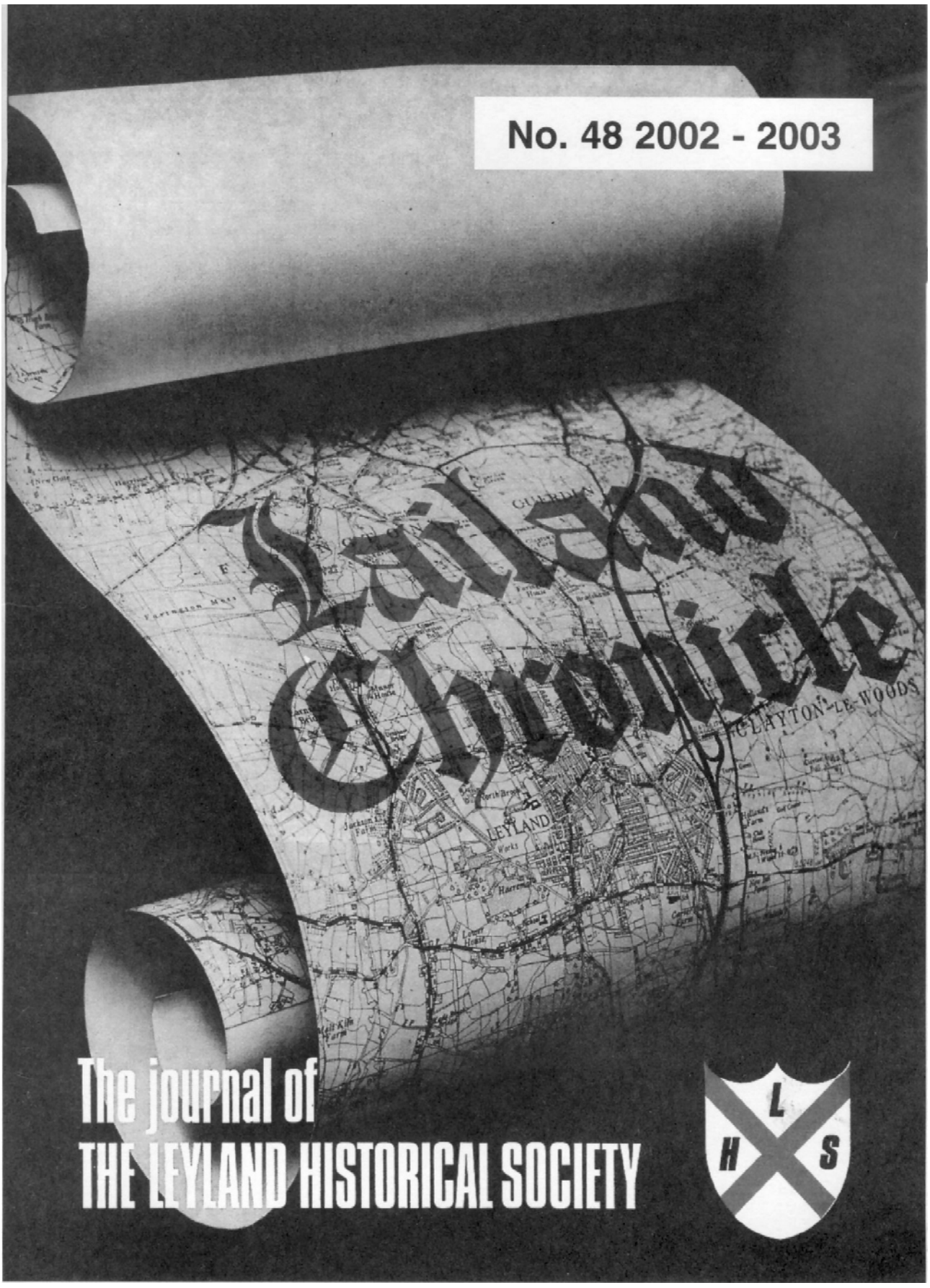
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Leyland Chronicle
CLAYTON-LE-WOODS
LEYLAND
The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1024919

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month (September to July inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.
Meeting date may be amended by statutory holidays.

AT

PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£7.00 per annum
Members	£6.00 per annum
School Members	£0.50 per annum
Casual Visitors	£1.00 per meeting

A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE
and
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY.

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EDITORIAL

This year has been a very busy one for Leyland. At last Tesco's is up and running and the Cross-area has been developed in quite a sympathetic way. Leyland is, once again, a pleasant place to live. It is hoped that the Historical Society and our wonderful museum will flourish alongside this new and exiting development

I hope that this year's edition of the Chronicle, though smaller than in the past few years, will entertain, educate and, in some instances, amuse the members of the Society.

We have contributions from local members but also from old Leylanders now living in 'foreign parts' (well somewhere else).

I always find recollections of times gone by intriguing. Not having grown up in Leyland myself (another foreigner) and only having lived here for fifty odd years, it is interesting to compare the differences and similarities with growing up in the Wigan area.

Perhaps the recollections in this issue might inspire some other member to write of their memories for the next edition of the Chronicle.

It is also fascinating to read more scholarly articles where the writer has researched the topic and is able to inform us of interesting facts about subjects about which we had not previously thought. Much hard work has obviously gone into the writing of these articles and the readers' interest may have been awakened so that they are inspired to do similar work themselves. And, of course, submit an article for next year's Chronicle!

I hope that next year I can have the Chronicle ready to distribute to members earlier in the year as the weeks leading up to Christmas are so busy for myself and everyone else concerned with its publication. **I would therefore request that all copy should be with me by the July meeting which is on the 7th of July**. (This includes the Chairman!) This should give much more time to put it together and have it printed in good time for the December meeting. But this depends on YOU. Please consider writing something for the next edition. This could perhaps be done during the winter months before the holidays start or the garden needs attending to.

Read and enjoy.

MARY FOWLER - Editor

NOTE: Any opinions expressed in the contents of this journal are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the society.

Permission has been granted by the Ordnance Survey for the map scroll used on the cover.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2001 – 2002

To start the new season, we were happy to welcome Dr David Hunt who on **3rd September** entertained the membership with his talk entitled, "Local History: Leyland". Whether it was due to the additional posters that had been put up around the town, the infamous website, the leaflets given out on David's walk around the graveyard on the 1st September to over 40 people, or the fame of our speaker, but on that night we got 95 members, 23 of these being new. (Hello there).

The talk was up to David's usual great standard with his latest theory that the original site of Leyland could be found at the Leyland Lane end of town. With many new slides, including some of the committee members, it was an interesting evening expressed in the vote of thanks by a very unfazed James Mawdesley.

Monday **1st October** saw the return of Mikron Theatre Company with "Warehouse Hill – the story of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal", which was seen by an audience of eighty enthusiastic members and another thirty visitors from the various local waterway societies and boat clubs.

