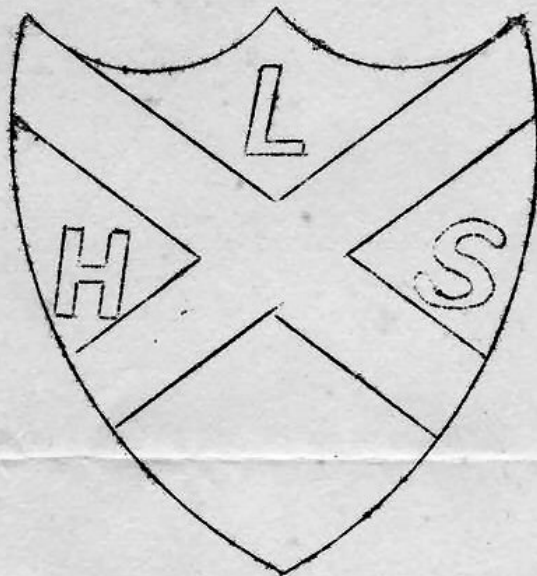


LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN



No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1971

Contents :-

- (1) News and Comment.
- (2) Secretarys Report.
- (3) What is History?
- (4) Samuel Crook.
- (5) Roman Walton.
- (6) Another Roman Hoard.
- (7) The Historical Novel.

.....

NEWS AND COMMENT

We are glad to have been able to resume the coffee break which provides time for meeting and talking.

.....

May we take the opportunity of thanking all contributors to the Bulletin and those of our members who are preparing short talks for the March Meeting, and once again we would welcome news, views, or articles which might be of added interest to the Bulletin.

.....

A tape recording has been made by Mr. Seth Turner recalling incidents and changes during his 87 years of life in Leyland.

We hope to do more of this kind of thing for our archives.

.....

We have a few articles and documents which require storage. Has any Member got the space to take them?

.....

Photographs of places and buildings which may be scheduled to make way for the new town would be a useful addition to our records, but that is looking a long way ahead.

.....

SECRETARYS REPORT.

Dear Fellow Members,

During the winter months the programme committee have been meeting and have planned a lively and entertaining programme for the 1971-72 Season. In this programme we have tried to give you variety with speakers, film shows and a hot-pot supper.

Mr. Baniaster and myself met the Vicar of Leyland and the County Archaeologist Mr. Edwards recently to discuss the Old Grammar School. We agreed that an 'ad hoc' committee should be formed, prior to the calling of a public meeting - at least things are moving in the right direction, and I hope that this summer will see a vast improvement in the condition of this fine old building and that you will all continue to take a keen interest in the project. During the warmer weather offers of help will be appreciated.

The social committee have not yet met, but we do hope to organise a good programme for the summer. The committee have already decided that there is only a limited demand for the more ambitious trips, and consequently trips this year will be less ambitious, but I am sure no less exciting, and I hope you will give us your support.

If you have something to tell us about, send it to the bulletin editor. Without material from the members he is paralysed so help him to produce his bulletin regularly. Don't forget - we always need new members - bring a friend to the meetings.

Best Wishes,

Michael F. Delaney.

WHAT IS HISTORY? - C.S. Hilditch, B.A.,

History has been called the study of When? How? Where? and Why?

"When?" is the least important, though to the historically ignorant it is the only question with which History deals. It does however tell us the order in which events occurred and it tells us how far apart they were. It is important to know the key dates or one's time sense will be very imperfect. Every primary school teacher must know the child who could put Elizabeth I into a Roman bath and heat it with atomic power.

"How?" This is a much more interesting question. Everybody loves a good story. The Chronicles of Froissart still bring the bowmen who won the battles of Crecy and Poitiers back to life. Shakespeare used the Chronicles of Holinshed. But chronicles record or describe events. They venture only upon short and superficial judgements, like the Anglo Saxon Chronicle's judgement of a good king, "Whoso bare his bosom full of gold might cross the Kingdom and come to no harm." (And that's more than could be said for these days!)

