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THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 7-30 p.m.

Meeting date may be amended by statutory holidays

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER
AND
THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

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E D I T O R I A L

It is a matter for regret that there has been such a long interval since the publication of the previous issue (No.30) of the "Lairland Chronicle" because of circumstances beyond our control.

I apologise also for the omission from this issue of a number of reports of meetings painstakingly prepared by committee members, but feel that the limited space available to us should be taken up by new material.

Meetings held since the last issue have in general been well attended and well received. As ever an increase in the membership would be welcomed if we are to cope with the ever increasing costs of running the Society.

An interesting feature has been the revival of the guided walks to places of local historical interest. Accounts of two of these walks will be found on later pages and arrangements for another are currently in hand.

On behalf of the Society your committee has made written representations to the appropriate public bodies in specific enquiries affecting developments in Leyland as part of our brief to preserve such historic heritage as still remains to us.

Material for the next issue would be welcome, either as full technical articles or small entries of any kind for the Notes and Queries section.

G.L. Bolton.

**WILLIAM FFARINGTON'S ALMS HOUSES
AND EARLY POOR RELIEF IN LEYLAND**

Prior to the introduction of the workhouse system by the 1834 Poor Law Act, assistance to the poor was provided by Private Charity and the local parish. Systems of relief varied from one part of the country to another, but after 1834 a more centralised system was developed, small parishes were grouped into Poor Law Unions (Leyland was a part of Chorley Union, Walton-le-Dale lay within Preston Union), and efforts were made to effect uniformity of treatment. The development of such a system was at least in part a response to the demographic changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution, with the consequent growth of large urban centres such as Preston. Cyclical interruptions to trade were wont to throw large numbers of factory operatives out of work with serious results in terms of social welfare and public order. In a more rural, pre-industrial, environment the scale of the problem does not appear to have been so great, as the following figures for Leyland indicate.

"An Account of ye payment made on the lower side of ye township of Leyland, by Wm. Porter, Overseer, 1730.

Payments. . .	£.	s.	d.
Quarterly Peggy Low (Bastord)		6.	0.
Ellice Almond		6.	6.
Twice per year, Eliz. Porter		10.	0.
A month, Agnes Porter.		5.	10.
Quarter Margaret Burscow	1.	0.	0.
A year Anna Sumner		15.	0.
A week Margaret Monk		1.	0.
Widow Willson			6.
Wm. Low			6.
Agy Low			6.
Quarter to John Ingleby and Son		15.	0.
his daughter		7.	6.
his daughter		8.	9.
Twice a year to Margaret Ridding		13.	0.
(Total	5.	15.	2)

The full list for Leyland (Upper and Lower) for that year includes only 29 persons. The Leyland Workhouse appears to date from 1780, for 'Pursuant to a meeting of several freeholders at the free school in Leyland, on Monday the 14th day of February, 1780, it was decided to either take a proper house for the poor to inhabit in or otherwise to build a Poor house for the like purpose on some convenient parcel of land, which may be either given or purchased for such purpose". On the 1st. of June, 1780, land was bought on behalf of the inhabitants of Leyland, on which to erect a workhouse.

In pre-industrial Lancashire private charity could often make a significant contribution towards the local relief of poverty. In 1665 John Osbaldeston left £500 to be invested in land for the maintenance of the poor of Leyland. Almshouses for 6 inhabitants were built after 1691, and new houses were erected in 1870 and 1887, the original bequest having been greatly enlarged by subsequent benefactors. In addition a range of smaller charities provided assistance, notably a grant of £20 per annum, from the Balshaws School Endowment to "Industrious aged and infirm among the poor, who might be the greatest and real objects of charity".

A Memorandum book, preserved in the Lancashire Records Office, begun by James ffarington in 1854 and subsequently kept up probably by Susan Maria ffarington, has recorded a vivid picture of life in the ffarington Alms Houses. The original benefaction dates from 1661 when William ffarington established six almshouses providing the inhabitants with £6 per year and new gowns worth 20/- every 3rd. year. Fourteen acres of land in old "Werden" Park were charged with the upkeep, and the inhabitants received 10/- every Good Friday and St. Thomas's day, and 4 loads of turf annually. These houses were rebuilt in 1849." The original building on Leyland Lane was quick going to ruin. The clay floors were damp and below the level of the soil, and the distance from church and shops was very inconvenient". A stone tablet on the building read "Will. ffarington, Worden, 1607". This may be the similarly inscribed slab identified by Mr. W. Ricby, during the recent renovations of Worden Hall, and now housed in the Museum and Exhibition Centre, Church Road. William ffarington's successors continued to take an interest in the enterprise. In 1781 James ffarington "on finding the W.F. badge on the gown sleeve was very distasteful to the inmates, permitted it to be discontinued".

James Howell of Farington finding the long interval between payments was very inconvenient for the occupier, substituted a weekly payment of one shilling. This shilling proving inadequate, Susan Maria, Mary Hannah and Sarah Esther of Farington each built a house on land adjoining the almshouses (1852) and assigned the rent from these to the almspeople. Two additional houses were added in 1860. By these endeavours it was possible to allow the inmates 3/- per week by the mid-1860's, and the four loads of turfs were replaced by two of coal.

Susan Maria of Farington appears to have taken a close interest in the clothing of the almspeople. "The gowns are generally of dark blue stuff ready made. They are to cost less than the required 20/- or they (the almspeople) had the balance in other clothes. Now prices have risen and they sometimes exceed the mark. A man's coat generally costs above 20/-, and some having good coats prefer other articles of dress." The clothing for 1859 cost as follows -

	£.	s.	d.
Cloth for coat		12.	0.
Making		9.	6.
Making 5 gowns at 2/8d.		13.	4.
20 yds. lining at 3d.		5.	0.
10 yds. cotton at 4d.		3.	4.
6 yds. cotton at 4d.		2.	0.
40 yds. Merino at 1/10d.	<u>3.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>0.</u>
	<u>5.</u>	<u>15.</u>	<u>2.</u>

In addition Garden seeds were supplied to make the houses as self-sufficient as possible; these comprised roughly 3 quarts of Beans, 3 oz. of radish, 1/2 oz. lettuce, 3 oz. cabbage, 1 oz. parsley, 3 oz. mustard and 3 oz. cress. "These are divided into boxes that each may have the same". In return the Almspeople had their duties, and their behaviour was prescribed.

