

No 15 November 1975

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



"LEYLAND CHRONICLE"

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

PRESIDENT

Mr. J. N. Banister

CHAIRMAN

Mr. F. Cumpstey

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. N. Iddon

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr. E. Mason

71 Crawford Avenue, Leyland

Tel.No: 21825

* * * * *

AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month
(September to June inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.
AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£1.50 per annum.
Adult Members	£1.25 " "
School Members	£0.25 " "
Casual Visitors	£0.25 per meeting

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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

* * * * *

INFORMATION

It has been requested by various members that the
Treasurer's address should be available to members;
it is as follows:

Mrs. M. M. Wilson,
30 Dale Head Road,
Leyland.

Tel. No: Leyland 23374

* * * * *

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

JUNE, 1975 - MEETING

For our June Meeting, we were favoured by the presence of Miss Kathleen Eyres, who talked in her customary vivacious manner about "Fylde Country Folk". There is no doubt that Miss Eyres is thoroughly steeped in the history of the Fylde, particularly Lytham and St. Annes and her enthusiasm for the subject held her audience spell-bound until well past our usual finishing time. In fact she did say at the beginning that she could talk all night and I think she would have done if I had not regretfully intervened.

The vote of thanks to our speaker, was ably proposed by Mrs. Kelley and endorsed in the usual manner by the audience.

JULY, 1975 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on the first Monday in July, 1975, and was attended by approximately 30 - 40 members.

After the welcome by the Chairman, the formalities of approving the Minutes of the previous Meeting and acceptance of the Financial Report were quickly dealt with and the proposition that the subscriptions should remain at the same level was accepted without dissent !!!

The re-election of the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer went through quite smoothly without dissent.

As far as the Vice Chairman was concerned, Mr. Barrow had indicated that due to other commitments, he would rather stand down from this post and after thanking Mr. Barrow for his services, the Chairman called for nominations and Mr. Newton Iddon was unanimously elected at the Vice Chairman.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, continued

A vacancy had also arisen for the Editorship of the Lailand Chronicle as Mr. David White had been unable to function in this capacity since he moved away from Leyland. Mr. J. Kazer having indicated his willingness was unanimously elected. It was also indicated that Miss D. Kazer had volunteered to assist Mr. Kazer with this work.

As far as the election of the Committee was concerned, the six members retiring on rotation were Mrs. D. M. Barnes, Mrs. M. D. Deacon, Mrs. S. Gallagher, Miss Horsfield, Miss D. Kazer and Mrs. M. J. Grundy. All but Mrs. Gallagher had signified their willingness to continue on the Committee and on a motion proposed by Mrs. Kelley and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the five were elected 'en bloc'.

In addition to Mrs. Gallagher who was not seeking re-election, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Church who each had another year to serve, had indicated that they would prefer not to continue and the vacancies were filled by the election of Mr. P. F. Barrow, Mrs. K. Lake, Mrs. H. Mather, Mr. W. T. McKay and Mr. R. O. Williams.

Under the heading of Any Other Business there was a brief discussion with regard to the future of the 'Lailand Chronicle' as the costs were increasing, but it was agreed that this should be continued at least for a further year.

In closing the meeting the Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the Officers and Committee for their activities during the past year and also to the Members of the Society for their continuing support.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER, 1975 - MEETING

For our opening Meeting of the 1975/76 Season we were fortunate to secure the services of Mr. J. J. Bagley, M.A. Reader in History at Liverpool University as our Speaker.

Mr. Bagley had chosen as his subject "The anti Jacobite letters of Sir Henry Houghton", and he gave a really enthralling talk to a very receptive audience of over 100 people including many new members and visitors.

There is no doubt that Mr. Bagley is a Master of his Subject and was able to talk in such an easy and interesting manner for so long apparently without notes. It was with regret that the Chairman had to curtail the discussion period to allow Mr. Bagley to leave to catch his bus.

OCTOBER, 1975 - MEETING

"Looking at the Past"

..... surely a most apt definition of History and a most appropriate title for the talk given to us by the speaker at our October meeting, the Rev. R. R. Carmylie.

Mr. Carmylie who comes from Ramsbottom (a fact which was received in sympathetic silence by the Audience!!!) and is the Secretary of the Federation of Lancashire Historical Societies, gave us a most interesting talk on how to "look at the past" and had a vast fund of interesting and amusing anecdotes which kept the large audience of between 110-120 members and visitors enthralled. He went to great lengths to emphasise the need to cross-check information and cast doubts on the credibility of such things as 'date stones', inscriptions on grave stones, etc. etc.

