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Leyland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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AIMS

To promote an interest in History generally
and 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.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£2.00 per annum
Adult Members	£1.50 per annum
School Members	£0.25 per annum
Casual Visitors	£0.30 per meeting

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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER.

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CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society shall be the Leyland Historical Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to promote an interest in History generally, and of the Leyland area in particular.
3. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All except the President to be elected annually.
4. The Committee shall consist of the above officers and twelve elected members who will serve for two years - six of whom will retire each year, but may offer themselves for re-election. Any Committee member who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause shall be deemed to have resigned.
5. The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies which may arise during the year, but any members so appointed must offer themselves for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.
7. Sub-Committees may be formed for particular purposes. The President, Chairman and Secretary shall be 'ex-officio' members of such Sub-Committees.
8. The Annual General Meeting and elections of officers and Committee Members shall be held not later than the 15th day of July in each year.
9. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held on the written request of five members of the Society, subject to at least three weeks' notice.
10. Any change in the Constitution must be approved at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. At least two weeks' notice, in writing, must be given of proposed changes.

11. The rate of annual subscriptions will be determined at the Annual General Meeting for the ensuing year. Proposals for changes in subscriptions must be circulated to members at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions become due at the date of the Annual General Meeting. Any member who has not paid by the 31st December will be deemed to have lapsed membership.
12. The Committee may from time to time propose the election of Honorary Life Members of the Society for approval at a General Meeting. Such members will be entitled to participate fully in the activities of the Society but will not be liable to payment of Annual Subscriptions.

The Leyland Hero of Lucknow

Joseph Blakeley's Narrative

When there are two brothers, in the same regiment and the regiment is divided into two companies, it rests with the officer in command to allow the two brothers to be in the same company. There were two brothers in my regiment, and the regiment was divided - part had to stay at Cawnpore, and part had to go into Lucknow, and the brothers were separated. I was amongst those ordered to stay at Cawnpore. The night before the company marched, one of the brothers came to me and asked me if I minded going in his place, if the officer did not mind his staying with his brother, I said I didn't care. So he arranged with the officer, and stayed at Cawnpore, I went on to Lucknow. Every single man, woman, and child, were killed at Cawnpore, the two brothers included. I escaped at Lucknow, unhurt; had I stayed at Cawnpore I must have been killed.

The Mutiny broke out in 1857, and I got a fair share of the trouble it caused. The 13th, 48th, and 73rd Sepoys, and the 7th Cavalry, and a native battery of Artillery, and all the native police in Lucknow, turned upon us about 8 o'clock at night. You should have heard the shrieks of the women and children; the sick out of the hospitals in their blue clothes, and men under arrest fled to join the company; women, with their hair hanging down, ran screaming through the regiment looking for their husbands, and little children trying to find their fathers and mothers; and all the time shot and bullets flying about in all directions, and the sky red with the glare of the fires - for the Sepoys had set fire to their barracks, and other big buildings.

We saw at once how matters stood. The whole city seemed against us. We could do nothing that night but stand our ground. After a while the firing ceased, and we could hear them making a great noise in the city, plundering it; then they made off. When it got daylight, part of the regiment went out to see how things were, and the rest stayed to look after the women and children and sick folks. I was one of those sent out, and we came across the enemy a few miles away. They would not stand to fight, but made off with their booty; but we caught a few stragglers, and then returned to Lucknow, and we were left in peace for a time. But one day we were ordered out to fight the enemy at a place called Canonge, about eight miles from Lucknow, and we took a number of Sepoys, who had not joined in the mutiny, with us. As soon as they saw us, they commenced to fire upon us.

The Sepoys we had brought to fight with us turned traitors, and ran away and joined the enemy. What could we do? There were only 300 of us against 30,000 of the enemy, and we remembered the women and children left behind in Lucknow. The enemy was nearly all round us, so Sir Henry Lawrence gave the word to retreat to Lucknow. In our retreat we lost Colonel Casey and 111 men. The best runners got in first, and the enemy after us. I was Colonel Casey's bugler. The enemy took possession of the town, and we were driven into the Residency, completely shut in by the enemy. They occupied the houses all round us, one might hit them with a stone as they passed to and fro in the street. It was not a fort we were in, but we did our best to make it one, with trenches and barricades. We had left all our killed and wounded where they fell at Canonge. It was thought that we could not hold out against the enemy longer than 15 or 20 days, though we held our ground for 87 days. How we did it was a marvel. Day and night the whole time we were firing on the enemy, and they upon us, sometimes more, sometimes less. Often the enemy undermined us - that is, they dug a hole underground from the street, right under our barricades, and then filled it with gunpowder, and exploded it; - we did the same with them. Sometimes our mines and theirs met underground, and then they fought until one side was beaten. We could never be sure of a day when there would not be a mine blown up. Then the enemy made a rush into the opening made in our wall, and we had great difficulty in keeping them back until we could rebuild it. It was a curious sight to see one of our mines under a house full of black men, when it exploded. The men were blown up high into the air, amidst the rubbish, and then we used to rush out and settle them as they came down.

We had neither tea, nor coffee, nor bread, nor tobacco, nor rum, nor ale. We had no change of clothing and no bedding. We used to make cakes of flour ground between two stones. We burnt some rice black, and crushed it, and used it instead of coffee. We were allowed two ounces of meat a day, and some "gram" and Indian corn. "Gram" is a grain about the size of a pea, but not the same colour. The shells were flying over the town at night like shooting stars. One of the most cruel tricks of the enemy was this: the Sepoy bands, which had been trained by English bandmasters, played all the familiar airs we loved so well, - "Home, Sweet Home," "St. Patrick's Day," "The Girl I left behind me." They did this to make us vexed. It reminded us of the home in old England, which there seemed no chance of ever seeing again. We did get angry with them, of course, and sent shot and shell in the direction of the music, but they were very artful, and kept carefully out of our sight.

The hospital fared very badly; it was fairly riddled with shot and shell, and it was dreadful to see the bricks and dust flying over the dead and wounded. A great many poor sufferers had to lie on the ground, for we had no beds for them. The place was black with flies, they covered the wounds of the men, it was impossible to keep them off; the stench was dreadful. It was bad enough in the hospital, but in addition to this the enemy heaped all sorts of dead animals and decaying rubbish round the Residency, in order that the stench might bring fever. All the operations of the surgeon had to be performed without the aid of chloroform, and the cries of pain were dreadful to hear, when a leg or arm was being cut off or a bullet being extracted. Many of the wounded were shot dead whilst lying in the hospital, because the houses around us were higher than the Residency, and afforded the enemy a good advantage. The bravery of our men was wonderful: the wounded even crawled out of a firelock to shoot at the enemy, when they made a determined attack on us. Some of the women used to load our guns for us, so that we could fire quicker. We had no rifles, only smooth-bore guns called firelocks, and they would not send a bullet further than two hundred yards. We were afflicted with many kinds of sickness, and were half starved into the bargain, whilst the enemy were well in health and well fed. When they could not beat us with fair fighting, they tried to burn us out.

