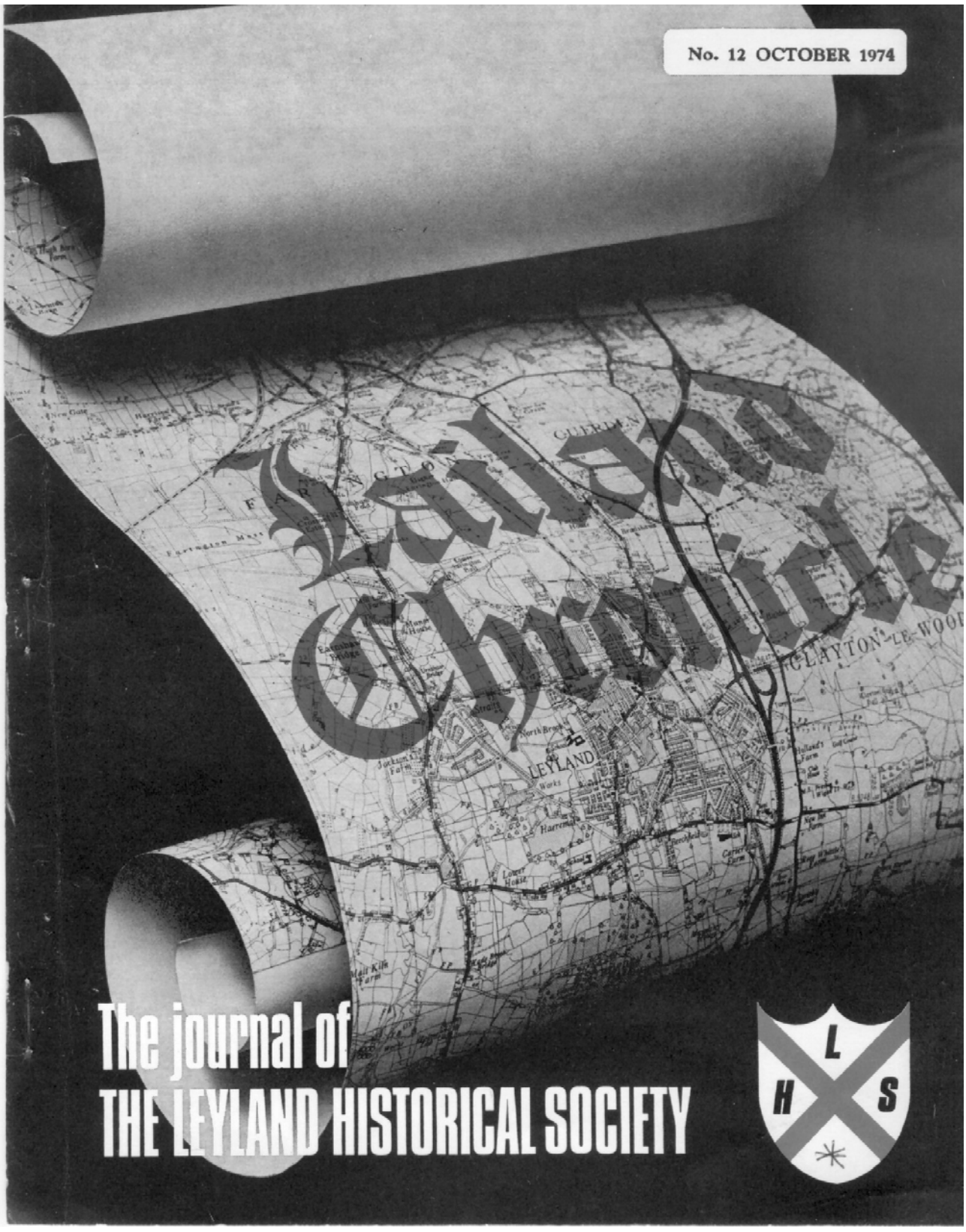
No. 12 OCTOBER 1974



The journal of THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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71 Crawford Avenue, Leyland.
Tel.No: 21825

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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	£1.50 per annum
Adult Members	£1.25 " "
School Members	£0.25 " "
Casual Visiters	£0.25 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"

CONTENTS

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THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

EDITORIAL

by D. F. White.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both established and new members to the 1974/75 season of the Leyland Historical Society.