In fact his expressed opinions that "all Historians are rogues, thieves and vagabonds" deriving their information from a wide variety of "lying sources" makes one wonder what is the borderline between fact and fiction.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE

by Francis Knight.

GENEALOGY, OR ESTABLISHING THE LINE OF YOUR ANCESTORS, IS NOW BECOMING MORE POPULAR, AND IN THIS ARTICLE I WILL ATTEMPT TO GIVE SOME GUIDANCE ON HOW TO GO ABOUT IT -

Once you have started tracing your own line of descent, you are likely to find the search an absorbing one. Who knows what you may discover: an ancestor who was a Knight, a Baron, a Smuggler, or even a Prince!

You may perhaps also find that your family is entitled to the use of a coat-of-arms.

Once you have started building up your pedigree, you will find it difficult to stop; gradually all the clues and pieces of information will begin to fit together.

HOW TO START

You should have a copy of your own birth certificate. Armed with this, even without any other family knowledge or history, it is possible to trace your family tree back three or four hundred years.

The next step is to look for the date of your parents' marriage, assuming you do not already know it.

IN St. Catherines House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., are kept records of marriages and births and here you can personally search.

For your parents' wedding, look back a few years before your own, or your brother's or sister's dates of birth. However, if your Mother's name is more uncommon than your father's, it is sometimes easier to cross-check on her name first.

From your father's age and his father's name on the marriage certificate, you can calculate your father's date of birth and find his birth certificate.

Follow this with the marriage of your grandparents, the birth of your grandfather and the marriage of your great-grandparents.

ST. CATHERINE'S HOUSE records births, marriages and deaths back to 1st July 1837.

There is a nominal charge for making a personal search in their indexes (though you must pay a search fee if you require the information by post).

But if your surname is a fairly usual one, say Smith, you may need a little help.

In this case you can ask one of the officials to check for you and a small fee will be charged for each reference checked.

By now you should have traced your family tree back to 1800

You will know where your ancestors were living at that time, and you can now trace where they were born.

THE CENSUS RETURNS made every ten years since 1801, are kept at the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE in CHANCERY LANE, LONDON W.C.2., or on microfilm at some local libraries or record offices. These are not indexed by name but by parish.

Look particularly at the 1851 and 1861 RETURNS. These include the relationship to the head of the household of each person listed, whether married or not, and details of occupation.

BACK TO THE ELIZABETHANS

If you have traced your ancestors in the 1851 CENSUS, you know the places of birth of some of them before 1837.

YOU can now start to search the Parish Registers of these places.

These Parish Registers consist of parchment sheets bound in leather covers, recording baptisms, marriages and deaths.

They were started in 1538 by a mandate from THOMAS CROMWELL, son of a London blacksmith, who eventually became one of HENRY VIII's most powerful servants. This mandate required each church to purchase a strong chest, with locks and keys, and every Sunday the church-warden or parish clerk would enter details for the previous week.

To search these registers you need to get the permission of the vicar of the parish, who will generally charge a small fee.

Other interesting and useful sources of information are the manorial records.

These were usually kept by the Lord of the Manor recording events in the village manor court, and can begin as early as 1200.

THE COURT ROLLS, written on parchment, dealt with such things as road building, ditch-clearing, the brewing of ale, and even witchcraft.

Since activities like farming, preparing food and making clothes were also covered, it follows that nearly every person in the community would be involved at some time or another.

COURT ROLLS can be held by anyone who has owned a Manor, but the documents are protected by law.

MANY owners place them in the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE for safety, so check there first on any area of interest in your search.

During the TUDOR reign, magistrates were used not only as Judges in law, but also as administrators. From the time of ELIZABETH I to 1889, quarter session documents contain a vast amount of helpful details.

Find these through the CLERK of the PEACE for your county, or through the COUNTY ARCHIVIST.

Few of the people recorded here were actually criminals; they may have been called for some minor offence, or for help over housing, etc.

Finally, remember that a great deal of research has already been done.

Avoid doing this work again by checking with the SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS at 37, HARRINGTON GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.7., who have a card index of material available on payment of a fee.

This may save you much time and trouble.

In any case, your search will bring you endless interest and probably surprises.

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

Part 3

By J. N. Banister.

STAINED GLASS

There are two windows on the south wall of the chancel. The first one is "To the glory of God, and in affectionate remembrance of the Rev. Thomas Baldwin, died 8th September 1891. Aged 68 years" The other window is dedicated thus; - "To the glory of God, and in dear and ever cherished memory of Elizabeth, the dearly loved wife of Thomas Rigbye Baldwin this window was dedicated and erected A.D. 1899".

