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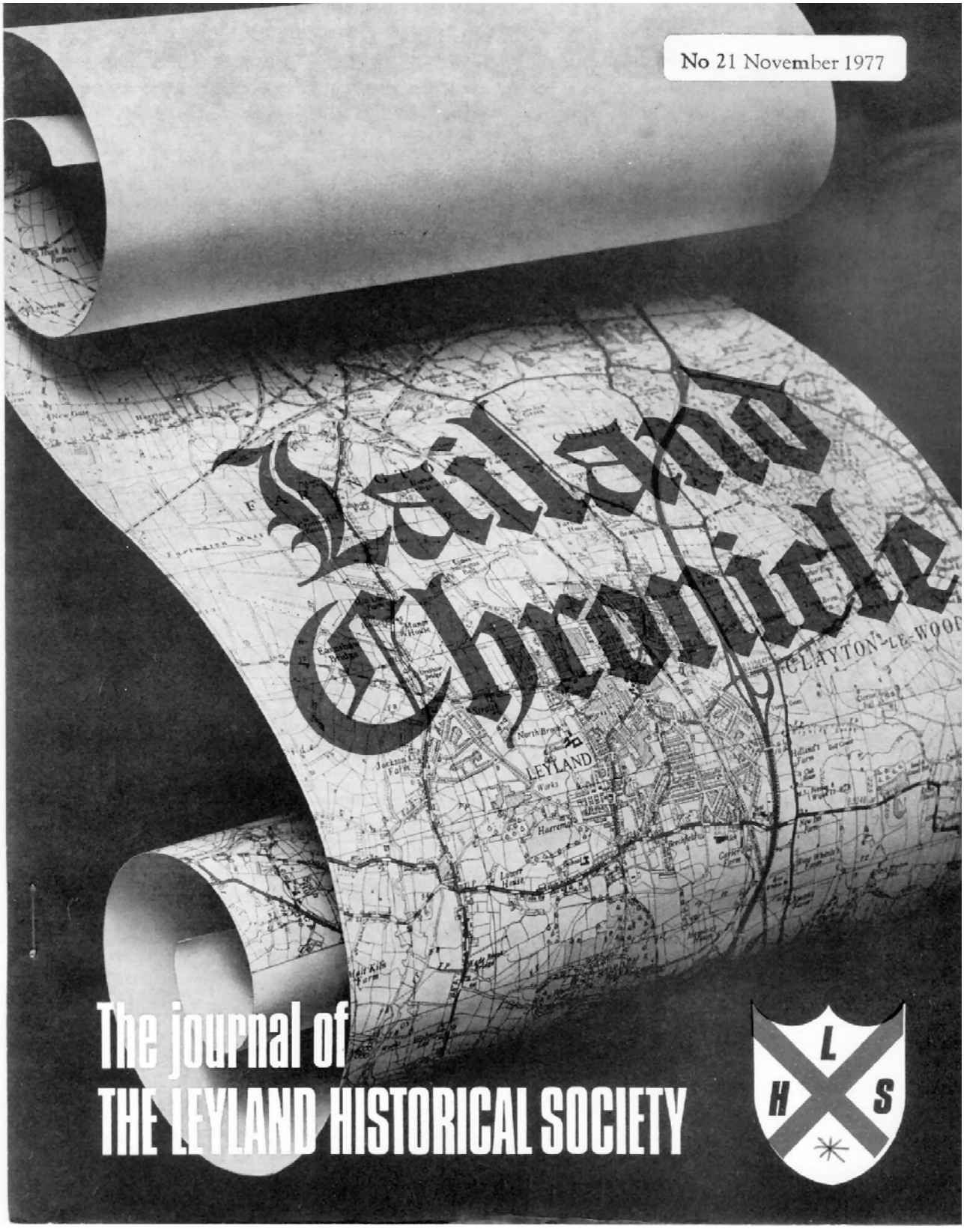

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

PRESIDENT

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Leyland 24229

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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 LAND, LEYLAND

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£2.00 per annum
Adult Members	£1.50 " "
School Members	£0.25 " "
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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"LAILAND CHRONICLE"

C O N T E N T S

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A TRIBUTE TO A WORTHY PRESIDENT

The sudden death of our President, Nowell Banister, must have left all of us with a sense of loss, as he has been so much a part of the Society since its creation about nine years ago. He was,as you are probably aware, one of the original group who got together to form the Society and he has been a corner-stone on which we have grown to our present level.

His knowledge of local history, particularly about the Parish Church and Worden Park was very wide and we must be glad that he has put pen to paper so often in articles to local (and occasionally) national newspapers and periodicals, in contributions to our own Lailand Chronicle and not least in the books and booklets which he has written about local history including a recent history of Worden Hall, produced for the local authority.

There is no doubt that he will be missed and our feelings must be very mixed - sorrow that he is no longer with us, but happy in the knowledge that he has contributed so much.