The September meeting was addressed by Mr. F. Mullineux of the Federation of Historical Societies in the County Palatine of Lancaster and spoke on the subject of Candid Camera in Manchester, showing many interesting old photographs in the form of slides. At the meeting Mr. Mullineux also mentioned the need of Historical Societies to be active in helping preserve relics of the past, a point for much thought with the lingering threat of the New Town.

If you have any comments or articles I shall be most pleased to receive them.

Please hand any articles to myself, or any member of the committee, as I will shortly be moving house.

News and Comment.

Outings:

On Sunday the 20th October the Society will be visiting Alston Hall near Longridge. There will be a lecture on Stuart England and the price will be £1.20

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Jumble Sale:

We shall be holding, what we hope will be, another successful jumble sale at Prospect House on Friday 8th November.

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If you would like to fo on the outing or help in the jumble sale, either by giving jumble or being present on the night, please contact our Social Secretaries:

Mrs. Deacon Tel: Leyland 21369	Mrs. Barnes Tel: Leyland 21033

Worden Park:

We would like to bring to your notice a Brochure published by the South Ribble Borough Council. This is the first Brochure to be produced by the new Authority about the amenities available to the public within its area and to which Mr. Nowell Banister has made a valuable contribution.

Library Books:

The Society's Library Books are available to any member of our Society on contacting our Editor, Mr. D. F. White. A full list of our Library Books will be published in the next issue of the Chronicle.

THE ROOT AND BRANCH FOR EVER!

By Francis Knight.

The City Livery Companies are one of the ancient institutions of the city of London.

Of the 79 Companies which now exist, 12 are Senior Companies known as the "Great Twelve" In order of seniority, these are the MERCERS, GROCERS, DRAPERS, FISHMONGERS, GOLDSMITHS, MERCHANT TAYLORS, SKINNERS, HABERDASHERS, SALTERS, IRONMONGERS, VINTNERS, AND CLOTHWORKERS.

Each easter the Merchant Taylors and Skinners Companies change places in the seniority order. This tradition dates back to the Historic quarrels between the two, which were so severe they led to bloodshed.

In 1434, the Lord Mayor arbitrated and delivered the SOLOMON'S JUDGEMENT that each year one company should entertain the other at a dinner, and that each should take precedence on alternate years. The names of the Companies give the clue to their origin.

They were formed to control the various trades and crafts.

This they did by regulating the training of apprentices and the actual work of their qualified members.

They had legal powers of 'search' for defective goods and unscrupulous practices; not only in the city of London, but even beyond its boundaries. These powers were certainly exercised, for instance, in the seventeenth century the officers of the WORSHIPFULL COMPANY of SPECTACLE MAKERS showed zeal and pertinacity in searching out 'bad and deceitful frames and glasses' which were seized and broken on London stone as a public example and warning against poor workmanship.

It was in 1327 that the first charters were granted; to the GOLDSMITHS, SKINNERS, MERCHANT TAYLORS and GIRDLERS.

But, the origin of the LIVERY COMPANIES is to be found even further back; in the ancient craft 'Gilds'.

In London, these were firmly established as long ago as the second half of the twelfth century

It was not uncommon for those who had been apprentices to become wealthy master craftsmen and traders.

They were conscious of owing much of their prosperity to their LIVERY COMPANIES and made very substantial gifts and bequests of money and valuables to the companies which, as a consequence, became richly endowed.

It was the custom for Companies to hold traditional feasts, meeting in a member's house, or in a tavern.

As they increased in power and wealth, they acquired halls of their own in which all their meetings were held.

The two companies known to have possessed halls before 1400 are the MERCHANT TAYLORS and GOLDSMITHS. The Great Fire of 1666 is believed to have destroyed as many as 44 of the Halls.

Those belonging to the less affluent companies were never rebuilt.

Bombing further reduced the number until today only 17 companies have Halls of their own.

Many of those that remain, are magnificiently appointed and are of great charm and character.

Today, many Liverymen have no connection with the craft or trade of their Company. They belong because they have a liking for the ceremonial, historical associations and banqueting, and are prepared to support the charitable and other activities.

Many of the Companies play active and important parts in today's fields of Science, Technology and Commerce. This modern outlook on the part of these ancient institutions is typified by the WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SPECTACLE MAKERS.

Through an independent Board of Examiners, this Company conducts professional examinations in Ophthalmic Optics of University trained students.