There are two panels to the window, and chapter and verse is given to each subject illustrated. Here are the texts. Gen. XXI. Ver.64 "And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she lighted from the camel". Gen. XXI ver.8. "The child grew and it was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned". Esther V. ver.2. "And it was so when the king saw Esther the Queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther touched the top of the sceptre". Saml.25. "And they slew a bullock and brought the child to Eli. Ruth II ver.6. "Then said Boaz unto Ruth, 'Hearest not thou my daughter?' Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens". In a small arch there is a stained glass of St. Andrew the Patron Saint of the Church.

During the time of the second Thomas Baldwin, M.A. 1753-1802, the Charities of Messrs. Balshaw were founded. On the south wall of the chancel is the tablet to Samuel Crook which reads "to the memory of Samuel Crook, late of Leyland Gentleman. Greatly to be respected by his generous and well directed charities, yearly distributed within this parish, and that of Clayton. He died 10th February 1776. Aged 82 years." Near the door of the Farington Chapel there is a stone inscribed "Here lieth the body of Samuel Crook, of Leyland, Gentleman, who departed this life February 10th 1776 aged 82 years. He was a liberal Benefactor to all the Townships of this extensive Parish. He was moreover a Benefactor to the parish of Croston".

He also gave silver vessels for the service of Holy Communion in Leyland Parish Church. At Moss Side school, at the west of Leyland inscribed on the foundation stone over the porch there is the following "Founded by Samuel Crook, 1776. Rebuilt and enlarged as a Sunday School attached to St. James's Church 1856, by S. M. Farington.

Apart from the Samuel Crook Charities much does not seem to be known about the man, but it is believed that he lived in the Moss Side district.

A MAY DAY SERVICE

A May day service is still held on the Samuel Crook foundation. On this occasion the children from Leyland Fox Lane, St. James's Moss Side, and Clayton go to a special service.

Special prayers are offered for the blessings received from past ages, and for grace to use them rightly in our own generation. During the singing of this hymn:- "O we the little children; Are very glad to know; That Jesus welcomed little ones; And blessed them long ago". The scholars bring a wreath to hang on the Samuel Crook Monument in the Chancel. After the passing of 199 years this benevolent gentleman is still cherished.

BALSHAW'S CHARITY SCHOOL

Apart from the Chantry school in the parish Church, and the old Grammar school at the corner of the churchyard, Balshaw's School on Golden Hill is the oldest in the township of Leyland. A stone tablet in the centre of the structure informs us that it was built as a Charity school by Richard Balshaw in 1784. It was to instruct the poor children in reading, writing and arithmetic, and the principles of the Church of England. The girls had to be taught to knit, sew and mark.

The original regulations stated that the headmaster, and the school mistress should be members of the Church of England. The school mistress should not be the wife, daughter, or relation of the schoolmaster.

In 1817, the schoolroom was enlarged, and the room formerly occupied by the schoolmistress was used to form a school for girls. At the same time a schoolmistress's house was built.

Before the enlargement the numbers were limited to 50 boys and 50 girls. In 1889 there were 110 boys and 70 girls attending the school. They moved from here to the new Balshaw's School in Church Road, which was opened by Sir James Openshaw, at that time the chairman of the Education Committee of the Lancashire County Council.

The School and land were purchased by the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Leyland. The instructions on the building no longer obtain, like many other things which our forefathers thought had come to stay has vanished with the passage of time. Before this there had been diversions from the original intentions.

It is pleasing to note that the school still preserves a better and more progressive programme for all, it is a school for which Leyland should be justly proud.

Approached from Hough Lane and then along School Lane the old school still presents a pleasing and attractive appearance.

Thomas Rigbye Baldwin rebuilt the Osbaldeston Almshouses, and was a trustee of the Osbaldeston Charity. There is a stone tablet over the house near the Midland Bank, in Towngate, which names the trustees, Rev. Rigbye Baldwin, William Bretherton, Esq., and John Stanning, Esq.

He is stated as a kind, honoured man of strong commonsense, straight forward in character. A fine tribute is paid to his wife's guidance in promoting the interests of the church. He sought not his own praise. It can be truly said that his labour and work followed him.

... to be continued.

The following is an extract from the Local History
Collection of the South Ribble Library, submitted by:

Miss D. Kazer,
Local History Librarian.

An Address delivered in the Parish Church of Leyland on Monday April 4th 1825
at the interment of Robert Robinson, who was executed at Lancaster pursuant
to his sentence, for a Burglary committed in the neighbourhood of Leyland.
Published at the particular requests of the Churchwardens and Parishioners
by T. Clarke, Printer, Church Street, Preston.

