A friend of Dr. Bayley, Archdeacon Bonney, describes him as being, "of middle size, inclined to corpulence, his countenance full and expressive of benevolence, his manner good humoured, sprightly and friendly mixed often with a vein of drollery." Nor was he lacking in religious conviction. Dr. Bonney tells the amusing anecdote of how Dr. Bayley endeavoured to put a stop to village cricket in West Meon on the Sabbath by establishing an afternoon service. The farm boys, however, brought their bats under their smocks and left them in the porch during service ready for prompt use afterwards. Eventually the farmers were persuaded to allow their labourers several hours on weekdays for cricket and all sides were satisfied. One feels somehow that Sarah and Frances must have found, under their aunt and uncle's roof, all the necessary love and security they had lost following their parent's death.

The Archdeacon was one of the best Greek scholars of his day, an intellectual who corresponded with a close circle of like-minded men. He employed Sarah as his amanuensis and according to Susan Maria Ffarington, speaking many years later, her stay with him "helped to improve her judgement and gave solidity to her always sweet and amiable character."

Between 1843 and his death in 1844 the Archdeacon was eagerly supervising the building of a new parish church in West Meon. Gilbert Scott was the Architect and this was to be his first church in Hampshire. As with St. James's here in Leyland, great attention was paid to detail. It was constructed by village builders and one needs only to look at the beautifully squared flints and the carving of the corbel ends to recognise workmanship equal to any medieval craftsman. Sadly the Archdeacon never lived to see it completed nor his niece married there. He died on the 12th August 1844, aged 67, "of natural decay without a pang or a sigh" and was buried in West Meon churchyard alongside his wife who had predeceased him by some years.

Shortly after the death of their uncle, Frances, Sarah's sister, married the Rev. Nicholas Ridley(5) and settled with her husband at Hollington House, Newbury. Sarah moved a few miles from West Meon to live with a maiden aunt, Mary Touchet, at Exton Grove in the village of Exton. Like West Meon rectory, the Grove still stands to-day. It is not built of flint however, but is a long low white-walled Georgian house in the middle of the village, considerably changed and improved since Mary Touchet's day, but perfectly recognisable from a drawing made of it by Susan Maria Ffarington.

It was in the Spring of 1846, whilst living with her aunt, that Sarah first met her future husband, James Nowell Ffarington of Worden. He had lately returned from a winter spent in Rome for the sake of his health, having been dogged all his life by a heart complaint. Now, much restored, he felt that marriage and, more particularly, marriage to such a one as Sarah Touchet was the one thing that could seal his future happiness. Since the death of his father in 1837, James had been beset by many problems in addition to those about his health. The estate he inherited had been run down and he had worked hard to improve the way the land was drained and farmed, establishing the Leyland Hundred Agricultural Society to the furtherance of that end. He had also largely rebuilt and refurbished Worden Hall which had been in such a bad state of repair

as to be actually dangerous. He was at present restoring the neglected gardens. Sarah was an heiress in her own right but she was also highly educated, an excellent musician, fond of literature and gifted, as Susan Maria tells us, "with a strong sense of the ludicrous" - in other words a delightful companion.

The marriage took place on 28th October 1847 and we are fortunate in having a copy of a letter from Mary Touchet(6), Sarah's aunt, describing the whole event to a friend who was unable to be there. The day dawned dull but dry following overnight rain. This was to be a quiet country wedding attended by close family and friends, though many of the villagers had assembled to wish them God Speed. The carriages left Exton Grove at eleven o'clock precisely passing under a triumphal archway of evergreens, "enlivened by Dahlias and African Marigolds", erected specially for the occasion by the Touchet's gardener. By eleven-thirty they had covered the few short miles between Exton and West Meon, the route following the course of the little river Meon that wanders through the water meadows between the two villages. The church was filled with people; the schoolchildren in orderly rows at the front, the gentry in the pews and benches of the Chancel. The service was conducted by an uncle of the bride and afterwards the schoolchildren lined up outside and strewed the churchyard path with flowers. More onlookers threw flowers into the carriage of the bride and groom as "the four dashing greys, complete with white streamers", sped past them back to Exton. Here the earlier crowds had "grown to a mob" and the cheering was "so deafening as to affect the nerves of the horses". The triumphal arch had been given the addition of a pendant with the words "Vive l'Amour" written on it by a villager. This clearly amused Mary Touchet who questioned whether anyone but the one person responsible understood it.

The wedding luncheon was awaiting them at Exton Grove and James Nowell met Sarah as she came downstairs and led her to her place at the table. There were some twenty to twenty-five guests in all, each of whom had been given a favour to wear. The whole occasion passed off very informally and happily, Miss Touchet remarking that Sarah's dress was "particularly becoming" and she was "thought never to look better." By half past two the carriage was again at the door to take the young couple away to Devon on their honeymoon. The rest of the day was taken up entertaining the young and old of the village; the two Miss ffaringtons taking charge of some forty children seated at two tables in the cottage room at the bottom of the garden. All in all Mary Touchet concluded the day had been a tremendous success and she thought Sarah well blessed "with agreeable and talented relations" and a husband who promised to be an excellent partner in life.

Meanwhile Leylanders too were celebrating in their own way. The Preston Guardian that week gave a glowing account of all that happened which it is only possible to summarise here. In the morning bands paraded the streets playing "Haste to the Wedding" whilst the church bells rang and the flags waved in the sunshine. Proceedings proper commenced with rural sports on the Vicar's fields which at least three thousand spectators attended. Most prominent villagers and tenant farmers present wore white favours in honour of the day. As well as the more conventional races there were numerous novelty events such as ducking for shillings in a tub, a wonderful downhill wheelbarrow race "which gave the greatest possible fun", a competition to climb a well-soaped pole, a pig race where the pig was given to the person who caught it by its well greased tail. There were prizes too which somehow reflect the innocence of the time; a handsome ribbon, a hat with a feather. The climax of the sports was a fire balloon sent up from the field amid three cheers for Mr. & Mrs. ffarington.

A dinner followed at the Union Hall(7) which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion with ivy, laurel and dahlias. A red silk flag, embroidered with the ffarington coat of arms and an inscription saying "Welcome to Worden", hung on one wall and over the fireplace "united hearts devised of dahlias" had been hung and small lamps that spell out the initials J.N. and S.F. when lit. Three hundred guests attended this dinner which was chiefly for tenants and proceedings were presided over by the Vicar and Mr. Michaelson, a close friend of James ffarington. Food was abundant as an ox had been specially roasted for the occasion and there was plump partridge in addition and plum pudding to follow. The speeches afterwards were fervent, the toasts numerous. As evening drew on, nearly everybody in the village returned to the Vicar's fields to witness a firework display and we are told that, in addition to the fireworks, every house in Leyland was brightly illuminated, even the poorest cottage left a candle burning in the window.

To round off the proceedings, a Ball was held that night in the Union Hall with well over four hundred people present. Tickets had been issued for this containing the advice to bring a knife and fork! Mr. Bashall's Brass Band provided the music and dancing was kept up until four in the morning. It was truly a day to remember and succeeding days brought other treats including tea parties for the children of all the local schools. Little wonder that the Reporter from the Preston Guardian was moved to proclaim in such ringing tones; "the twenty-eighth day of October in each recurring year will long be remembered in the annals of Leyland.....it will form a fireside theme for generations yet unborn in every house and cottage which owe feaf and fealty to the heir of ffarington."

The young squire and his new wife returned quietly to Leyland towards the end of October. It was the usual practice for the tenants to meet the returning carriage, unharness the horses and pull the carriage by hand from the park entrance to the hall but James and Sarah arrived late evening unannounced. They settled happily into what was to all intents and purposes, a new home. Indeed, workmen were still putting the finishing touches to the interior of a completely refurbished Worden. James Nowell felt sufficiently well to spend the winter of 1847 in this country but this was a mistake for the cold and damp took their toll and the old symptoms returned.