The enemy brought dead horses and cows and put them outside our trenches, so that the stench arising from them should cause cholera. They even blocked up all our drainage, and we had no means of getting rid of our refuse. Our dead people we had to bury inside the small enclosure in which we were confined, and these we had to bury at night, because we dare not show ourselves in the daytime, it was so easy for the enemy to pick us off with their guns from the neighbouring housetops; and even at night many of our people were shot whilst performing this last act for their fellows. Every building in the place was riddled with shot and shell; the Church suffered very much. We had to use the Church as a store room, as it was one of our strongest buildings. We had a clergyman, and a noble, good man he was, so brave and fearless. He was all day long by the side of the dying and wounded, praying for them, and his wife and daughter kept with him, and helped to dress the wounds. The clergyman (Mr. Polehampton) was never away from his duty by the dying, except when burying the dead in the night-time. One day, whilst the clergyman's wife was in the hospital tending the wounded, a shell burst into the place and killed her. We had our service on Sundays, the clergyman insisted on this, so we had it in some corner, not always in the same place, so that the enemy could not know our position, and so fire upon us.

We could hear the service going on, but very few of us could go; we dare not leave our posts. We lost several of our men each day, either shot or dying of fever, and we were getting fewer and fewer. Lest we should lose heart at this, we made our place smaller and smaller, so as not to miss our men, so that though several got killed each day, by narrowing our boundary we always looked full. Sir Henry Lawrence was our head man, and I think the enemy must have known in which part of the Residency his room was, for they kept firing at that particular place night and day. The black servants kept deserting us, and going over to the enemy, and so they got to know just how we were situated. One day a shell burst through the room where Sir Henry Lawrence was and a piece of it hit him in the thigh, and caused a fearful wound, which made him die shortly after. After Sir Henry's death, the command fell upon Colonel Inglis, who lived to come out of it safe, and it is a miracle that he did so, for he was here and there and everywhere. I was his bugler, and when he went out, I had to go with him. I did not care whether I got killed or not. I was so tired and sleepy and hungry and tormented with flies that I was completely tired of life. Put yourself in our position - very little food, no bed to sleep on, bullets raining on us all day, flies ready to devour us, a terrible stench, a burning sun all day and heavy rain at night, dead and dying around us, the uncertainty whether or not we should be blown into the air by an exploded mine, no chance of the siege coming to an end, and in the distance the band playing "Home, Sweet Home," reminding us of green fields and freedom far away in the land we had small hope of ever seeing again. Life, they say, is sweet; ours was very bitter indeed, though we still fought to preserve it.

The women had arranged with the men that they were to kill them if the enemy got the upper hand of us, fearing they might be served as the women were served at Cawnpore. General Wheeler gave in to the enemy at Cawnpore, and the consequence was the men had to lay down their arms, and they were then put into boats, to go down the river to Calcutta. The women and children were put upon the backs of elephants, and it was arranged that they should take the elephants along the river banks in company with the boats; but the boats had not gone far down the river before the enemy fired upon the helpless men in the boats, and sank them. Only one man lived to get away and report the fate of his comrades. The women and children were then taken back to Cawnpore, and put to all sorts of ill-treatment. After which they were killed, and thrown down a well.

One of General Wheeler's daughters jumped down the well alive, rather than be forcibly taken as the wife of one of the enemy. We had a larger number of men and women than there were at Cawnpore; and if we had given in to the enemy, they would have served us and our women the same. They often asked us to give in, but it was no use: "Die before surrender" was the password. At last, on the 25th of September, after being fastened up since the 30th of June, Havelock and Outram came to our rescue with their regiment; but they, too, were overpowered by the enemy, and got fastened up with us. It was a relief, it is true; it made the garrison stronger, but left us shorter of food, the relief party bringing nothing with them, because the enemy got between the regiment and the baggage waggons, and cut off all the supplies they were bringing with them; so, though we had more men, we had less to eat, and this increased our trouble. In about another month, Sir Colin Campbell came up with a large army and released us from our prison; but he had to give up Lucknow entirely to the enemy; for, while he was trying to get us out of Lucknow, the army he had left at Cawnpore got fastened up in the same way with General Windom. We had to sneak out of Lucknow in the middle of the night; and, when the enemy found out that we had escaped, how mad they were! and cannon balls were sent after us in all directions. After a march of 54 miles, we reached Cawnpore, and got General Windom's army out of their fix; and a day or two after we drove the enemy clean out of Cawnpore, and re-took the town. Then Sir Colin Campbell reinforced his army, and marched back to Lucknow, and took that city also from the enemy; but a great many of them escaped, as our General had not enough men to go all round the city. The regiment I was in did not go back to Lucknow with Sir Colin, but was placed in what was called the "flying column" - that is, we were to scour the country-side in search of stragglers from the enemy's ranks. We had a medal and clasp given to us, and a year's service, for our defence of Lucknow; and, in May, 1859, the regiment was ordered home to England.

We sailed from Calcutta to Portsmouth, and it took us 163 days to accomplish the voyage, for those were not the days of fast steamers. We were very short of food, because it took us so much longer to get to England than we expected, because of the dreadful storms. When we landed at Portsmouth, Her Majesty the Queen inspected us, and then we took the train for Dover. All the shops were closed, and the town in holiday attire, and big guns were firing, when we reached Dover. We were escorted by several bands of music to the barracks, and headed by a double-pole banner carried by two men on horseback.

On the banner was the motto, "Welcome Home the Heroes of Lucknow!" All the streets were decorated with banners. We were not long in Dover before the people subscribed, and gave us a grand dinner. I left the regiment at Dover, and joined the 58th, returning with them to India. I saw a great deal more of India, but never experienced any more fighting. I remained 10 years in the 58th and 4½ years in the 32nd, making 14½ years of life in India. I had 6½ years service in the army in England, Ireland, and Wales, and on leaving the army I received a pension of 8d. a day for life.

Joseph Blakeley, the bugler of Lucknow, is now living in Orange-square, Bradshaw-street, and has a pension of 8d. a day. Disabled from heavy work, lifting &c., he will be very grateful to any one who will find him light employment of any description. Had he been wounded, his services to his country would have entitled him to more than 4s. 8d. a week.

Mr. B. Morris

History of The Duchy of Lancaster

For the Members of the Society, I though I would try and give you a brief resume of Mrs. Pervis' lecture about the Duchy of Lancaster.

It was a very interesting talk and it gave us all an insight into its history, which started in King John's reign.

In 1215 some of the Barons forced John to sign a document called Magna Carta. This was supposedly a charter of Liberties for the people, but in reality was no more than a Licence for the Barons to wield more power. In the civil war that followed the Barons were defeated in 1265 during Henry III's reign, which was a long one and in many respects disastrous.

In 1265 Simon de Montfort rebelled and forced the King to accept the institution of a Parliament. This consisted, at the first sitting of two knights from each shire or county and two burgesses from each city or borough, meeting together to decide the conduct of the nation's affairs. It was a landmark in English history.

Henry was succeeded by his son Edward I (1272-1307). During this period Edmund held five earldoms at the age of 24, he married Blanch, widow of Henry III, who gave birth to three sons, Thomas, Henry and John. Edmund died in 1296 and was succeeded by Thomas who by this time had added the Earldoms of Lincoln, Pontefract and Clitheroe.