"My Dear Brethren,

I have so recently commenced my residence amongst you, as your Pastor,
that I cannot be fully acquainted with all the circumstances, which have led
to the melancholy spectacle now before your eyes; yet I would not suffer
such an occasion to pass by without addressing a few words to you and
endeavouring to improve this awful event for the advantage of all who are
here assembled together.

It is indeed an awful event; it shocks the feelings of an honest man;
it ought to strike deeply into the heart of a criminal and such I have no
doubt are some of you, perhaps many, who have long been friends and companions
of the degraded body which now fills that coffin. You have come to this holy
place to give a Christian burial to the remains of your friend, consider Oh my
brethren that if he had come more frequently to this holy place, if he had
endeavoured to lead a Christian life, this mournful sight might now have been
spared you, or at least he would not have been carried to a dishonoured grave.

From the number I see around me, it is very clear that this event must
have stirred up some feeling within you. This is not the usual appearance at
a funeral, which alas, too generally passes by unheeded, unthought of. But
whatever feeling may have brought this concourse together, let me earnestly beg
your attention and by the blessing of God Almighty, you may perhaps quit this
scene with different feelings from those which brought you to it.

I would first lead you to reflect upon crime in general; not only upon
such cruel and barbarous scenes, such unholy and unchristian conduct to his
fellow creatures as brought this unhappy man to pay the forfeit of his life, but
upon crime in general: that observing how gradually one sin leads on to another,
how insensibly the heart of man becomes "hardened through the deceitfulness of
sin" You may take warning from what you see and what you hear on this day and
labour earnestly by the help of God's Grace to check, while you have power to
check, the first impulse, the first temptation to evil.

It has often been observed and not more often than truly, that one of the first and earliest stages of sin is Sabbath-breaking, the spending that day which the Lord has hallowed, in places, in diversions and amongst companions the most unholy and impious. And can you think that God will overlook this? Can you think that the Devil will let such an opportunity escape him? No - never - God Almighty will not give his grace and help to such, or will withdraw it; if ever it was given, and then they fall directly into the hands of the Devil. Accordingly we see that after such a beginning, sin, the love of sin, daily increases. That which is good is avoided, despised, mocked at, and at last hated. All that is evil is followed after, courted and enjoyed. In such a state you cannot wonder if sin gets dominion, and so hurries on the miserable sinner to his destruction. He cannot, he dare not associate with the good, he has no similar pursuits, no brotherly feelings with them, he is therefore always found with companions like himself, and thus sinners urge on and encourage each other to commit every crime. The first taste of sin brings on idleness, and idleness necessarily leads on to further sin. A man will not work and yet he must eat, therefore he is driven by idleness to prey upon his industrious neighbours; like the wild beasts of the forest he prowls about at midnight, seeking whom he may rob, and plunder or perhaps murder: and he reflects that there is another also going about "like a roaring Lion seeking whom he may devour". Who is that other? He is the Devil, into whose net the midnight plunderer sooner or later is sure to fall. But sin cannot continue long undetected. The good, the sober, the industrious are not to be outbraved by the vicious, the dissolute and the idle, Bad as this world is, it is not so bad, and I trust will never be, as to wink at notorious crimes and to suffer the criminal to go unpunished. No - crime is repeatedly its own discoverer and this is a proof of the wisdom of our God who frequently, in ways unknown to us "brings to light the hidden things of darkness". And then when the evidence is detected, when the evil deeds are brought home to him, when the strong arm of the law holds him fast, when the still piercing voice of conscience accuses and condemns, what are his thoughts? What would he then give if he could undo what he has done? But it is too late. The master whom he has served will not, cannot, then help him, he has served the Devil and (unless by the grace of God, a true repentance be stirred up and perfected in him) the Devil will be his reward. Oh, my brethren, it is an awful thought, but such is the sure, the never-ending punishment of the hardened, the impenitent sinner.

God forbid, we should judge harshly, we know not how soon we ourselves may be judged. I trust, devoutly trust, that the unhappy wretched being, whose dishonoured corpse lies before you, found grace to make his peace with God., through the intercession of Jesus Christ, our Lord. And more than this, it is not for man to say. Our God we know is merciful and he only can see the heart of man.

But though all in this world is now for ever closed upon that unhappy being and he is gone to his place, wherever that place may be, yet all is not over with you, my brethren! I would exhort you, as you love your own souls let not this awful example be lost upon you. You know your own hearts, you best know

your own course of life, if any of you have been companions in guilt of the poor, disgraced, contaminated body, which lies before you in that coffin, suddenly cut off from among the children of men, and forcibly thrust out of society so unworthy to live longer in it. If I repeat, there be any companions, any sharers of his guilt, be warned before it is too late, tremble when you think of his end. Repent and turn from your sinful course while the day of mercy lasts. Think upon the last awful scene of his unhappy life, an outcast from society, torn away from all the companions and friends of his youth, close pent-up in the cell of death, tortured with the agonizing pangs of remorse, without an eye to pity, without a hand to save him, what must have been his last night's thoughts?