Success in the examinations qualifies them for registration with the GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL under the Opticians Act and entitles them to practise.

Even those Companies representing crafts which have little apparant relevance to the conditions of today have often adapted to modern circumstances. To quote just one example; THE SALTERS used to apply the salt to meat so that it could be kept in edible condition for weeks or months, on voyages. Today they are concerned with INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY; to the extent that they have founded their own INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY.

Throughout the History of the Companies, their wealth has been far from being spent only for the benefit of their own members.

Schools have been established and endowed. MERCHANT TAYLORS school is one well known example.

Maintenance of the famous ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL is entrusted to the MERCERS COMPANY.

It was the MERCER'S COMPANY who contributed £60,000. towards the cost of the second ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDING, and £63,000. towards the third and present building.

The SKINNERS COMPANY assisted in the founding of five separate schools.

The FISHMONGERS still fulfil their responsibility towards GRESHAM'S SCHOOL at Holt in Norfolk.

As a corporate effort, fifty-two Livery Companies combined to contribute a total of nearly £125,000. towards the cost of new buildings for the UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Over and above these educational trusts, enormous charitable grants are made towards the relief of distress and suffering.

Indeed, the estimated annual expenditure on such grants by the twelve GREAT COMPANIES alone exceeds £300,000.

It is no wonder that the time-honoured toast of the COMPANIES is:

"May they continue and flourish -
Root and Branch -
For ever!"

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DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

by F. Cumpstey

..... if you do then a visit to Chingle Hall will certainly strengthen your beliefs ..... if not then perhaps your scepticism might be just slightly weakened!

Certainly it has the atmosphere and can be classified as a "house most likely to be haunted" and there is no doubt that the owners and people who act as guides are convinced that the ghost does exist - and appear to be happy in this belief as the spirit appears to be a very benevolent one.

The visit recently of approximately fifty members and friends was extremely interesting and seemed to be very much enjoyed by everyone.

Chingle Hall is a small manor house over 700 years old not far from Goosnargh, very close to the line of the old Roman Road. It has a lot of interesting features including a moat around three sides, the original solid oak front door which was used when the house was first built in 1260 and the original oaken beams some of which are even older than the house, as they are believed to have been taken from Viking ships wrecked in the Ribble estuary.

The house has a long religious history and was the birthplace of Saint John Wall one of the last of the English Martyrs. The number of "priest holes" and other hiding places which have been found are evidence of the troubled times of the seventeenth century when Roman Catholics were so persecuted for their faith.

The ghost is said to take the form of a monk clad in a brown habit - presumably of the Franciscan order of which St. John Wall was a member. Apart from appearing to various people, other manifestations are footsteps when no-one is there, knockings and sounds from walls, etc.

During our visit we were not 'favoured' with any of these manifestations, although one of the ladies remarked that she could smell incense in one of the rooms and several people experienced chill pockets of air in certain places. In my particular group, whenever our guide referred to a happening or occurrence in some particular spot or part of the room, the same lady always seemed to be standing in that spot - was this coincidence or had she been drawn there by some supernatural force? and, of course, to round off the evening our coach refused to start for our return journey - one can accept the mundane explanation of flat batteries - or was it due to a mischievous prank by the ghost?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As further comment to Mr. Bolton's admirable article and research on the elusive Rose Whittle, the buildings as seen at the moment are not those which she would have been familiar with.

Careful perusal of the 6" to one mile 1848 O.S. reveals the buildings shown to be in the exact present position and examination of the buildings (externally) indicates a date of construction in the late 18th or early 19th centuries for both the house and adjacent barn, although the latter does show some signs of being a little earlier.

The house is large - much larger than would be necessary for even a large family with both an inn and a small farm to attend to and the probability is of course that overnight accommodation was provided for travellers to and from the north on what was reputed to be, before it was turnpiked, an "evil and treacherous" road due to its villainous condition.

Perusal of the Farington estate survey of 1725 seems to show Willian Whittle's farm as part of Shaw Hall Demesne although partly intruding on Worden Demesne, which was all on the east side of Wigan Road

What would appear to be the house lay at this time more or less opposite Back Lane and mainly on the site of the present barn but a few feet back from the hedge line unlike the present building. The original (or at least the older) barn was across the road right on the corner of Back Lane in a minute close with the adjacent field to the South called "Barncroft".