Mr. F. Cumpstey

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Dear Members,

It has been suggested that a brief description be given in the Magazine about the Annual General Meeting held in July.

As Chairman of the Society, I thought that it would be appropriate if I gave you a general idea of what happens at this Meeting.

First of all, we expect a good attendance, but for the last few years it has been very poorly attended. However, this year's attendance was in the region of 50 members which was quite good.

All members are welcomed by myself and apologies for absence are accepted. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting are read out by our Secretary and any matters arising are discussed. The Treasurer then gives the Members time to ask any questions concerning the financial aspects of the accounts for the previous year, i.e. expenditure if it was really necessary, or any other items which need clarification.

Next on the Agenda is any changes in the Constitution or subscriptions which have to be put to the Members for their consideration. The election of officers and committee have to be elected and this year a Nomination list was posted at the Meeting prior to the A.G.M. to enable names to be put forward.

After this business is completed any other business is discussed and then we adjourn for tea and biscuits.

I do hope the above does not sound too formal but the Society's comings and goings have to be discussed to ensure it is still functioning and trying to keep pace with modern views and ideas.

If anyone has any suggestions concerning other activities which may benefit the Society please do not hesitate to bring them forward.

I trust the above synopsis will be of help to you and feel sure that the forthcoming season of speakers will bring you enjoyment as well as learning something about the history of Leyland and surrounding districts.

Yours sincerely,

R.O. Williams

THE GREAT ROMAN WALL

By Francis Knight

Wherever the legions went, they built baths heated through hypocausts - a form of heating, devised near NAPLES in CICERO'S day by a man called SERGIUS ORATA for his eel tanks, which has descended to us by way of BYZANTIUM in the form of Turkish baths.

There are also ruins of milecastles for some 40 miles down the coast from BOWNESS; and forts which were part of the whole frontier strategy both north and south of the WALL. CORBRIDGE and VINDOLANDA (CHESTERHOLM), just south of it, are the most familiar.

Militarily, the Wall is an oddity. It smacks of someone making rapid decisions without enough knowledge of the local conditions. There isn't much argument that the Wall wasn't originally conceived as a defensive structure. The rampart itself is too narrow to be satisfactory as a fighting platform (whether or not it was in practise used in this way). And since 20th century archaeology has made clear that the forts were a second thought, and not part of HADRIAN'S original plans, the Wall does not seem to have been intended as an offensive military structure either; although again, even without the forts, it would have provided a useful screen behind which troops could be marshalled and through whose many milecastle gateways they could suddenly emerge.

The ROMAN signalling system, fire or semaphore, was capable in suitable weather of relaying messages from the Wall to the legionary fortress at York within a few minutes.

In fact, it seems that the Wall and its milecastles and turrets was intended at first as a political barrier; to divide those outside the EMPIRE from those inside it, and to control all movement of people, goods and animals across it.

The frontier was a gigantic customs barrier, and it was manned not by legionaries but by soldiers who formed a police force rather than a fighting band. The milecastle gateways were not only for patrols, but for native Britons.

However, the route of the Wall divided one part of the great Brigantes tribe of northern Britain from the main body, who lived in the Pennines south of the Wall. This may, indeed, have been part of Hadrian's political intentions.

But the building of the Wall seems to have caused such hostility that the governor left to carry out Hadrian's instructions had to add forts to the Wall itself during the course of the works.

In addition either then or soon afterwards, the Vallum was built to protect the Wall from the south. The Vallum may have had the incidental usefulness of keeping the garrison's horses and cattle from straying, but the Wall was now certainly no longer a simple political barrier.

It was part of an offensive strategy.

In spite of the delay caused by the decision to add the forts, the Wall was built in a few seasons in the 120s; later the wall of turf in the western sector was rebuilt in stone.

The Roman legions provided the engineers and surveyors of the Roman Empire, and the Wall was built by construction gangs sent from the three legions stationed in Britain.

Working out the cost of this huge project - one Tudor enthusiast reckoned £30,000 - and how many man hours were spent on it, is not a particularly significant exercise.

The legions were paid anyhow, and stone, limestone for mortar, timber, water, metals like lead and iron, were all readily available - and where the limestone ran out towards Carlisle at the Red Rock fault the Romans confined the masonry work to the turrets and switched from stone to turf and timber for the milecastles and the curtain wall itself.

Britain provides not only the mightiest of the Romans military monuments, but also the widest range of the turf-and-timber constructions at which they excelled - from the great legionary fortress they built at INCHTUTHIL, Perthshire, to the little groups of earthworks in various parts of Wales and the North which have been recognised as practice-camps.

However, work being done at CHESTERHOLM (VINDOLANDA), a fort just behind Hadrians Wall, may well come up with some answers.

Although the Wall was built by the legions, it was manned by auxiliaries.