The cast, with Richard Povall, back for the eighth time, was on the Theatre's 30th Waterway tour and this was their 20th autumn tour. To help him tell the story of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, Richard had the rest of the cast of Charley Moon, returning to us after three years, and the two newcomers, Tracey Holderness and Rebekah Hughes.

They gave a wonderful performance, slipping in and out of all the various characters as they switched time periods. They started the story of the canal from two beginning points, the plans for the original canal in 1793 and the forming of the canal society in 1974. One strand followed the story as the canal was built, with all the problems of the lack of funds, various engineers resigning and the constant problems of the tunnelling under Standedge.

Meanwhile the other strand followed an out of work couple of actors who inherited a house next to the derelict canal and worked on the various schemes over the years to improve and restore the waterway.

After the break, the story of the leggers (nicely done I have tried it under Dudley), the people who worked the canal and then built the later three rail tunnels, was told up to the dereliction of the canal with the last boat, the Alisa Craig, passing through in 1948. The other strand got the story up to date with the Lottery monies and the full restoration of the canal in 2001. The cast performed with their usual flair. The number of instruments this year included banjos, keyboards, double saxophones and of course guitars. The enthusiasm of the cast can be seen as they perform their hearts out.

The night saw additional new members, which, together with further renewals, made the membership currently total 113. This was a record for our second meeting and with the sales stand and the raffle, (Mary and Mike respectively), enabled the Society funds to have a very good night. Richard, at the end of the evening, thanked the Society for a wonderful response and says we are the best-organised event and audience on the autumn tour. If any members would like a copy of Mike Lucas's book on the history of Mikron Theatre, "I'd Go Back Tomorrow", see me at the next meeting.

The final two meetings of the year saw the return of two old friends. First we had the appearance, on **5th November,** of Stephen Sartin, who gave the members an illustrated talk entitled "Lancashire Paintings". By showing various slides he demonstrated the art of the painters from Lancashire, and those who chose to paint Lancashire through the years. With Stephen's great style he told the members the story of the artist, the subject matter of the painting, who had commissioned it, and how the painting had been acquired by the County Museums.

A special event for 5th November was the painting of William Farington, who received a letter from John Sumner in London at the time of the Gun Powder Plot. A slide of the letter was shown as well, (the full letter and its history will be available in the new David Grant book available at the January meeting). We hope to have Stephen back again very soon.

For our Christmas lecture on **3rd December**, we were entertained by Lizzie Jones who, with her partner Neil Howlett, gave the members her unique performance as "Elizabeth I".

For a change we moved the hall round and used the stage, which was handy as the number of visitors reached the fifty mark. So, with our usual members attending and all those visitors, it's not surprising we almost ran out of chairs.

It was estimated that the attendance was around 130.

Lizzie and Neil had probably travelled the furthest to attend one of our meetings, as they now live in Tavoleto Italy and only return to England for the lecture season.

Neil began by setting the scene and when Lizzie was telling the story of Elizabeth's life, he pretended to paint her likeness. Lizzie's tale of the life and loves of Elizabeth was told as she looked back to the days before she became Queen. The brilliant clothes that both of them were wearing were based on paintings of Elizabeth and were made by Neil. The professional way in which Lizzie told Elizabeth's story will be well remembered by all those present for years to come. She will be back soon if she can be persuaded to return from Italy again.

On Monday **5th January** the members were entertained by the combined forces of Elizabeth Shorrock, James Mawdesley, George Bolton, Dr David Hunt and Bill Waring. They were telling the story of David Grant, his life, buildings and the drawings he did of Leyland. Bill arranged the talk with the all the speakers taking a particular building to describe, while Elizabeth concentrated on David Grant's life story.

At the committee meeting in November 2001 whilst discussing the meeting, it was noted that the information on David Grant was only now available to read in the museum display as the Chronicles that featured the articles in this book have been out of print for many years.

Your chairman being his usual retiring self, decided something should be done and therefore we now have a small addition to our book collection. The new book includes the original drawings of David Grant, together with old photographs taken around the turn of the century, and some modern day pictures showing the buildings or their site.

The original articles for this book were mainly written by Elizabeth Shorrock (David Grant) and Bill Waring (the buildings), with yours truly filling a few gaps.

As the book had been prepared in a two-week period, they were both surprised to discover that they have a new book out. Perhaps this will encourage them both to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard to produce other great works. The book is available from the Society at the special member's price of £1.50.

With the second meeting of the New Year on **4th February** the Society welcomed a new speaker to our meetings. This was Brian Marshall speaking on "Mediaeval Monasteries of Lancashire". He began with a brief history of the monasteries and the various denominations that made up the church from the Norman Conquest to the dissolution at the time of Henry VIII. With Leyland still being supplied with priests from Ampleforth, a Benedictine monastery, many of the members could relate to the talk.

Brian then went on to describe the twelve monasteries that could be found within the old Lancashire boundaries, from the smaller ones such as Cockersands (his own particular favourite), Burscough Priory and Lancaster Priory, to the larger ones such as Furness, Whalley and Cartmell. This was accompanied by a series of slides that showed the remains that can still be seen today at most of the sites.

At the meeting on **4th March**, we were entertained by our new member, Colin Dickinson, who was finally allowed to give his talk on the Lancaster Canal. He took the members in a slide show along the canal from Kendal, over the River Lune Aqueduct and through Lancaster. He mentioned all the important features to be found as the canal travels through Garstang to the terminus at Preston, with old and present day pictures.

A short trip along the Walton Summit Tramway with its inclined planes brought the members to Walton Summit where the remains of that branch led to Johnson's Hillock. Here some members were surprised to learn that the section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from here to the top lock at Aspull was really the Lancaster Canal (Southern Section). I'm sure I must have mentioned it in the past.

Colin then concluded the talk with a short series of slides on the largest inclined plane that was once to be seen on British Waterways, namely the Foxton Plane. With archive pictures he showed how the plane was used during its working life in the early 1900's.

Your chairman was able to announce two weeks early (through a well connected mole) that the British Waterways Trust have plans to restore the northern reaches of the Lancaster Canal from Tewitfield to Kendal, the Foxton Inclined Plane and the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal. This is in addition to the Ribble Link, which will open in July and finally link the Lancaster Canal to the rest of the canal system via the River Ribble, River Douglas and the Rufford branch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

On Sunday **24th March** thirty-nine members attended the Alston Hall evening, where, after a lovely three course meal, we were treated to a lecture by Roger Mitchell entitled, "On progress with Elizabeth I and James I". He took the members on a trip around the country as the monarchs and their entourage, which sometime numbered in the 100s, descended on the local landed gentry.

My favourite however, was the man who decided it was cheaper to set fire and demolish his house rather than entertain the Queen.