"They must actually reside in the houses, must keep them clean and neat, and take their share in keeping the garden tidy, and they are expected to live in peace and goodwill with each other. They are removable for misconduct or if wholly unable to take care of themselves or to find anyone to take care of them, in this case the workhouse is the remedy!"

"They are nominated by the founders' representative, by whom from time to time bye-laws may be made. We find that it does not answer to make the almshouses too much of an infirmary. We have now (1872) 2 blind people and 2 deaf ones.. Very deaf or great invalids are very inconvenient, as they are a perpetual burden on the other inmates".

"Also as three shillings a week is very little considering the high price of food it is desirable the inmates should have a trifle of their own to help out the allowance. though of course this is not imperative".

Also, "the inmates generally go to church on all prayer days, and occupy the seat nearest to the pulpit and desk in ffarington chapel, many of them being deaf." There does not seem to have been a shortage of applicants, and the handbook contains long lists of the actual and prospective almspeople. Here is a selection of the entries:-

1877 Ellen Elston - "now married and gone to Bolton, she was much too young and her temper so quarrelsome".

Jane Wilkinson(?)" came March 6th, 1876, on death of Mr. Fazakerley, age 57, too young, 60 better age, but many were so infirm we thought a younger woman would be useful in general, but she is not".

1878 Alice Robinson and her sister "Applied in 1878. Respectable but a fearful invalid; her sister is a cripple, she is much too young, and her sister too, and they could not live on the stipend if they came.

1880 Mary Thompson "Age 67. Widow respectable. Applied 1880, but her one child, a son, is so disreputable and dishonest it would not do to put her in".

Despite the usual criticisms aimed at Victorian 'do-gooders' therefore, the Misses ffarington do appear to have taken a personal interest in those they sought to help. An Estate Cash Book preserved in the Museum and Exhibition Centre and kept by Susan Maria ffarington frequently complains of the large proportion of the Estates income consumed by the upkeep of Worden Hall, and so not available for charitable purposes. Indeed "Besides the coals we have given them for some years a meat pie at Christmas, and seeds for their gardens, and occasionally one in 2 or 3 years they come to the hall for tea.

D.A. Hunt.

EAGLE AND CHILD - LEYLAND'S OLDEST INN?

The following item appears in the Vestry minutes of the Parish Church of Leyland which are now on microfilm at the Lancashire Record Office (Ref.1) The item is reproduced in full as it seems to throw light on the origin of what is often called "Leylands oldest inn"-

"Leyland, March 28th, 1749 - Whereas a Vestry meeting was duly given notice of, and that some grievances were wanting to be redressed relating to the roads, etc., leading to the church of Leyland aforesaid, we the Church Wardens and Parishioners of the said Parish being assembled at the Vestry, did go and view the Premises which were most to the damage of the said road, viz: a certain Cottage and enclosure lately erected and made upon a parcel of land in Leyland aforesaid, called the School Hillock, lying situate and being on the East end of the said parish Churchyard, and whereas we whose names are hereunder subscribed are fully satisfied of the great nuisance which is committed, do for ourselves and each of our parishioners or quarters, agree to prosecute and take such methods to redress the same as Mr. Thomas Starkie of Preston shall advise, and that we will pay proportionally according to our several Quarters Leys (Note 1) or as our respective Estates do pay to all other Church Leys for and towards defraying the expense of carrying on such prosecution as aforesaid."

The above was witnessed by the squire, the vicar, the churchwardens of the four quarters of the parish, and several parishioners - seventeen names in all.

Taking this item as it stands, the exact location of the piece of land referred to is arguable, but the Rev. Octavius de Leyland Baldwin, B.A. - writing in the Parish Magazine of November 1894, i.e. some 90 years nearer the time - was in no doubt at all; he gave the above item in full and prefaced it with the following comment:-

"Our next entry in the Parish Book is interesting, though 'too late a week' to be important. It gives us an insight into a valiant, though short lived effort to resist a piece of land-grabbing. The middle of the eighteenth century was the period of numerous Enclosure Acts, and perhaps one of these gave the desired opportunity to convert public rights to very private uses, By whom it was made I am at a loss to conjecture, though the title deeds might throw some light upon it, if it were worth while to enquire.

The Lord of the Manor and the Vicar both protested against it. It is that piece of land upon which now stands the 'Eagle and Child' with its garden. 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 greensward, 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 (Note 2) 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... " If the Rev. Leyland Baldwin is correct it places grave doubts on the antiquity of the Eagle and Child. However, it is felt that there is still a reasonable doubt, and as no facts are to hand proving the inn is older than 1749, it is proposed to assemble the facts that are already known, and present the same for the next issue of the Lailand Chronicle, by which time further facts may have come to light proving whether or not the Eagle and Child really is Leyland's oldest inn.

W.E. Waring.

Acknowledgement:

To the Revd. K. Broadhurst, Vicar of Leyland, for his permission to publish the Vestry minutes of 1748; also the item from the Parish Magazine of Nov.1894.

REF.1: The above minutes on microfilm at Lancs. Record Office, Ref: MF1/120.

NOTE 1: Quarters Leys: The quarters referred to here are the four parts that the old parish of Leyland was divided into: 1) Leyland; 2) Duxton; 3) Whittle, Clayton and Cuerden; 4) Houghton, Withnell, Wheelton and Heapey; almost always referred to as the 'Moor Quarter'. The 'Leys' are the taxes imposed by the parish.

NOTE 2: Shandries; Shandrydan - a light two-wheeled cart.

LEYLAND MOSS LANDS

The following walk takes you to the North-west boundary of Leyland. Leyland, Farington and Longton Mosses are covered. You will be walking on flat farm land from which peat used to be dug. The difference in weather conditions from Summer to Winter has to be experienced to be believed. It is a circular walk and covers approx. 5 miles. Stout footwear and appropriate clothing should be worn. Park in front of Warren and Wignalls Auctioneers at Earnshaw Bridge. The mill here was built in 1850 by a Mr. Francis Sargent Pilkington., a manufacturer of muslin. Later in about 1872, he merged with a Mr. Edmund Berry, owner of the Mount Pleasant mill at Seven Stars.

Continue North along Croston Road, noticing the old "Lostock House Farm" on the right, home of the Heywoods, an old Leyland family.