Edward II reigned in 1307-27 and the throne passed to his son Edward III (1327-77).

The York Parliament declared Thomas a rebel. He was tried at his own castle at Pontifract and lost his head. His widow married twice and died childless at the grand old age of 68.

His brother Henry took hold of the reins but died in 1345. However, his son was called Henry, the fourth Earl, and he was given the Dukedom of the Duchy of Cornwall in 1337, in March 1351 Henry was made Duke of Lancaster with all the royal power for the whole of the county and other parts of the Duchy of Lancaster. Henry died in 1361 without any sons, but he had two daughters, Blanche and Maude. Maude died in 1362 but Blanche married John of Gaunt who was Earl of Leicester, and Richmond and married Constana of Castile. Edward III died in 1377 unmourned, and was succeeded by his grandson Richard II (1377-99). In 1377 the county became a Palatine. John of Gaunt died in 1399 and King Henry IV confiscated all John of Gaunt's lands, and became himself Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster.

During the next 58 years Henry the V and VI reigned, until Henry the VI died in 1471.

In 1453 the War of the Roses broke out and was fought between the two branches of Edward III's family, and the house of York.

Meanwhile Edward IV had been crowned and he died in 1483. Edward V succeeded as his son but was shortly afterwards declared illegitimate and was disposed by his uncle, Richard of Gloucester who assumed the crown. The Lancastrian cause was not crushed for ever, and the last claimant, the Welsh landowner, Henry Tudor, great-great-great grandson of Edward III, raised an army and defeated Richard at Bosworth Field on 22nd August 1485 and became Henry the VII.

Mrs. Pervis told us about the reigns of Elizabeth I, and the 17th century Stewards, Charles I up to the reign of Ann (1702-14) who in 1702 stopped the sale of Duchy Lands.

The present Duke of Lancaster is of course our own Queen, and I think it makes all Lancastrians proud of their history, from the year 1265 up to the present day to say that we still have our own Duke of Lancaster.

R.O. Williams

A Short History of a Famous Old Chalice

Perhaps the most treasured possession of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Leyland, is a beautiful pre-Reformation chalice. Although the chalice is over 450 years old, it is in excellent condition.

Its history is not completely known, though many people have gathered facts, who have been interested in it.

On the back of the bowl is inscribed "Restore Mee to Leyland in Lankeshire". This instruction was obeyed and after some wanderings, it finally settled home for a 130 years.

The chalice has three hallmarks: first, a Lombardic capital "A", the London date letter for 1517-18; second, the Leopard's head crowned; and third, two links of a chain. Clearly, it belonged originally to the Parish Church at Leyland, during the Reformation it was probably removed by some Catholic family and hidden.

However, it was guarded jealously, because its existence did not come to light again until 1744, when it was discovered at Weld Bank R.C. Chapel, Chorley, which by the way was opened that year.

The chalice may have been preserved at Burgh Hall, close to Weld Bank, and given by Squire Charnock to his brother, the Rev. Fr. Chadwick, who opened the mission.

In the year 1846, a Catholic Mission was formed in Leyland by the Rev. Fr. Maurus Shepherd, who received the chalice, from the Rev. Fr. Henry Greenhalgh, of Weld Bank.

There is a latin inscription on the base rim which states: "This chalice was made in the year 1518 and through the centuries has been wandering about. At length, in the year 1846, it was honourably restored to its former habitation".

From a point of interest the same maker's mark is to be found on the Jurby (Isle of Man) chalice and the Great Waltham paten, both of the date 1521-2.

R.O. Williams
25.1.78

Wycoller Country

The writer of this appreciation had already visited the Wycoller Country before hearing Mr. Bentley's lecture and had found it so attractive and interesting that he had repeated the visit and followed up the link with the Bronte country at Howarth. It would have been even more interesting had he been privileged to hear Mr. Bentley beforehand but this has only made him the more determined to go again at the first opportunity.

Mr. Bentley traced human occupation of the area from pre-historic times to the present day. It was apparent that he knew the neighbourhood intimately and had devoted a great deal of time and effort to studying the literature and documents which embodied some of its history. These showed that it had had its ups and downs, a climax being reached during the Industrial Revolution after which it had declined progressively, for a variety of reasons, until the destruction of its environment was threatened by a proposal to build a waterworks in 1896. The proposal was not followed up but the threat remained and, in spite of determined efforts by people from the neighbourhood, the village decayed until most of the buildings were in a ruinous state as was illustrated by some of Mr. Bentley's excellent slides.

Indeed, it was not until it was threatened by development, in the modern sense, that active steps were taken to stabilise the situation by enclosing it in a Country Park. One must hope that those responsible will avoid the mistakes which have been made, in a somewhat similar situation, at Haigh Hall, near Wigan.

We are indebted to Mr. Bentley for an interesting and informative lecture. The writer would commend his book, "Portrait of Wycoller" to members to refresh their memories and to extend the information he gave us on that occasion.

W.G. Mackay
23/1/78

The Lostock

The catchment area of the river Lostock is in the Brindle and Wheelton district. It covers 16,160 acres, and is fifteen miles long. It rises in the Withnell Hills, to the extreme east of what was in the early days part of the Parish of Leyland.

Some of these tributeries appear to be insignificant streams. But when you stroll along the banks interesting and useful information comes to light. The Lostock runs through a picturesque wooded valley. A good view of this can be obtained by walking along the path of the Leeds and Liverpool canal, which at this point runs parallel with the river.

As it flows towards Whittle-le-Woods it passes under the A49 at Shaw Hill. It then turns in a northerly direction towards Clayton Bottoms. At the bridge, and from the hill above there is a pleasing and familiar view with the Lostock flowing along towards Cuerden Park. It is a worth while view at any season of the year. The hall was at one time described as one of the finest mansions in the county. The last one in residence was Captain Tatton.

It was a Townley Parker from Cuerden Hall that gave Astley Hall to the Borough of Chorley. The river leaves Cuerden at Bamber Bridge and flows along to Lostock Hall.

It then winds round to Fowler Lane, Mill Lane, and on to Earnshaw Bridge. It skirts by what was once the earliest cotton mill in Leyland, Pilkingtons. Then it goes on to the west of Leyland Lane, via Cowling Lane, Dunkirk Lane, across Slater Lane. It passes through fields with a bridge at Ulnes Walton, and to Croston, and just beyond it joins the confluence with the River Yarrow.

At this point it marks the boundary between Croston and Bretherton. Here there is the meeting of two rivers, the Lostock and the Yarrow, about a mile away they join up with the River Douglas. This then joins the Ribble at Hesketh Bank. From Croston to Hesketh Bank there is to be seen the meeting of four rivers.

On one occasion standing at the point where the Lostock and the Yarrow meet, I saw a dead sheep flow upstream for about 300 yards. From information received from the Lancashire River Board, it was stated that at High Tides, the effect may be noticed at Ulnes Walton, which is in the Leyland district.