Of course, he had to finish with the local tale, of how James I attended Hoghton Tower for a hunting and shooting party and ended up knighting the loin of beef. (A fact I recently related in Toronto and they just did not believe me – at first).

After Easter, our next meeting on **8th April** saw the Society welcome David Smith with his slide show entitled, "History of the River Yangtze". As the past Chairman of the North Lancs & Cumbria Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, he was well qualified to describe the boats that plied the river. However the talk took the members initially on a trip around Beijing with its palaces and temples before boarding the boats to take the journey up the river. With the details of the new dam being built and the terra cotta warriors, this made for a very varied talk, which was well received by the members.

On Monday **13th May**, we were entertained by Peter Watson with his very interesting talk on, "The Origins of Surnames". We learned a lot that night with various members discovering that their surnames have some very old meanings. A full list of the society member's names will appear in the July newsletter and a short article on the origin of surnames can be seen in this edition of the Chronicle. Everyone agreed that we should invite Mr Watson back as soon as possible.

On Saturday **1st June**, the Society again took part in the second Leyland Craft & Local Societies Fair. There was the Slide Show with Elizabeth Shorrock & Derek Brundrett, followed by Joan Langford with a talk on Farington's History. Following another slide show by the historical society duo, it was the turn of Leyland Museum curator, Dr David Hunt, to talk on the history of the handloom cottages in Fox Lane.

The exhibition in the talk & slide show room featured the history of the buildings along the Festival route through Leyland. The display in the main hall featured "Leyland in 1952", the year that the Queen came to the throne. Another exhibition featured the Society's new publication "David Grant, his life, works and his drawings of the buildings of Leyland" available for £1.50 on the day.

For our last meeting on the second Monday, **10th June**, Mona Duggan gave a talk with sound accompaniment on "The History of Fairs". She went through the various times in history when fairs were mentioned and their origins from meeting at road junctions and trading from there.

The Annual General Meeting on **Monday 1st July** began with Secretary Michael's reading of the last year's minutes, followed by Edward the Treasurer presenting the Society's accounts for the year. No queries from members were recorded. There was then the Chairman's report, (which you are presently reading). Besides mentioning the above events, on the Society front, our editor, Mary Fowler has been keeping up with the computer and not so computer literate members who contribute to the Chronicles. We have continued our watching brief on the planning applications front thanks to Elizabeth who has made sure that the Society keeps in touch with events in and around the conservation area.

At this point in the Annual General Meeting I would have usually encouraged the members to buy tickets for the Mikron show in October, but not this year. Don't worry, Mikron will still be here, though we are able, through another kind donation from the Royal Bank of Scotland, to make the show free for all the members.

This is another great reason to become a member, as to attend one of Mikron's other venues; the show charge is £6, the same as the membership fee for the whole year. In case you are wondering, the Bank has developed a scheme whereby, if a member of staff is on the controlling committee of a club or society in the community, they will give £250 to the Society.

Now I realise that this report may have been read in part by the members already, be it via the bi-monthly newsletter or from the infamous website which has continued to grow since its inception in December 1999 to a point that up to the end of June the number of visitors to the site was over **5989,** over 3400 hits in the last year. The enquiries resulting from the site are coming from the U.S.A, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and especially Canada. The new departure for the website this year has been the Leyland Museum pages, with the main page attracting 571 hits already with its 'What's on' page getting loads of hits.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last nine years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future.

This speech was followed by the election of the officers and committee. There is no change with the officers, though there was the sad news that Margaret Wilson, Shirley Robson and Joan Langford will not be on the committee next year. Any willing replacement volunteers will never be turned away.

Our President, George Bolton then read out the winner of the Historian Of The Year judged by Dr Geoff Timmins. For the fourth year running, this was won by George Bolton. Well Done!

The members were then entertained by George Howard with his collection of old tools. This took the form of a quiz of 25 questions with the answer being one of the tools on display. He then went on to perform some of his dialect poems, which were very well received.

PETER HOUGHTON CHAIRMAN

THE ORIGINS OF SURNAMES

Following the May meeting, Peter very kindly sent the chairman a brief summary of his talk, which we include for those who did not take notes that night.

Surnames generally fall into 4 categories - where people came from, what they did, what they looked like and their relationships to one another. Before the Norman Conquest very few people had more than one name. If they did, it was generally what we would call a nickname. Most people don't know what their surnames mean. Some people are called after their mother (matronym) rather than father (patronym). Quite often people are called after what others observed of their personal traits or appearance

(**Cruikshanks**: Crooked legs) to identify them specifically.

Examples: **Eadric "Streona"** - Wild One - Reign of Ethelred the Unnraed
Ragnar "Lothbrok" - Hairy Breeches – 10C
Malcolm "Canmor" - the "Big Head" (King) of Scotland – 11C

In the Dark Ages, names were specially chosen as unique, particularly for eldest son. From **Ethelmar**: O.E. "Famous" we get surname **Aylmer**, from **Leogsig**: O.E. "Loved Victory" we get surname **Livesey** and from **Wigmund**: O.E. "War Protection" we get surname **Wyman**. The surname **Becket** (Old Norse – "bekr": a stream), by adding a T (**Beckett**) changes the meaning to bee cottage dweller. Other versions included **Walter Giffard** (13C) From N.F "giffre" - jowls. **Walter "fat face"** and **Hugh "Lupus"** (12C) N.F. from Latin "Wolf" – renowned for cruelty. In Welsh "ap" means son of: AP Owen gets changed over time to **Bowen** and AP Rhys gets changed to **Preece**, or **Price**, or **Brice**. Then there were relationships: (Middle English), Alicia Priestcysterservant, Henry Parsoncosyn and Agnes Vikercyster.

Medieval armour: Maker of the shin pads - **Greaves**. Name also comes from O.E. "gerefa" - reeve (shire-reeve or Sheriff). Maker of strong shields - **Fort** (strong) and **Escu** (shield: escutcheon). **"Shakespeare"** and **"Wagstaff (e)"** are synonymous and mean what they say. Geoffrey **Chaucer** - N.F. "Chausees" - Maker of men's fashion hose. If you made nice pies in the medieval period your name might be **Matthew Pye**, or nice cake, **Matthew Cakebread**. Variations on **Thatcher: Thacker, Thackrah, Thakorah, Thackray, Thackeray, Theaker, Thackara** etc. These were spelt according to who wrote the name and often accents or dialects play a part.