God, of his mercy, deliver us from such a night.

Or think upon the trying fatal moment which hurried him from life into death, the awful preparation, the assembled multitude, the fatal rope waiting to receive its victim, the reluctant step, the unavailing shudder, then the sudden plunge into eternity, the vain struggle, the quivering muscle, the staring eyeball, the convulsive gasp!

God in His mercy deliver us from such a death.

And can the relation, or the recollection of such a death soon pass away from your mind. Can you, with this scene of terror before you again return to your sins? God forbid, that any whom I now see and speak to, within these sacred walls, should be so hardened to iniquity, so utterly God-abandoned.

Let me beseech you then, my brethren, be warned by what you now see and hear against giving way to that first temptation, for if sin once gains possession of the soul, it is no slight, no easy task, to drive away and great, very great, is the danger of continuing of in evil courses, for "the wages of sin is death", eternal death. I would likewise warn you against evil companions. Can a man touch pitch without being defiled? But if the open and notorious perpetrations of midnight crimes are your company you will soon be a criminal yourself. Avoid, I warn you, if you have any fear of Hell fire, from this very hour, the company of those you know to have done deeds which well deserve the death and which you here see so terrible an example. Instead of passing your Sabbaths in drunkenness, gaming, idleness, come to the house of God, Instead of spending your weekdays in riotous debauchery, prowling about at midnight, to support your miserable existence by the plunder of the peaceful, take to work, employ yourself diligently and your sleep will be sweet and refreshing. Even if you escape punishment for your evil in this world, your sentence is pronounced already. You will be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness "where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched".

Look at that coffin. Think of the poor degraded body it contains, see the ignominious mark of the law upon its distorted features. Are you fathers? Would you like to follow to the grave a child so branded with infamy? Beware then, how you neglect your offspring in the period of early youth. Are you sons? Would you like to visit the grave of a father so dishonoured. Beware, lest you by Godless conduct, you leave such a legacy. Could you bear to see one who has been a companion lie dead in his coffin, degraded, disfigured by the hands of the executioner and made a public spectacle to a gaping multitude. Beware then lest you be suddenly stopped in your career of crime as this wretched man was; and afford to your friends so sad a sight as this is.

I know not how to warn or exhort you further. I humbly pray to Almighty Giver of all good to pour his grace into your hearts, that this awful sight and this memorable day may never be effaced from your recollections till such a change is wrought in you as will lead you to look back with joy unfeigned, as the day in which you turned again to God, the day in which you seriously "began to work out your own salvation".

* * * * *

It would be interesting to know where Robert Robinson committed his burglary and where he is buried in the Churchyard. The execution sounds to have been before a "multitude". It almost reads as if the coffin was open in the Church for the corpse to be seen. The Vicar seems to think many of the large number in Church were friends and associates in crime of the dead man.

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VISIT TO THE LADY LEVER ART GALLERY, PORT SUNLIGHT

by Mrs. D. M. Barnes.

On Sunday, June 29th., about 50 of our members visited the Lady Lever Art Gallery and Museum at Port Sunlight.

After much searching, due to the traffic signs having been removed whilst the lamp standards were painted - we were met on arrival by Mr. J. McDonald, the Assistant Curator, who proceeded to explain the origins of the collection, and to escort us round the Gallery.

The collection is wonderful, and comprises porcelain, sculpture, tapestries, pictures and furniture. There are five rooms of Chinese porcelain displayed in chronological order; a room of Tudor and Stuart furniture, the oak panelling in this room was made in 1571, to mention just a part of this priceless collection.

After a short talk in each room members were free to return to examine in detail any sections which particularly interested them.

Some of us also visited the nearby Christ Church where we saw the tombs of William Hesketh, the First Viscount Leverhulme and his beloved wife Elizabeth Ellen in whose memory the Art Gallery and Collection were given to the public.

Mr. McDonald kindly promised to visit our Society to talk more fully on the collection and the Programme Committee hope to arrange this some time next year.

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TEWKESBURY VISIT

By Mrs. M. D. Deason

On Saturday, August 16th, 42 of our members travelled by coach to Tewkesbury, a town of great beauty with a very romantic history. After meandering through the streets, full of interesting, old, timbered buildings, many of them having connections with "John Halifax, Gentleman" we were taken on a conducted tour of the Abbey, one of the finest churches in England.