It would appear then, that Rose Whittle's home was entirely demolished and re-built in the latter part of the 18th Century which was the age of many agricultural innovations and much improvement in farming. The older buildings were probably outdated and cramped timber framed buildings of the Tudor period, or even medieval hovels.

The siting of Rose Whittle's is interesting as it is on, or near, the Roman Road between Wigan and Walton-le-Dale and was one of, if not the main road to the North for many centuries and at the junction of an east-west track or highway which can easily be traced from Tarleton through Bretherton, by Fold's Farm past Shaw Hall (Worden), Worden Old Hall, then on to Whittle and eastwards.

This speculation that this route could be a long disused main thoroughfare for travellers and pack horse trains is well worth further investigation along with other ancient local communication patterns.

Yours faithfully,

P. F. Barrow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Hereford, Ludlow and the Ffarington family"

Dear Sir,

Seen in Hereford Cathedral .....

A plaque on the wall of the North transept regarding the ffarington family of Worden.

"Here lieth Elizabeth, relict of
Wm. Farington Esq., of Worden
in the county of Lancaster,
daughter and sole heiress of
Jeane Rispine of Bologne in
France. Died 6th March, 1747.
Aged 68"

This was the inscription on the tomb which had been under the belfry in Hereford Cathedral, but which had been removed to the Chapter House.

and seen at Ludlow Parish Church .....

A memorial tablet,

"In memory of Edward Ffarington Clayton,
M.A. CAMBS.
Rector of Ludlow 1867 - 1907
Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral
Son of William Clayton of Lostock, Preston.
Sept. 5th 1830 - Nov. 24th 1907"

any information on either of these two characters would be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M. E. Iddon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was fascinated by the article in the May issue of the "Lailand Chronicle", on "Who was Rose Whittle" by Mr. G. L. Bolton. After all the research and investigation the query remains unsolved. The following story may prove interesting but, of course, does not offer any solution.

It was related to me some years ago by an elderly Leyland resident whose grandfather was born at Rose Whittle Inn. She also heard her mother relate that Rose Whittle lived there.

In the stage coach era a Mr, Barnes was the innkeeper. At that time a young man they called the Travelling Scot made frequent visits to the inn, and stayed for a few days. He became attached to a young daughter of the innkeeper. He used to pick her up in his arms and said that when she grew up he would come back and marry her. The child grew up and had a good schooling.

The Travelling Scot kept his promise. The lady who related this story told me that the landlord and his son were buried in Leyland Churchyard. I have seen the gravestone and at that time I made a copy of the names and inscriptions.

At another time the landlord of the inn talked to Cromwell in one of the adjoining fields, after the battle of Preston. Not feeling very friendly towards Cromwell, she told him to get on his way.

Yours faithfully,

J. N. Banister.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of one of our founder members Miss Maud Watkinson, who died in hospital at the age of 79. Miss Watkinson was elected the first Honorary Life Member of the Society, and was a regular attender at our monthly meetings. She gave a talk to the members and often spoke to other local organisations on Leyland history.

Miss Watkinson was born in Leyland and was a life-long Leylander. She lived in Fox Lane, (formerly Union Street). She attended St. Andrews "Top School", now demolished. She was employed for a time at John Stanning's Bleachworks.

During her life she was very active in many spheres. A teacher of the Maypole dancers junior section and other dances to the original May Festival. A Sunday School teacher for many years, and she had connection with both St. James's and St. Ambrose's church. A member of Moss Side Women's Institute.

Miss Watkinson was a captain in the Girl Guide movement for sixteen years. An expert and teacher of an advanced form of crochet work, known as "tatting".

She had a large collection of photographs of old Leyland which included a complete series of former May Queens. These have been shown at the Society's Exhibitions.

The funeral service was held in Leyland Parish Church on Friday July 28th 1974, followed by interment in the family grave. The Historical Society was represented by a number of members and officials.

* * * * *

RESTORING A FLAG SLATE ROOF

By W. G. Mackay.