The name Lostock appears in 1212, but not as a river name. It was probably from the name Lostock Hall, which stood upon its banks. The 'stock' may denote a stockaded place. It is possible that the Lostock was navigable.

So sailing craft at the time of the invasion of the Vikings, who came from the west coast of Ireland, may have landed in this area. There are a number of names which suggest such a settlement. Ulf de Walton may have become Ulnes Walton.

Mentioned in Documents

It is surprising the number of times the Lostock is mentioned in old books and documents. Here are a few such references:- "A William Fleetwood held the manor of Lostock Hall in 1574. He sold it a year later, with the fishing rights in the Lostock water, to a Roger Burcough."

It must at that time have been a good fishing river. I was informed that in recent years salmon had been seen as far up as the bridge at Ulnes Walton.

In the early 13th century a document of the Farington family, there is a reference to some land in Farington, in the west part of Lostock, following Lostock to Blacklache.

Another dated April 28th 1314 deals with an agreement between the Abbot of Evesham and William Farington. This refers to ten acres of waste land enclosed by John Farington (the father of William Farington) in Farington, and also to the erection of a water mill in the same township, to which the Abbot had certain rights.

The point of interest here is that a water mill had been erected in Farington. This would receive its power from the River Lostock.

An entry in the Leyland Parish Register for burials in 1702:- "John Atherton of Leyland, below ye town." A note adds "This part of the township west of the Lostock."

Another note from the Register, which was compiled by the Rev. Stuart White:- "Lower Farington Hall, the property of the late George Hargreaves, Esq., of Leyland:-" It retains scarcely anything to testify to its former dignity, except for a portion of the moat, which was replenished by the River Lostock.

The situation of the old hall is within a short distance of the boundary of Penwortham, and the Parish of Leyland, and near the Lostock in its southern course. From a Charity Commission report. A letter received from the Trustees of the charity in March 1862. It was explained that:- "The rent of the plot of land being difficult of access, and in part liable to flood."

These conditions still exist, and expenditure has occasionally to be made upon embanking the sides of the river.

An incident also happened to William, Charles Baldwin, when a small boy, he rode his pony across the flooded Lostock on a plank fixed across the river. Later he became the first European to reach the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi from the East Coast.

He met Livingstone on August 6th 1860. He had reached the Falls from the West Coast. Baldwin wrote a book entitled "African Hunting". He was buried in Leyland Churchyard. The epitaph on his gravestone is very appropriate, it reads:- "Like Nimrod A Mighty Hunter before the Lord."

The flooding of the Lostock has always been a source of trouble and expense. At several points the course of the river has been altered. It was diverted in the Fowler Lane area, to protect some property built by Boardmans of Farington Mill. It was also moved at Earnshaw Bridge, to prevent flooding at the mill. The boiler house and other buildings were often under water when the Lostock was in flood.

Prior to the building of a bridge at this point there was a ford, and hipping stones. Hipping farm, and hipping cottage close by are reminders of this.

At times the Lostock has been troublesome, but it must not be forgotten, that it has also been useful and a source of power. Denham Print Works is shown with a weir, Clayton, Cuerden, Walton, are all shown on the map with a mill race or pond. All supplied with water from the Lostock. A corn mill at Farington was driven by water power from the Lostock. At that time it was known as Marsden's mill. The mill was later bought by Leyland Motors.

It was also a favourite spot for ells or snigs. Near the old water wheel was a good place for swimming. Many will recall the days when they were chased away, grasping their clothes and racing away as quickly as possible.

The Lostock acts as a boundary for election purposes. At one time about half a mile acted as a boundary for Leyland. In 1933, the local Council bought a few acres on the opposite side for the Sewage Works. This stands on the Lostock off Leyland Lane. The purified effluent flows into the river. With the process of filtertration used there is no pollution of the river.

Old Halls

It is also interesting to note the number of old halls on or near the banks of the Lostock. There is Crook Hall, Cuerden, Pincock, Woodcock, Farington, Dunkirk, and at one time Lostock Hall. Professor Ekwell suggests that the word Crook for the hall, owes its origin to the bend in the run of the river at this point.

Crook Hall, an 18th century mansion is now a community centre for the Brothers of Charity, and has been renamed Liseux Hall. There is Clayton Hall. This was a farmhouse. A large antique mansion of the age of Elizabeth the First. A red bricked building with a quaint porch and gables. Here too there are the remains of a moat. Cuerden Hall, still in a fine state of preservation was once described as the finest mansion in the county.

It has belonged to a number of families. The last one in residence was a Captain Tatton. During the last war it was taken over by the Army.

Woodcock Hall was the property of Robert Townley Parker. It was also known as Crow Trees, and was the ancient residence of Mr. John Woodcock and his family for about 500 years. One of the family, John Woodcock, a Franciscan priest, was executed at Lancaster for his adherence to the Roman Catholic faith, during the Civil War of 1664. The building has in recent years been demolished.

Farington Hall was the residence of the Farington family. They later moved to Old Worden Hall, which was bought by Sir Henry Farington from the Andertons of Euxton, which is on the site of the Royal Ordnance factory. From there they moved to Shaw Hall, which was renamed Worden Hall. This has now passed from the family, and was bought by the Leyland Urban District Council and opened in 1951 as a Public Park.

Dunkirk Hall, an old hall on the banks of the Lostock, in Dunkirk Lane. The level of the house is stated to be below the level of the Lostock flood water. An inscription over the porch gives the date "W.I.1626" Pincock Hall is another old hall, situated on the west of Leyland Lane. The date over the porch of one of the doors is also the same as Dunkirk Hall, 1626. Peacock Hall is another old place on the west of Leyland Lane. The date over the porch of one of the doors is 1626.

Historic Buildings in Leyland

It has been suggested that information about the historic buildings in Leyland should be available to members and the South Ribble Borough Council has kindly provided us with a copy of its official "List of Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest" in its area. This has been placed in the Society's Library.

This local List, which is dated June, 1976, is part of one which covers the whole of the country. The concept was introduced by the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. Advice on the merits of buildings was to be provided by the Historic Buildings Council, which was set up in 1953. The Act of 1947 was extended by a further Act in 1971 and amended by the Town and Country Amenities Act of 1974. The national List is maintained by the Department of the Environment. It is under constant review and a building need not be old to be included. Victorian and Edwardian examples, as well as some of the inter-War period, are considered and some, which have been overlooked or rejected in the past, may be re-considered.

The official List is arranged in three Sections which contain the names of the buildings, their approximate location, their Grades and their Ordnance Survey Map references.

SECTION 1

This comprises buildings which are under statutory protection. They cannot be altered, extended or demolished without a Listed Building Consent from the local Planning Authority.

Buildings in Grades I and II have this protection.

Grade I buildings are defined as being of outstanding interest. Only about 4% of those on the national List are in this Grade, none of them in Leyland.

Grade II buildings are defined as having special interest which warrants every effort being made to preserve them. Some of these, of particular importance, are given Grade II*.

Grades A and B refer to Churches but these gradings do not always equate with those for other buildings.