Cross the bridge that gives the name to the area, but take note of the plaque on eastern side, spelling Earnshaw the old way - "Urns Shaw Bridge widened 1911". The word Earnshaw is derived from-- Earn (Eagle) + wood or Copse, or Erneshalgh (14 century spelling) would be the haugh of Earn(e). The car park of the "Wheatsheaf" is the site of Earnshaw Bridge Farm. A Mr. Thomas Marsden farmed here in the 1850's.

I have seen an old photo that shows a large sign on the side of the "Wheatsheaf" indicating that "Good Stabling" was to be had for travellers on one of the Liverpool to Preston roads. This fine old inn has recently been modernised.

At the junction of Hugh Lane, the white house on the Northern side is named "Duttonfield". It stands on the site of Duttonfield Farm and Chapel, and the 1848 ordnance survey map shows a smithy in the same grounds. The old Abbattoir lies on the same site. Continue up Hugh Lane, once known as Moss Lane, as were a lot of tracks that led onto the moss. This quiet old lane has been split in two by the Western Primary route, or Schleswig Way, named after Leyland's twin town. However, this new road has created two Cul-de-sacs, so after crossing the new road, you are virtually assured of peace and quiet. Hugh House Farm will appear on the right. The 1838 Leyland Tithe award shows the a Thomas Bretherton farmed here. Notice the combined House and Barn. Pass through the farmyard - after admiring an old out-building with some iron railings leading up stone steps on the left.

Follow a track leading from the yard and crossing Leyland Moss. Notice the rich dark peaty soil alongside the track. Eventually Bannister Lane is reached with the Western Primary Route on right. Left turn along a raised track. This was once known as "Bennet Lane Road", and was one of the occupational roads onto the moss. The ground on the right was once split up into strips of land and allotments.

At this point turn around to view the hills, starting in the North East, with Pendle Hill, Billinge Hill in Blackburn; Houghton Tower, Darwen Tower, Great Hill, Winter Hill, and Rivington Pike. Follow this track until it turns right. You are now on "Parker Lane". Look for an area on the right enclosed by a Privet hedge. Cross the railway, then turn left onto rough track after 200 yards. Follow this to a road with a bungalow opposite. You are now on Long Moss Lane. Go left to the junction, then straight on until Sod Hall Road is seen going off to the left. Look for two millstones in the yard with date JB.1830. This is Caunces Rose Growers. Follow Sod Hall road down until it turns right. The area of brambles and nettles on the right is the site of Sod Hall - the word 'Sod' indicates the digging of Turves of Peat. The owner of the nearby Heath House Farm can remember a large house with a flat roof and steps up to the front door. There was an outside toilet at the rear. There was also servants quarters.

However, a Mr. George Eland who lives at Whitegate Farm on Jane Lane always knew the house that stood on the site of the modern bungalow at Heath House Farm as Sod Hall. The 1848 map shows Sod Hall to be in the area now covered in brambles. Sod Hall was built on a "raft" of Oak trunks to stop it sinking in the deep peat deposits. This is the highest part of the moss. The short stretch of track between the two bends lies on the Parish Boundaries of Leyland and Longton. This means that Sod Hall was just inside Longton. The Longton Tithe award of 1839 shows an 'L' shaped building set back from the track, with a smaller building in front. From the schedules it can be seen that the owner was a John Green, and the occupier, a farmer called James Dobson. The Census returns from 1841 to 1881 indicate that the Dobsons lived and farmed here for many years. All their land lay to the North along Sod Hall Road. The building was demolished about 1920, and a bungalow built on the site. This building subsided and split in two. There is no sign of this bungalow today.

Continue along to the left hand bend to the famous old "Round House". This two roomed building is about 400 years old. It has a circular cone-shaped thatched roof with a central chimney. The occupant used to burn peat blocks and cooked by this method until a stray spark nearly set fire to the thatched roof. The building was lit by paraffin lamps. It was once the Toll House for travellers crossing the moss. This was before Midge Hall Lane was built. One penny per wheel was charged before the gate that spanned the lane, was opened. The high hedges around the house are there to protect it from the fierce winds that sweep across the moss. A recent storm has driven the occupant out. On a recent visit I found the thatched roof almost gone, exposing the old brickwork of the central chimney. A notice on the gate warned people "Private Keep Out", historic building in dangerous condition". A white stone slab lies under the hedge. Is this the boundary indicating where the gate stood? The 1848 map shows - Sod Hall T.F. here. Does the T.F. stand for Toll Fence?

The track continues and was once known as "Sod Hall, Meanygate". Heath House Farm stands on the right. The modern bungalow stands on the site of the much larger Heath House. This was once an important building, and the area is still known as Heath House Moss. The house was built in the 1700's, and the owner controlled all the land around. A Mr. Thomas Singleton lived here in the 1840's. Water and drainage is very important on the moss, as the farmer at Heath House Farm showed me. Taking me into a farm building, and pointing to a large crack in the wall. This was the result of the Peat shrinking, causing the foundations to sink. This all happened during the 1976 dry spell. Continue down the meenygate, noticing that the tall spire of St. James Church is directly in line. The buildings over on the right are Singletons Farm. Eventually cross the railway with "Gate House" by it's side. Continue down the track. Notice a line of fruit trees over on the left. At the left hand bend is Gate House Farm. The barn has recently been renovated, and converted into a house. 50 yards along on the left is White Gate Farm. With all these indications I thought there must have been a gate across the track at one time. I asked a Mr. G. Eland, owner of White Gate Farm, who knew nothing of a gate. There is an old gate post half hidden in the front hedge. This however, was the gate into the farmyard. Mr. Eland told me how he came to the district in the depression of the 1930's, and grew peas while he lived in a caravan for

for the first 5 years. He obtained his water from a spring; any water in bottles used to freeze in winter. He then leased White Gate Farm, and bought it about 7 years ago. Some Deeds in his possession show that the farm was once known as "Hodsons Nursery", thus indicating the line of fruit trees mentioned earlier. An old building used to stand in the middle of the yard. This was stone built. The modern building replaced an older building that was demolished 7 years ago. An oven like structure was uncovered during the demolition. Children in the area came to the tiny farmhouse to learn to dance to the accompaniment of a concertina and fiddle.