When Thomas Wilson of Tunley Hall in the parish of Wrightington in the county of Lancashire, gentleman, built and endowed "an oratorie or chapell" on a small plot of land comprising the north-west corner of a field known as the Corn Diglach in the township of Mossy Lea in 1691 he could not have foreseen that it would become, in time, a historic building. In the trust deed, it was laid down that it was to be used as a place for worship conducted by a minister dissenting from the doctrines of the Church of England "as long as the laws of this realm shall permit". That was a wise precaution in those troubled times. Mr. Wilson was a staunch Presbyterian who had been closely involved in the religious and political upheavals which had followed each other in rapid succession through the reign of King Charles I, the Protectorate of Cromwell, the Restoration of King Charles II, the reign of King James II and the coming of King Willian and his Queen Mary in 1688. Their Act of Parliament in 1689 relieved dissenters, such as he, from some of the restrictions imposed by their predecessors but did not repeal the Acts, which included the notorious Five Mile Act of 1665. This influenced his location of the chapel in the fields just over five miles from the centre of Wigan. It stands about a hundred yards to the west of the B 5250 road which runs from Junction 27 on the M6 Motorway to the village of Eccleston. It would, doubtless, be a source of satisfaction to him to know that it has been used continuously for worship in the Presbyterian tradition since then except for a short period in the middle of the 18th century when some of its ministers leant towards Unitarianism. It is not unreasonable to assume that a man of his stature would approve of its accession to the United Reformed Church which emerged when Presbyterians joined with Congregationalists, the successors to the Independents of his day, in 1972.

If he returned today, he would find the basic structure of his chapel little changed. At some time unknown, the doorway in the south wall has been blocked up and replaced by a window. A new doorway has been made in the west gable and, in 1899, removal of the tiny gallery allowed the opening of a third window in the north wall opposite the original doorway. The schoolroom, added in 1880 across the east gable, matched the original stonework of the chapel building but the blue slate roof introduced a note of disharmony. In 1971, a porch was added to the doorway in the west gable and great care was taken, both in the design and in the choice of materials, to ensure that it would harmonise with the old building, which was built of stone and roofed with flag slates, both materials coming from quarries in the neighbourhood.

It was apparent at that time that the roof would require attention in the near future. Some parts had sagged, suggesting deterioration of the supporting timbers, whilst some of the slates showed signs of lateral displacement. The pros and cons of making localised repairs were discussed at length. In the end, it was felt that this would be difficult and, probably, more expensive than restoration or replacement in the long run.

Tunley is situated on the western fringe of an area covering the length and breadth of the Pennines in which flag slates have been quarried for use as roofing material for hundreds of years. There were conflicting opinions about

the availability of new slates. Enquiries to suppliers of building materials all over this area confirmed that they were no longer being quarried though we were able to meet veterans who had spent their lives in such work and who regretted the passing of their craft. Enquiries in the Cotswold area yielded similar results and it was not until we visited Caithness that we found a quarry being worked for the restoration of the roof of St. Magnus's Cathedral in Kirkwall. This was of great interest though the dissimilarity, as well as the cost, made their slates unsuitable for our purpose. In the course of our enquiries, we had learned from the owners of properties with this kind of roof that, when the need arose, they were able to obtain adequate supplies of good, second-hand slates from buildings which were being demoloshed and considered them satisfactory. Notable examples of such work were shown to us on several of the larger estates in the area whilst a visit to the Bronte village of Haworth showed how effectively reclained materials could be used in the masonry as well as on the roofs of new buildings. There we met a builder who specialised in that kind of work in that neighbourhood. He was a mine of information on the subject. Amongst other things, he told us that we could anticipate a recovery rate of between fifty and seventy-five per cent of the slates from an old roof and that much would depend upon the skill of the men and the care they took in removing, handling and stacking them. He suggested that this should be done by the people who would be using them again, where possible, and he was confident that craftsmen who could do this were still available.

With all this in mind, we began to make enquiries in our own district. We were already aware that a local family business, which undertook this kind of work, was represented in our membership. They were invited to tender in competition with two larger firms of good repute further afield who also undertook such business. After inspection, only one of the latter submitted estimates. These were found to be competitive with those from the local firm and, other things being equal, we felt that it would be advantageous to entrust the work to the people who were on the spot and they were awarded the contract. It was more difficult to decide between replacement of the roof using blue slates or Hardrow tiles, both of which would have been considerably less expensive than restoration with second-hand flag slates. They would also have been acceptable to the local authorities for grant aid for repairs to a listed Historic Building. Another alternative was to use Bradstone randon Cotswold tiles, which would have given an appearance approaching that of restoration, using new material though at somewhat higher cost. However, we felt that we had a responsibility to restore incorporating as much of the original material as possible, in spite of our limited resources, and decided to proceed on these lines.