LEYLAND

Balcarres Rd.	Old Hall (Nos. 129 & 131)	II	5452 2219
Church Road	Old Grammar School and attached cottage	II	5419 2161
Church Road	St. Andrew's Church	B	5411 2159
Dunkirk Lane	Dunkirk Hall Farmhouse (Nos. 97 & 99)	II	5234 2189
Euxton Lane	Worden Old Hall	II	5620 2090
Langdale Rd.	Atherton Hall	II	5483 2075
Leyland Lane	Peacock Hall (Nos. 376-380)	II	5277 2153
School Lane	Wellfield House (No. 1)	II	5409 2227

School Lane	Golden Hill Schools (No. 90)	II	5396 2257
Towngate	Old Stone Cross	II	5400 2159
Worden Lane	Nos. 2 & 10	II	5398 2153
Worden Lane	Entrance Gate & North Lodge	II	5403 2128

SECTION 2

This contains buildings which are not sufficiently interesting to qualify for statutory protection. They are classified as Grade III but it has been recommended that this Grade should be dropped, some time in the future, the more important examples being up-graded.

Church Road	Eagle & Child Inn	5423 2160	(1/4)
Fox Lane	Almshouses Nos. 92 - 100	536 215	(1/5)(1/6)(1/7)
Fox Lane	Almshouses Nos.102 - 112	536 215	(1/8)
Leyland Lane	Cliff's Farmhouse	526 206	(2/19a)
Leyland Lane	Long's Hall Farmhouse and barn to rear	527 220	(1/19b) (1/20)
Worden Park	Monument	539 207	(2/23)
Worden Park	Ice House	5374 2075	(2/24)
Worden Park	Doric Gateway	5359 2077	(2/25)
Worden Park	Cascade Arch	5394 2065	(2/26)
Worden Park	Worden Hall	5373 2087	(2/21)

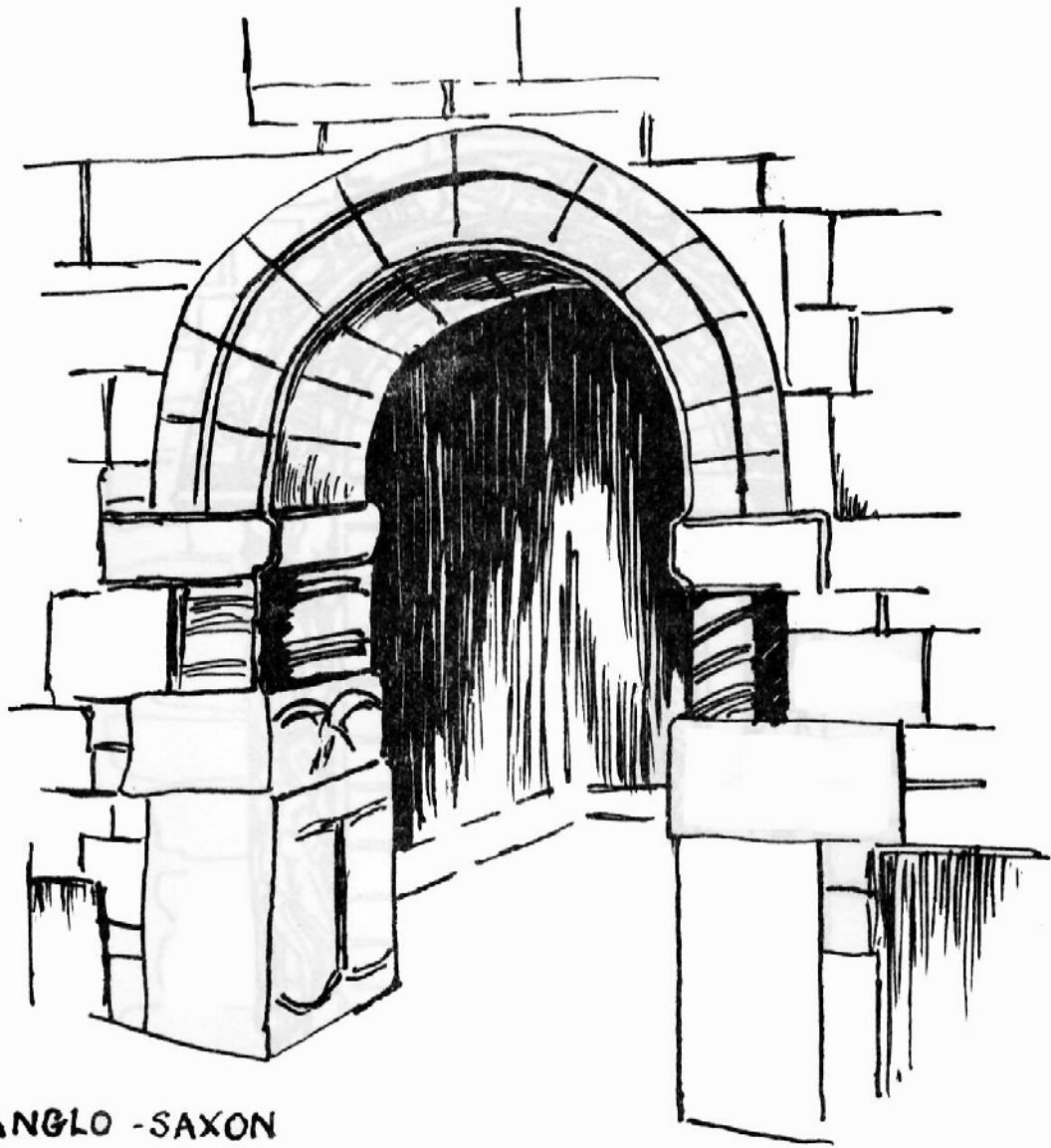
SECTION 3

This contains buildings which have been surveyed since the official List was compiled and recommended as qualifying for Grade II. They have not yet been placed on the Statutory List.

Sod Hall Road	The Round House	II	5108 2419
Southlands Dr. Off Slater Ln.	Malt Kiln Farm	II	519 213