Vernacular (Lancàshire) names: **Jim Taylor** known as Jim o'th Boggart Coit, **Tommy Slater** known as Tom o' Bob's o'th Slaters what come fro' Padiham, **Zachariah Barnes** known as Owd Sacks, **Richard Ashworth** known as Dick o' Deb's (Deborah was his mother). If her father had been called Tom, Richard would probably have been known as Dick o' Deb o' Tom's. Very often, people didn't know what their neighbours' or workmates' names were so "Soft Lol" would have done for Lawrence Hargreaves and the nickname might be applied because he wasn't soft – he might have been a 17 stone, 6'2" quarryman who was also a bare-knuckle fighter! But once the name stuck, everyone would know him as "Soft Lol". The surnames **Kettle** and **Ketley** are from the place name Keighley. The surname **Blackburn** is from the place name - O.E. Blaec (dark) and Burna (stream). Burna sometimes Brun (as in Burnley: Brun - river name and ley (Leah - a clearing).

We still hear Old Norse spoken in Lancashire and Yorkshire – laikin', fetlin', mankin', bo-bells (lights: baubels), "agate" and "skrikin"; and Old English – thrutchin' (thraecan - to push hard), eawl-leet (dusk), getten (gactan: Americanism "gotten"), riving etc. Very often people say "we're going for us dinner" - sounds like bad grammar but it's not. The Old English for "our" is "user". Therefore us is accurate and our place-names and surnames owe a great deal to Old Norse, Old English, Middle English, Gaelic etc.

Here are the names that were researched in preparation for the May meeting and relate to the members of the society.

Waring	N.F	'Warin' - Possibly a gamekeeper or 'Warrener'
Almond	O.E.	Aethelmund Noble Protection (Aethel + Mund)
Barton	O.E	Bere (barley) Tun (settlement)
Berry	O.E.	Variation of Bury - Dweller in the town
Best	O.Fr	Beste - Animal (Herdsman or someone uncouth or stupid)
Blackburn	O.E.	Blaec (Dark) and Burna (Stream) From place-name
Leyson	Probably M.E	. Son of Lee
Brundrett	O.E.	Burna (stream) and Retten (To soak flax stems in water)
Worden	N.F.	'Wardein' A guard
Tranter	M.E.	'Traunter' - Pedlar or hawker
Dobson	M.E	. Son of Dobbe (Robert)
Gent	M.E.	'Gent' Courteous, noble
Thacker	M.E.	Variation of Thatcher
Angel	O.Fr	'Messenger' someone of angelic appearance or temperament
Lucy	N.Fr	Habitation name or female form of Lucius
Park	0.Fr	someone living in or near a hunting ground (Parc)
Houghton	O.E.	Hoh - A ridge and 'tun' a settlement
Seed	M.E.	Sede - A gardener
Mayor	O.Fr	'Mair (e) Superior
Finnamor	O.Fr	Fin (fine) and Amor (love)
Gilbank	C.	Giolla (servant - gillie) and M.E. 'Bank' hillside

PETER WATSON

THE LOST BUILDINGS OF LEYLAND DURING THE SECOND ELIZABETHAN ERA

In 1887 a monument (drinking fountain) was erected at the top of Towngate next to the cross and a new water trough replaced the old one and water pump. These were to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Whether Leyland will do something similar in 2012 should our present queen reach this momentous milestone is doubtful. What did our current council do for the Golden Jubilee?

However, some people will remember the Golden Jubilee year as the one in which Tesco's invaded the top end of Leyland. Perhaps not a fitting tribute but one that is better than the devastation that has blighted this most historic part of Leyland since the 1960's.

Buildings do not last forever. They become redundant, fall into disrepair, are neglected, are demolished in the interests of progress, are deemed to be dangerous or just outlive their usefulness. Some are obvious eyesores, others are of outstanding or local architectural interest and a number are of historical importance. Not everyone agrees on what should survive and be saved but when they are gone they are missed. The impact on the remaining environment is significant. Balance, harmony, space and vista are affected. We view what is left in a different light. Politics, economics and sociology all play a part in determining what remain, go and are replaced.

Over the last fifty years, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, Leyland has seen progress and decline. Sadly the decline has been more prominent in recent years but the loss to Leyland and its immediate neighbours has been of a savage nature throughout most of the fifty years.

My intention is to make note of what has been lost without regard to any chronological order but to treat the subject according to area or type of building.

INDUSTRY:

Leyland Motors:	North Works off Hough Lane and School Lane
	South Works off Hough Lane/King Street
	Farington Factories off Golden Hill
	Canteen in Thurston Road
Other	Stanning's Bleach Works off Cow Lane
	Brook Mill
	Rubber Works
	Tomlinson's Saw Mill in William Street
	Gas Works in Hough Lane/ Chapel Brow
	Royal Ordnance Factory - Wigan Road/ Dawson Lane/ Euxton Lane
	Farington Weaving Mill off Mill Lane
	Leyland Paint and Varnish Company off Golden Hill
	Leyland Watermill on Mill Lane

CHURCHES:

St Mary's in Worden Lane
Methodist's in Turpin Green

SCHOOLS:

St James' on School Lane, Moss Side
Methodist's on Turpin Green

HALLS/ HOUSES

Lower Farington Hall at the bottom of Hall Lane
Worden Hall in Worden Park
Wellington House in Church Road
Wellfield House in School Lane
Broadfield House
Farington Roundhouse

ENTERTAINMENT;

Regent Cinema in Towngate
Palace Cinema in East Street

TOWNGATE AREA:

Public Hall
Masonic Hall
Shops and houses at the southern end
Seven Stars Public House
Spring Gardens/ Orange Square
Mrs Jolly's Corner
Cottages between Occleshaw House & Leyland House on Worden Lane
District Bank

OTHERS:

Prefabs on Eden Street/ Sandy Lane/
St Catharine's Convent on Moss Lane
Rose Whittle on Wigan Road

BUILT and DEMOLISHED during this period:

Stokes Hall in Church Road
CO-OP in Towngate
Mainstop/Food Giant/Carrefour/Kwik Save etc, Towngate

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list and is probably more of a personal list of well remembered buildings. I apologise for those I have inadvertently missed. In addition to the buildings other areas have been lost. St Andrew's Green Recreational Ground, Vicarsfields, the Mayfield and part of the Turpin Green Recreational Ground.

The loss of industrial buildings has meant the decline and loss of those industries to Leyland and underlines the economic state of the country during part our monarch's reign.

In another fifty years will the old police stations on Towngate and Chapel Brow still be standing? What about Old Worden Hall, the Museum, the Cross and our Churches? Similarly, will some of our most modern buildings –the Library, Courts, the Leisure Centre, the Civic Centre, Tesco's, --survive the march of progress in the next half-century?

EDWARD ALMOND

EARLY MEMORIES OF SCHOOLDAYS IN LEYLAND.

Schooldays began for me in September 1930. We had just moved into a new house at Bent Bridge, so I became a new starter at Fox Lane Infants School. All I really remember about it is being given a slate and pencil, a piece of board for plastercine work, and a bag full of small shells and beads which were used for basic counting. There were pictures on the walls of letters and figures, to be copied.