Follow Jane Lane to Longmeanygate; there are some old farms here; Hesketh Park, Hesketh Farm, Cam House, Hiltons Farm and Hiltons Cottage. At the junction a row of cottages on the right is known as Cock Robin Row. Go left down Longmeanygate, passing Moss Farm and Fleetwood Hall Farm. A track just past here on the right was Millers Lane. It led to Paradise Farm, and by passing through the farmyard, this led to Paradise and Cocker Lane.

Paradise Farm was demolished about 10 years ago to make way for the new test track for Leyland Vehicles. Pass Pleasant View, a row of cottages. Just before the Hugh Lane junction, look for a pair of gate posts in the hedge on the right. A short length of enclosed track soon peters out behind an industrial workshop. Nb.23. This was the track up to Little Moss Farm. The Farmhouse was set back about 100 yards from the road. I took a photo of the farm before it was demolished.

Longmeanygate is punctuated by a large roundabout where the Western Primary Route crosses. Just through here on the right, is the site of Moss Farm, home of the Sumner family. The only visible remains consist of a small enclosed area, the hedge consisting of Elder and Hawthorn. This farm was made famous in 1979 when a Horse Gin was found in the cobbled yard. They were used in the 19th century to cut hay. It was discovered by Mr. John Hallam - the consultant Archaeologist when he was inspecting the demolitions. It is the only one in Lancashire. Pass four sets of semi-detached houses on the right, the date plaques indicating that they were built between 1913 and 1915. Pass 'Hopping Stones' Cottage and bridge, the name indicates that there were 'hopping or stepping stones across the river Lostock at this point at one time. You are now back at Pilkington's Mill. Look for an old gas lamp bracket on the rear of the building.

Footnote: From the 1841 Census returns of Leyland, there seems to have been another Sod Hall somewhere on Moss Side, possibly near Purgatory Farm. Purgatory farm lay down Purgatory Lane, now called Rhoden Road.

G. Thomas.

Acknowledgments.

Preston Record Office.

Tithe awards - Longton 1839
Leyland 1838.

Agricultural Development to the West at the Leyland Hundred.

by S.W. Williams.

Leyland Library. Census Returns from Longton and Leyland,
1841 to 1881.

George Birtill. "Green Pastures".

Mr. J. Bretherton. (He owned land adjacent to Sod Hall).

Mr. H. Clarke. Heath House Farm.

Mr. G. Eland. White-Gate Farm.

Mr. J. Hallam. Archaeology in the Central Lancashire New Town.

P.F. Barrow. Road, Place and Field names of Leyland and the
Neighbourhood.

(Leyland Chronicle No.19, March 1977)

BLEACHERS AND PREACHERS

The Victoria County History in it's account of Clayton (Clayton-le-Woods) states that John Clayton, a Non-conformist minister of note , was born in the township and was pastor of the Weigh -house chapel from 1778-1826. The note in V.C.H. in turn refers to the Dictionary of National Biography which then refers to the definitive account of his family written by the Referend Thomas Aveling of London, in 1867.

This states that John Clayton was born on the 5th October, 1754, only son of George and Alice Clayton at Wood End Farm in Clayton, George Clayton was said to be a bleacher of cotton and calico.

Young John had the distinction of having nine elder sisters, some of them up to twenty years older than himself, although a number of them died at an early age. Not surprisingly he is said to have been rather spoiled.

At the appropriate age he was sent as a pupil to Leyland Grammar School, which at that time had a good reputation for classical learning. Although of an introspective nature he was also tall and somewhat pugnacious. Brought up as a staunch Protestant with an antipathy to 'Popery' he is said to have joined in the pitched battles between Protestant and Roman Catholic schoolfellows. It should be remembered that his youth was spent in the period immediately following the Jacobite rebellion of 1745.

At his confirmation which must have taken place at Leyland Parish Church, an incident occurred to which he often referred. As he moved with others toward the bishop, the clerk or sexton let fall the moveable rail which enclosed the altar area. Poor John received a severe blow to the head, from which blood poured and which left a lifelong scar.

Soon afterwards he was apprenticed to his brother-in-law, John Boulton, a chemist and druggist of Manchester, but after four years he ran off and went to live in the house of his married sister in London. Here he became introduced to the Countess of Huntingdon and joined her famous Trevecca College of theological affairs. He made a tentative effort to obtain episcopal ordination but finally threw in his lot with the Nonconformists in 1777, becoming an assistant to Sir Harry Trelawny, minister

of a Presbyterian church at West Looe, but Clayton's Calvinism led to a separation and he finally became pastor at the Weigh-house Chapel in Islington in 1778, a position which he occupied for forty eight years.

In 1779 he married and besides daughters he had three sons - John, George and William Clayton, all of whom also became Nonconformist ministers. John Clayton the father died in 1843, and was buried in London. He wrote a number of religious treatises and amongst other records of his work is one that he preached to the convicts at Woolwich hulks, accompanied by officers with loaded carbines.

The biography raises many interesting issues, some of which the present writer decided to investigate further.

The Rev. Aveling states that George Clayton was a descendant of that branch of the numerous Claytons of Clayton who achieved prominence, not in Clayton but in Whittle and Adlington. A search of the parish registers of Leyland revealed that George Clayton of Clayton married an Alice Fowler in 1732, and a partial search gave the names of two of the nine daughters, Hannah and Alice born in 1733 and 1747, and confirmed the baptism of John Clayton on 13th October 1754, eight days after his birth date given in the biography. Incidentally, Alice the daughter went on to have seventeen children and two step children, her husband being the Rev. Anthony Cole, one of the Trevecca students.

Turning to the father -George Clayton, I traced his birth in 1711, in Clayton, one of the three children of John Clayton -the others being James (1708) and Jennet (1713). The grandfather John Clayton, was himself the eldest son of William Clayton and was born in 1667-(his brothers and sisters being Jennet, James, Thomas, Edward and George, so the origin of the family's names can readily be seen). As might be expected further investigation of the antecedents of a family with the name Clayton, in Clayton becomes difficult.

Having confirmed their origins in Clayton, their exact location was next investigated. Aveling as stated, places them at Wood End Farm, and gives a most circumstantial description which tallies exactly with that

farm now called Lower Woodend. The fact that George Clayton was a bleacher is indisputable as several documentary references name him as a "whitster", and he was involved in certain property deals in Clayton in the 1750's. It has as yet been impossible to confirm his residence at Wood End, it was certainly not the ancestral home of any branch of the Clayton's, being the location of the Chrichlows, a strong Roman Catholic family who however died out for want of male heirs. There is a fleeting reference that Wood End was mortgaged for £100 by one of the female Chrichlow heiresses to a Mr. John Clayton prior to 1717. The Claytons may subsequently have taken up residence there for a short period.