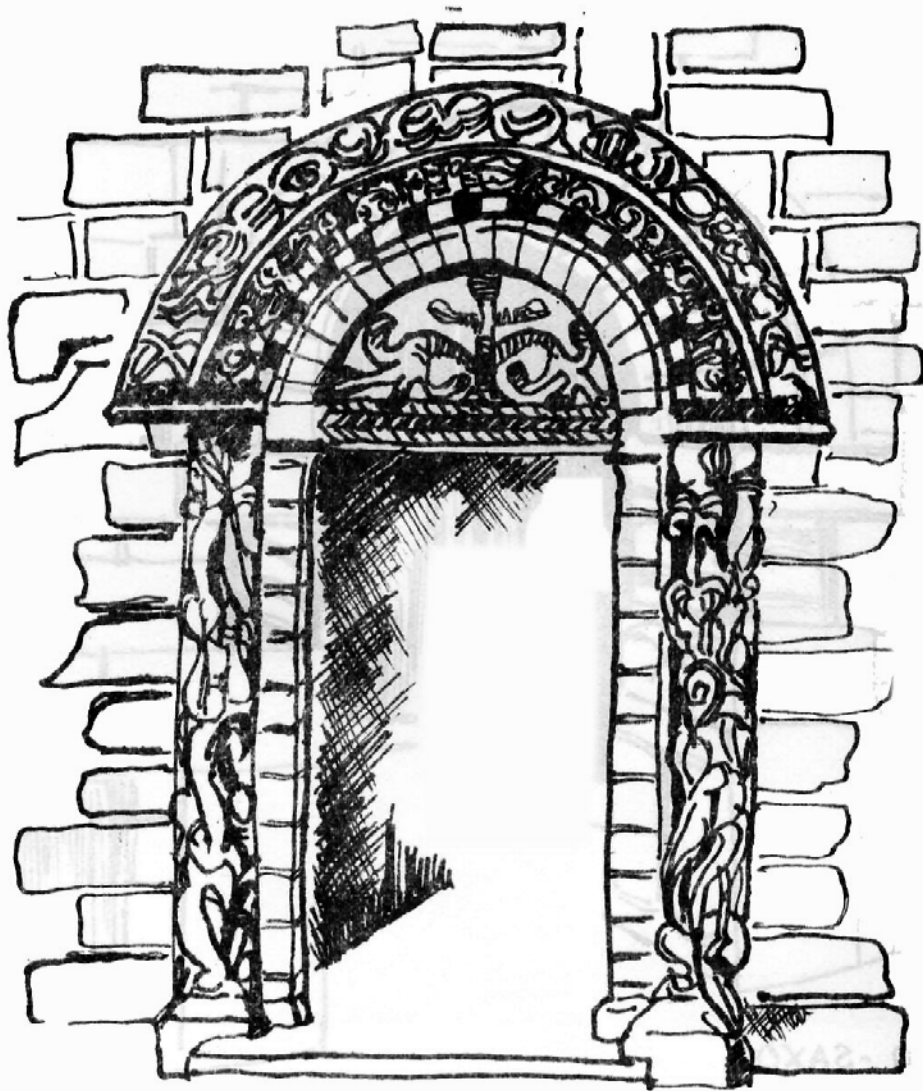
It is hoped that space may be available for the official descriptions of these buildings in a future issue of the Chronicle.

Mr. MacKay



ANGLO - SAXON
c 675

Doorways were made small as possible - semi-circular arches

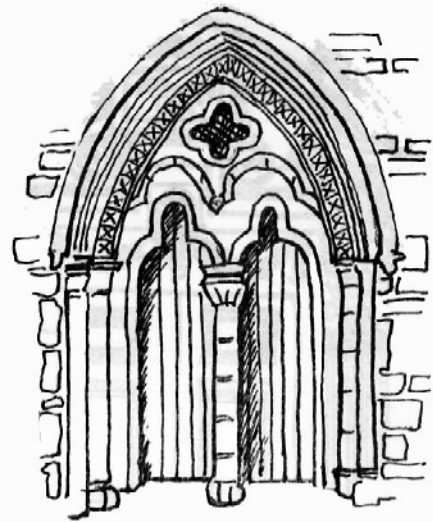


DOORWAY C. 1160 NORMAN.

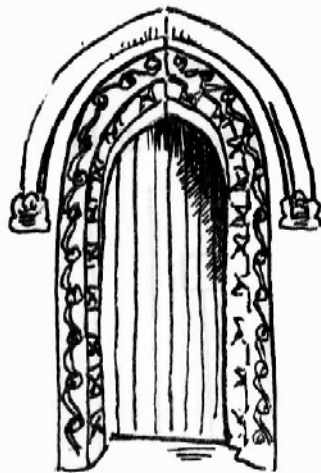
Much more elaborate - decorative carving.



TRANSITIONAL DOORWAY
c1160-1200
Beginning of pointed arch.

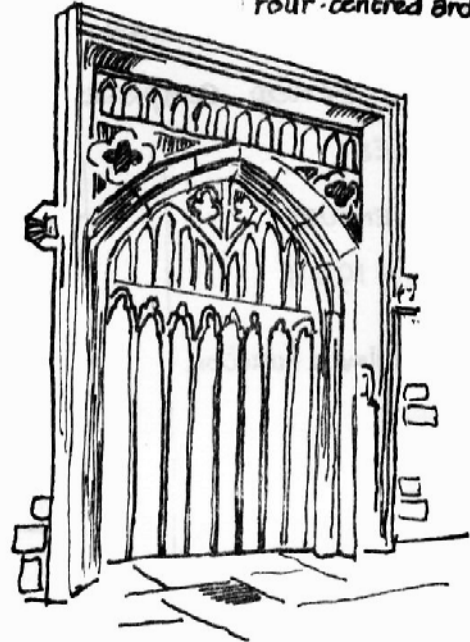


DOORWAY 1200-1300
EARLY ENGLISH - Pointed



DECORATED DOORWAY
c1300-1350
Ogee canopy

PERPENDICULAR 1350-1660
Distinctive feature - square hood mould over
four-centred arch.



THE CLASSICAL AGE 1660-1830



Carved & moulded flanked by columns

BAROQUE 1700-1750



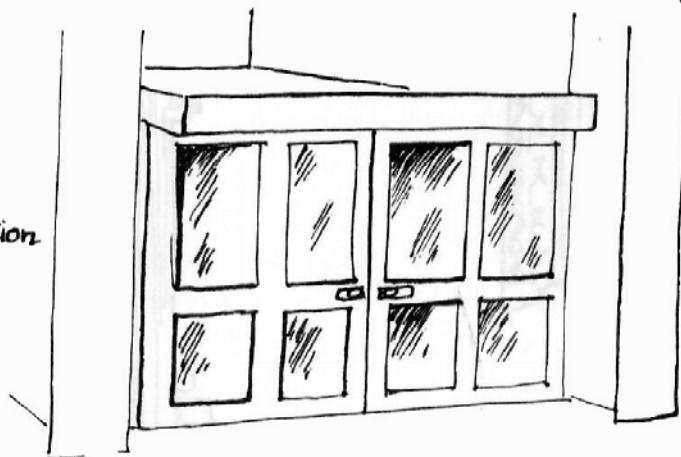
GEORGIAN & VICTORIAN AGE 1750-1900 - GOTHIC REVIVAL

GOTHIC PERIOD COMPRISES EARLY ENGLISH, DECORATED & PERPENDICULAR STYLES.

20TH. CENTURY

1964

Form follows function



The Places and Buildings In
Which People Lived

Local materials have for many centuries been the "faces" and the "backbones" of the homes built by the inhabitants of these Islands. Chalk and flint on the South Downs, limestone in Lincolnshire and Dorset, sandstone and limestone in Northern Districts, and in the Midlands there was timber from the great forests. The great variety of colour and style in our old buildings is easy to recognise if we take the trouble to look about us and learn more about what we see. It is good to observe and to preserve. Individually, as well as being an Historical Society, we should all do what we can to preserve something of our ancient homes and monuments.

Before the Norman Conquest, houses in Britain were largely round or square huts, probably turf on a frame of sticks, of a similar construction to charcoal-burners, huts ~~which~~ in use until quite modern times. Earliest signs of architecture still visible are the stone circles at Stonehenge, Avebury, and nearer home, Castlery, believed to be connected with Sun Worship. There must be a parallel to draw somewhere between them and the fact that later gems of architectural significance remaining to us were, and indeed are still, places of worship.