All the forts were probably custom-built for certain units; yet only in the case of one do we know which. We know that cavalry became extremely important; Charles Daniels believes its role on campaign north of the Wall came to resemble that of the U.S. 7th Cavalry among the Indians.

We do not know how many there were, or when they were brought up to the Wall. We do not even know how large a garrison was stationed on the Wall. The auxiliaries were not, as the legionaries were, Roman citizens - though they would be awarded citizenship when they finished their term of service - but were recruited from other frontier provinces of the Empire.

Inscriptions reveal that the Wall units were raised in Gaul, Germany, Spain, the Balkans, even Wales; they would later be kept up to strength by recruitment in Britain. The existance of the Wall, and the 10,000 or 15,000 men required to man it, all with money in their purses, led to an artificial prosperity in the border country.

Professor Eric Birley, doing Wall studies, believes this was always Hadrian's intention; a prosperous and well-populated frontier area meant more trade, and above all more possible recruits for units on other imperial frontiers as veterans retired to nearby properties of their own and brought up families. If it was his intention, it worked. But it was an expensive operation, hanging on to Britain with its unsolved frontier problem; the Romans made three attempts to subdue Scotland, and though all seem to have succeeded up to a point, none of them succeeded for long.

Hadrians Wall was abandoned within 15 or 20 years of being built, when a change of policy after Hadrian's death led to the building of the much shorter turf-and-timber Antonine Wall between the Firths of Forth and Clyde; but it was not long before the army fell back on Hadrian's Wall as its main demarcation line.

The frontier problem simply shifted from time to time - in either direction, for twice or three times in 250 years the barbarians overran the Wall.

On balance it is unlikely that the Romans actually lost by occupying Britain, even at the cost of three or four legions. To Britain itself, the Roman occupation meant an end to inter-tribal warfare, at least in the lowlands; and peace brought the chance of genuine prosperity to many of the native population. The Romans also brought with them schools, and the possibility of literacy; even artisans could write Latin.

They brought roads and an administrative system; and introduced the idea that Britain was a unit.

Yet when Roman law and order finally broke down in the fifth century almost nothing of the Romans was left behind; even Christianity vanished with them, except in the far West. It was to be obscure invaders like ANGLES and Saxons, not world-wide conquerors like the Romans, who were to be truly important in our history.

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LAKELAND JOURNEY

At our April meeting Mr. Green, ACP, gave us a veritable feast of pictures, music and sound, blended so skilfully that we had the impression of continuous movement as he shared with us the natural beauties of the Lake District.

Seeing the peaceful valleys, the grandeur of the mountains in mist and sunshine, the serenity of the lakes and tarns we realised why men for two hundred years have sought refreshment of spirit in this area - "So wide a variety in one small space".

Mr. Green quoted prose and poetry inspired by such scenes which seem to "enlarge the mind by contemplation" and amidst all the grandeur gave us time to "stand and stare". We noticed the little things, a squirrel in the grass, toadstools at the foot of a tree, gorse in bloom, raindrops on leaves and water cascading over the rocks.

The first travellers who went on horseback or in wagonettes were contrasted with the influx of modern tourists to the once peaceful Windermere, Bowness, Keswick and Ambleside after the advent of the railways and motor transport.

There followed a brief geological survey. It has taken five hundred million years for the Lake District to change gradually from a glacial waste to its present state. The stone circle near Keswick and the Stone Age axe factory at Mickledore are evidence of early man.

From Langdale we surveyed the "Wordsworth area" and enjoyed some of the poetry inspired whilst the poet lived at Grasmere.

After mentioning the occupations of Lakeland's forty two thousand inhabitants - timber, slate quarrying, sheep farming and tourism - in complete contrast the coming of Spring was featured in a gentle music sequence.

In this Mr. Green excelled. His music reflected the wonder in our hearts as we saw the chestnut, sycamore and larch buds opening, Spring flowers in all their beauty and the haze of green on the bare trees above the Autumn leaves.

Finally, it was good to hear that this unique natural area - only eight hundred and sixty six square miles, but including seventeen major lakes and four hundred and sixty three tarns is now a National Park, and so will be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Mrs. Woodward gave Mr. Green a heartfelt vote of thanks for an inspiring evening.

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THE LEGEND OF THE WILLOW PATTERN PLATE

Most people have in their possession an example of the famous blue and white "Willow pattern", and when I discovered recently that there are some 60 odd variations of this design I was interested to discover more about it.

Willow pattern is a design in the pseudo Chinese style for underglaze blue transfer printing on English pottery and porcelain. The type was thought to have been introduced by Thomas Turner of Caughley, and the earliest known Chinese design with a willow tree in a prominent position comes from the Caughley pottery in 1780. A copper engraving of the design exists with the initials T.T. in the margin. Thomas Minton, at that time an apprentice engraver at Caughley has also been credited with the design, and as a number of copper plates were required in order to print a single service more than one engraver may have had a hand in it.