Members of branches of the Clayton family, which was numerous, were heavily involved in early printing processes on cotton and calico in Bamber Bridge, and there is a strong indication that George Clayton was engaged there in the bleaching process, an earlier stage of the printing process. In the middle of the 18th century the use of acids and other chemicals in industrial bleaching, as distinct from the cottage industry, was in its infancy and he could have been a pioneer. This is supported by the fact that one of his daughters- Sarah, married John Boul'tbee of Manchester, a chemist and druggist who may well have supplied chemicals for the process.

The writer's own view is that George Clayton may have moved, some time about 1765, with his family to the Manchester area, home of the cotton trade, as they seem to pass from the local scene and none of his daughters married in the Leyland area. The will of John Boul'tbee (died 1776) gives no clues, but oddly enough his daughter Lucy Boul'tbee, who sadly died at the age of 18 in 1784, too ill to sign her will, left a share in her estate to her uncle, John Clayton, the subject of this essay, and to her aunts Crole and Collier.

Finally, there is little doubt that the Rev. Aveling, who seems to have spent all his life in London, had either been to Wood End, Clayton, or had spoken to someone, possibly one of the Clayton family who had been there. His account refers to "an ancient residence built entirely of stone" the edifice bears evidence of it's extreme antiquity and the use for which it was originally designed. The massive walls, the spacious hall, the

narrow lights and the precipitous staircase denote it's monastic derivation". He also refers to a legend that a priest, who sought shelter in the house, was murdered in an upper chamber, still shown (i.e: in 1867) as the scene of this event, and to local legends of haunting as a result. These legends, cross-pollinated with other alleged events of the 17th century still persist in 1983.

It must be stated at once that the present farm, also built entirely of stone, carefully dressed, is not the one referred to by Aveling in 1867, the present building having been erected in the late 19th century, on the site of the earlier building.

The farm was operated as a normal farm holding of the Lords of the manor from at least as far back as 1600, mainly by the Chrichlow family and the reference to it's "monastic derivation" can as yet only be surmised upon, and might repay further research.

Works consulted.

Victoria County History of Lancashire. Vol.VI. p.29.

"Memorials of the Clayton Family" by the Rev.Thomas W.Aveling,
London 1867.

Leyland Parish Registers.

L.R.O. Wilbraham-Bootle papers DDLm.

L.R.O. Lancashire Wills-WCW.

THE FARINGTON SAGA

You will recall the article in the Chronicle of May 1980, concerning the portrait of William Farington, discovered at Parham House in West Sussex, by my wife and I whilst on holiday and visiting Parham House. Also that the Farington name is found in Ludlow Parish Church, Shropshire. We visited Ludlow again this year for a week's holiday just before the Spring Bank. We decided to visit Hereford Cathedral, and after looking around this beautiful place of worship, which dates back to the 11th Century and is one of the oldest in England, we spotted a brass plaque with the following wording:-

"Here lies Elizabeth relict of W. Farington Esq., of Worden
in the County of Lancaster, Daughter and sole heiress of James
Rufine of Bologne in France, March 6th 1747 - 68 years"

If you read the Chronicle for May 1981 on "The Farington Family" by Mrs. N. Markland you will read on page 6, last paragraph, that a William Farington, then aged 40, was living at Shaw Hall in Leyland. He married Elizabeth Rufine, a Huguenot refugee from France, and they had three sons and three daughters.

It is a great delight to find anything whilst on holidays concerning the "Farington Family" and "Worden Hall". So the next time you are in Hereford, please go to the cathedral and look out for the brass plaque bearing the name "Farington of Worden".

There is also a very fine "Chain Library" in Hereford Cathedral that is well worth a visit.

R.O. WILLIAMS.

LEYLAND MILL

(Comment on the article appearing on Page 26 of Issue No.30, February 1983 of the Lailand Chronicle).

The revelation that the name Crawshaw derives from the Old English for Watercress is most interesting, as in the gardens of the old Broadfield house were six parallel watercress beds running east to west off the eastern most mill pond. These lie just at the rear of St. Marys new Priory and were piped and filled in when the new church was built. Watercress needs pure running water, just as bleaching and dying does, and there still is plenty in this part of Leyland, due to the water-bearing sand and gravel beds which end in this area. Together with a copiously ever flowing spring near the southern boundary of the priory garden, the walled channel or gully, to which is now also piped but can still be seen flowing, these formed the prime water supply to the mill and later to the Bleach works. When the works were still operating it was interesting to see the daily drop in the water level and the rapidity of its return.

Mention of the watercress beds always reminds me of a garden party in the 30's and boating on the landscaped mill ponds, and of an accident, when an elderly, short-sighted lady mistook one of the solid green covered water-filled channels as grass and tried - unsuccessfully - to walk on water.

The water supply was augmented by North Brook, so called because all the other brooks have a mainly east-west flow. This stream is clearly marked on the 1848 O.S. map but seems to disappear later on and was presumably culverted or piped. A close comparison of the Farington Surveys of 1725 and the 1848 O.S. map shows that sometime between these dates Bannister Brook west of School Lane was straightened and dammed on the eastern side of Northbrook House to form a small reservoir. This may have fed a small water wheel and mill but the size of the reservoir would severely restrict its operations. The smaller reservoir and channel to the south appears to connect with the original source of North Brook and thus the overflow from the raised level of Bannister Brook was used to augment the flow to Crawshaw Mill Dam. All traces of these reservoirs have long since disappeared.

The course of the other stream mentioned commenced at the well or spring east of Water Street (now Towngate) near Damps Smithy-(now Websters Furniture shop) and can be traced along the bottom of the gardens to the houses on the south side of Mosley Street and along the South Boundary of Wellfield School playing fields. Until about 60 or 70 years ago this stream emerged in the north bank of Cow Lane near Broadfield house through a pipe or trough called Wall Head Well according to the 1848 O.S. map, then it ran across the lane and ultimately into the mill ponds. When Broadfield house was built and the garden wall built, a gully (which can still be seen) was set in the lane to collect this water and a pipe laid to the pond. An interesting point about this stream is that it was considered to be the best water in Leyland, and all the workers going to Stannings used to fill their billy-cans at Cow Lane for brewing their tea.