But "How?" is a tricky question. Accounts - especially contemporary accounts - can conflict, where we are fortunate enough to have more than one, as any football supporter knows. Who wrote it? Whom was he trying to please? Who had got at him?

Most people are content to stop at "How?".

"Where?" This is generally the most neglected of the four for most of us are lazy about using our atlases - if we have one. And yet without geography the historian is often groping in the dark. How could one hope to understand the history of Russia without seeing it as a fight for "windows" - to the Baltic, to the Black Sea, to the Pacific? Or of Poland, undoubtedly a nation but with frontiers which are geographical nonsense. Or of Britain, which, with the Geographical Discoveries found herself not on the edge of the world but bang in the middle? Much virtue in "Where?" Yet many schools blindly make history and geography alternatives after Form III. They are complementary.

"Why?" Now this is the most important question of all, the most adult question. It needs the ability to assess evidence, to analyse, to make balanced judgements. It is the real reason for the study of history. It explains the present by study of the past and may show the way to the future.

History is the bed out of which all the social sciences spring. Its special field is the life of man in society, and this at national or local level. The study of local history can point or illustrate or shed new light upon national history. A.L. Rowse in his great study of Elizabethan England drew extensively upon the many county histories of the period written by local "antiquarians" for the farming, the building, the trade and the industrial development of the period. It has been said that local history which

is not thus related to national history is "mere antiquarianism". I would not agree. As Rowse says, "a knowledge of History enriches and fills out our appreciation of the world around us under our eyes". Whether local or national it is an enrichment of life and of experience.

Two more quotations in conclusion.

"What is History for?" asked R.A. Collingwood in "The Idea of History".

"It is for human self knowledge. History teaches us what man has done and thus what man is."

And A.L. Rowse again from "The Use of History". "It is only through a knowledge of History that our own brief lives - such a short span of experience - become one with the record of the human race. The life of the individual breaks its barriers and becomes coterminous with humanity."

.....

SAMUEL CROOK - N. Markland.

This last year 1970, marked the two hundredth anniversary of Moss Side School, Leyland. A stone, set above the entrance porch, is inscribed, "Leyland Moss Side School, Founded as a Day School 1770 by Samuel Crook. Rebuilt and enlarged as a Sunday School, attached to St. James Church 1856 by S.M. Farington.

The charity Commissioners reported that Samuel Crook had, at his own expense, and by the consent of Sir William Farington erected a building to be for ever a free school for children of "The poor and meaner sort of the inhabitants of Leyland", particularly those on the west side of Leyland Lane. They were to be instructed in "the principles of their duty" and in Reading, Writing and Cipher.

He left £5 per annum in trust for the schoolmaster's salary, with a further £20 in 1776, an annuity to be shared between the master and the organist at Leyland Parish Church. These grants were from mortgages on tolls of the Preston and Wigan turnpike roads, but this trust failed in 1877, involving the loss of £360 and the larger part of the schoolmasters salary.

John Beatson, who was the son of a local farmer, had prospered as a merchant in London, and in 1792 left £100 with interest of £4..6..2d to augment this salary. However, in 1902 salaries were paid by the Local Education Authority.

The Charity Commissioner noted in 1826 that all children were being taught Reading quite freely by the schoolmaster, but only those whose parents paid him fees were taught Writing and Accounts.

The original schoolroom had become very dilapidated by 1850 so Miss Susan Maria Farington rebuilt it in 1856, on condition that it be used as a Sunday School for the new church of St. James. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. S.E. Farington, had built the church in 1855 as a memorial to her husband.

It is interesting to find that the first fully qualified headmaster, appointed in 1870 by the Board of Education, was Levi Jackson who served the school for 36 years. His son Frederick became headmaster of Balshaws Grammar School. This school too, was originally founded in 1782 as a free Charity School, but the oldest Grammar School in Leyland was, of course, the quaint building in the churchyard. It began in 1524 as a "free skule" in the church, endowed as part of a Chantry by Sir Henry Farington.