As it became standardised in 1830, the willow pattern has a pagoda standing on the edge of the water, two birds in the sky; a boat being poled on the water; a fence in the foreground, a three arched bridge across which walk three Chinese figures and a prominent willow tree overhanging the bridge.

The principal variations on the later wares are to be found in the position of the pagoda and the bridge, the number of figures on the bridge, the number of apples on the tree and the features of the fence.

The border varies, there are two main forms, one called "Spode" and the more artistic "mosquito" border. The Spode border consists of irregular geometrical ornament of a conventional type and resembling fortifications. It also contains several circular ornaments resembling wheels. These no doubt suggest the names "wall" or "wheel" border. The mosquito border is more artistic, and is a combination of flowers, alternating with a few conventional gnats - from which the name was suggested.

The legend of the "Willow Pattern" was written by an English author Ernest Bramah, and tells the story that a mandarin had an only daughter named Koong-se who fell in love with Chang, a young man who had once been her father's secretary.

The mandarin who lived in the big house on the right, heard they were in love and he forbade their engagement. They eloped and escaped by boat to Chang's home. The enraged mandarin pursued them with a whip and would have beaten them to death had the gods not changed the lovers into a pair of turtle doves which are seen flying at the top of the pattern.

I quote an old Staffordshire song to complete what I thought an interesting look at old Willow pattern plates.

Two pigeons flying high,
Chinese vessels sailing by,
Weeping Willows hanging O'er,
Bridge with three men, if not four,
Chinese temples, there they stand
Seem to take up all the land.
Apple trees with apples on,
A pretty fence to end my song.

By Dorothy M. Barnes

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EXHIBITION COMMITTEE REPORT

I am beginning to think that the exhibition committee have something of the quality of the sauce bottle - first none will come, and then a lot'l- for suddenly in the past few weeks, we have had quite a number of small exhibitions.

The first one was arranged and staffed by Mr & Mrs Iddon and Mr. Mason, and was part of a cheese and wine evening at the Civic Hall, Leyland. It was largely a matter of showing the flag, but Mr. Iddon was able to report one or two enquiries.

Our next meeting was an afternoon exhibition held at Wellfield School on September 24th. The whole committee were engaged in gathering material, but again we had to call on Mr. & Mrs Iddon for staffing, with stalwart support from Mr. Mason.

Compliments were passed on our exhibits, some of which were loaned by Leyland library, and the ganeral feeling was that the effort had been worthwhile.

From Friday 7th October to Sunday 9th October, the United Reformed Church in Leyland put on a flower festival to celebrate their centenary, and asked for our assistance with their historical exhibition. As the exhibition had such a personal theme, most of the material came from the church members, but again the library at Leyland gave a great deal of assistance, both in the loan of photographs, and good advice. Many exhibits were in fact mounted by the librarian Miss Kazer, in her own free time. Because the visitors to the exhibitions were for the most part connected with the church, the impact was mostly of an emotional appeal. Nevertheless, we were again complimented on our exhibits and presentation.

Time well spent, for many people were given pleasure, and many more people are aware that Leyland has its very own Historical Society.

By Mrs D. Mather

PEOPLE AND PLACES

TRADER HORN FROM PRESTON

Trader Horn - 'The Ivory Coast in the Earlies' proved to be a best-selling novel, but mystery surrounded the name of the author who spoke freely about Lancashire. His name was given in the book as Alfred Aloysius Horn. Once, however, he let it be known that his real name was 'Smith' and that he hailed from Preston.

After investigations it turns out that the Smiths, a well-known local catholic family had lived in Preston's St. Ignatius Square. Two of the sons had become priests, and just before the book was published - 1927 - the other brother, Robert, had retired from the Governorship of Birkdale Farm School. There was an entry in the St. Ignatius Church baptismal register for the baptism of Aloysius Smith - June 22 1861.

One thing, however, does not add up. In the book Trader Horn says he was 73 when first he started telling his story. In fact he was nearer 64 according to the register. About his name change from Smith to Horn, there are two possible theories. One is that he did have relations with this surname, another is that it could have been a nickname because he was in fact for many years a trader in Horn.

How Trader Horn came to be in Africa in the first place, really, I suppose begins with his education. He was educated at St. Edward's College, Everton (1872). He was not long at the college before he could speak Portugese, Spanish and French. He was we are told "an adventurous youth who loved drawing pictures of native life." At seventeen, however, he was expelled for "lively behaviour!"

So being adventurous and lively he joined a trading firm in West Africa dealing in Ivory and rubber. He sailed from Liverpool on the S.S. Angola. He no doubt led a varied and interesting life but unfortunately ended up in later years living in a doss house in Johannesburg.