John Stanning had the water rights well sewn up for miles around for many years. The more recently constructed reservoir to the South of the works, and which now forms the centre piece of the nature reserve was, partly at least, fed by a large pipe which emerged on the Southernmost tip close to one of the two boathouses - now demolished. This pipe is believed to have drawn off water from the Altcar Brook near to the 'Ruin' in Worden Park. This must have been very accurately surveyed and set out as the fall between the two points is not very great. Be that as it may, when construction work was well advanced at the R.O.F. in the late 30's it was virtually stopped for a time when the flow of water down Worden and Shaw Brook was interfered with or polluted, and Stannings obtained some form of injunction to prevent further operations until appropriate action was taken. The system of weirs, tanks, etc., to the Brook near Pack Saddle Bridge was the result. Perhaps some other reader can fill in the details of this event?

The location of the mill itself was determined by the relatively sharp fall in the ground at this spot in generally flat land to take full advantage of the water supply with the maximum 'head' available. The large area of the mill dam was essential to store the maximum amount of

water, without which in level country, no water driven mill could operate for very long. The final vestiges of the reservoir, the fall in the land and what was at one time a most attractive corner of Leyland, have now been entirely removed by excavations to extend the playing fields of Worden High School.

In 1979 the Lancashire County Council applied to close the right of way of Mill Lane above the site of the mill, and commenced excavations (before the closure was granted by the way) to extend the playing fields mentioned. The Contractor, due to several more errors and omissions mistakenly but fortunately excavated part of the filled in cellars of the mill, exposed for a day or two 17th century brickwork and substantial ashlar foundations.

The owners of the land, who have planning approval for a house on this spot, were twice approached in writing to allow an archaeological investigation to take place but refused for reasons best known to themselves.

This unco-operative attitude by people resident in Buckinghamshire is most unfortunate, especially as so little is known of manorial corn mills such as this one.

P.F. Barrow.

NOTES AND QUERIES

No.7 - Drawing of Old Leyland Church

A reference to a drawing of Leyland Parish Church before the old nave was pulled down, appears in the Victoria County History of Lancashire, Vol.6, P.4, N.3.

This quotes - Historic Society of Lancs. and Cheshire; Vol.7, P.18 - a paper by Miss Farington, 25 th Jan. 1855, who exhibited a copy of an elevation taken by some inferior architect just before the old church was pulled down? The drawing, however, is not reproduced.

Enquiries locally as to the location of this drawing have drawn a blank. Does any reader know of this, or any other drawing of the church before the present nave was built?

No.8 - Love Lane.

A letter written by Susan Maria Farington ?1849 is reproduced in the Leyland Parish Magazine of July 1894. This concerns the upkeep of what is obviously Cow Lane, but is referred to by Susan Maria as 'Love Lane'.

Do any members know if this name was, perhaps, a forerunner of Cow Lane?

No.9 - Worden Lodge.

How and why did the Lodge come to be built in Worden Park? Was it originally a Dower house?

No.10 - Shaw.

In the area just to the south and east of Leyland, bounded roughly by B5253, B5248, A6 and A581, modern and/or old maps show that the element "Shaw" either alone or compounded as a place name occurs no less than 18 times, mainly based on the names Shaw (Shaw Hall, Shaw Hill, Shaw Brook, Shaw Green) Runshaw (Wood, House, Moor, Hall, Farm) Balshaw (House, Lane). Buckshaw (2 Halls, Wood, Brook) and Culshaw (Farm). Whilst it is clear that these places are in ancient woodland, OE "Scaga" = copse, it is not apparent why there should be such a concentration, as the name is hardly used elsewhere in the vicinity of Leyland. (N.B: Earnshaw is probably from a different element.)

Any comments?

Replies to Queries.

No.1. (Issue No.30) Cocker Bar Station

This station is clearly marked on the 1st edition 6" O.S. map which was surveyed in the years 1844-1847 while Midge Hall Station is equally clearly non-existent. Its location was not strictly at Cocker Bar but a little way South where the road to Bretherton crosses the railway line and appears to have been situated on the North West side of the bridge. The track which led to the station is still visible and perhaps close examination will reveal some evidence of a platform.

P.F. Barrow.

No.5 (Issue No.30) The Pound or Pinfold

The only known Pinfold in Leyland was situated on the South side of Hall Lane close by the Gate near the junction with the entrance to the remaining buildings of Worden (Shaw) Hall. It was demolished by South Ribble in October 1978 in an incredible piece of irresponsibility and the stone from the walls used to build a completely useless shelter adjacent. In a somewhat acrimonious correspondence it was pointed out to the official then responsible that he had destroyed one of only five pinfolds existing in Lancashire and the only one South of the Ribble. The attached survey may be of some use together with the information that in 1725 three separate crofts to the east along Back Lane, now Langdale Road, were tenanted by the Pinder the total area being 3a 3r and 3l perches. This however is calculated at (one of) the 'Lancashire Long Measures' of 8 yards to the perch

whereas the statutory area is in the order of 6.6 acres if my calculations are correct.

P.F. Barrow.

Editors note:

May I add that on a late 18th century manuscript sketch of Little Dove Cote (Sheephill Lane) Clayton, a pinfold is clearly marked. This also has now been consigned to oblivion.

Replies to Queries (Continued)

No.4. (Issue No.30) Heald House

Although the present building is said to have been built in 1706, in all probability it replaced a house already on the site. Documents spanning the first half of the seventeenth century in the Farington of Worden muniments at the Lancashire Record Offices , (Ref:DDF), concerning the upkeep of roads in Leyland, suggest there was no dwelling on what is now known as Heald House Road.

As late as 1656, in DDF2075 (roads in Leyland), William Heald appears in the section that places him in the Bow Lane/Moss Lane area, but by Hearth Tax time (1662) we find him listed between the names of people known to have been living on Wigan Road, and that of George Carter, who gave his name to the farm that stood to the west of the railway line and just to the south of Bent Bridge. The name "Carters" for this farm lasted into the present century.

So, it would seem that Heald House got its name from this William Heald; the Heald's were a very well-to-do yeoman family in Leyland whose name appears regularly in rentals and surveys of Leyland in the 16th and 17th century.