When Moss Side School was founded, the schoolmaster of Leyland Old Grammar School was Thomas Moon, who taught there for 60 years. Perhaps Samuel Crook knew him well. Thomas Moon died in January, 1776, and Samuel Crook died in February, 1776.

The grave of Samuel Crook lies just south of the chancel in Leyland churchyard, marked by a flat slab of stone :- "Here lieth the body of Samuel Crook of Leyland, Gent, who departed this life February 10th, 1776, aged 82 years".

"He was a liberal benefactor to all the townships of this extensive parish, and he was moreover a benefactor to the parish of Croston".

This worthy gentleman also gave Altar vessels to Leyland Church; appointed and paid the organist there; endowed charities for the aged; poor of the parish and founded the May Day treat and service for the children of schools in the old parish of Leyland. After the service in church, they enjoyed tea and games, whilst the trustees had their special dinner in the evening which included the traditional "tansy pudding". Last year this service was held once more, and small children took posies of flowers to the memorial in the chancel. Samuel Crook, along with several other gentlemen, got permission in 1754 from the Bishop of Chester "to erect and build a loft or gallery near the belfry at the west end of the parish church", and a lady in Fox Lane still has an old deed showing her family's right to occupy a pew formerly owned by him.

It would be gratifying to know more of this man whose name appears so often. There is a record of his burial in the Register of Leyland Church, as transcribed by the Rev. W. Stuart White.

'Burial on 13th February, 1776 Samuel Crook, Gent of Leyland'.

As he was 82 when he died he must have been born about 1694, but there seems to be no record of his christening, nor of any marriage. He had a family pew near the front of the nave, close to the pews of Sir William Farington, and Lady Hoghton of Buckshaw, and it seems probable that he belonged to the old family of Crook of the Old and New Crook, Whittle; An old homestead and 17th century hall stood in lovely wooded grounds near a bend in the river Lostock.

The estate is owned today by the Brothers of Charity, and known as Lisieux Hall. The coat of arms of 'Crook of New Crooke' is shown in the stained glass window in the north wall of the nave of Leyland Church.

A search made recently into documents in the County Record Office at Preston revealed certain facts about Samuel Crook, and aroused interesting speculations. Under the record of a Baptism in Leyland Parish Church in January, 1688 of Hannah, daughter of Sir Charles Hoghton of Hoghton Tower, was foot-note by Rev. W.S. White. He says, "This Hannah apparently married Samuel Crook, gentleman, of Crook in Whittle". She would have been about six years older than Samuel.

The Hoghton papers in turn recorded various incidents connected with Hannah and Samuel Crook. However, sometimes the name is "Samuel Crook of Coppull", and although Sir Henry Hoghton's will of 1768 refers to him as holding the manor of Whittle-le-Woods, it also mentions his wife, Elizabeth. Another daughter of the Hoghtons was so named. The V.C.H. says that New Crook, Whittle, was the original home of the Crook family.

It was sold to the Claytons in the 16th century but repurchased by a William Crook about 1666.

A little more light was thrown on the subject by a booklet kindly lent to me by the Brother Superior of Lisieux Hall. "The Early Crooks of Crook, Whittle-le-Woods" by Frederic Crook. It contained a paper read on 4th March, 1926 by the author to a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society. The name "Crook" is probably derived from "croc", the Norse "Krokr", meaning a crook or bend. During the 13th century a local family took the name "de Crook" from their estate and it then became hereditary. There is mention of Hugh de Crook in 1257, and William Crook in 1331 "of Whithull in bosco". (Latin for "The Woods") The manor was extensive. In 1506 there were 12 messuages, 300 acres of land; 100 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of wood in Clayton and Whittle. They passed to two daughters Katherine and Mary, who sold both shares to John and Thomas Clayton of Ulnes Walton and Leyland. The Claytons held the estate until about 1666, when it was bought by a William Crook of Coppull who belonged to another branch of the Crooks, previously settled in Croston. He bequeathed his "manors, mansion houses, milnes, delfes and quarries" in the villages of Coppull, Worthington, Duxbury, Adlington, Charnock Richard, Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton, Walton-le-Dale, Thornton, Bispham, Layton, Marton, Bolton and Tonge, with his "ancient lands" to his eldest son Samuel Crook of Crook. This Samuel was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1717, being the eldest of eight children. His father's will was made in 1684, so it would appear that he would be too old to figure as a partner for Anne de Hoghton. Unfortunately, he was killed in a duel fought about the right of way "in a narrow lane near Preston", in August, 1722 by a Captain Buckley of Buckley in the parish of Rochdale.