That was until he chanced or contrived a meeting with Ethelreda Lewis an author. She found his stories fascinating, and they collected them together and got them published.

The book enjoyed much success especially in America, and the old man was taken to Hollywood; he gave lecture tours across America, sold the film-rights of the book and declined the offer to play the leading role. Eventually he returned to England.

The film was made and Harry Carey played 'Trader' and the film which was one of the early talkies' was a marvelous success. What is now the Odeon in Preston held a gala performance of the film which his sister Miss Francis Smith attended. (She was a teacher at St. Ignatius Boys' School and lived in Deepdale Road, Preston).

Unfortunately, Trader died in July 1931 as a result of a chill he had caught and as the film was only released in March of the same year, he did not live long enough to share in its success.

It seems a shame to me that Preston, as far as I know, anyway, has not kept alive the name of this adventurous old man in acknowledgement of the hours of enjoyment his book and the film have given countless thousands of 'adventurous-minded' people the world over.

By Wendy G. Faulkner

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A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

If the Festival of Britain is regarded as marking a centenary of progress, Leyland has special reason for joining in the celebrations.

In 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, Leyland was a small village with a population of 3,617.

There was little evidence of industry. A contemporaneous directory gives the information that "at a place called Shruggs, about a mile from the village are extensive bleach-works carried on by Mr. James Fletcher.

John Stanning took over the works some 20 years later, but old Leylanders still talk about working at "Shruggs".

Named as manufacturers a century ago were Edmund Berry, Joshua Margerison (Golden Hill), Fras Pilkington (Earnshaw Bridge) and William Smith (Golden Hill Works, manufacturer of waterproof cloths, pipings, washers, etc.).

Rubber manufacture in which considerable development was made by Mr. James Quinn some 20 years later, was thus one of Leyland's earliest industries. Some of the old tradesmen were Thomas Adamson, who combined giner beer manufacture with the duties of bellman: John Briggs, brazier and tinner; James Corless, plumber and glazier; Thomas Dobson, saddler; Henry Holland, brick and tile manufacturer.

There was still handloom weaving in the village until about 85 years ago. The work was carried on in cellars because the dampness facilitated handling the thread. The houses on the right hand side of Union-street (now Fox-land) were built for this purpose.

Last of the hand loom weavers was sixteen-stone Hugh Holden, who resided in one of the cellared cottages which stood in Water Street on what is now the site of the Towngate Market Place.

The cottages were surrounded by open fields the nearest building being a farm at what is now the Regent Corner.

Hough-lane was so uninhabited that workmen considered it dangerous for travelling in the early hours of the morning!

One hundred years ago, however, Leyland was not behind the times. It had a gasworks one year old!

There was also a railway station. The post office had been established only seven years, but the savings bank had started in 1821 and it is a tribute to native thrift that there were 924 depositors in 1851.

Engineering had not made its debut in the manufacturing sense, but there were six blacksmiths. Their names were Thomas Critchley, Richard Heywood, Thomas Lazonby, Robert Nelson and Elias Sumner.

The last mentioned was the father of James Sumner who had guts and determination as well as engineering genius. He produced self propelled vehicles when the law demanded that these should be preceded by a man walking with a red flag, but it was the law which gave way in the end, and James Sumner's experiments in steam waggons, mowers and tricycles laid the foundation for Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland's largest industry.

Amongst the giants of those days was James Iddon, whose genius played a considerable part in the development of rubber engineering in which the firm which today carries his name, has a world-wide reputation. He it was who built the huge engine which once drove the machinery at the Old Rubber Works and, incidentally, fascinated generations of schooldays who used to view it through the windows opened on warm days.

Processes for the manufacture of gold thread, still one of the specialised industries of the district were discovered in Leyland.

Experiments with the pnuematic tyre are reputed to have been made in Leyland long before Dr. Dunlop's discovery.

One hundred years ago, Mrs. Sarah ffarington resided at Worden Hall. On Rent Days, tenants were entertained to dinner at the Roebuck.

Other leading residents were Mrs. Eccles at Golden Hill House (now part of the offices of the British Tyre and Rubber Co. Ltd.) and John Eccles, Esquire, of Wellfield.

Later the name of Mr. George Hargreaves figured as the owner of Wellington House and there was the Berry family at Town House.

Amongst the local inns was the Rose Whittle, a building which stands near the Leyland Gate of the Royal Ordnance Factory. It was closed for temperance reasons by the Misses ffarington and for many years served as a farm house only.

Apart from rent days, the village as now, was the centre of much social activity. A century ago, fairs were held regularly on March 24 and 25 and October 26.

The "wake" was on the first Tuesday after St. Andrew's Day, considered proof of its antiquity as connected with the foundation of the Parish Church. It was recorded contemporaneously that "the races which were formerly the principal amusement of the wake have been discontinued."