It may be appropriate to mention here that in this period (1656-1662) a branch of the Heald's were blacksmiths on the Wigan Road; the smithy being on the same side and to the south of the inn. that later became known as Rose Whittle's.

W.E. Waring.

Replies to Queries (Continued)

No.5 (Issue No.30) Leyland Court Leet - Where was the Pound?

An early reference to a pound in Leyland occurs in a Farington of Worden survey book of 1569 (DDF2-Ref.1)

In describing the location of strips of land within the upper town field, the pinfold is used three times as a point of reference. First, a dole (note 1) in the holding of John Worden, running east and west, $183\frac{3}{4}$ yards in length and 5 yards in breadth at the east end, and at the west end 'it conteyneth 6 yards, and extendeth to the lane that goeth from the towne of Leyland unto the Pinfolde'. Secondly, a dole in the holding of William Walker, running east and west, the western end is described as lying 'over and anenste the pinfold'; and thirdly, an east/west dole in the holding of the widow of Thomas Hughe (Hough), the west end 'extendeth to the hedge of the same towne field, over against the Pinfolde belonging to the said towne'. Whilst this information was, no doubt, perfectly clear to Leylanders of 1569, in 1984 it needs some explanation.

We know that the upper town field was the area bounded on the west and south by what are now known as Towngate and Church Road, and to the north and north-east by the land belonging to Hough's tenement (later Leylands - the site now occupied by the 'Gables') and Old Hall - which still stands on Balcarres Road. How far it extendeth to the east is unclear, but probably as far as the fields known as the Bent - presumably the origin of the name Bent Lane.

We also know that the term 'town of Leyland' was a commonly used expression in the 16th and 17th century for the area around the Cross and the church; indeed, it seemed to be used into the early part of the 19th century when the term 'the Village' seemed to take over. (This probably came about through the parochial reorganization of the period; the nine townships forming the old ecclesiastical parish of Leyland becoming civil parishes in their own right).

So, from the facts given it would seem that the lane 'that goeth from the towne of Leyland unto the pinfold' is what is now known as Towngate, with the pound standing on the east side of the road.

To try and find the exact location, the three earliest maps of Leyland were examined.

First, the Tithe Map of 1844 (Ref.2). This proved to be of no help as the upper town field by this time had lost its strips or doles of earlier centuries.

The second, Thomas Addison's map of 1769 (Ref.3) was of more use. The enlarged central portion of this interesting map shows, apparently, every property on Towngate from Hough Lane to the Cross; on the east side of the road some twenty-five buildings in all are shown, four of which, seem to be barns. As they are drawn none is obviously a pound, but if the barn-like structures are examined only one seems to be a possibility; this stood where the old Constabulary Station (for many years Leyland Library) now stands.

The third is not a map in the modern sense but a survey book of the Faringtons of Worden (DDF81), showing the lands that they owned in Leyland in 1725. The plan of the upper town field showing the doles that the Farington's owned, whilst not positively identifying the position of the pound, adds strongly to the belief that it was in the area already noted.

Where William Street now joins Towngate, an interesting enclosure is shown, quadrilateral in shape, having a frontage on Towngate of some 15 yards, with a gate leading into the enclosure. The eastern end, of some 12 yards in length, has a gate leading into the town field; the northern and southern sides of the enclosure are of some 42 yards and 45 yards respectively. (A plan at this point would have shown it all much more clearly than a description: printing problems with the Chronicle, however, may preclude any plans or maps in this issue). The building noted on Thomas Addison's map stands end on to the north-west corner of this enclosure.

J. Finberg, in his book 'Exploring Villages', shows that pounds can vary in size from small buildings, large enough only to hold two or three beasts, to open enclosures large enough to hold a herd of cattle. Just how the enclosure and adjacent building described above were used is a

matter for conjecture; sadly, a document at the Lancashire Record Office that may well have provided more information -(A plan of the Town Fields of Leyland, undated, but believed early 19th century) could not be produced for inspection, owing to it's poor condition. Hopefully, when this plan is repaired and available for examination, we may learn a little more about the pound in the upper town field.

Finally, going back to the Tithe Award, we find that the enclosure was still in existence, owned by the Squire James Nowell Farington, and described as a 'Timber Yard'. The house on Towngate lying on the South side of the yard was in the occupation of one James Tomlinson, the involvement of the Tomlinson's in the timber trade in Leyland in the 19th and 20th centuries is, however, another story.

- Note 1: Dole - Open field 'acre' strip.
- Ref.1: All DDF refs. are from the Farington of Worden papers in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston.
- Ref.2: Tithe Map and Award (Photocopy) Leyland Library.
- Ref.3: Thomas Addison's map (Photocopy) - Leyland Historical Society Library.

Acknowledgements.

To Mr. G.L. Bolton for bringing Finberg's book "Exploring Villages" to the author's attention, and Mr. P.F. Barrow for pointing out that a plan of the upper town field appears in the Farington Survey Book of 1725.

W.E. Waring.

GUIDED WALK TO
LOWER FARINGTON HALL

Seven years have passed since our previous guided walks, so Mr. Thomas suggested that these should be resumed, commencing with a walk on the 11th July, 1983.

And so we met near the Leyland Tiger at 7.30 pm. on a glorious but very warm evening. Hoping optimistically that more members might join us, we finally set off with only five people, but not before looking at Pilkington's Mill (now Warren & Wignall), said to be the first cotton mill in Leyland and built in the 1840s. We then proceeded north along Croston Road, past Lostock Farm on the right and crossing the River Lostock over Urnshaw Bridge, which was last widened in 1911. After the bridge, on the left, Mr. Thomas, our experienced guide, pointed out the site of Earnshaw House Farm, on which is now the Wheatsheaf car park.

We continued to Hugh Lane, stopping to admire Duttonfield Cottage on the corner, being then informed that this was built on the site of a chapel. We walked along Hugh Lane at a leisurely pace crossing the Western primary road to Hugh House Farm. Here we noted the old stone steps on the side of the barn and leading to the upper storey. Then passing through the farmyard, we strolled a quarter of a mile through fields forming part of the mosslands. Here, Nature took over from History, and we found much interest in identifying the different birds which we observed.

Now we had to cross over the primary road again to turn right down Bannister Lane, this time observing the different plants not usually seen locally. Some of our party were extremely knowledgeable, and the ensuing discussions added even more spice to the evening.