This period is a bit misty now, but I recall that the teacher was Miss Henery; to me she seemed a very large lady. There was also a Mr. Shepherd (Tom) who used to come in from the "top" school in Union St. I moved up to the Top School after a while where we first met Mr. A.B.Church, headmaster of the school. By now we were being taught the basics of writing, sums, singing and how to behave in class. Here we were given our first pen and then the nib. How many today remember the ritual of sucking the pen nib before dipping into the inkpot, and then attempting to write "pot hooks and ladles" until they were right, then all the other letter shapes. I'm sure that this very basic training all that time ago in learning to write, is the reason behind my own very good "pen hand" for which I receive some praise. Thank you Miss Farington.

We had a Miss Crozier who tried desperately to get us to sing in tune. I must have been one of her failures – "Where ere you walk" was not for me, but we did learn the National Anthem. Remembrance Day came and we all had to buy a poppy for a penny. You had to push the wire through your jersey and the twist it into a knot, to avoid losing it. Mr. Church used to address the lot of us very passionately. I think he must have suffered in the first War the way he went on. One year we had to stand on Union Street for the 'Silence' signalled by all the Works hooters. Thinking back, it must have been very impressive. I remember the step houses in Union Street and men and women standing for the 'Silence'. In those days everything stopped for two minutes.

On Empire Day we were taken out into the schoolyard where a large map of the World was laid out, with the Empire shown in sawdust, and given a talk on how 'great' the Empire was. All major events were recognised, George V Jubilee and George VI Coronation. We got mugs and moneyboxes.

During the Spanish Civil War we had special milk bottle tops, which had to be cleaned and returned for a donation to the good guys.

On Ascension Day (?) we were taken to the Parish Church for a service by the Rev Ensor. Tom Shepherd played the church organ, and we all sang out of tune for him. Afterwards it was a field day down Fox Lane where we had coffee and buns, (the name Byers of Bamber Bridge rings a bell there)

. In those days there was not any school transport so we had to make four journeys a day from Bent Bridge and back. Generally we had to run both ways. The new school was built in Yewlands Drive and soon became our new home, but that's a story for another time.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

WHAT WAS ON THE SITE OF EUXTON PARISH CHURCH IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM AD?

Introduction

The earliest part of Euxton Parish Church is believed to date from the early part of the fourteenth century, though there may have been a church on the site before today's structure was built. However, some people think that there was a building of some significance on the site of the church in Roman times. But what was built on the site? Some people say that the church is built on the site of a Roman signal tower, and others say that the church is on the site of an earlier pagan site. Some people may say that until the building of the church, the site had no significance at all. I believe that the site had some significance, - but what?

The Location of the Site

The church is situated on a hillock, with a ridge to both the west and south of the site, with the A49 and Chapel Brook respectively being at the bottom of each ridge. Although the church may not dominate the village today, whatever stood on the site in Roman/Saxon times would have dominated what is a reasonably flat landscape.

In Roman times, there would have been relatively good views in all directions. The trees surrounding the church would probably not have been as dense as they are today, and the railway would not have existed. Consequently, there would have been good views towards the River Ribble in the north, Anglezarke moor to the east, Charnock Richard and beyond to the south, and Martin Mere to the west.

What evidence do we have to show that the Romans were in Euxton?

There is very little evidence of the Romans in Euxton. According to Edward Baines in his 1835 book 'History of Lancashire', a large gold coin dating from the reign of Nero (reigned 54-69AD) was found near to PackSaddle Farm, which is located to the north-east of the village. Also, a Roman coin hoard was found near to Worden Old Hall, which is now within what was the ROF site.

Apart from those coins, we have no other Roman remains in Euxton. As far as I know, no evidence of the Roman road has ever been found in Euxton, although we do know that the road is somewhere within the village (see paragraph later on).

Was there a Roman signal tower on the site?

The answer to this question is 'possibly'. We will never be able to find this out for certain, because archaeological work is impossible due to the site being on consecrated ground. Even if archaeological work could be carried out, it is likely that nothing would be found, as all the possible evidence would have been destroyed by many years of burials.

There is no doubt that the hill is a good defensive site having good views and a ridge on two sides, but the most important reason for possibly building a signal tower here is because the main north-south Roman road, Watling Street, passed through the village. We do not know what the road's exact path through the village was – some people say that the road followed the line of the present A49, some people say that Pear Tree Lane, to the east of the A49, is built on top of the Roman road, and others say that the road is somewhere between the two, possibly under the railway line. I have even heard a suggestion that the Roman road passes through the churchyard, just to the west of the chancel. What is known is that the road's path cannot have been more than a few hundred yards from the present day church.

One piece of possible evidence to suggest a defensive position (not necessarily a signal tower) is that on John Speed's 1610 map of Lancashire, Euxton is shown as 'Exton-Burgh'. Professor Eilert Ekwall in his 1922 book 'The Place Names of Lancashire' says that Euxton derives from 'Aefic's-tun', or Aefic's place/town, Aefic being a local chieftain. But it is the word 'burgh' that is the most interesting to us because 'burgh' means 'water town fort'. So does that indicate a defensive position that protected the ford that crossed the River Yarrow?

Most of the place names in Lancashire date from the fifth to eleventh centuries, which means that the vast majority of place names in Lancashire date from after the Roman occupation. So does that indicate perhaps not a Roman defensive position, but an Anglo-Saxon defensive position?

During the Anglo-Saxon period, the River Ribble was the border between the kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia. The relations between these two kingdoms was very hostile, because Northumbria was mainly Christian whereas Mercia was mainly Pagan. These differences eventually came to a head during the 630's, when a series of battles were fought between the two kingdoms. Despite some early victories of the Northumbria's, the Mercian's eventually defeated the Northumbria's at the Battle of Maserfield in 642, when the Northumbrian king, Oswald, was slain.

A theory of mine is that if the Ribble was successfully crossed by the Northumbria's, the Mercian's could have dropped back to defend the ford across the River Yarrow at Euxton, the Yarrow becoming a new temporary frontier until the Northumbria's were forced back beyond the Ribble. The main north-south Roman road,, Watling Street, passed through the village, and this road is believed to have still existed in Medieval times, so the road would have proved to be a highway from which the Northumbria's could conquer Mercia.

A tower would have had its uses to the Romans. They were used to passing warnings by beacon, as the beacons were lit all over England to warn of the coming of the Spanish Armada in 1588. As an example, if the 'barbarians' raided the supply depot at Walton-le-Dale, a beacon at the nearest signal tower would be lit. The guard on duty at the next signal tower in the chain (possibly Euxton) would light his beacon, and the message would gradually get to the nearest place with a military presence (possibly either Wigan or Manchester). They would then send soldiers to re-establish Roman rule at Walton-le-Dale. I cannot say whether the above scenario actually happened, but it was for situations like that, that signal towers were built – to transfer important messages from A to B.