There were occasional cricket matches, a club having been formed four years previously. The vicar the Rev. Gardnor Baldwin (member of a family who were vicars from 1748 to 1912) was president and early matches took place on the Vicar's Fields.

It was not until 1877 that John Stanning revived interest in the club in a field near Wellington House. The club removed to the Fox Lane Ground and reports of matches scintillated with the names of great players, who earned for Leyland the title of "Nursery of Lancashire."

It is appropriate that this year the deeds of the ground should be handed over to a holding company which will administer them in perpetuity for the good of the town.

As in industry, it is clear that Leyland went in for sport and social activity on a big scale. Inevitably, the Festival of Britain celebrations recall the Leyland May Festival which earned a country wide fame.

The May Festival started on May 29, 1889, as a children's fete to revive observance of Royal Oak Day. The first Queen was Elizabeth Marsden. The last festival was held in 1936, one reason for abandonment the following year, being the Coronation Celebrations.

There was much mourning at its passing as in its heyday, almost everyone in the village had played some part from childhood.

Much of the activity in bygone days centred round the Village Cross, beside which was a well and the stocks and also it is believed, a Maypole.

The Cross is supposed to have lost its head in Cromwell's time, and the Local Board which preceded the Urban District Council, conceived the idea of using the stump as a lamp post.

In 1886, the pump and stocks were removed at the behest of the Rev. Thomas Rigbye Baldwin and Miss Susan Maria ffarington. A new head was erected on the Cross and the present fountain provided in commemoration of Queen Victoria's 1887 Jubilee.

The Cross, which is of Saxon origin, besides being a pulpit for itinerant priests before the Church was built, was also a rallying point for the yeomen of the Leyland Hundred.

It is thus a symbol of Leyland's importance in the past which makes the growth of recent years and the plans for the future seem not inappropriate.

It was at "Shruggs" in recent years, that glass textiles were dyed for the first time. Leyland has also played its pioneer role in other branches of the textile industry and in the manufacture of paint.

It is the spirit of discovery which has so largely contributed to Leyland's industrial importance today. Few places of the size can claim three textile mills, a bleachworks, a gold thread factory, a paint works, three rubber works, one engineering works and a huge motor industry.

Yet one hundred years ago, Leyland was an agricultural village - and it was very beautiful at that for it was known as "The Garden of Lancashire."

Its roots were deep in history and the ffaringtons of Worden Hall, owners of most of the land in the district, had been Lords of the Manor from Edward the Confessor's time. One of them was Lord High Sheriff to three Earls of Derby and another, who fought in the Derby Camp during the Civil War, was known as "The Royalist."

They were a family who made the name of Leyland resound in feudal times.

It is fitting that in this festival year, present day importance should be linked with past tradition, by the acquisition of the park and hall by the public.

Here one feels, is something to which the late Squire H.N. ffarington would give his blessing. For many years he had prepared the way for public acceptance of the park, by generously allowing its use for every worthy occasion.

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Back to the Handlooms. - Leyland Parish Church Tower, rising square among the trees. This view of Fox Lane never fails to stir old Leylanders. The cottages on the left were built with cellars for the handloom weavers. The old "Top School" can be seen on the right.

The Village Pump. - Leyland Cross, rallying point for war and worship, was ill-used in the past by the Roundheads who beheaded it and the Local Board who made it into a lamp post.

The pump was a "gossiping shop" and the women used to carry the water receptacles on their heads.

Apart from that, Leyland round the Cross hasn't changed - much.

THE VISIT TO RAMSBOTTOM

On Saturday afternoon, May 14th, some of us made the coach journey to Ramsbottom at the invitation of the Reverent R. R. Carmyllie who is well remembered for his informative and entertaining lectures to the Society in 75 and 76, notably the one about the Grant family of Ramsbottom.

He is vicar of St. Andrews C. of E. Church which is also known as Grants Church having been built by the Grant family somewhere about 1830. The day was fine and we approached our goal by way of Bolton, Tonge Hawkshaw and Holcombe Brook.

Welcomed by Mr. Carmyllie and his elder son, we proceeded to the church down the long drive. The church has a square tower and is typically early 19th century in style with four corner pinnacles which give balance to the design.

We sat in front pews and were given a short history of the church and more than a peep into the lives of the Grant family who built it.

It was originally a Presbyterian Church but later became C. of E.

The Grants were an emigrant family from the Lowlands of Scotland who settled in this once lovely Irwell valley as farmers - later as textile manufacturers, bang in the middle of the industrial revolution when great fortunes were made very often through the blood and sweat of the cotton operatives.

A short walk thereafter brought us to Nuttall village where some of the early mills were built by the river.

We had first passed the large farm, once a model place visited by agriculturists and breeders of livestock but now a virtual ruin. On past the ruined or burnt out mills to Nuttall Hall now demolished with the out buildings still in good condition.

Nuttall Hall was the follow on of wealth accumulated by the Grants with all the accessories of luxury living - horses, carriages, etc.