Early Hill Forts, today merely mounds, are also in evidence throughout Britain. Following upon these were motte and bailey castles, early Norman castles consisting of an earth mound and surrounding wall (usually of timber). The outstanding exception to these being the White Tower, the oldest part of the Tower of London built by William the Conqueror to overawe the local populace.

The main building inside the wall of a castle was the keep but only in places of special importance did William have stone keeps built. The entrance was at first floor level, approached by an exterior staircase. The ground floor was usually taken up by storerooms, the upper floors housing the Great Hall, a sort of communal living room, and quarters for the king's officials.

In later times a second surrounding wall, called a curtain wall was built to protect the bailey. Towers were added to the corners (built square in the early days but built round later to make it difficult to push out corner stones with battering rams). On top of walls and towers battlements were built, machicolations with holes in the floors so that boiling water or oil could be poured on the attackers.

Wm. Rigby Extract From Parish Magazine
Augmentation of the Living of St. James'
Church, Leyland, 1885

In the year 1885 Misses Farington made a further gift to the benefice of St. James Church, Moss Side, Leyland.

Misses Farington handed over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England the sum of £1,233-6-8 to be invested in three per cent consols, for the use and perpetual benefit of the vicar of St. James and his successors. This sum, in addition to the munificent gift of four cottages in Slater Lane, and the benefit of some tithe rent charges on certain properties in the neighbourhood, made over by these ladies brings up the amount of the living to the value of £300 per annum. This is exclusive of the vicarage house and gardens.

In a letter on this subject, the Misses Farington desire to accord their thankfulness to Almighty God that their lives have been spared to accomplish and complete this work, upon which they set their heart, and put to their hands thirty years ago.

Who of us does not desire and pray that works of faith and labours of love such-as these, may gather much fruit unto life eternal.

Extract from Parish Magazine 1888

Wm. Rigby

St. Andrew's Communicants Union

An afternoon excursion was arranged for those who belonged to the Union, and Saturday, July 28th, was fixed upon as the date of the excursion.

The party consisted of 43 individuals and started from the schools in Union Street at two o'clock in three conveyances (waggonettes). The weather did not look promising, but, as was not expected, it did not make much difference to the good humour and high spirits of either young or old. The ride in the air seemed to be the chief attraction, but the expedition was not without other pleasant experiences. During the resting of the horses, at Croston, the opportunity was seized to view the fine old Parish Church. This had not been thought of by many of the party, so that it was an agreeable addition to their afternoons enjoyment. The Church consists of a tower, nave, side aisles, chancel, and two side chapels. It is situated near the middle of the village, and in the Vale of the Yarrow. The Tower is a very massive structure, almost square in plan, and contains a peal of eight Bells, which are rung from the floor of the Church, and in the sight of the congregation. This may seem undesirable at first sight, but it certainly has the very necessary effect of reminding both ringers and people that the bells are part of the furnishing of God's house; and so to be used only for purposes only connected with religion.

Goodward Sorrow and Goodward Joy may fitly find expression by such means. Upon entering the South door, the massive timber of which it is composed was noticed. The Font, which is octagonal in form, has the date 1663 upon it, and stands just inside. The Nave is divided from the Aisles by four arches, which are supported on two columns with plain capitals. The Chancel contains an ancient "aumbry", (or cupboard) in the thickness of the wall on the left side; and also a double piscina, (or basin) on the right side. The "aumbry" was the place where the sacred vessels (the chalice) were kept, and the "piscina" was used for ablutions, (or washing) of the chalice and of the purificators, &c.) which were employed in the celebration of the Holy Sacrement. (Similar ones to these may be seen in Leyland Parish Church). The Side Chapels were founded by the great families of the neighbourhood and were probably used for Chantry purposes. One is called the Rufford or (Hesketh) Chapel, and the other the de Trafford Chapel. Both are now seated so as to give additional accommodation.

There was a parish priest of Croston in 1087, and his name was Lindulph. From that time to the present there have been various restorations and rebuildings of this fine old Church, but it stands (in the main) as it was erected some time in the year 1300.

In 1577, in 1767, and in 1867, large sums of money were spent on the necessary repairs and restoration of the building. On the last occasion about £3,000 was spent in the work. Eccleston and Croston are near neighbours, and doubtless very good friends, but there was a time when Croston tried to claim Eccleston as part of an already gigantic parish, stretching from the far side of Hoole to the boundary of Mawdsley. After a hot contest Eccleston asserted its independence as an ancient parish. This was in the year 1317. Resuming the journey, the conveyances made for Rufford, where the party was deposited at the Fermor Arms. Having more than an hour before the appointed time for tea, all set out for a stroll into the village to see the sights. Permission not having been obtained, admission to the Park was not possible; but the beautiful trees which grow within its boundaries attracted much notice, and called forth many admirable remarks. Now was required a store of good temper and liveliness with which the company had come provided, for rain began to fall steadily and did not cease its downpour until home was reached. Before the worst came a considerable number had found their way into the beautiful new church. The material is red brick, with stone pillars to support the nave arches. The font and Reredos are of very costly marble and alabaster.

In the latter there is a large marble cross forming the centre of the design, having on the right hand a circular panel with the carved representation of a "Pelican in its piety" (i.e., a mother bird which is supposed to peck its own breast to draw blood wherewith to feed its young). Setting forth the duty and the (moral) beauty of self sacrifice. There is a fine altar tomb erected to the memory of the late Sir Thomas G. Fermar Hesketh. At the end of the South Aisle there is a marble slab on which are represented a knight and his Lady, with their hands clasped in prayer and their heads on a cushion. The knight is clad in armour, and the Lady in the costume of her times. The inscription records the death of Thomas Hesketh, Esq., who died October 8th 1863. Ten other christian names are given - perhaps children of the knight. A good tea was served at the Fermors Arms and a happy and merry evening was spent until the hour of our departure arrived. Home was reached about 9.30 p.m.

Mr. Wm. Rigby

Roman Ribchester An Appreciation of
The Lecture on Monday 9th January, 1978

It is perhaps fortunate for us that the Romans were such a methodical race. When they set up a series of forts it was at measured distances along their wonderful road system, so that modern historian studying the conquest of Britain would know approximately where to look for the remains of a fort, and could practically pin point where the fort gates would be, and from this recreate the details of the fort itself. On Monday the 9th January, Mr. Halston did just that for the members of our Society. With pictures from Ribchester itself, from sites around Britain that have not disappeared beneath a river, or been built over, and some interesting models of forts, and Roman Soldiers, we were taken for a tour of Ribchester as it was in Roman times.

The original fort was built of timber, then later this was rebuilt of stone. It was probably built by the 20th Legion, which was stationed at Chester. Tools from the period include a plane which is practically identical with todays planes. We were shown a Roman Strong Room where the standards and pay would be kept underground.

We saw the buttressed granary where the sacks were kept on a raised floor away from damp and vermin.

Quite a lot of Ribchester's fort is under the graveyard, and wherever a grave is dug, the curator of the museum runs out to see what can be salvaged.