Reaching Croston Road, we crossed over to Mill Lane, walking past the cottages, until we came to a footbridge over the Lostock. About 50 yards further on the right we were shown a wall which is all that remains of another bridge. And then on the left, a weir where the Lostock forked out into two streams to feed the Mill Reservoir. Passing through woodland, Mr. Thomas pointed out one of the old mill races. On the right we noticed a high wire fence which used to

surround the old test track built on part of Hall Wood. At last we came to the site of Lower Farington Hall. We passed through a large wire mesh gate to see at last the ruins of the old Hall. Now only large stone slabs remain and also faint traces of a moat. We spent an interesting half-hour trying to mentally re-construct the lay-out of the Hall. The orchard can still be seen, though forgotten and neglected. It was now time to return to base, so re-crossing the foot-bridge, we followed an hedged footpath between Brookfield Cottage and a large white house, then over a stile to a path leading through fields behind Manor House Farm. On this last part of the walk we were tormented by flies in the humid heat, so on reaching Croston Road we crossed over to the "Wheatsheaf" where we discussed the high-lights of our walk over cool refreshment.

We certainly found the walk most enjoyable and interesting, and Mr. Thomas a very informative and humorous guide. I only wish more of our members could have joined us, but perhaps we shall have your company next year as soon as the weather permits.

Dorothy O. Gardner.

Editors note:- See also the article on Page 23 of the last issue of the Lailand Chronicle (No.30).

WALK TO HOLLINS LANE -
TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1983

The September local walk started from Seven Stars ,through the field to Hollins Lane and back down Leyland Lane.

The pre-arranged meeting place was to be the free car park at Seven Stars at 6-30 p.m. This early starting time would give us one hour's walking time before dark.

The weather couldn't have been worse. It was overcast with heavy rain. This was a vast difference to the previous walk in July, where we walked on a warm summers evening.

Tonight's party consisted of three people, and after a few minutes we set off. Walk across by crossing Leyland Lane via the Zebra

crossing, then left turn to the junction. Right turn to pass the "Original Seven Stars" public house, with datestone above door

I I A 1686, the three initials arranged in the form of a triangle; the initial at the top of the triangle indicating the surname, with the other two initials being the christian names of the husband and wife in residence. Did this building start life as a farm house?

The area of land just to the North of the public house enclosed by Leyland Lane, Dunkirk Lane and Mill Street is thought might have been the village green belonging to the nucleated hamlet around Seven Stars.

It's early name appears to have been ~~Hon~~kington. This is late Saxon origin meaning the "Tun" of the people living on the 'hill or mound'.

Leyland Lane has always been an important trading route, and in later years was known as the "Penwortham and Wrightington Turnpike Road".

Mill Brook, now culverted, ran diagonally across this green. This area was surrounded by a Mill, some Alms houses and a public house.

Continue down Slater Lane to the corner with Mill Lane, then cross the road to the bridge over Mill Brook. A Public Footpath sign indicates

that the Sewerage Farm is half a mile away. A narrow path follows the brook. Notice holes in stone slabs lining the bank. Did these once house iron railings? A stile leads into a field. Continue

alongside the brook through a field. Look left across a school field

to admire the rear of Peacock Hall. Notice that some of the windows are bricked up. There is evidence that this building was once surrounded by a moat. From a certain angle, a slight depression can be seen. Cross two new footbridges, then a stile and steps leads up to the new Schleswig Way. Cross the road to a similar stile a few yards to the left. The path passes the famous old stone boundary posts. These posts still show the holes through which wooden rails were placed. Before the Schleswig Way was constructed there were two lines of these posts. A set that was in the line of the road were carefully dug up and stored. The posts were originally used to enclose land that lay between the River Lostock, and Wade Brook, this area was known locally as Ambrye Meadows. This information is based on an Estate Plan of 1785, drawn for a Mr. Robert Welsh; this document has a lot of interesting points. For example the River Lostock is shown to have a lot of twists and turns that have now been straightened out. The access lane can be seen coming from Leyland Lane. This is Emnie Lane. The older section can still be seen coming down to enter the meadows via a bridge over Wade Brook. The modern Emnie Lane twists and bends, ending up at the Sewerage Farm. The stone post next to the River Lostock has a plaque declaring the boundary as an historic monument.

Follow Wade Brook through several fields to a footbridge to a footpath that traverses around the East side of the Sewerage Farm. Before the Sewerage farm was built, this footpath continued along the river. Also, pre-sewerage farm, Emnie Lane continued west to cross the River Lostock, meeting up with a rough track coming from Folds Farm, and eventually ending up on Ulnes Walton Lane. On leaving the sewerage farm, follow the river Lostock for a few hundred yards, then veer left to pass through a muddy gate and bridge. Right turn to pick up and follow a hedge on the right. From here the whole of the Lostock Valley can be seen. Eventually the path becomes a muddy enclosed track. Just before a left hand bend, look for a line of old fruit trees. This was the orchard belonging to "Old Nook Farm". The site of the farm house and

barn lay in the field just left of a gate just after the bend. This was the home of the Summers for centuries. The ground was uneven here, showing where the buildings once stood. A stone slab could have been part of the foundations of the barn. A picture of this barn can be seen on Page 66 of George Birtill's - "Lets take a walk".

It was going dark now so we continued to a gate leading onto Hollins Lane, after passing through a farm yard. Notice the fine old Carts and Rigs inside a barn on the left. Pass an old white-washed cottage on the right, then follow Hollins Lane to Leyland Lane. The farm at the top is Hollins.

The walk had to be cut short due to the darkness, so we walked down Leyland Lane back to Seven Stars, and the "Crofters" Public House. This pub was renovated in 1982. The name 'Crofters' refers to a job in the bleaching and dyeing trade. It was the Mill workers of Leyland that gave the pub it's name over one hundred years ago. This was one of the local hostellries that used to open at 6-0.a.m., to catch the night shift coming from John Stannings Bleach Works. Mr. "Juggler" Robinson, who kept the 'Crofters' always had twenty pints lined up on the bar. After a convivial hour in the 'Crofters' we ended the walk back at the car park.

Graham Thomas.

References:

Archaeology in the Central Lancs. New Town	by J. Hallam.
Lets take a walk	by G. Birtill.
The Green Pastures	by G. Birtill.
Estate Map-1785	Preston Record Office.