However, Samuel Crook had made a will in 1710, although it was not finally proved for some considerable time. He left "To Samuel Crooke, my nephew, for his natural life, all my other reall estate, lands, tenements in the said County", with directions for discharge of his debts which included £350 owing to his sister Mary Crooke, with a further bequest of £300 if she married with her mothers consent, or of only £200 if she married against her mothers wishes, or if unmarried at his own decease."

The evidence seems to show that this tragically murdered Samuel Crook was the uncle of Samuel, the Leyland benefactor, "gratefully to be respected for his extensive and well directed charities - within this parish and that of Clayton" as stated in the memorial on the chancel wall. Describing this tablet, the writer of the booklet on "The Early Crooks of Crook" gives an interesting footnote.

"Samuel Crook married 9th October, 1721 - Anne, 3rd daughter of Sir Charles Hoghton baronet", - In Walton-le-Dale parish registers and Burke's Peerage.

A further visit to the Record Office gave proof of this note. The sheet of manuscript, recording all the Marriages, Births, Burials, and Christenings, within the chapelry of Walton in le Dale 1721 (Low Church), bore the statement "Samuel Crook of Crook Esq and Mdme Ann Hoghton of Hoghton by Licence October 9th". The licence was from the Bishop of Chester, in whose diocese Lancashire was at that time.

Samuel Crook and Ann would have lived at Crook Hall, formerly called New Crook, and built about 1590. It had nine hearths when taxed in 1666. The Brothers of Charity now call it "Saint Theresa's Villa" part of Lisieux Hall.

The Record Office also had documents relating to the famous quarrel between Sir William ffarrington and Samuel Crook of New Crook concerning a pew in Leyland Church. The two gentlemen, with their respective witnesses, appeared in the Court of Chancery held at Wigan on 14th February, 1765. Sir William's written statement had many alterations, and notes added in the margin, as he thought out new arguments. He claimed that a new rail, fitted with curtains, round three sides of Crook's pew, was obstructing his view of part of the congregation, as well as the view of his servants. They could not see the pulpit, reading-desk or clerk in his seat when they were seated. He also claimed that the projecting ledge on the rail obstructed his way up the "Cross aisle" to his chapel. Also, Mr. Crook did not for some years attend church, but since he was married had sometimes come! Sir William did not believe that his servants had behaved improperly towards the Crooks, for they knew their duties at church!

Samuel Crook defended his rail which replaced an older one, saying that his father Major Crook used it to hang his hat on the "nobber head" of one! There was no nuisance! Thomas Holcroft, joiner and cabinet maker, said on oath that Mr. Addison, Farington's servant, had allowed him to look in one of his master's Books of Architecture for a model of a Chinese rail, which he did. Sir William only told him to "round off" the ledge at the south end, which he also did.

The names of the witnesses for Samuel Crook were Thornley, Linen Tradesman, Sumner, Linen Tradesman, Thomas Holcroft, Joiner, and his agent in the whole business, Mr. Samuel Croke of Leyland Lane, Gent.

This last name showed that there were two gentlemen of Leyland Parish, both called Samuel Crook, living at the same time, and of similar age. The agent claimed to be 70 years and more, and the benefactor was about 71 years old. A century later, in her writings about her family, Miss Susan Maria Farington of Worden Hall conceded that she thought Samuel Crook was in the right.

.....

ROMAN WALTON - Francis Knight.

Amongst the ancient dwellers of this area, the Romans are most notable, and their existence is verified by the remains found in the village of Walton-le-Dale the site of which, to them was of great strategic value.