In May he and Sarah took a short tour among the localities of his schooldays in Yorkshire, returning on the 5th June only because James Nowell had arranged to address a large clerical party assembled for the Leyland Missionary Society. He complained of feeling unwell on the evening of his return and his condition rapidly deteriorated as the night wore on. Mr. Brown of Preston was called for but there was little he could do and James Nowell passed away "after intense suffering" at eight o'clock the following morning. To say his family was devastated is an understatement. Sarah was heartbroken, his sisters appalled; in a few short hours they had lost the person most dear to them, the main branch of the ffarington family had lost all chance of an heir and Leyland had lost the most generous and respected of masters.

At the beginning of this dreadful time shared grief must have bound the three women together but as the weeks and months passed, Susan Maria and Mary Hannah, her sister, came to love and respect Sarah for her own sake and to regard her as indeed their sister. She was persuaded to remain with them at Worden. The situation could have been difficult because, prior to his father's death, James Nowell, being conscious of his own poor health, had persuaded him to break the entail and leave the Worden estates to his sisters should he die without an heir. This had now happened and Sarah was in the difficult position of being mistress of Worden no longer. It says much for the characters of all parties that their relationship worked so very well over the succeeding years.



Left.

The village of Exton in Hampshire  
(a drawing by Susan Maria from  
the Farington scrapbook c.1847)

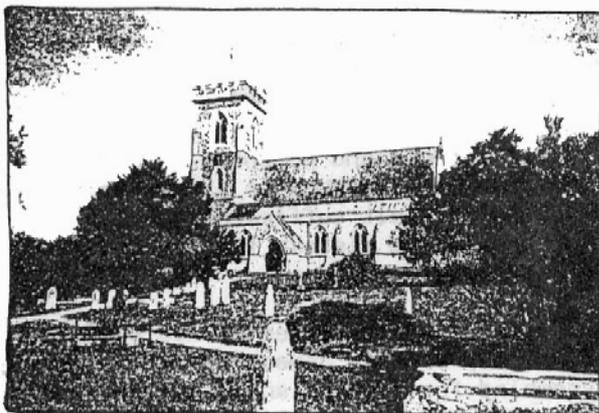
Right

Exton Grove — the home of  
Miss Touchet v Sarah Esther  
prior to her marriage.  
(drawing by Susan Maria c.1847)



Below

West Meon church today.



Right  
Invitation  
to the ball  
in Leyland

**Admittance Card.**



You are requested to attend the **DINNER**  
and **BALL**, at the **UNION HALL**, Oct. 28th,  
to celebrate the Marriage of Mr. and Mrs.  
**FARINGTON.**

Spots to commence at 1 o'clock.

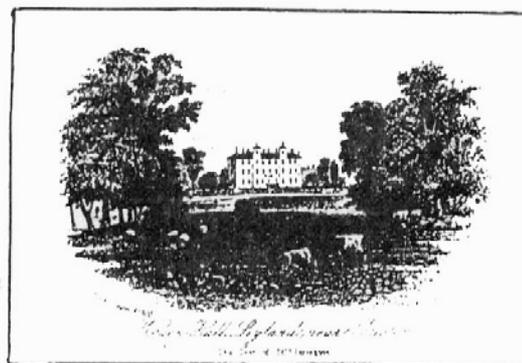
Dinner at 4 o'clock.

Fire-Works at 7 o'clock.

Each person to bring a knife and fork, and  
this Card.

Right

Worden Hall c.1855.



(an engraving from  
Preston v its Environs  
by Charles Hardwick)

Sarah busied herself in good works. She not only initiated and paid for the building of St. James's at Moss Side but also donated land from the Broomhouse estate for the building of Hope Church near Eccles, the foundation stone of which was laid by her in 1861(8). Still in Eccles, she was the owner and benefactor of the Broomhouse Turnpike School until she sold it to the Church of England in 1857. She helped also with charities nearer home such as the Relief Committee for the distressed cotton operatives and she looked after the sick and poor on the ffarington estate, "with whom she spent much time and unostentatiously bestowed a considerable portion of her wealth." Susan Maria however saw the truth beneath the surface and, years later, wrote "although she gave no way to morbid feeling and resolutely soldiered on, her health was broken by the death of James."

Toward the end of 1862, Sarah's health had deteriorated to such an extent that she was confined to the house. Her Physician attended her daily but "The pulmonary affection" gradually worsened and although she remained cheerful and lucid to the end, she died on the 16th August 1863 aged 45.

Like the rest of Leyland, Susan Maria and Mary Hannah "most truly mourned" their sister-in-law. The old ffarington vault beneath the Parish Church being full, permission was hastily sought and granted for a new vault to be constructed beneath the ffarington chapel, entrance to which was gained by a flight of steps near the chancel door. Into this vault was brought the remains of James Nowell so that in death he and Sarah need not be parted. Room was left for just two more coffins for it was Susan Maria and Mary Hannah's dearest wish that they too might eventually be reunited with the two people they loved best.

Following Sarah's death the two ffarington sisters commissioned John Hutchinson R.A. of Edinburgh to sculpture an effigy of their sister-in-law in Carrara marble so that it might be placed within St. James's Church. Visitors to St. James' can still see this very beautiful sleeping figure which Susan Maria said was a much truer likeness of Sarah than her portrait by Mrs. Carpenter (sold in the Worden sale in 1948).

Among Susan Maria's papers is the following light hearted description of Sarah written in her lifetime and in obvious imitation of Chaucer, with which I should like to end rather than finish on a sad note:

Three sisters also with us wenten forth  
All gentle dames from Worden in ye North. Ye Mistress  
A timid lady, feeble etc. and tall  
Of stately mien was she and forehead high  
And pale her cheek and perusive still her eye  
Her cunning hand was skilled to tunefulness  
Music she loved and poetry - and dress  
No country hand I wis had made her gown  
Forsooth in deale box it came from town  
Full accurate was she and wonderful exact  
And yet no malice had in thought or act  
Her open hand in giftes more and more  
Well pleased ye rich and comforted ye poor  
She loved guests and kinsfolk great and small  
And had a heart that kindly felt for all  
Nor if she mote a kindness do would rest  
But strove in blessing others to be blessed  
And like ye plantes of a trailing sort  
She clinged to her friendes for support

## NOTES

1. Susan Maria Farrington's scrapbook. The original is now in the Lancashire Record Office. A copy is in Leyland Library.
2. Pronounced "Touchée" in the Pendleton area but "Touch-it" in Hampshire.
3. Susan Colquitt who gave three windows to St. James's Church in memory of Sarah was her cousin.
4. Sarah commissioned the east window of St. James, that above the altar, and dedicated it to her parents and her brother.
5. Frances gave the two light window above her sister's monument in the Church.
6. This letter is in Susan Maria's scrapbook. It is exceedingly difficult to read. Mary Touchet lived to be 88 and is buried with Archdeacon Bayley and his wife in West Meon churchyard.
7. The Union Hall, so called because it stood in Union Street (Fox Lane), was built to house functions connected with the Leyland Agricultural Society. It later became the Top School.
8. Hope Church to-day (also called St. James's) is immediately next to Hope Hospital. On the other side of the church is the site of the Broom House estate.

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- Building History of West Meon Parish Church.

My grateful thanks to the following: Mrs. Bayley of Eccles; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Schmeglow, Exton, Hampshire; the Farrington family.

ELIZABETH SHORROCK



## EAGLE AND CHILD RE-VISITED

The Eagle and Child public house on Church Road, Leyland, has long been the subject of discussion as to its age and origin. Some ten years ago in the course of general research on the history of Leyland, a reference was found to a dispute concerning the building of the inn in 1749. This was no little surprise; the 'Eagle' had often been called the oldest inn in Leyland, so this inspired the title of two articles that appeared in the Lailand Chronicle in August 1984 and May 1986: 'Eagle and Child - Leyland's Oldest Inn?'

### THE STORY SO FAR

The above articles can be summarised as follows:-

At a Vestry meeting held at Leyland, 28th March 1749, the Squire, the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the four quarters of the parish and several parishioners all witnessed a deed relating their objection to 'A certain Cottage and enclosure lately erected and made upon a parcel of land in Leyland aforesaid, called the 'School Hillock'. The Vestry decided to take legal advice as to the possibility of redressing this 'great nuisance' - it appears the cottage had been built without permission. Clearly, this building and enclosure is what is now the Eagle and Child.