Conclusion

We do not know for sure whether there was a Roman signal tower in Euxton, but it seems probable that there was an Anglo-Saxon defensive position in Euxton if not a Roman one. Alternatively, an Anglo-Saxon defensive position could have 'replaced' a Roman one. Or even if there was a fort in Euxton, it may not have been where the Parish Church is today, although the Parish Church is built on what is undoubtedly a very good defensive position. Even if there was not a signal tower/fort there, another significant building could have been there, perhaps a religious site?

Some people believe that there could possibly have been a pagan site there. Water was very significant to the pagan Anglo-Saxons. On the hillock where the Parish Church is situated, during Anglo-Saxon times you would have had fantastic views to the west over the un-drained Martin Mere, and just to the south of the hillock is Chapel Brook, so water would have been visible on two sides of the site. Also, it is not unusual to find later Christian sites on earlier pagan sites. You could also argue that if the pagan Mercian's had a fort in Euxton, the inhabitants would have wanted somewhere to worship their gods.

There are so many questions for which we will never be able to find answers in this historical mystery, but I hope that this article has presented you with the facts to be able to draw your own conclusions.

P.S. If anybody has any theories on where the Roman road is in Euxton or Leyland, or if you know about any other Roman (or Anglo-Saxon) remains that have been found in Euxton that I have not mentioned, please could you let me know.

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www.euxton.com is a website that has a section on Watling Street and its path through Euxton.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Jim Garlick and Al Heffron for giving me information about Watling Street and the possibility of a fort in Euxton, and to the staff of Chorley Library for allowing me to look at the aerial photographs collection.

JAMES MAWDESLEY

LEYLAND MOTORS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

I worked a short while at Leyland Motors with a fitter who was a senior Firewatcher in Wigan. As he was to give a demonstration to his other helpers one Sunday on the use of the stirrup pump on Incendiary Bombs, he had us cutting up a large casting he had "obtained" into very small pieces and generally reducing it to filings in a small box. The casting was of magnesium base, very flammable.

Now move to Sunday morning in Wigan, all there with pumps at the "alert" waiting for G.S. to light his box, for them to extinguish. No go, box refused to ignite, end of demo and all go home. He took the box home and later that night, IN THE DARK, he threw a match at it. It is said that the glow could be seen everywhere. Enter the Authorities, emergency fire crews etc, but it would not go out, and magnesium burns very brightly. Eventually they got it out by covering it in heaps of sand. I don't know what happened after that, but we never had to cut up "mag" castings again!!

Which brings me to a question, - do any of our members remember walking in Leyland after dark in the real blackout? We used to wear luminous badges to be seen, cars had tin covers over their lights with a slot in, buses had deep blue lights inside, cars had white stripes painted on the sides. Wardens patrolled the streets looking for chinks of light through curtains. Woe betide you if you showed one. This would have been 1939/40 times.

A few more memories from 1940, in fact October 21st, which was a Monday. The Luftwaffe visited Farington Works and dropped three bombs. The Axle Factory, Foundry and B.X. Factory were hit. Unfortunately there was some loss of life, I believe two people, I may be wrong. The sirens went after the event and stopped work for a while. It was a case of everybody out then go back. There was a big funeral; I remember Leyland Motors provided a lorry draped in black to take the dead to church. Very sad it was. But, there was a war on and everyone got back to work.

If I say here that the works sirens were sounded every day at 9-00am, you can follow the next bit. On the 30th of October I was "upstairs and over the bridge" at the toilets. Ex-workers at North works will remember this, when about 11-00am the sirens went, first thoughts were that someone was having another practice, until the rush of feet was heard as men belted down the passage to the shelters. There was a lot of toilet flushing (habit I suppose) before we got the message and joined the rush to get out.

We got down to the main door at the bottom of the passage by the Chassis Shop, to be met by men trying to get back in. The gunners on the L&B were shooting at the plane and the spent rounds were falling on our people (friendly fire nowadays). We stayed put and watched the plane drop its bombs on Farington again. They didn't go off, so we all went back to work. We heard rumours after that the plane crashed in the Midlands and one of the crew was a pre-war student apprentice at Leyland Motors.

There were "foreigners" in Leyland's during the War. This was nothing to do with people from other countries, this was a term given to work undertaken during lunch breaks, or before work started, you get the idea? Somewhere in Preston, I know not where, there was a small foundry producing rough castings for scale model aircraft. Generally these were Spitfire, Hurricane, Wellington, and Fortress.

We used to place our order with one of our number and duly received our castings for processing. This meant a lot of hard work filing and polishing the casting with tape emery paper to remove all blemishes ready for finishing. I'll be fair here, we always did this in our own time, it was a kind of code we had. Anyway, we now had a polished plane and stand ready for plating. By careful negotiation with the operative in the Plating Shop, generally for forty Players cigarettes, the casting arrived back chrome plated in a few days.

These were usually made to order for some parents who had sons serving in the R.A.F. (I've seen one or two about on flea markets and wondered about their origin).

Of course you will have heard about the lighters we used to make. These were ingenious. Most of them used two-part plastic containers, which were Delivery Note containers on a certain type of product and very much in demand. I'll spare you the details of how the bits were obtained, but the finished articles were good.

We had a good line in pokers with fancy handles at one time. Those were foreigners, just the tip of the iceberg, all made in our spare time, honest! Remember that this was at a time when it was impossible to buy the genuine article.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

ECCLESTON FIELD NAMES

As a research tool, the study of field names can be used to provide numerous facets of information that can prove very useful in the study of local history. Information on past agricultural usage, descriptions of the underlying geology, geographical features as well as the quality of the land can readily be found in their descriptive names. Past ownership is sometimes indicated by the use of personal names and ecclesiastical associations are indicated by names with a 'religious' feel. To try to illustrate this I will use the field names found on the northern outskirts of Eccleston.

Unlike many of the other villages/townships in Lancashire, Eccleston can trace it origins back at least 900 years. Documentary evidence shows that a settlement of *Aycleton*[1] existed in this location in 1094, *Ecclestun*[2] in 1180, *Ekeleston3* in 1203, *Ecliston*[4] in 1252, *Hecleston5* in 1284 and the present day spelling of *Eccleston*[6] occurs in 1301. The *Eccles* element is thought to suggest a Romano-British Christian church with a *ton* element as a farmstead settlement. As no physical archaeological evidence has yet been found in this area, it is more likely that the land may have been used to support the church either financially or by produce from the land.