The work was carried out by a team of four, three brothers and a son, the senior member being over seventy years of age. One could not fail to be impressed by the businesslike way in which they set about the job. They were blessed with good weather and, within days, the slates on the south side of the roof had been stripped off, lowered to the ground and stacked neatly in the churchyard. As soon as the rubble from the tiering and the fragments of broken slates had been cleared away, the supporting timbers were examined

meticulously. There appeared to be a considerable amount of worm damage but the brothers satisfied themselves about the condition of doubtful areas by sounding them and found it necessary to replace only one rafter and to reinforce about a quarter of the others. There was no evidence of active worm attack and the sound timber was so hard that it was difficult to drive nails into it. The sagging and lateral displacement of the slates had only occurred where the battens, on which the wooden pegs rested, had moved due to the nails rusting away. The whole of that side was covered with reinforced slater's felt, in accordance with the contract, when the woodwork had been made good and the whole process was repeated on the north side.

A series of photographs was taken whilst the work was in progress and it is hoped that these can be conbined with notes, which were made at the same time, to provide a useful record. The next step was to examine each of the slates Some were rejected because they showed signs of lamination. Others were discarded on account of cracks, particular attention being paid to the region of the peg-holes for such defects. It was difficult to understand why some of the others were put among the scrap until it was explained that they did not "feel" right and, indeed, it was found that such slates broke quite easily when struck with a hammer. It appeared that rather more than sixty per cent of the slates had been found fit for further service. Bought-in replacements were examined equally carefully and yielded a somewhat similar return. Close attention was given to the sizing of the slates at this stage and the value of this became apparent when re-slating began. The important dimensions were those from the peg-hole to the lower edge, the width and the thickness, the latter, especially, showing considerable and understandable variation. All of the pegs, which were of pine were discarded. New ones were cut and fitted carefully into each slate as it was prepared for laying whilst many of the old ones, which had been discarded, were collected and kept as souvenirs. Re-laying the slates was an arduous undertaking but the work went steadily forward, interrupted only by the time taken to re-hang the original bell which had been re-cast and used elsewhere for a number of years.

It is believed that this was the first time that the roof had been restored completely since it was built over 280 years ago and its appearance after the work was completed has justified our confidence in deciding to maintain the character of the original building as nearly as possible.

* * * * *

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

By Charles Holmes

As an introduction to this article I should like to remind our readers of a Saint, about whom they probably know more than I. Saint Benedict was born about 480 A.D. in the neighbourhood of Nursia some seventy miles north-east of Rome, the natives of this area, Sabines, were known and respected for their integrity and hardiness. Situated as they were remote from the 'Modern Set' of their time may well have preserved their rustic soundness unaffected by metropolitan decadence. Pope St. Gregory I tells us of Benedict "When he saw many of the scholars pursuing the deadly paths of vice, he drew back the foot which he had placed on the threshold of the world, fearing lest he too, should be acquire any of its learning, might fall headlong into the dreadful abyss. So he despised his studies, abondoned his home and his father's wealth, and desiring to please God alone sought for the habit of holy religion. Thus did he leave the world, being knowingly unknowing and wisely unlearned". After many miracles and much privation, solitude, prayer, severe bodily and spiritual hardship Benedict had acquired a following of Monks. He decided to move from Subiaco and his hermit cave due to the bitterness of the local parish priest. The destination was Monte Casino and the date perhaps 529 A.D. with Benedict approaching fifty. In his remaining fifteen years he established the "Rule" and formed the disciples who flocked to him into a single body over which he exercised direct control. During this time fame of his sanctity, wisdom and miraculous power grew, bringing more and more petitioners for help and a blessing.