We were given a most extensive description of the architecture of the building before being taken inside where we were treated to a fascinating account of its history throughout the ages, with particular emphasis on the Wars of the Roses when our Lancastrian ancestors were likely to remember Tewkesbury with far less pleasure than our members on the occasion of their visit.

We spent the remainder of our time with many of us having tea and a stroll by the river before rejoining our coach at 6.00 p.m. en route for Leyland, after a most enjoyable day.

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VISIT TO ABBOT'S HALL, KENDAL

By Mrs. M. E. Iddon.

"Sunday 28 September - Abbot's Hall" read our respective diaries; it was a perfect Autumn day.

We arrived Abbot's Hall at what appeared to be a back entrance or a stable yard and so it proved but in the one-time stables was housed a most interesting 'folk museum' what a wealth these words cover now-a-days. There was to be found there anything from a bobbin to a blacksmith's forge, domestic, agricultural, mechanical, you name it, surely it was there.

On exit, choice lay between the Hall itself or the Parish Church, most of us chose the Hall; the downstairs four or five rooms mostly with a frontage to the River Kent filled with most delightful pieces of furniture, pictures and porcelain well docketed and in beautiful condition all much appreciated. The greatest treat, at least for the ladies in the party, was the display of Elizabethan costumes, in the upstairs rooms, which had been used in the T.V. series Elizabeth I many of these had been worn by Glenda Jackson when she took the part of Elizabeth. The research, the designing and the exquisite workmanship of the clothes had to be seen to be believed; they were beautiful beyond words. Fabulous materials incorporated and the costume jewellery of the day and age was something quite apart in its effect. Full marks must go to the City Fathers of Kendal for having had the foresight to bring this exhibition to their town.

Now to the Parish Church which made up the third side of a square; this as might be expected dates way back to before 1086. It is large and imposing, the interior seems to have withstood many alterations and renovations etc. the latest of which took place in 1969/70. There is so much that could be said here, perusal of the church guide book is recommended for those interested.

*Kendal is one of the places we tend to pass through - pause a while and visit this corner of the town, it is time well spent. And once again full marks to Kendal Town for their vision in recreating this corner and its charming surroundings.

Thank you Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Deacon for all arrangements (and Fishwicks too).

* See "Countrygoers' North" by Jessica Lofthouse pages 52 - 58.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5 October, 1975

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you are able to help me in a small matter of research?

I am the grandson of the late Rev. Edwin G. Marshall who was curate at the Church from 1893 to 1910. He had living with him in a house in Sandy Lane, his father (my great grandfather) and I am not having a great deal of success in establishing his date of death. According to my grandfather's birth certificate, his father's name was GEORGE Marshall. During the war, when visiting my aunt, Florence Marshall (who was house-keeper to Dr. Strachan in Moss Lane), she showed me my great grandfather's grave. It is unmarked. Inquiries of the Vicar and of the local registrars show record of a JOHN Marshall being buried on 29 November 1905 and they say no other Marshalls were buried during the period of my grandfather's incumbency.

The registrar at Chorley says that "John Marshall" died in Chorley Institution on 26.11.05. (Workhouse?) and the death registered by a daughter, J. Hodkinson of 200 Bispham Road, Southport. According to two of my old aunts who recall the funeral, my great grandfather died in Sandy Lane and had no daughter in Southport. All very confusing. I now await a death certificate from St. Catherine's House, London, and hope they dont turn up the mysterious "John Marshall"!

Meanwhile, it occurred to me that the local newspaper may well have carried a death, or funeral notice, and my main purpose in writing to you is to ask if such a newspaper is still in existence so that I may write to ask them to research for me. I should be very grateful for your advice on this point, please.

/continued.....

My father, also an Edwin George died last year and I inherited a large pile of old photographs. I think the ones I have enclosed are of Leyland but what the groups are I have no means of telling. The football team (names on reverse) may be of interest. I hope they may be of some interest to your society, as of course they mean nothing to me.

By the way, I believe the name of the house in Sandy Lane was called "Willowton" and that there was a large willow tree in the grounds.

I had the pleasure of meeting three of your members when I visited Leyland a few years ago. They were in the churchyard and remembered my father. I was with my Aunt Edna (born 1900) and her husband. The eldest aunt, Eva, is 91 this month and is a nun in Japan, whilst Agnes in her late eighties is in County Durham. Florence (or Cissie as she was known) died in 1946.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Peter Marshall.

(Captain P. E. Marshall,)

4 Victoria Park,
Great Cheverell,
Devizes, Wilts.

Letters to the Editor,

During the Spring-bank holiday, we spent a few very enjoyable days in a converted farmhouse in Osnotherley, Cumbria. The house itself had been modernised, without losing any of its charm and character, and some of the furnishings were an antique collectors dream.