The irregular shapes of the fields especially to the north and northeast of the village hint that the field boundaries may still lie on those defined during the mediaeval period, as fields defined by the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late C18th and early C19th tended to be uniform in shape with straight-line boundaries. Many of these older field names have been lost or forgotten, but some still remain in the names of the old houses and farms built on them. It has been suggested that *Sarscow* may be of Old Norse origin, *Sæfari* a personal name, and *skogr* for wood[1]. Sarscow in the form of *Saferchole* is mentioned as a place name in the Cockersand Chartulars in a grant made between 1180 and 1210.

The table 'A' below lists the names of the Farms, Houses and Hall in the parish of Eccleston indicating the use of personal names, geographical or ecological features. Farms associated with the Halls and larger Houses are also listed.

Table 'A' - Farm, Houses and Hall names in the parish of Eccleston.

Farms With Personnel or Place Names			
Bates Farm	Berret	Bimson	Calderban
Charnock Farm	Green	Langs	Worsley
Farms With Geographical or Ecological Feature Names			
Little Wood End	Woodend	Oaklands	Alder
Syd Brook Lane	Syd Brook	Newlane	Lydiate
Highfield Farm	Roemoor	Roecroft	
Halls / Houses and Associated Farms			
Old Shaw Green	Billinge	Heskin	Heskin
Fisher House	Hilton Hall	Howe	Ingrave
Syd Brook Hall	Bradley	Bradley	Merlyn
New Park Farm	Sherbourn		
Others			
Dig Leach Farm	Spring Lee	Sarscow	Sibbering
High Heys Farm	Commissar	Gleadhill	

Evidence from *'Survey of Eccleston Glebe Lands and Langton's Tenement7*, shows how the fields around St. Mary's Church looked in 1776 and the *'Eccleston Tithe Map and Survey of 1841*[8] shows the field structures over the entire parish. Two hundred years later, the present day O.S. map also shows that little has changed and that most of these field boundaries are still maintained. The present St Mary's church has been on this site since the 14th century[9], but it may be on the site of a much older building. Thus it is possible that the church may have owned the fields shown on the Eccleston Glebe Lands Survey for hundreds of years.

These fields (see Table 'B') are still Glebe Lands belonging to Blackburn Diocese and many have ecclesiastical associations in their names. These include *Higher* and *Lower Chapel Bank, Higher* and *Lower Church Pasture, Church Field, Church Field Wood* and *Church Yard*. Other fields in this area include *Marled Earth, Barn Field, Hard Field, Mere Fold* and *Green Field,* which describe the usage and physical features of the land. The piece of land lying between the millrace that fed Eccleston's old corn mill and the river Yarrow was known as *Holme* and may come from the old Norse term *'holmr'* describing a piece of riverside land or water meadow.

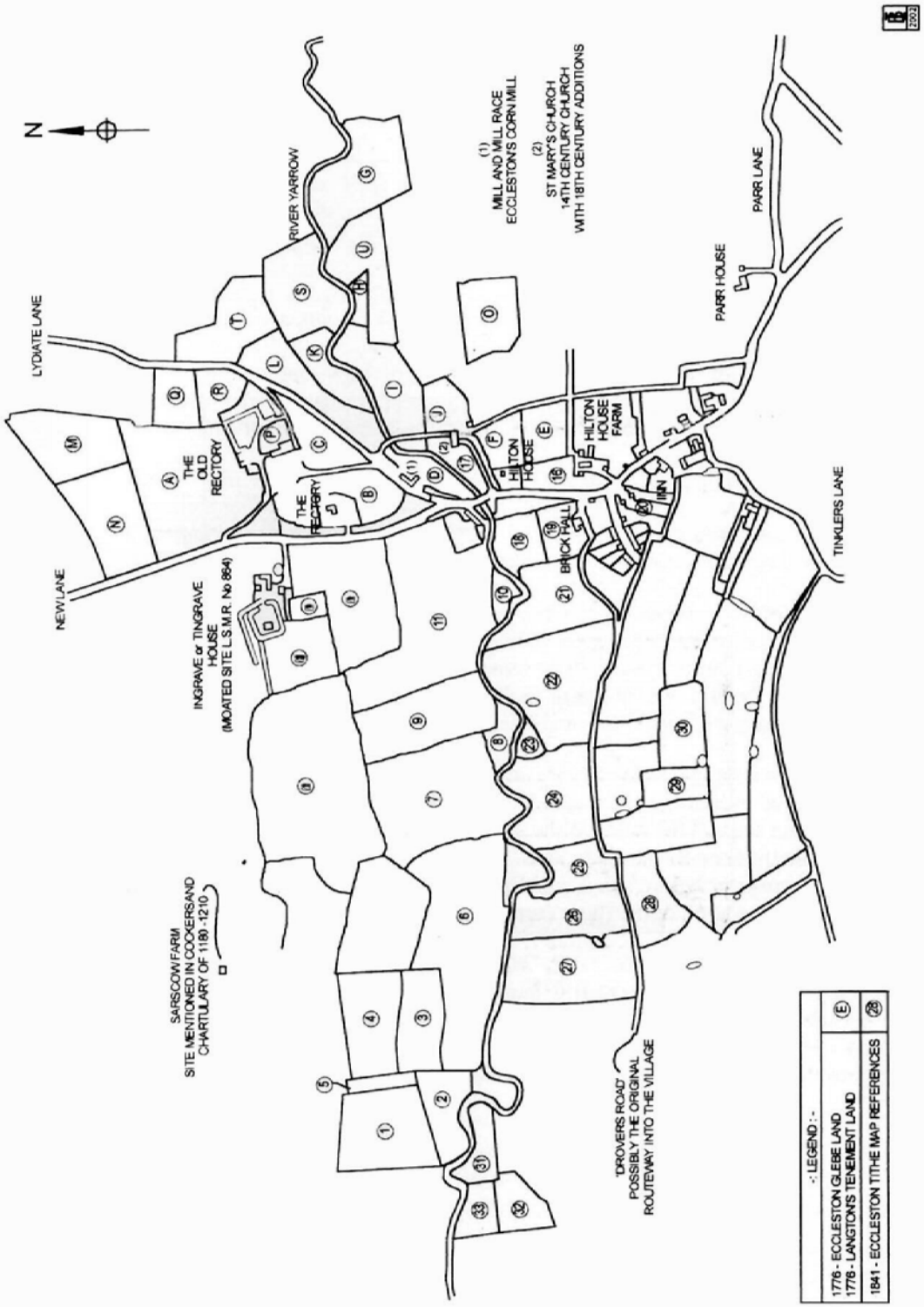
Table 'B' - Eccleston Glebe Land (1776)

Ref	Tithe No.	Field Name	Field Usage
	101		Pasture
B	111		Meadow & Wood
C	116		Meadow & Wood
D	118	Holme Pasture	Pasture
E	119		Meadow
F	120		Meadow
G	220		Meadow
H	222		Wood
I	223		Pasture & Meadow
J	224		
K	292		Pasture
L	293		Pasture
M		Forshaive Meadow	Meadow
N		Marled Earth	
O			
P		Hall, Court & Gardens	

Of the 7 fields belonging to the Langton's holdings, (see Table 'C') only 2 are of note, *Hilow meadow* and *Laughing Meadow*. *Hilow meadow* may possibly be a personal name, whilst *Laughing Meadow* may be an ancient complimentary name for productive land, a joke for a poor area of land or it may be a corruption of Laugher (Lower).