The Reverend Leyland Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, commenting on this episode in the Parish Magazine of November 1984 referred to it as a piece of land-grabbing perhaps made possible by the numerous Enclosure Acts of the mid 18th century. He went on to say "By whom it was made I am at a loss to conjecture, though the title deeds may throw some light upon it, if it were worthwhile to enquire." Since the cottage soon became a public house and was gradually enlarged over the years we can only assume that the Squire, Vicar and Vestry were unable to bring about its demolition.

Ownership of the land was traced back as far as 1790 when a Mr. John Morris was the owner and Henry Whittle and Nicholas Plaskett the occupiers of the land and inn. The earliest reference was found on Thomas Addison's map of his father's land in Leyland of 1769. No other evidence of the building or the land on which it stood earlier than 1790 could be found in the various records consulted in the Lancashire Record Office (L.R.O.): the name Eagle and Child first appeared in Alehouse Recognizances in the Quarter Sessions records of 1800 (L.R.O:QSB/3/95). The question of whether the Eagle and Child was 'Leyland's Oldest Inn' was left unanswered and there the matter rested.

### NEW EVIDENCE

Early in 1992 deeds of one of the Fox Lane stephouses were lent to South Ribble Museum. Examination of these deeds - the earliest of which were dated 1753 - whilst adding to our knowledge of the 'Union Street' houses, have also largely answered the questions 'who was responsible for the building of the cottage that became the Eagle and Child', and 'How did it come to be built on that piece of ground'.

An Indenture of 29th March 1753 shows that what is now the Eagle and Child was, originally, part of the inheritance of Ellen Chrichlowe of Leyland, deceased, and then (1753) in the hands of William Cowling of Wrightington and in the tenure of William Cooper, Innkeeper. It is described as being 'near unto the free School of Leyland aforesaid together with all that parcel of Land thereunto

belonging and lately inclosed comonly called the School Hill adjoining to the Glebe Lands belonging to the said Parish Church of Leyland on the South and to the Cartway on the North'. This leaves no doubt it is referring to the site of the Eagle and Child and its original building.

In 1773, William Cowling having died, his widow Catherine conveyed several estates in Leyland, Wrightington, Heskin and Shevington to one James Cowling. Once again the site of the cottage and its land is described, but not so precisely as in the deed of 1753. In 1786, however, when James Cowling was selling his estate in Leyland to John Norris of Rufford, Maltster, the description of the cottage and land is so good it not only confirms its location but also gives the original name of the inn and a clue as to how it came to be built there in the first place and why the powers that be were unable to prevent it.

The Indenture of 13th February 1786, after its legal introduction of the people involved in the sale, goes on 'All that Messuage or Dwelling house and Tenement commonly called or known by the name of the Holy Lamb situate on the South side of the Highway in Leyland in the said County and adjoining to the Glebe Land in Leyland aforesaid And Also All the Close Inclosure Field or Parcel of Land fronting the said Messuage or Dwelling house and Tenement situate on the North side of the said Highway which said Close Field or Parcel of Land together with the said Land whereupon the said Messuage or Dwelling house and Tenement is now erected were formerly part of a certain Field in Leyland aforesaid called the Upper or Higher Town Field but are now separated therefrom...'

Here, almost certainly, is the reason why the Squire, Vicar and Vestry were unable to prevent the building of the cottage on the School Hillock. This must have been the Southern end of a north/south 'strip' in the Upper Town Field owned, presumably, by the Chrichlowe family. The fact that they owned the plot probably did not in itself give them the right to build there, but the unique nature of this piece of land may well have done.

One can easily imagine that this triangular piece of ground, rising sharply at its western end by the 'Free School of Leyland', and cut off from the rest of the 'strip' by the 'Cartway', must have been difficult to cultivate and may well have been treated as waste by the owners. By tradition this land was used by parisioners from the Moor Quarter to park their carts and tether their horses when attending church; as the Reverend Leyland Baldwin put it in 1894:- "It is evident that when the Vicar fenced in his Glebe he left on the north side adjoining the churchyard a broad and ample margin of green sward, where churchgoers from Whittle and the Moor Quarter, having dismounted their wives or their daughters from their pillions at the stone steps, which still survive, might leave their weight carrying cobs or their shandries till their return from church. Soon the weather and mischievous youth would make this inconvenient, and someone would, on sufferance, erect a harbour - first a cold harbour, i.e. a mere shelter without food - later a cottage, and then would come the enclosure..."

This may well be exactly what happened; but with our knowledge that this was part of a town - field strip with a rightful owner - apparently with an eye to its commercial possibilities - it is easy to see why the Lord of the Manor and the Vicar were powerless to prevent the development.

Certainly, we now know more about the Eagle and Child. Its owners from 1749: the Chrichlowe family of Leyland to c1753; the Cowlings of Wrightington to 1786; followed by John Norris of Rufford and his heirs up to 1838 and beyond, And its landlords: 1753 William Cooper; 1773 Richard Crooke; 1786 and 1790 Nicholas Plaskett; 1800 and 1810 Robert Heywood; 1820 and 1828 William Kellett; 1838 Thomas Sumner; 1841 and 1851 William Banister; 1851 and 1854 Alice Nightingale; 1861 Henry Eastham; 1866, 1871 and 1876 William Wilkins; 1877 and 1882 J. Heys; 188? James Bowling; and 1891 and 1895 Mrs. Jane Bowling.

## NEW NAMES FOR OLD

The earlier name for the inn - the Holy Lamb - had not been suspected, but most inns in Leyland have had changes of name : The Stag in 1819, had become the Roe Buck in 1824; The Grapes in 1819, no doubt commemorating the new king, became the George the Fourth in 1820; The Sun of 1800 had become the Cordwainers or Shoemakers Arms by 1819 and The Ship by 1823 when the landlord was Thomas Collier - a Collier, after all, could be a ship as well as a coal miner! Certainly, the early 1820's seem to have been a time of change in Leyland.

Of the two other properties in the Chrichlowe inheritance in Leyland, one - Silcocks houses, 'three Cottages or dwelling houses, two butchers shops and one coopers shop' - has not been identified, no information as to their location in Leyland being given in the deeds. The other property, however, whilst not having its location given precisely, is described as being in the Lower Town Field and to the north of the cart-way aforesaid (i.e. when describing the location of the Holy Lamb) - in present day terms this means to the west of Towngate and to the north of Fox Lane. Since this property was also a public house and known as the Ring of Bells - tenant Richard Jackson - surely, this is the Bay Horse or Fox and Lion as it has recently become. This is confirmed by the purchase in 1794 by George Bretherton - Maltster and publican at the Bay Horse Inn - of the field strip in the Lower Town Field on which the step-houses were purpose built for hand-loom weaving c1802 : the seller of the land was the owner of the Eagle and Child, John Norris of Rufford. (Ref: 'Leyland's First Building Society - Beer and the Step-houses', David Hunt, Lailand Chronicle No. 35, December 1989).

## CONCLUSION

We can now answer the original question 'Is the Eagle and Child Leyland's Oldest Inn?' No, it is not. It now seems certain that the cottage built on the School Hillock in 1749 was, indeed, the first building on the site : the possibility had been that it was replacing an older structure, but the deeds of 1753, 1773 and 1786 show that this was not so. But does it matter? Age in itself has no virtue; the inn fits perfectly into its surroundings standing next to the old Free Grammar School of Leyland and the parish churchyard. Nestling beneath the mature trees of the 'Old Vicars' plantation it presents a mellow and pleasing appearance and a quiet air of antiquity.

## NOTE

For many years the oldest building used as a public house in Leyland was the Old Original Seven Stars. In origin a gentlemen's house built in 1686 it has only been a licensed house continually since c1870, although there is evidence that it was an inn in the early/mid 18th century.

The oldest building now is the Dunkirk Hall which dates from 1628 although it is only in recent years that John Smith, the Yorkshire brewers, bought the derelict building and made it into the pleasant hostelry it is to-day.

Historically, however, almost certainly the oldest is the Roe Buck. Standing next to the church and the old vicarage this, almost invariably, is the site of the oldest pub in a village. Did someone say, prove it?