The garden too had an ageless quality about it, and here we found our mysterious stone !

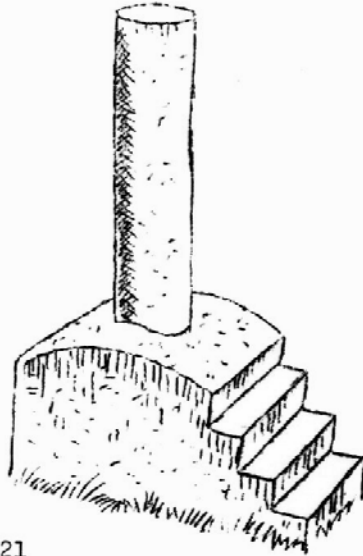
It was a round pillar, on a curved hollow base, with two or three steps beside it. I decided that it was a mounting block because of the steps, my husband thought that it was the base of a sundial, because it was in the front garden, but the present owners had been told that it had had some practical use on the farm and mentioned cheesemaking, although they had no idea how it had been used.

If it had not been in a garden, it could have been one of the stone crosses or markers that were used as resting places for coffins, one does still find traces of these in the lake district.

Whatever it is it remains a mystery unless one of our friends in the society have met with its' like and can enlighten us.

One of my friends has agreed to sketch the shape a sort of historical identikit. Have you seen this stone? Alas there is no reward, but if ever I can identify a shape for you -----

Mrs. S. Gallaher.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to know if any reader can tell me, through your columns, why the Area known as "Seven Stars" is so called. I have often wondered about this, but have never really done anything about it. The thought did strike me that at some time in the past one of the local Hostelrys was known as "The Plough" with an inn sign showing the constellation of "Ursa Major", otherwise known as the Great Bear or The Plough. If so, one can easily imagine that over a period of years this could become corrupted to Seven Stars.

Yours faithfully,

F. Cumpstey.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE

A sub-committee, under the Chairmanship of Peter Barrow has been set up to monitor any proposals which affect historical or allied matters, in the area. The intention is to act as a clearing house for information about threats of any kind to historic buildings and the like and to take such action as the committee believes necessary. It is hoped in this way to influence for the better adverse proposals by individuals or authorities.

Any member who has any knowledge of proposals, or even rumours, which they think may be of interest should inform any member of the sub-committee, i.e.

Mr. P. F. Barrow	...	...	Tel: Leyland 21573
Mrs. M. J. Grundy	...	...	Tel: Leyland 23041
Mr. N. Iddon	...	...	Tel: Leyland 23457
Miss E. M. Horsfield...	...	...	Tel: Leyland 21591
Mr. E. Mason	...	...	Tel: Leyland 21825

CLAYTON HALL

Clayton-le-Woods

By P. F. Barrow

Manor House of the Manor of Clayton

See the V.C.H. Vol.6. Page 29 et seq for an outline of the early history of the Manor and the Clayton family.

Sometime in the early 17th century the estate was apparently acquired by James Anderton who was a Royalist and was captured at Preston in 1643. His lands were sequestered and sold to Richard Bell.

James must have bought his estate back as in 1666 the only house of any importance is that of James Anderton with 14 hearths which must have included the present house together with the wings which have long since disappeared, together with the houses or living quarters of the estate servants.

The present building dates mainly from about 1610 - 1620 and most probably was built by Anderton when he took possession. There were many disputes during the latter half of the 16th century between the Clayton heirs and it is likely that, as a consequence, the buildings, if not the estate, lacked maintenance and needed re-newing and James wanted a more modern and fashionable home.

The house is situated on the West slope of a ridge just below the crest which is slightly over 250 feet O.D. On the east side of the ridge is the much more steeply sided valley of the River Lostock and to the South side of the site is the shallower valley of Bryning Brook which forms the boundary between Leyland and Clayton. Access is via a long straight lane on top of the ridge from Lancaster Lane which connects Clayton Green (and beyond that Brindle etc.) with the Wigan Road (A.49).

The whole of the eastern slope of the ridge on which Clayton Hall stands comprises large deposits of sand and gravel which have been extracted for a number of years and are now almost exhausted.

Some tipping of rubbish etc., has been taking place of more recent date causing some local pollution but it is expected that this is only temporary and soiling and seeding of the tip area will follow shortly.

The house was surrounded by a moat but about 2/3rd is now filled in wholly or partially although the outline is fairly well defined. The moat is fed from a pond on the North side presumably via springs and is never dry. On the West and South-west is a large pond and signs of various other ditches, drains and sluices all downstream together with a deep ditch or drain running down to Bryning Brook.