The West Gate was excavated a few years ago, but the South and East Gates have been cut off by the river.

The fort was probably used as a rest centre for cohorts on their way up to Hadrian's Wall. Supply waggons, bearing a startling resemblance to the waggons of the Wild West could also have called there for a charge of horses. A fort the size of Ribchester was likely to include stables. It is also possible that a ford was used, since no trace of a Bridge has been found, but timbers have been found in the river that could have formed part of a jetty.

The Whattle and daub houses of the first civil settlement were deliberately destroyed by fire to form a parade ground. No sign of a second settlement has ever been found, nor have traces of mosaic or wall paintings, or sewers, such as were found at York, come to light.

Our trip to Ribchester by picture and story drew to a close, and Mr. Halton was thanked for an interesting evening.

D. Mather

Money Talks

One of my treasured possessions is a small Roman coin, only 18 mm in diameter, a silver denarius of the reign of Marcus Aurelius, my favourite emperor.

Although as might well be expected after more than 1800 years a little wear has taken place, the portrait and inscriptions on it are still clear and legible. To the historian much can be learned by a close study of the coin as can be shown by the following interpretation.

On the obverse is a clear portrait of the somewhat sharp featured and bearded emperor, wearing a laurel wreath on his head, surrounded by the inscription M. ANTONINUS AUG ARM PARTH MAX.

On the reverse is an allegorical figure of Victory holding a palm branch and affixing a shield, bearing the letters VIC PAR, to a palm tree, the whole being surrounded by the inscription TRP XX IMP IIII COS III. What can we learn from these somewhat cryptic letterings?

First, identification of the emperor depicted, by the portrait and inscriptions on the obverse. The features of the emperor Marcus Aurelius are well known from statues and other likenesses. Roman minting techniques were sufficiently advanced at the time to make the portrait readily recognisable.

However, the lettering M. ANTONINUS confirms the matter.

Marcus was born in Rome in AD 121 as Marcus Annius Verus, son of Annius Verus and Domitia Lucilla. The great emperor Hadrian recognised his fine qualities and later he was adopted by the emperor Antoninus Pius, assuming the name Marcus Aelius Aurelius Verus. Posterity, however, knows him better as Marcus Aurelius.

The letters AUG stand of course for Augustus the title of honour borne by all emperors since 27 B.C. and by Marcus since March 7th AD 161, when he succeeded to the throne of the Roman Empire. ARM stands for Armeniacus, it being customary to give such titles to emperors and their immediate associates for valour in defeating the enemies of Rome, in this case the Armenians, bestowed on Marcus in AD 164.

PARTH MAX means Parthicus Maximus, an honour similarly granted to him in AD 166 for defeat of the Parthians with whom a treaty was concluded in that year.

On the reverse side more instances of stylised inscription serve to identify the coin. TRP stands for Tribunicia Potestas, the power of the Tribunes of the People. In the early days of Rome these Tribunes were created to protect the rights of the lower classes (plebians) against the aristocrats (patricians). In reality this power was abused and the original purpose neglected.

However, the fiction was preserved and the emperor solemnly renewed the power to himself every year (in Marcus' time on December 10th). On the coin TRP XX means that it was minted in the 20th year of renewal of his tribune power, effectively dating the minting to the year AD 166.

IMP IIII is short for Imperator, in this instance it denotes the fourth imperial acclamation bestowed to commemorate the fact that the Roman army had achieved a notable success. Acclamations were previously bestowed on Marcus in AD 161, 163 and 165, IMP IIII being given in AD 166, further evidence for the dating of the coin. The fact that the last acclamation awarded to Marcus was IMP X in AD 179 is an indication of the fighting which took place during his reign.

COS III shows that the office of Consul, the highest of the Roman magistracies was held on three occasions by Marcus before and after his accession to the throne.

The allegorical figure of Victory and the inscription VIC PAR reiterate that the Parthian war was brought to a successful conclusion in AD 166, the date the coin was minted.

As for the coin itself, it was certainly struck in the Imperial mint in Rome. The denarius was a fairly high value silver coin, more valuable being the golden aureus and quinarius.

Lesser value bronze coins were the sestertius, dupondius and the as. As to its intrinsic value the denarius at that time equated approximately to one days pay for a Roman legionary soldier.

To provide some link between these wars on the Eastern flank of the Empire and events taking place in our own Northern Britain, the reign of Marcus Aurelius (AD 161 - 180) was characterised by intense activity in strengthening the the garrisons of the Pennine Forts against the Brigantes and Hadrians Wall forts against the Lowland Scots. It is of interest to note that the Governor of Britain in AD 175 was Antistius Adventus, a man with a distinguished military record who had served in the Parthian wars under Marcus. Also in AD 175 the Roman forces in Britain were increased by about 5,500 Sarmatian cavalry sent by Marcus to keep them out of mischief in their own Danubian area but no doubt very welcome as reinforcements in Britain. Some of these Sarmatians were garrisoned at Ribchester at a later period.

Much could be written about Marcus Aurelius. Schooled in the Stoic tradition, he was a careful, generous and conscientious ruler, perhaps one of Rome's greatest thinkers and the last emperor during Rome's period of greatness.

A mystic and philosopher, it was his misfortune to be forced to spend almost the whole of his reign in active field service.

From AD 167 until his death from an infectious disease at Vienna on March 17th AD 180, he took personal command of his legions on the Danube front.

In the solitude of his tent he wrote down his daily thoughts and reflections which he titled simply "To himself". By great good fortune these have survived and are now known as the "Meditations" of Marcus Aurelius. They can be read with profit today and reveal his sensitive and profound nature.

To revert to the theme of these notes, I would say that "Money Talks" - if we take the trouble to listen.

Mr. Bolton

November Meeting

Our November meeting was to have been addressed by Miss Tresidder, Curator of the Harris Museum Preston, but in the event the speaker was Mr. S.B. Sartin, Keeper of Fine Art at the same museum.

Mr. Sartin apologised for the fairly minimal nature of material in the Harris which had relevance to Leyland and then proceeded to regale us with a break-neck tour of the art, architecture and archaeology of Preston, taking in Cuerdale and Walton-le-Dale on the way.

His easy manner and excellent selection of slides gave our members a new insight into what Preston streets and buildings looked like in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Preston is fortunate in having a collection of paintings by such artists as Beatty, giving fine detail of the town's appearance. The abrupt transition to the pastoral scene at the town's edge was illustrated by beautiful reproductions of paintings by Devis and others of Walton-le-Dale and the Ribble and Preston Dock areas. He made the point that the artist was not always to be trusted, however, in every detail.

Examples were shown of Saxon coins from the wonderful Cuerdale hoard and our old friend Dr. Kuerden popped up again with a map of the town centre.

Mr. Sartin concluded with a plea for the preservation of items of history, ranging from buildings to place names, before they are lost for ever. He also touched on the subject of the Leyland Museum.

Mrs. R.B. Kelley in an excellent vote of thanks, reinforced the speaker's last remarks and expressed our appreciation, which was evident in the interest generated in the audience, for a first rate lecture.