Let us travel on in time to about 1098 when a body of Monks following the Benedictine principles founded the Cistercian Order in the forest of Citeaux in France. It was quite some time after the Norman Conquest that the Cistercians first founded an Abbey at Waverley in Surrey in 1128. The North of England had to wait until the year 1131 when a mission, under the direct instruction of St. Bernard left Clairvaux and came to Yorkshire where Walter L'Espec granted a site with nine carucates of land in Griff and Tilstone. As I am sure you all know a carucate was 'that much land a team of oxen could plough in one day'. William, the first abbot, and his twelve monks established on the banks of the Rye a Cistercian Mission centre, Rievaulx Abbey, and a few years after were able to send out colonies to Melrose and Warden in 1136, to Dundrennan in 1142 and to Revesby in 1143. Its prosperity is reflected in the fact that its church, the first large Cistercian church in Britain must have been begun soon after their arrival and practically all the monastic buildings were built in permanent form before the end of the twelfth century. It is believed by this time the compliment of monks was 140 with over 500 Lay brothers. In 1142 a band of Savigniac monks found a patron in Roger de Mowbray who owned land on the other bank of the River Rye and granted them a site in fairly close proximity to Rievaulx. This eventually proved inconvenient to both monastries each being able to hear the others bells at differing times which was not fitting. So in 1147 the newcomers moved to another site, meantime the two abbeys had been negotiating with regard to boundaries, the river in the twelfth century flowed on the eastern side of the valley, the meadowland being in Roger de Mowbray's domain, which he had granted to Byland Abbey. The two

abbeys agreed that Rievaulx should cut a new channel for the river on the west side of the valley which gave them a valuable stretch of grassland, further grants and further deflections of the river left things much as they are today with the river running on the further side of the dale from the abbey. In 1230 a costly enlargement of the eastern end of the church, including the presbytery, tower and transepts was undertaken and by the end of the thirteenth century the abbey was heavily in debt. From this time the abbey declined right through the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and at the Suppression in 1538 there were 22 monks and the income of the house was £351.

Byland Abbey was the eventual foundation of a colony of monks lead by Abbot Gerold who had set out from Furness Abbey to Calder in Coupland but after four years marauding Scots plundered and burnt the new abbey and the little bend returned to Furness. Later they set off again to York to see the Archbishop Thurstan who was kindly disposed towards monks. On their way they came to Thirsk where Gundreda de Albini the mother of Roger de Mowbray received them kindly and with her son's agreement sent them to Hood, near Thirsk where Robert de Alneto a relative and a Benedictine formerly at Whitby was living as a hermit. He joined their order and very soon their site at Hood proved too small whereupon they moved to the site in Ryedale as previously mentioned. The move in 1147 to the other side of the moor to "Cukwald (Coxwold) below the hill of Blakhou". Here they built a small stone church with a cloister and offices and for a while settled down. At this time the Savigny order was absorbed into the Cistercian order. Abbot Gerold had been succeded by Abbot Roger who remained in office no less than fifty four years, retiring on account of old age in 1196. In his time the final journey was taken eastwards to the site where the ruins are found today. When Abbot Roger and his monks came the land was a water-logged wilderness covered with scrub and brushwood but they set purposefully to root out the woods and dug long and wide ditches to draw off the water from the marshy ground. Eventually dry land appeared and provided an ample and fit site on which to build a great church. On the eve of All Saints in the year 1177 the colony moved into their permanent home. The lay brothers buildings were probably the first part of the abbey to be finished in masonry. The chapter house and Monks' dormitory were also doubtless ready for occupation by 1177. The building progressed with few pauses with completion of the West Front probably taking place in the early part of the thirteenth century. It is interesting to note at this juncture that many of the brothers and lay brothers were continentals and the Germanic influence is evidenced by the near place names as also in the names of locals still living in the area. The village nearby is named Wass and no doubt this derives from the fact that when the brothers first surveyed the scene there was much water in evidence. A very interesting feature of Byland Abbey is the tiled flooring. These tiles are glazed in green and yellow and no evidence is available to show if these were made on the site, almost certainly not. In all probability they were the work of continental craftsmen lay brothers in one of the Abbeys founded in Scotland by one of the colonies from the mission centre at Rievaulx.

The ruins as they stand today have great interest and produce many and varied art forms to catch the eye of the visitor with a camera. In the care of the Ministry of Public Building and Works they are open all the year round until 4.00 p.m. in winter, 5.30 p.m. in Spring and Autumn and daily until 7.00 p.m. from May to September. Rievaulx is situated three miles N.W. of Helmsley. Take the second turning on the left off the Helmsley to Stokesley road (B1257) Byland is five miles S.W. of Helmsley. Taking the B1257 going South this time, three miles turn right onto a minor road through Ampleforth and Wass.

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Our grateful thanks are extended to the following contributors of articles used in the production of this issue.

Mr. J. N. Banister
Mr. P. F. Barrow
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