The front door and porch of the house faces East and opposite, on the other side of the moat is an overgrown avenue of Yews possibly contemporary with the house or slightly later. Beyond this avenue are the remnants of the farm, barns, shippens etc., including a much re-built barn containing three very fine Cruck frames almost entirely untouched and original.

Within the past two years a minor archaeological excavation was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Edwards, the County Archaeologist. This yielded very little information except a few shards of pottery which were identified as 14th century so this site has definite mediaeval origins. The fact that the moat is on comparatively high ground is confirmation of this and it must have been dug for defensive purposes rather than drainage.

The geography and geology of the area is such that there is every possibility that it could well have been occupied before the Norman Conquest. All the basic requirements are there e.g. a moderately well defensible position on ground well above the (then) surrounding low lying marshes but with a good natural water supply, fertile land much of it easily cleared and cultivated over the underlying sand and gravel with its good drainage.

The area bounded by the moat is approximately 140 ft. square, the house being well to the West of centre but midway North to South. This appears to confirm the construction on the North and South gables that the present building is only a part of a much larger building probably forming three sides of a square. The North and South wings which were almost certainly timber framed have long since disappeared. The South wing was probably demolished in the mid 18th century and the present brick section with gauged arches to the windows built to replace it but using some of the materials from the stone plinth in a revised layout.

An outline of the more recent history of the farm was obtained from Mr. Robert Deacon who now farms "Carvers" a few hundred yards away in the Lostock Valley. His father was a tenant from 1908 to 1919 when the owners were Lathom Estates. The area of the farm was 216 acres and the rent £227 p.a. in 1910. The estate agents went by the name of Caves (?) and are believed to be still in existence in Ormskirk and may have documents, surveys etc. in their possession.

One interesting clause in the tenancy agreement which had been struck out in red ink was that earlier tenants were required to supply a horse for the Yeomanry. Could this have been a carry over of the duty of Castle Guard in lieu of which John de Clayton paid yearly to the Lord of Layland the princely sum of 12 pence as was recorded in the year 1288?

In 1919 the farm was bought by Paul J. Deacon for £5,000 and again about 1945 sold to Thomas Hargreaves of Leyland. The tenant then was Jim Hesketh and when he left in 1954 it was sold once more to a Mr. Sid Walmesley allegedly for about £11,000. The last tenants were Mr. & Mrs. Charnock who left on 14th February 1968. They had only held the house, the farm itself being rented by Mr. Singleton.

In 1972 the whole of the remaining area of the farm, some having been sold for development some years before, including the sand pit was sold to Mr. J. J. Rigby for a figure variously estimated at 1/4 to 3/4 of a million pounds. Be that as it may the troubles of the house stem from this date.

In spite of it being protected by its inclusion on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest as early as 1952 and Graded II (Star), considerable deliberate damage and destruction has been inflicted over the past two years.

The more recent detailed history of events about Clayton Hall have been well covered in the local press and should not need repeating here. Suffice to say that the fight to retain and restore this most important building and the site is not yet over.

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THE LIBRARY

The list of publications available, as printed in Issue No.9. of the Lailand Chronicle dated October 1973, has been added to and a further fifteen books (listed below) can now be loaned to members.

- 46 The Georgians at Home Elizabeth Burton
- 47 Drive for Freedom Charles Graves
- 48 A Survey of the County
Palatine of Chester. P. P. Burdett. 1777.
- 49 Summat from Home
Lancashire Poems and Stories .. Joan Pomfret
- 50 Victorian and Edwardian Wigan
and Lancashire J. F. Sheen, B.Ed(Hon)
- 51 Lancashire Yarns George C. Miller
- 52A The Law Relating to Highways.. .. H. Hampton Copnell
- 52B - ditto - Glen
- 53 Perry Thomas Designer Driver
- 54 Local Government Act 1858
Bye Laws made by Leyland Local Board.
- 55 Glass in Architecture & Decoration Raymond McGrath,
and A. C. Frost.
- 56 Worden Park, Leyland.
- 57 Leyland Official Guide
and Industrial Handbook.
- 58 Three Volumes - Transactions of the
Woolhope Naturalists Field Club..
- 59 The Rebellion of 1717 - 1745

Our thanks to Mrs. Hutchinson for presenting the three volumes of "Woolhope Transactions" also to Mr. Williams for presenting "The Rebellion of 1717 - 1745".

There are five books still out on loan and the return of these would be welcomed. They are:

- 8 The City of London Coronation Year Book 1953
- 15 Concise History of the British Empire. Gerald R. Graham.
- 22 A History of England Keith Fielding.
- 35 Historical Map of England and Wales .. Bartholomew.
- 38 And Then Still More Tanks
(War effort by L.M.Ltd.)