Geographically, Walton village is situated at the confluence of rivers Ribble and Darwen, the waters of which rise in the Pennines and meander their way down the faulted and glaciated valleys until they reach the onslaught of the Irish Sea, into which they are dispersed.

It was from this point, the years 78 to 86 A.D. that the Romans under the leadership of Graeus Julius Agricola probably sailed towards the present village site. What they saw was somewhat different from the view you have today, for they saw dense deciduous forests and swampy overgrown land. After surveying the area and realising its strategic value, they eventually settled at the confluence, and began to lead their daily Roman lives.

The main purpose of the settlement was to guard the ford across the Ribble (some fifty yards south of the present Ribble Bridge) from sporadic attacks made by the savage inhabitants of the forests, who were known as the Setantii Tribe - "The dwellers by the Water".

This fortlet was part of a vast system of fortifications all leading to the immense "Hadrians Wall" which stretched from the mouth of the River Tyne to the Solway with the purpose of preventing the barbaric Picts and Scots from invading England.

The situation of Walton Camp was perfect.

The confluence of the two rivers gave the Romans protection from the wild setantii, whilst a probable third stream running from the Darwen into the Ribble, where the present Methodist Church stands, probably existed in times of high water; thus giving a three-fold protection to the fortlet.

Fresh fish, especially salmon and trout would be drawn from the then crystal clear rivers, whilst wild game abounded in the vast overgrown forests. The two rivers would also have been used for communications purposes; military equipment, food and goods being shipped from the continent in barges which would make use of the estuary which has a tidal limit of over two miles.

It was in July, 1855, whilst excavating for raw materials for the re-construction of the eroded river banks, that workmen came across a few coins and some pottery which proved to be of Roman origin.

This site of discovery is known as the "Plump", being situated on what is called Walton Flats.

During the process of further exploration an area of nearly one hundred superficial yards were excavated to a depth of some three feet.

Here, previously had been found the remains of an early British settlement; but now Roman remains came to light in the boulder strewn glacial clays.

There were several terraces, all descending in a north-westerly direction towards the Ribble.

They stood from two to three feet above each other.

From the extreme western limit of the mound, to a probable rampart, which stretched from the old ford previously mentioned, to the main road, is a distance of some three hundred yards.

This rampart could well be a natural feature formed by river erosion, as later discoveries proved the base of the walls to run diagonally up the slope of the mound.

During times of excavation in the past years large amounts of pottery have been discovered which include jars, flagons, amphora, and several coins, a selection of which can be seen in the Council Offices and County Library at Bamber Bridge.

All these "Finds" although not of great value, add to the vast jig-saw of the roman empire - which was the greatest power at that time.

ANOTHER ROMAN HOARD - W.H. Hall.

In my previous article, I enumerated some 154 Roman Coins in the neighbourhood of Leyland, a further 200 to 300 are to be added.

In volume two of the Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, is recorded a Meeting held in the Old Town Hall King Street, Manchester, on Friday March 7th, 1884, when a communication was read from a Mr. W.T. Watkin referring to a further 'find' of Roman Coins at Croston as follows :-

"On Thursday the 28th ultimo, whilst some labourers were digging clay at Littlewood's Tile and Brick Works, Croston, which is situated on ground belonging to and leased from the Misses ffarington of Worden Hall, they came at a depth of two to three feet upon a shallow dish of baked clay containing probably 200 to 300 Roman brass coins. The latter were soon distributed amongst the workmen, and from them passed piecemeal into other hands, but the Managing Director of the Company a Mr. Tomlinson, by dint of great perseverance, succeeded in recovering about seventy of them which upon the claim of the Misses ffarington as Ladies of the Manor were placed in their hands.

Miss ffarington, who is a member of the above Society, has informed me (Mr. Watkin) that the greater number of the coins appear to be of the reign of Postumus, but has promised to place them in my hands for exhibition shortly.

An Empress whose features resemble Etruscilla is portrayed upon one of the coins, and it is said (by whom it is not stated), there are some comparatively rare reverses, and that colonial coins are included in the 'find'.