A narrow footbridge crosses the river by the Hall known as Jacobs ladder with a climbing path on the opposite side - all part of a landscaped garden.

It must have been rather beautiful in those far off days.

An interesting feature of the position of the Hall was shown to us by Mr. Carmyllie.

From the front porch floor (still existing) a straight line can be drawn through the church tower to the centre of Peel tower. Obviously no accident Peel Tower on Holcombe Hill, overlooking Ramsbottom, as most of you know, is an erection to the memory of Sir Robert Peel, once Prime Minister of England, and the man who began the police force who were once known as 'Peelers' and later, 'Bobbies'.

From Nuttall Hall, through the grounds (now a park) to a once model works known as 'Square Mill' (for obvious reasons) and a forerunner of almost continuous production of finished cotton goods but now fragmented like so many others such as Horrocks Crewdson of Preston.

Barwood House stands close by; a graceful looking building later divided into separate homes, built and lived in by one of the Grants.

From there towards other mills or their remains with names like 'The Old Ground', 'Cobden' and 'Rose' the 'Old Ground' being one of Grants early mills.

Up the steep road again to the vicarage where Mrs. Carmyllie had prepared tea for the 46 of us; and a specially nice tea it was. We thanked her and her helpers most sincerely and also our very good friend Roy Carmyllie for a well organised 'historical train' through a typical little Lancashire cotton town.

So ended a memorable day.

Somewhat nostalgic for me remembering more vividly my day school, of apprenticeship, and many other details of my early life in Ramsbottom.

By Mr. Mason

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THE LEYLAND HERO OF LUCKNOW

In Leyland Parish Church-yard on that path which leads from the Old Grammar School to Park Road, the last head stone on the left near the gate was placed there in memory of Joseph Blakeley, a hero of the siege of Lucknow.

On the front of the stone we see the inscription as follows:-

In Memory of
A Humble Hero of the Indian Meeting

Joseph Blakeley
Drummer H.M. 13th Foot
Who served as Bugler
First to Sir Henry Lawrence
Then to Colonel Inglis
Throughout the Defence of
Lucknow
July 1st to September 26th, 1857.
Died July 21st 1902, aged 62.

On the back of the stone we read:-

Lucknow
Saved by the valour of Havelock
Saved by the blessing of Heaven
Hold it for 15 days. We have held it for eighty-seven
And ever aloft on the Palace roof
The Old Banner of England Blew

In the year of 1895, the Rev. Leyland Baldwin, vicar of Leyland, published in the Leyland Parish Calendar the story of Joseph Blakeley, under the title of Joseph Blakeley's narrative.

It is now more than one hundred and twenty years since Joseph Blakeley first joined the army, and the following extracts from the Parish Calendar will, I am sure, be of interest to our members.

By Mr. B. Morris

1ST EXTRACT

A VETERAN OF THE MUTINY

It was in the year 1857 that the famous siege of Lucknow took place, when the whole English nation sang the praises of the few brave Englishmen who so nobly stood their ground against terrible odds, and, though their leader expressed the opinion that they might hold out fifteen days, or twenty at most, they held it for eighty-seven. Many of us are familiar with the poem of Tennyson, in which he tells the story so vividly and so patriotic in spirit:-

"Banner of England,not for a season,O banner of Britain hast thou
Floated in conquering battle, or flapt to the battle cry!
Never with the mightier glory,than when we had reared thee on high
Flying at top of the roofs in the ghastly siege of Lucknow -
Shot tho' the staff or the halyard,but ever we raised thee anew,
And ever upon the topmost roof our banner of England blew."

But though many of us have read with interest this wonderful poem, perhaps but few of us are aware that one of the heroic defenders of Lucknow lives in our midst.

The details of this terrible siege will ever be fresh in his memory, and lately he has written an account of it, which we think will be not without interest to our readers, this we propose to print in three or four instalments.

JOSEPH BLAKELEY'S NARRATIVE

I enlisted in the 32nd Regiment on the 22nd June, 1854, at the age of 14 years. Two months afterwards I was sent out to India, on a ship called the "Wellington." It was a sailing ship, and it took us 132 days to sail from Gravesend to Kurrachee. There were no railways in India then, and we had to march two or three hundred miles to join the regiment. I was surprised the first morning after we landed. A lot of black women came into the barrack room with baskets on their heads full of cow dung, and black men with bags full of water. They sprinkled the water on the floor and then the women spread the cow dung over it with their hand; this is to keep down the dust, and is the way they keep the floors "clean" in many parts of India. We did not stay many days in Kurrachee, and then started to join the regiment. We went in a flat-bottomed steamer, with two flat-bottomed boats fastened to her to go as far as Moultan. It took us 22 days to go up the river before we reached Moultan. At night we used to anchor by the river side to get firewood for the steamer, for there were no coals.