## REFERENCES

- Waring, W.E. 'Eagle and Child - Leyland's Oldest Inn?'  
Lailand Chronicle Nos. 31 and 32, 1984 and 1986
- Hunt, D. 'Leyland's First Building Society - Beer and the Step-houses'  
Lailand Chronicle No. 35, 1989

And in compiling the list of Owners/Landlords of the Eagle and Child, and names of other inns in Leyland :

Survey and Valuation of Leyland in 1819. REF. LRO: PR2797

Land Tax Returns REF. LRO:QDL/Various

Alehouse Recognizances REF. LRO:QSB/3/Various

Barretts Directories of Preston

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr.A. Houghton for his permission to use the deeds that form the basis of this article.

Also, to the Lancashire Record Office for producing the items listed above.

W.E. WARING



## SQUIRE FFARINGTON'S WEATHER FORECASTS

What seems to have been Squire ffarington's first weather forecast in the St. Andrews' Parish Magazine, appears in the same issue as his father's 'In Memoriam' - November 1910 - and is headed 'Weather Anticipations'.

The Squire was known as a keen amateur meteorologist who provided forecasts for both the Chorley Guardian and Leyland Advertiser (as it then was), and the Parish Magazine.

It is interesting to note his forecast for 80 years ago:- 'December Darkness'. A fine spell began on the 11th November but it broke down again on the 15th and became unsettled, and will probably continue unsettled during the first eight days of December. From the 9th to the 17th the weather should be more or less fine though with strong wind or gales about the 14th. About the 19th a short cold wave with snow in places, then unsettled to the end of the year. Rainfall above average. H.N.ff.

His 'Weather Anticipations' continued on a regular basis until April 1918, when, a little late in the day, the Meteorological Society recommended that no information about the state of the weather should be published, for fear of its being of service to the enemy!



THE STRANGE FATE OF THE PRESTON WILLS 1545-1650

- GONE WITH THE WIND? -

Wills provide perhaps the most direct entry into the everyday lives of the inhabitants of the past. Often written as a final act, they reveal much of the soon-to-be deceased's financial and family affairs, and something of his or her life and times. Quite often the Will has attached to it the inventory of the deceased's possessions, usually made shortly after death, and attested by friends or trustees.

Walton-le-Dale and Leyland are particularly rich in both the number and variety of Wills which have survived from the seventeenth century and earlier. For Leyland a very brief and general account must suffice until the publication of W.E. Waring's extensive study in a forthcoming Occasional Paper - though the latter's study of the Will and Inventory of John Leigh was published by our Society in 1989.

The Borough of Preston, with its markedly greater range of social types, great Burgess dynasties, and tradesmen of all sorts, appears to offer a similarly rich vein for the social historian and the curious. Not so.

The Wills of Leyland people had to be proved at Chester; those from north Lancashire at Richmond. During Henry Fishwick's study of the Richmond Wills, a Preston problem at once became apparent, as the numbers of surviving Wills for the Hundreds of the North indicate:

	1500-1600	1600-1650
LONSDALE	480	980
KENDAL	376	740
FURNESS	1029	1996
AMOUNDERNESS	193	26

Clearly a large number of documents from Preston and the Fylde - the most populous and the richest part of the district - were missing. Fishwick estimated that about 10,000 Wills had vanished, that is to say they had not found a place in the historical record. How this figure was arrived at is unclear, but certainly a very large number of documents had been lost.

Extensive enquiries were made in 1884, and it was discovered that among the volumes of the Towneley Manuscripts were transcripts of 2279 Amounderness Wills. Further research showed them to have been delivered by a Captain Brabant of Preston to Christopher Towneley in 1670. The discovery illustrates the monumental scale of the work envisaged by the partnership of Towneley and Richard Kuerden. Of the outstanding Wills, however, no trace could be found, though Fishwick reported that "Every effort has been made by private investigation and by letters in the local newspapers, but all trace of them appears to be gone".

A comparison of the numbers of surviving local Wills makes the extent of the loss clear:

	LEYLAND	WALTON-LE-DALE	PRESTON
1545-1620	140	33	72 (60 as transcripts)
1620-1650	36	42	52 (52 as transcripts)
1650-1660	Break in records during the Commonwealth period		
1660-1680	82	100	260

Since large numbers of Preston Wills survived after 1660, it is clear that it is the Wills prior to 1650 which have been lost. This is particularly tragic since the small number of surviving Wills, and the large number of transcripts (in the LRO), provide a very interesting picture of the Royal Borough during an especially colourful period of English history. The extent of the loss can be briefly illustrated.

Wills at this time generally consist of three elements; a religious introduction, the 'Will' and division of the deceased's goods and chattels, and the inventory. The Will of Seth Bushell (1570-1623), a wealthy Preston woollendrapier, contains a very fine religious introduction, which also reveals something of the sagacity of the man.

"I Seathe Bushell of Preston in Amounderness, Chapman, being in good and perfect health praised be God, therefore perceiving daily the frailty of man's life, and how suddenly many die and depart this world without any will or testament, by means whereof, it happens many times that great suits and contentions do arise and grow between the mother and the children, and between kinsfolks and kinsfolks, whereby great hatred and malice arise, and much money is spent to the impoverishing of their estate, and the increasing of unnatural quarrels and uncharitable dealing. For the preventing whereof, it may so please almighty God of his goodness, and grace, I DO HEREBY MAKE THIS MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, 29th April 1623".

His 'will' follows, since: "It has pleased my mercyful and ever living God to bless me with some worldly goods and other temporal commodities, far above and beyond my deserving." He ordered his debts to be paid and his goods to be divided according to custom into three parts, to his 'lovyng wyffe' Elizabeth, his 'lovyng daughter' Elizabeth, and the final part to be divided into a large number of smaller legacies. The latter included a number of bequests to the poor; £20 to the Preston poor, and 40/- to those of Walton and Cuerden, the interest to be paid out upon Christmas Eve and Easter Eve "continually for ever".

To record his bequest to the local poor, a pair of plaques - the Bushell brasses - was erected in the parish church. Obscured by later changes in the church they were rediscovered in the nineteenth century and are again prominently displayed. Since they depict a crude drawing of the benefactor, Seth Bushell's is thus the earliest surviving picture of a Preston Burgess.

Will inventories provide a clear insight into the everyday life of the period. John Paler, the much respected Vicar of Preston 1604-21, died on 15th April 1621. He was buried on the following day, and the inventory of his goods was made on the 26th. "An inventory of all the goods and chattels moveable and immoveable of John Paler ... made and prized by Edmund Machen, Richard Taylor, John Heardman and William Sudell, sometime bailiffes of the Towne of Preston".

The inventory totalling £130 shows the Vicar to have been a fairly wealthy and well read man. The 'Bookes in his studdy' were valued at £14-10-0d; he had £21-1-3d in ready money, but his writing desk was valued at just 16d. He seems to have been very fond of herbs. Typically for the period, and not withstanding his position, the inventory lists a number of textile commodities:

Item fower pownde green woollen yarne	6/-
Item lynnne yarne seaventeene skore	30/- 2d
Item canvas yarne fower skore	7/-
Item five hespes of hempe yarne	3/-

His clothing included "Woollen apparel" worth £13-11-4d. and "Three shirts, five bands, six capps, five handkerchiefs and twelve paire of cuffs" worth 18s. 6d. Less typical for this 'Distinguished Labourer in God's Vineyard' were his "Muskett bandolere and the rest ... one pistol .... and sword".

The long inventory of James Lemon, a wealthy Preston Burgess (and one of the Walton-le-Dale Lemons) was made on 5th April 1609, 12 days after his death. Mayor of Preston in 1596 and 1602-03, he had built a new brick house in St. John's Wynde for 'certain Poore folkes', and was one of the town's leading figures. His inventory came to £276-16-6d, and provides a clear picture of the likely range of the contents of the many burgesses houses and shops which fronted the main streets of the old town.

He owned or rented parcels of land in the townfields, and owned barns, and 'A shoppe or rome under the west side of the Town Hall'. He left his burgage with its shops, house and outbuildings to his wife Margaret. He was deeply involved in the linen trade, for his groundfloor shop contained:

100 stone of coarse flax @ 3/4d per stone £16-13-4d; 3 stone of fine flax @ 6/8d per stone £1, with weights and "One chare, one buffet stoole and one quison" for his customers.