The vessel which held the coins was broken by the workman's spade, but Miss ffarington (presumably Miss Susan) recovered some of the fragments, a drawing of which I (Mr. Watkin) have sent herewith for exhibition at the Meeting (above); this is the usual practice. The vessel is of baked clay, eight to nine inches in diameter, and between three to four inches in depth.

The occurrence of this buried hoard is proof of the existence of Roman buildings in the neighbourhood, probably a small villa. The foundations may perhaps be discovered in the future."

Here the question may be asked - if any member of our Society has any knowledge of this?

Further notes on the recent 'find' at Ulnes Walton by Mr. Watkin.

"I have been enabled by courtesy of Miss ffarington (who has sent me the coins for inspection) to carefully examine each coin and by this method arrived at almost the exact date when they were deposited in the ground.

I previously stated that the coins were found at Croston. The spot where the discovery occurred though closely adjoining Croston Railway Station, is in the township of Ulmes Walton. The Littlewood Brick and Tile Works being also in the township of Ulmes Walton, of which the Misses ffaringtons are Ladies of the Manor, whilst Mr. de Trafford is Lord of the Manor of Croston.

The total number of coins sent me by Miss ffarington being 65 of which more than five/sixths are of (Emperor) Postumus.

The earliest 'appears' to be of (Emperor) Valerianus. Of his son (Gallienus (Emperor 253-263 A.D.) there are two coins. Of Saloninus (wife of Gallienus) there are also two coins; and Of Saloninus (son of Gallienus, killed A.D. 259) there are five coins. Of Postumus (who was one of the "Thirty Tyrants") and proclaimed Emperor in 258 A.D. and who reigned in the Province of Gaul (France) with which was probably associated Britain - there are fifty-three coins.

The absence from the Hoard (or part hoard) of coins of another of the "Thirty Tyrants" Victorianus would appear to indicate that the hoard was buried in the ground before the coins of the Emperor came into use in Britain."

So we may safely say that about the year A.D. 264 or 265 the vase was deposited in the ground and this would make their interment some 1,705 years ago.

Amongst the dedications to be found on the reverse of the coins are :- to Neptune and to Hercules walking with a club; others have reverses (a) with a goddess standing within a shrine of Salonina; (b) an eagle bearing the Emperor Saloninus to heaven.

As before it would be of general interest to know where these coins may be located today.

Are they still with the ffaringtons?

.....

THE HISTORICAL NOVEL - E. Mason.

Historical fiction is now popular reading and is also triumphant in the drama and on film where its great value is recognised.

Whilst the imaginative details in the novels (especially the romantic ones) and the films, which are always romantic - because they have to be for box office reasons - the gain to true history generally outweighs the loss.

In the same way the novel allows history to be picturesquely portrayed and is a freer mode of expression than dry as dust history proper.

The strict historian must quote authority for every fact, but not so the novelist; he can enliven his story with imaginary details without reference to documentation.

Some writers however, have been beguiled by imagery and its possibilities that they are unable to determine where one ends and the other begins.

If our historical novelists are given this licence we must at the same time expect that a great historical person is not made to act in a scene which is historically untrue.

He must not make Queen Elizabeth prefer the advice of Mr. 'X' to that of Lord Burghley or choose him to command her army instead of the Earl of Leicester.

The European historical novel gives the English reader fresh insights into the relationships between countries and peoples which hitherto are not so apparent; such as the fierce passions, hatreds and suspicions between Slav, Hungarian, Pole and German.

What the British foreign office has learned from numerous state papers and years of experience is revealed to the reader in one or two novels in a few hours reading.

The historian can, however spill fiction into factual writing.

When Thomas Carlyle is describing the Storming of the Bastille he could break away to apostrophise:

"Oh evening sun of July, how, at this hour, thy beams fall slant on reapers amid peaceful woody fields; on old women spinning in cottages; on ships far out on the silent main . . . "

he is catching the moment in a way seldom achieved by history, unless history brings in fiction to help her.

This is, ^a rather heavy Victorian example, but it makes the point.

With acknowledgements to Harold Temperley and H. Butterfield.