You should hear the jackalls, what a noise they used to make at night, and the musquitos were continually biting us so that we could scarecely sleep at all, and it was too hot to remain below deck, so we slept on the top of the flats; we had no beds to lie on, only the bare boards. My first Christmas day in India I spent on board this steamer on the river. We got an extra dram of rum, by paying for it; we had no water for use only the river water, which was the colour of sand, and there were several dead, black bodies in it, and sometimes one of these dead bodies would knock against the bucket as we drew it up. The biscuits we had to eat were quite blue with mould, and so hard I had to break them up with the heel of my boot and soak them in my tea before I could eat them. We often saw a tiger on the shore, and the river was full of alligators and crocodiles. At last we reached Moultan, and there we got our tents, elephants, camels, and bullock-carts ready for our long march to Kurolee, a few miles from Simla, on the Himalaya mountains.

In this long journey we went through Lahore, Julindur, Lodiana, Umbala, and other large towns. A few of our men died on the march, and we used to sew them up in blankets, for we had no coffins, and bury them under a tree, and a piece of tin with the name of the dead man nailed to the tree. If we did not put plenty of thorny bushes and plenty of earth on the top of the bodies the jackalls would have them up again during the night. We always started each day's march not later than four a.m. so as to be in the next camp ground by nine a.m. It was too hot to march in the day-time. The black men and the camels made a great noise when we started in the morning. It was very dark when we started, and we had to be very careful not to get a bite from a snake or a scorpion; we often found these vipers in our boots, and the tents were full of flies. Many of our camels died, and numbers of vultures came down to eat them. We carried torches, and the band played till daylight to keep away wild animals. It took a lot of elephants, camels, goats, and black servants to carry our tents and baggage. It would be a grand sight to see a regiment coming through Leyland in the Indian style, people would never tire of watching it; but this was the way the marching was done 41 years ago in India. At Lucknow, another long march. This was in the year 1856.

(To be continued)

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD, WINWICK

REPORT ON LAST MEETING

Can you imagine any connection between a Saint and a pig (yes, a pig!!)? Would you even remotely,think of any such connection as being a church?

Those members of the Society who attended the meeting held on the 3rd October 1977, learned from the Speaker for that evening that, indeed, there is such a connection. Mr. Philip Andrews, Secretary of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, gave us a very interesting and educational talk, supported by colour slides on the history of Winwick Parish Church. After telling us that parts of the present building date from 1358, we were shown a slide depicting the Winwick pig. This is to be found carved on the outside of the west wall, and is there apparently because the mascot of St. Anthony of Egypt who is also to be seen at one side of the same wall, is a pig. At the other side of the west wall is a statue of St. Oswald, and one can tell which is which because St. Anthony is to be seen carrying a bell and using a crutch. Both these figures are new, being carved in 1973, but they stand in the same positions as the originals which were destroyed during the Civil War.

There are rumours as to why the pig is to be seen, one being that, at night, it kept moving the stones from the designated place where the builders were to erect the church, to the hill where the church now stands, until the builders were convinced that this must be the right place for it. A likely story, perhaps, but it does illustrate how the people well believe anything which might convey to others, the idea that their church is more than just a man-made place of worship.

Inside the church there is a stone cross-arm from a Saxon stone preaching cross, which must therefore be more than a 1,000 years old. An interesting point about this, apart from the age, is that only the back of the stone remains complete, as the original front-side was mutilated in 1721, and used as a grave stone. At each end of the cross piece, is carved a figure - one which is said to depict St. Oswald being martyred; the other representing a priest carrying water from St. Oswald's well.

Another interesting item explained to us was the Communion table in the Gerard Chapel, which was previously the alter table of the church. The top is inlaid with the initials of the four Church Wardens for the year it was made, 1725, and in the centre, the initials of the then Rector, Dr. Francis Annesley have beeing inlaid as an anagram.

The famous Victorian architect, A.W. Pugin, reconstructed the Chancel in 1849, and in the process designed everything in it. It was restored in 1970 to conform to Pugin's work, as closely as possible, and today holds pride of place as a piece of church architecture, including the beautiful stained glass windows.

The reader may, perhaps, be wondering where St. Oswald came into the history of the church. He was a Christian King of Northumbria who was killed in 642 fighting the heathen King Penda at the battle of Maserfelth. This area is today known as the district of Makerfield, and it is assumed therefore that Oswald lost his life near to Winwick.

Mr. Andrews told us much more about St. Oswald's Church, Winwick, and his own inimitable style added richly to the information imparted. I can only touch on a few of the interesting facts about the church, but at Mr. Andrew's suggestion, the L.H.S. may well run a trip to Winwick, where we shall see, in the flesh as it were, all the points of historic and architectural interest which contribute to the wonder of this remarkable church.

Roll on 1978.

By A.R. Woodward

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