His house must have been rather a rambling one, for other rooms included 'the Great Chamber ... the Under Galerie ... the Upper Galerie ... foxe Chamber ... South Chamber ... the Mayden's Chamber ... Staerhead Chamber ... the Chamber over ye bruehouse". Since these rooms contained in all 16 beds, it is perhaps not surprising that the house possessed "11 paire of flaxen sheets (linen) and 7 paire of canvas sheets". The hall boasted a number of chairs and stools, and two carpets worth 3/6d. In addition there was a Buttery, Kitchen and Parlour.

A large number of metal items are listed, including '4 flowre pots, 7 candlesticks, 7 chamber pottes and a fryin pan'. On the yard to the rear of the house were stacked "16 thousand of bricke (£4-13-4d) ... and Turffes (10s.)" - peat for the fire.

James Lemon's agricultural tools included a hay wayne (cart), 2 'turf waynes', horse gear, harrows, and a plough, with 4 drawing oxen, 3 milk cows, 2 mares, 'one grey nagge' and 6 pigs. Among his most treasured possessions, however, must have been his silver plates, spoons and beaker, valued at £28, with his 'Brown and blewe gowne' worth £4.

Such is the scale of Preston's loss. But to return to the original problem of the 10,000 lost Wills, Fishwick was able to provide a possible solution.

Prior to 1748 the Amounderness contingent had been stored naturally enough at Lancaster Castle. It was decided that they should be removed to the archive at Richmond, and on 1st November of that year they set out on their way: "There is a tradition that when the Wills were removed from Lancaster to Richmond they were conveyed in open carts, and that in passing through Wensleydale great numbers of the documents were lost or destroyed."

Could it be that the erstwhile inhabitants of that windy place found a great profusion of interesting insulating materials borne unto them on the wind, and that the barns and farmhouses of the district may yet be encouraged to render up the lost Wills of early seventeenth century Preston?

## REFERENCES

For a note on the Leyland Wills, see 'A History of Leyland and District' (1990) P.48-52.

Many of the original Wills may be seen at the Lancashire Record Office in Bow Lane, Preston. Access to them is quite straightforward. Both the Chester Wills (for the townships south of the Ribble), and the Richmond Wills (for those to the north), have a series of guidebooks for the years 1545-1620, 1620-1650, 1660-80 etc., which list the Wills in alphabetical order.

The first Richmond volume, edited by Henry Fishwick, was published in 1884. The three Preston Wills quoted were published at length around the turn of the century. Seth Bushell's may be seen in T.C. Smith (1892) 'Records of the Parish Church of Preston', and those of John Paler and James Lemon are in H. Fishwick's (1900) 'The History of the Parish of Preston'.

D. HUNT



### A MILITIA NOTICE OF 1817

To 'EDWARD COOKE, WEAVER'

Notice is hereby given to you. That you are chosen by Lot to serve in the Militia of the County of Lancaster: and that you are to appear at the Rose Whittles, in Leyland, in the said County on 'Sunday' the '11th' Day of 'March, next' at ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, before the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace for the said County, to be then and there assembled, to take the Oaths in that behalf required and to be inrolled to serve in the Militia of the said County as a private Man, in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the Defence of the same, during the time of Five Years, or otherwise to provide a fit Person as your Substitute to be then and there approved by the said Deputy Lieutenants and Justices, who shall take the Oath required by Law, and be then and there inrolled as aforesaid. Given under my Hand the '25th' day of 'February' 1817.

A photo-copy of this most interesting document was presented to the Society at the Leyland Festival this year. Mr. Drew, who holds the original, has kindly given his permission to use this transcription.



## HOWICK AND THE RIVER RIBBLE

Howick is a wedge-shaped township of 754 acres, a third of which lies on the south shore of the River Ribble below the 25 ft. above sea level mark. In early times this part of what eventually became Lancashire was wild and uncharted marshland. The commercial development of the Ribble: its fisheries, the Port of Preston, and the consequent reclamation of the marshes, all played their part in forming the landscape as it is to-day.

Earliest reference to the name 'Howick' appears in the documents relating to the Priory of Penwortham in 1096 when the spelling is HOCWIKE. Certainly Old English, the exact meaning is unclear; the second element is OE 'WIC' - a homestead, but the first is more difficult to determine. 'HOC' is, possibly, a personal name, but later spellings suggest 'HOH' OE - a heel or projecting ridge of land which describes the topography of Howick exactly.

The Manor of Howick was held by Roger of Poitou and before 1100 he gave the township to the Abbey of Evesham : this was the earliest gift to the Abbey in Lancashire. Soon after, Abbot Maurice agreed with four brothers who occupied the land - Wolfgeat, Swein, Ralph and Liulph - as to their claim; the Abbot paid 28 shillings as compensation, and giving Liulph a portion of the land for the rent of 100 good salmon yearly.

The Abbots of Evesham did not seem to regard Howick as a township : a reference dated 1346 describes it as a hamlet 'In the vill of Farington'. Indeed, Hutton and Howick often appear bracketed together as they are, even to this day. In the 12th century the immediate holder of Manor took the local township name - Roger de Howick. The Manor eventually descended to Mr. Lawrence Rawstone, a very influential man in the area.

A walk in Howick and Hutton takes in the Ribble and gives an indication of how important the River was to the locality. The walk is approximately 3 miles long and starts halfway along Howick Cross Lane. Proceed down the lane and descend to the river plain after passing Marsh Farm on the right. Here a small collection of cottages stand just above the original shoreline before the reclamation of the marsh in the 1800's.

The lane would have originally come from Howick Hall crossing the marsh to the river - this was an old route across the Ribble to the Ashton side. A chainferry was situated here where a chain was anchored both sides of the channel, and ran over a wheel enabling a boat or raft to be pulled over the water by hand. When not in use the chain lay on the river bed and so was no hindrance to shipping. This was a busy crossing and pack animals from as far as Cumberland would have used it. Several other fording points existed along this stretch of the Ribble even as far down river as the junction with the River Douglas one of which became famous during the Civil War.

In 1651 the Scots invaded the North-West of England in the name of Charles II, The Earl of Derby - who was still holding the 'Island of Mann' for the King - decided to help them. He crossed the Irish Sea to land a small force at the mouth of the Wyre at Fleetwood, crossed the Ribble via the ford from Freckleton to Hesketh Brook and began to recruit. 1,500 men were recruited but were untrained and on 25th August were defeated by Colonel Lambert's regiments in the Battle of Wigan Lane - the rest is history.

Walk down to the Ribble and observe the height of the embankment protecting the reclaimed land. Look across to the north and remember that this crossing was a considerable saving in travelling time to this corner of Lancashire.

As stated before, the Ribble was an important feature of the area for four main reasons: commerce, transport, fishing, and a water supply.

Fishing rights were a very important asset. From earliest times 'Garths' or 'fishcalls' were used to trap salmon and other fish between the tides. The 'Garths' were lines of poles or stakes driven into the riverbed, the gaps filled with woven branches acting as fishtraps, using the tides to drive fish into them.

Another method was to build temporary weirs across the channel, to form shallow pools. These pools were fished from the banks using nets or from small boats.

A reference dated 1st November 1746: "A lease for 99 years at £2-9s -0d a year from Walter Chetwynd of Grendon, County Warwick, Esq., to William Farington of Shaw Hall, Esq. Free fishery in the River Ribble belonging to Walter Chetwynd, Manor of Howick or Houghwick. Also his share of the fishery belonging to the Manor of Penwortham. Also his tythe of fish and liberty to set stakes and nets. Also tythes of corn etc..."

The Ribble was famed for its salmon. A reference in the Liverpool Advertiser dated 24th June 1768 gives an insight into the quantity of fish caught: "On Saturday morning last 3,384 salmon and salmon trouts were drawn in Preston river near Penwortham all at one draught."

In 1837 a company was formed by merchants and the people of Preston, with active help from the Corporation, to buy the Ribble Navigation from the then proprietors. In May 1838 an Act of Parliament was obtained. Land was bought on both sides of the river to reclaim marsh and improve navigation for ships.

Also in 1837 training walls were constructed. These were continuous walls to straighten and deepen the navigable channel, and also create new land from the marsh. The walls directed the action of the tides and floods into this new channel, scouring sand out of the river-bed resulting in unearthing hundreds of huge oak trees. In 1844 one giant, 29 feet long and 15 feet girth was found: these were the remains of a primeval forest that grew all along the estuary after the last ice age.

This new look Ribble destroyed the shallower, wider river, and thus the old fording points. Alternatives were put forward - bizarre ideas of floating bridges were drawn up in 1899 for a proposed Southport to Lytham tramroad crossing the estuary, with a prize for the most imaginative scheme.

Continue along the bank of the Ribble to a point where Mill Brook enters the river; here leave the Ribble to walk along the brook. At a track continue straight across, again following the brook. The path follows the brook through a field then climbs to the right up a bank. Follow the next field around to the left passing to the left of Knowles Plantation. Eventually, the path comes out on Ratten Lane after passing between two cottages. Here we find a simple, single-storeyed cottage that originally would have had a thatched roof - a typical mossland habitation.

Go left along Ratten Lane about a quarter of a mile to a Public Footpath on the left. Follow an old ditch down to a valley through which our old friend Mill Brook flows. Cross via a bridge, then find a stile and follow the left edge of the field to the start of a track. Follow this to Townley Lane and eventually Howick Cross Lane where the farm on the right hand corner is known as 'Heskeths', possibly from a Thomas Hesketh who held land in this area in 1523.

Continue down Howick Cross Lane to the starting point and the end of an interesting walk.

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GRAHAM THOMAS



Chorley Guardian and Leyland Advertiser

SAT. 12TH AUG. 1916

HONOUR FOR A LEYLAND OFFICER

Mr. T.H. Roberts, Farington House, Leyland, of Wood-Milne Ltd., Leyland and Preston, on Wednesday received intimation that his son, Lieutenant Clifford Roberts (aged 20), 150th Brigade R.F.A., has been awarded the medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving life at the front. It appears that a driver in charge of an ammunition wagon was crossing a ford of the river Somme, which was in flood, when the wagon, horse, and man were washed down the river. Lieutenant Roberts at once plunged in and rescued the man, though with great difficulty, almost losing his life in the attempt. During the military enquiry into the loss of the horse the details of the gallant rescue were disclosed.

ST. ANDREWS', LEYLAND, PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 1916

Included in the parcels that had been recently sent out to Moor Park Hospital, Preston and to men at the front, was one to .... 'Lt. C. Roberts, R.F.A., for the men of his battery at the front; ten shirts, twenty-four pairs of socks; and twelve handkerchiefs.'

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Advertiser

Sat. 26th Feb. 1916

Included in a load of timber which recently arrived at the Leyland Works of Leyland Motors (1914) Ltd., was a board on which was written;-  
"Good luck to the steamer that carries this lumber over to Liverpool. May she arrive there safely. From one whose best wishes are with the Allies - Porter Bros., Ravenswood, Louisiana, U.S.A."

REVEREND RICHARD A. WHITESIDE (1878-1923)

- C.M.S. Missionary in China -

"On 31st August 1923 the Church Missionary Society received confirmation that the Rev. R.A. Whiteside, together with a fellow-worker on the Mission - Rev. F.J. Watt, had been shot dead by bandits on 14th August near Mienchow, China."

Richard Alexander Whiteside was born on 27th December 1878 at Preston, Lancashire son of Richard and Emily. Of his early life we know little, but the family moved to Leyland whilst he was still a boy and in his teens he was an active member of the Parish Church being both a chorister and Sunday School teacher. In his early twenties, whilst working as a cotton weaver, he expressed the wish to become a Missionary in Africa and joined the Church Army as a means of preparing himself for the missionary life.

At the age of 26 he was in London, working as a Church Army evangelist, where he was accepted by the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) as a student at their colleges where his studies were concluded by a course at Livingstone's Medical College, London - medical training being necessary when serving in West Africa. His wishes, however, were not to be granted; he was unsuccessful in his attempt to join the mission in Africa but was appointed to serve in the Western Diocese in China. He sailed from England on 28th November 1905; with him on board, also bound for the West China Mission, was Miss Susannah E. Bryers of Liverpool.

CHINA : 1906 - 1911

His work in China to 1911, when he came home on furlough, can be pieced together from his annual letters to the C.M.S. His letter of 28th November 1907 from Ngan-hsien shows that his early work was in studying the language and, in his own words 'I shall be heartily glad when it is over, and when one can go right ahead with the work. There seems so much to be done, and there are such splendid opportunities in this district, that one is just longing to be in the thick of the fight and to be taking a full share in the work. We who are in the field are feeling very keenly the Society's enforced retrenchment, and we trust that the home churches will soon realize what it really means to you, to us, and to the millions of souls who, as yet, know Him not.' A fellow student at Ngan-hsien was his companion on the voyage out from England, Miss Bryers.

Just how difficult Richard Whiteside found his studies is not recorded but he must have succeeded, at least, in gaining a working knowledge of the language as his letter of the 20th October 1908 describes his work in the out-stations of Ngan-hsien; preaching, book-selling and preparing converts for baptism in the many market-towns surrounding the central station; usually being well received, but occasionally, as he records 'in the oldest of the out-stations there is a lamentable lack of interest'.

The work continued with encouraging results until an outbreak of 'Boxerism' in their district in March 1909. He had just completed a systematic round of all the market towns in the county when, within a few days, news came that the C.M.S. premises in Ts'ao-hai-kiai had been burned down and the city of Ngan-hsien itself was in danger of attack. With the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 so strong in the memories of both people and missionaries alike, this was a worrying time only alleviated by the prompt action of the authorities. By the time of his letter of 8th November 1909, Richard Whiteside was able to report a return to more normal conditions - 'We have recently received twenty candidates into the catechumenate, whilst still more recently four men have been baptized, and we hope to present seven men from our out-stations for confirmation in a few weeks time'.

Shortly after writing the above report a meeting of the Mission Conference was held and it was decided to move him to Chungpa. Before 'settling in' he made a round of the district - much larger than his previous one - to familiarise himself with the area in which he was to work. What does not appear in his annual report of 26th November 1910 is, that he had married his co-worker, Susannah Elizabeth Bryers, on 20th April in that year. Where the marriage took place has not been established but in her own report for 1910, Susannah states 'Shortly after my arrival in Chungpa, my husband and I set out for a two months' itineration of the new district...': this seems to imply they had married before arriving at their new station.

In 1911 the Whitesides had moved once more; this time to Lungan where a dramatic attempt was made on Richard's life. The C.M.S. Gazette of 1st December 1911 reports:-

#### WESTERN CHINA - Outrage in Lungan

"Mr. R.A. Whiteside has been in great peril at Lungan in the province of Szechuan. On the evening of 30th August, while he was sitting in the guest-hall waiting for the people to gather for service, suddenly a man rushed in and shouted out, 'Lao tsi lai loh' (Your father has come'), and at the same instant drew a sword and with all his might made a two-handed downward slash at Mr. Whiteside's head. Being quite unprepared for such an attack the blow took full effect and made a great gash about three inches in length over the left eye. The blade fortunately deflected to the left and did not cut into the bone. Mr. Whiteside was too stunned to defend himself against a second blow, but in falling forward he clasped his assailant round the body and then lost consciousness.

Mr. Li, the Evangelist, who was sitting by, seized a stool and intercepted it under the man's arms as he raised his weapon again, and coming to close quarters caught the sword arm and held it up, while the man made feeble strokes from the wrist.

The man was taken into custody and official enquiry made. It appears that he is of feeble intellect and mistook Mr. Whiteside for a man with whom he was at enmity. No one else was concerned in the outrage and it has no political significance whatsoever."

Richard Whiteside's conclusion as to the motive of the attack is somewhat different to the above. He considered the attacker just a tool of a man named Wang, the head of a big secret society who had opposed the Whitesides ever since their arrival in Lungan. Within a few days of the attack there were riots in Chengtu and the Missionaries were ordered to leave their isolated station and retire to Mienchow. After a few weeks, with the situation worsening, they moved to the nearest Treaty Port and then to Shanghai. Whether it was the political climate in general or the danger to foreign missionaries in particular is unclear, but Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside returned to England on furlough leaving China on the 16th December 1911.

#### HOME : 1912 - 1913

Their time in England, after six years in China, must have been a welcome break from the hardship and dangers that they had experienced, not least the attempt on Richard's life in Lungan. It was on this furlough that their first child was born - Richard Theodore, who was baptized at Leyland Parish Church on the 8th September 1912.

No doubt the time soon passed and shortly before leaving Leyland to return to China, Richard addressed the Sunday evening congregation at St. Andrews on the 14th September 1913. The following evening he spoke at a Missionary meeting at the Infants School in Union Street and, shortly afterwards, started out with his family on the long journey back to China - it was to be some six and a half years before they saw Leyland again.

#### CHINA : 1914 - 1920

Richard and Susannah with their young son set sail from the Thames on the 4th October 1913 on the P. and O. Steamship 'Sumatra', the start of a journey that was to take some four months of travel by sea, river and land.

After passing Gibraltar and Malta their first port of call was Port Said. Then through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea where, with quite a lot of sickness on board, a 13 month old child died and was buried at sea. The parents were Nonconformist Missionaries returning to China and who had lost a little one on their way home two years previously: the death cast a gloom over everyone on board.

The tedium of the voyage was broken by a few hours ashore at Colombo. Penang was the next port of call with time for a longer stop and where 'the luxuriance and abundance of vegetation is beyond description'. Singapore 36 hours later and then, after weathering a N.E. monsoon, Hongkong, and finally, after some six weeks at sea Shanghai was reached on the 18th November 1913.

From Shanghai the journey continued by steamer up the River Yangtse to Hankow, transshipping there for Ichang, 1,100 miles from the coast. Transferring to oar driven houseboats they were soon in the dramatic gorges of the Yangtse. In Richard Whiteside's own words 'This was my third view of them but they seemed more wonderful than ever; cliffs rising on each side some 2,000 or more feet high, up which we were travelling, combined with the melodious song of the boatmen as they plied their oars, was truly inspiring'. But the journey was not without its dangers; the Whiteside's boat escaped with just a broken sweep, but the boat travelling with them lost a member of their crew drowned, and the side of their boat knocked in.

They arrived at Chinking on the 1st January 1914 - the end of their journey by water. After several days spent in preparation for overland travel, they set off by sedan chairs for the last stage of their journey. After a long detour to avoid a city in the grip of a measles epidemic, the Whitesides and their young son finally arrived at Mienchow some 19 days later and virtually four months after they had left England.

After such a long journey, described by Richard Whiteside in a long letter from Lungan, Szechuan - undated, but which must have been written in early February 1914 - and which appeared in the St. Andrews, Leyland Parish Magazine of May and June 1914, the last paragraph must have been straight from the heart: 'We have to thank our Heavenly Father for bringing us safely so far on our journey through dangers seen and unseen, and would request your prayers for all the arrangements that are to be made for the establishing of His Church and Kingdom in this vast district to which we are again appointed.'

In his next letter headed 4th April 1914, Lungan, Richard describes how, having left his wife and child at Chungpa (a day's journey from Mienchow), he made the four day journey to Lungan 'hard travelling, whether by sedan chair or walking, but the scenery is grand all the way'.

## Lungan : Back to Work

The first few weeks were spent in visiting the four out-stations where he found the church affairs in the district in as flourishing condition as could be expected, considering the upheaval that China had recently undergone and his own absence since October 1911. Richard was able to find premises both for his work and residence and, although the house was in need of considerable repair, he returned to Chungpa to collect his wife and baby and bring them back to their new home in Lungan.

Politically the situation had improved with their old opponent having fallen under the displeasure of the authorities and been taken prisoner. 'He is still awaiting his fate, though it is quite possible that with his great wealth, he may yet purchase his life and freedom'. Although Richard does not name his opponent, surely, he is referring to Wang, his old adversary and the man possibly responsible for the murderous attack that could have cost him his life.

After a period of calm, violence flared up once again in Western China and Richard Whiteside in a letter of the 31st October 1914 describes the situation - 'The brigand White Wolf and his band (who, as you will doubtless know, caused so much havoc and destruction to life and property in several provinces in North China) penetrated to the borders of our province, and, as we are a border county, we had several weeks of anxiety. Day after day news came in of his depredations just over the borders, several cities being burned out and thousands of people killed. So you can imagine how anxious all the people here were, when we knew he was only four days journey from us, and, as a matter of fact, two of his spies were captured within our borders, and there was considerable excitement at their trial and execution here.'

The rising, fortunately, was put down by the authorities with their well armed troops and calm descended on the region once again. Before long, however, came news of the outbreak of war in Europe - 'At first, as at home, something like panic seized everyone. Our Mission authorities took drastic steps to curtail expenditure, and Chinese merchants stopped all bringing of goods for export (this county exports skins, medicines and raw silk), so that it seemed as though we might be starved out, for, with cessation of trade, our money supply was threatened.' After a few weeks things returned to normal but strict economies were observed.

The work of re-building had stopped with the outbreak of war but the dispensary work had become an important part of the Mission and some twenty to thirty people a day were treated at the dispensary 'and they all received some message of God's love.' This last letter of 31st October 1914 had been delayed in transit - by the war no doubt - and only appeared in the parish magazine in April 1915.

On the 15th January 1915 the Whiteside's second child was born at Mienchow, a daughter, Winifred. This news was reported in the parish magazine of September 1915; sadly, the following month brought news of the death of their little son, Richard.

With the war in Europe claiming more and more casualties the monthly parish magazine had increasing space devoted to news of the young men of Leyland who had been killed in action. Perhaps this is why no more letters from China appear in full; brief items concerning the Whitesides appear in the 'Notes and Views' column. No doubt Richard's work as an evangelist and pastor continued as before, with the dispensary work also taking up much of the time. Politically the situation was complex; Japan, who had joined the Allies in 1914, was now putting pressure on China : this continued over the years and culminated in the war

between the two countries in 1937. All in all with the continuing internal unrest and the external pressure brought to bear by Japan, the C.M.S. Missionaries in China must have felt they were in a very precarious, even dangerous position.

#### ORDINATION AND RETURN TO ENGLAND

Richard Whiteside was ordained Deacon by Bishop Castle of the W. China Diocese on 17th February 1918, and Priest, at Paoning, on 21st March 1919. Details from this period are sparse but the Whitesides returned once more to England for their second furlough in Lancashire, leaving China on the 2nd March 1920. With the passage time some six weeks, presumably they arrived in England in mid-April but it was August before the Parish Magazine announced their return: 'We are glad to welcome home the Rev. R.A. Whiteside after seven years absence as C.M.S. Missionary in China. Mr. Whiteside has now served in the Mission field for some 14 years, and his experiences have been many and various.

We have already benefited by his instructive and inspiring words, and we look forward to hearing him again on Sunday, 15th August, when he will preach at morning and evening services.'

For three months during this leave the Rev. Whiteside was Acting Curate at Leyland; what a difference this must have been after the trials and tribulations of China : to be among family and friends once more and to officiate in the Parish Church where he had worshipped as a youth.

#### RETURN TO CHINA

Soon the time came to leave Leyland and return to the Mission once more. It is unlikely that Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside took their children with them as, with China in a state of virtual civil war, they probably considered the danger too great. By this time, it seems, a third child had been born but no record of the birth has been found. In the report of Richard's death in the Chorley Guardian and Leyland Advertiser of 1st September 1923, it records that: 'Their two children, who attended the C.M.S. School at Limpsfield, Surrey, are at present spending their summer holidays with their grand-parents at Leyland.' The grand-parents, Richard and Emily Whiteside, lived at 50 Turpin Green Lane.

Richard and Susannah Whiteside sailed for China on the 22nd September 1921. No details are to hand of their last period on the Mission. Susannah returned to England on the 27th May 1923 and less than three months later Richard was dead, murdered - together with his fellow-worker, Rev. F.J. Watt - at Beh-Ko-Shu on the 14th August 1923.

The Whiteside family grave in the Leyland Parish Churchyard has this memorial:

THE REV. RICHARD A. WHITESIDE  
C.M.S. MISSIONARY  
IN MIENCHU W. CHINA      MARTYRED AT  
BEH-KO-SHU 14TH AUG. 1923      AGED 44 YEARS  
INTERRED AT MIENCHU W. CHINA 28TH AUG. 1923  
"FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH"  
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF SUSANNAH WHITESIDE

Susannah died at Thornton Heath, Surrey, 2nd November 1945 in her 69th year.

NOTE

Archive material of the C.M.S. that is available for research is now located in the Birmingham University Library.

The above account was based on items provided by the C.M.S. in London : 'Register of Missionaries; 'Annual Letters', published 1886 - 1911; 'The C.M.S. Gazette', 1st December 1921 Page 374; and the 'Church Missionary Outlook', 1st October 1923 Page 209. Also, the St. Andrews, Leyland Parish Magazine, available at Leyland Library; and the Chorley Guardian of Saturday, 1st September 1923 - on Microfilm at Chorley Library.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rev. K. Horsfall, Vicar of St. Andrews, for his permission to quote from the Parish Magazine.

Miss Rosemary Keen, C.M.S. Archivist, for providing the items listed above.

The Staff of the Libraries at Leyland and Chorley for their patient assistance.

W.E. WARING



The Rev. Edwin G. Marshall, pictured above c.1905, was Curate at St. Andrews' from 31st December 1892 until the autumn of 1910. He lived at Willowton, Sandy Lane and, with the Vicar, the Rev. Leyland Baldwin, must have had a great influence on the young Richard Whiteside. The Whiteside family grave is quite close to the point where this photograph was taken from.

### THE WAR MEMORIAL, CHURCH ROAD, LEYLAND

At the Annual General Meeting in July this year, as Editor of the Lailand Chronicle, I outlined several subjects suitable for study with a view to either, eventual articles for the Chronicle or, if longer, Occasional Papers of the Society.

Some of the subjects - the Osbaldeston Trust; St. Mary's Churches, old and new; and education in Leyland - have had some treatment in our Journal, others have not been touched on at all. One of the latter is the War Memorial on Church Road. This beautifully maintained memorial and rose garden stands on Church Road directly opposite St. Andrews, the Parish Church of Leyland. It records the names of those who died in the two World Wars - the men of Leyland and those of Farington who were in the parish of St. Ambrose.

Research has shown that the Church Road Memorial is not a complete record of the men of Leyland and Farington who fell in the Great War. The St. Andrews' Church Memorial - a mural tablet in the nave - has been copied as have the memorials of St. James, St. Ambrose, St. Mary's, the Methodist and the United Reformed Churches. These memorials, gravestone inscriptions in both St. Andrews' and St. James's cemeteries, and certain army records add some forty names to those on the War Memorial which, for the Great War, has 196 names engraved. So the total number of men of the above named parishes who died in the war of 1914-1918 is certainly of the order of 236; since research has still some way to go more names may be added to this total.

When I first looked at the War Memorial with the idea of researching the men whose names are recorded there I only knew who three of these men were: one was my great-uncle, Tom Waring; another was the brother of an old friend; the third was the son of a prominent family in Leyland: Ralph D'Albini, son of Mr. James Conyers Morrell of Beechfield, Church Road.

Research is now well under way; 132 of the 236 men already noted now have a significant amount of information against their names - where they lived, worked, and the church that they attended; also, the Regiment, which battalion and, sometimes, even the Company that they were in. Where, when and how they died has been ascertained in many cases - a heartbreaking record of the deaths of so many young men of Leyland and Farington.

Investigation of this nature is very time consuming and has had to be suspended, for the time being, until this issue of the Lailand Chronicle has been completed. Hopefully, the result of these labours will appear eventually as an Occasional Paper of the Society. May I appeal to the membership for any family information that they might have on the Great War or, indeed, anything that might be relevant to this project.

W.E. WARING



## SOCIETY AFFAIRS

The Annual General Meeting of the Leyland Historical Society was held at Prospect House on the 6th July 1992. The Chairman, Mr. Seguss, was able to report a successful year with attendances at the monthly lectures being particularly encouraging. Unfortunately, two old friends were prevented by illness from giving their advertised talks : in September 1991, George Birtill was replaced by Mr. David Brazendale with his lecture 'The Lively Shire'; and in June 1992, Group Captain King by Mr. Stephen Sartin who showed 'Pictures of Leyland'. Thanks are due to both Mr. Brazendale and Mr. Sartin for stepping in at such short notice.

A new projector was bought early this year; the old one - which had given sterling service - finally had to be pensioned off : the new is a great improvement on the old. With this expense and the increase in rent and other running costs the membership was asked to approve - and agreed to - a small increase in subscription rates.

There were two changes made in Officials of the Society. Graham Thomas standing down as Vice-Chairman, and Margaret Wilson as Honorary Secretary; Peter Houghton and Michael Park were elected in their stead. Mr. Frank Cumpstey, a founder member, and who has filled most of the positions on the Committee of the Society, expressed his wish to retire as a Committee Member. The President, Mr. Bolton, in thanking Mr. Cumpstey for the work that he had done over the years, paid tribute to his contribution in the smooth running and wellbeing of the Society. The meeting concluded with lectures by Mr. Bolton and Mr. Waring.

The first of the Society's 'Occasional Papers' was published in December 1991: 'The Silent Mills - Preston and the Cotton Famine', by member Dr. David Hunt. This has been well received and contains a wealth of information on this sad chapter in Lancashire's history. It is hoped that this is just the first of a series of papers.

The outing to Alston Hall now seems to be an annual event. On Sunday, 22nd March 1992 a party of members and friends enjoyed a convivial evening with a meal followed by Mr. Norman Duerden's lecture 'Windmill Land'. A visit in March 1993 is already planned.

Saturday, 6th June, this year saw splendid weather for the Leyland Festival. Members manning the Society's stand in the 'Arts and Crafts' marquee were kept busy throughout the day. The display by Peter Houghton, particularly the aerial photographs from the early 1930's, caused great interest amongst the visitors. Thanks are due to the members involved who manned the stand until 9.00p.m.

And finally, once again, our thanks go to Dr. J.D. Marshall for adjudicating the award 'Historian of the Year'. The winner for 1991, for his article in Issue No. 37, 'Leyland Decoded' - Mr. G.L. Bolton.

EDITOR



#### WHEN STUMPS WERE DRAWN

"The concluding match of the season was played on Saturday last - 4th October 1879 - between the Preston Ramblers and Sixteen of Leyland and District, and although it ended in a draw the spectators were treated to excellent cricket, some of the players having won county laurels years ago. As is the custom at the end of the season, a tea party and ball took place in the National Schoolroom, and were very numerously attended. The Vicarage and Broadfield furnished two trays each, and the rest were presided over by Misses J.E. and E. Dawber, Tomlinson, Simpson, and M. Hargreaves, Hilton and Blackburn. An excellent tea having been provided and partaken of, the tables were cleared and the room prepared for dancing.

Before the ball opened, however, John Stanning, Esq., the Captain, who is a true and liberal supporter of the Club, made a few remarks in which he referred to the many excellencies of the National Game of Cricket, and the success which had hitherto attended them which he trusted would continue. Before ending his remarks he referred to the many kindnesses he had received from the Club's Preston friends, and in proposing their health coupled with it the name of Mr. Fred Coward. The health having been most heartily given Mr. Fred Coward suitably replied, after which a duet was admirably rendered by Mr. Thos. Kirby and Mr. Hodson.

The ball then commenced, and the rest of the evening was enjoyably spent. The band engaged was the Clayton-le-Moors Brass Band and it gave every satisfaction. A tribute of praise is richly due to the Club's indefatigable Secretary, Mr. R.W. Norris, who, on the present occasion, excelled himself, and was in fact ubiquitous."

This account is taken from the book 'Leyland Cricket Club - Matches Played 1877-97', and compiled by Thos. Kirby for John Stanning, Esq. The field that this match was played on would be the one by Wellington House mentioned by Michael Park in his article on John Stanning Esq.



Does any member know the location of these cottages, believed to be in Leyland?