Table 'C' - Langton's Tenement Land (1776)

Ref	Tithe No.	Field Name	Field Usage
Q	103	Further Pasture	Pasture
R	104	Nearer Pasture	Pasture & Wood
S	121	Bottom	Pasture
T	123	Hilow Meadow	Pasture
U	221	Laughing Meadow	Meadow


N
LYDIATE LANE
NEW LANE
RIVER YARROW
(1)
MILL AND MILL RACE
ECCLESTON'S CORN MILL
(2)
ST MARY'S CHURCH
14TH CENTURY CHURCH
WITH 18TH CENTURY ADDITIONS
PARR HOUSE
PARR LANE
TINKLERS LANE
THE OLD RECTORY
THE RECTORY
HILTON HOUSE
HILTON HOUSE FARM
BRICK HALL
INGRAVE or TINGRAVE HOUSE
(MOATED SITE L.S.M.R. No 864)
SARSCOW FARM
SITE MENTIONED IN COCKERSAND CHARTULARY OF 1180 -1210
'DROVERS ROAD'
POSSIBLY THE ORIGINAL
ROUTEWAY INTO THE VILLAGE
-: LEGEND : -
1776 - ECCLESTON GLEBE LAND (E)
1776 - LANGTON'S TENEMENT LAND
1841 - ECCLESTON TITHE MAP REFERENCES (28)

The Eccleston Parish Tithe map of 1841 provides a numbered list of all the fields, their usage and field names if known. Most of these fields are to be found lying between the townships of Eccleston and Croston (see the insert map for details). Heading west from St. Mary's church toward Croston lies a larger tract of interesting land, straddling both sides of the river Yarrow.

North of the Yarrow the first field is the aptly named *Wet Reins* (Old Norse *reinn* defining land found on a boundary) this poorly-drained land is a sponge of a field and separates the fields of Eccleston from the lands belonging to the ancient moated site of *Ingrave* or *Tingrave (The Ingrave)*.[ii]

Passing through the Meadow which was once a larger field but shown as being split into two parts on the Tithe map, the next fields are *Yarrow Hey* and *Long Hey*. The term *Heys* comes from the Old English *(ge)hæg* describing a fenced in piece of land or a forest enclosed for preserving game, *Yarrow Hey* contains an abandoned collection of crack willows on the edge of the river, whilst *Long Hey* is a long narrow piece of land.

The next field has the name of *Cow Ridding* and the Tithe maps states that this was an arable field. The term *Ridding* comes from the Old English *Ryding* a clearing in a woodland or waste land taken into cultivation. It may be possible that *Cow Ridding* is similar to Bull Copy i.e. a coppice woodland in which the town bull was kept.

Heading back along the southern bank of the river Yarrow the next two fields we come to are called *Part of Linnels*. These could be a broken up part of a much larger complex of fields with a similar name. The term *Linnels* contains the place name element *lin* which comes from the Old English *lín* or the Old Norse *lín* meaning flax[iii]. This might indicate the possible presence of an old flax and linen association (further research is required).

The next two fields of note are named *Further Nether Hey* and *Near Nether Hey* and are described as arable land containing water on the tithe map. By looking at the 1988 O.S. map we can see that the fields to the south of the river Yarrow stand on land which is slightly lower than those on the northern side. The *Nether* element of the name may indicate this, i.e. 'nether – lower or below,' or it could just indicate that it is either to the south or lower than the fields to the north of the river Yarrow.

Little Meg Hole and *Large Meg Hole* appear next and are both described as being arable land containing water. It is interesting to note that both these fields contain marl pits, once used to provide marl as a fertiliser for the fields. It may be that the element Meg is a local dialect term to describe a marl pit. An old track known locally as "The Drove Road" passes the edges of both of these fields and could have been used to move the marl around the village.

The next field has the strange name of *Shrogs*, which is thought to describe a field containing brushwood. This field still contains several bushy hawthorn trees in the hedgerow and a couple in the field itself.

Table 'D' – Part of Eccleston Parish Tithe Map (1841)

Ref	Tithe No.	Field Name	Field Usage
1	11	Green Field	Arable
2	12	Cow Ridding	Arable
3	13	Long Feld	Meadow
4	14	Great Meadow	Meadow
5	15	Little Croft	Meadow
6	47	Long Hay	Arable
7	50	Yarrow Ley	Meadow
8	51	Part of Meadow	Meadow
9	52	The Meadow	
10	53	Outlet	Pasture
11	59	Wet Reins	Pasture
12	60	Kiln Croft	Pasture
13	61	Great Meadow	Arable
14	62	Horse Pasture	Pasture
15	63	Old Orchard	Orchard
16	291	Sand Hole Field	Pasture
17	295	Old Road	
18	296	Part of Brooklands	Arable & Oziers
19	297	Brooklands	Meadow
20	300	Wellcroft	Arable
21	351	Light Bank	Pasture
22	352	Town Field Hay	Arable
23	353	Part of Town Field	Arable
24	355	Shrog	
25	356	Little Meg Hole	Arable & Meadow
26	357	Near Nether Hay	Arable
27	358	Further Nether Hay	Arable
28	386	Large Meg Hole	Arable
29	389	Far Delf Hay	Arable
30	394	Short Acre	Meadow
31	363	Plantation	
32	365	Part of Linnels	Arable
33	364	Part of Linnels	Meadow

It can be seen from the above examples that the study of field names can be used to unpick the past of a particular location and be used to provide a starting point for various lines of study on local history. Research in this area can give an interesting insight to a settlements history and its agricultural and industrial development.

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8 Copy of a this document was provided by Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
9 L.R.O., DRB 1/70.
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11 This moated site is scheduled number (PRN 864) on the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record list.
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I BARROW.

AROUND LEYLAND CROSS

I was brought up just a few yards from the Cross at No 7 Church Road (we sold it to Drs Raven, McDowell and Hall for a surgery in about 1960). In the 50s the area was still very much the old village centre. I wonder who can remember the shops I was sent on errands to as a kid? Try these - in order as far as I can remember: -

Jimmy Lord's butchers at the top of Fox Lane behind what was then the Bay Horse. Next to the Bay Horse in Towngate a newsagent's - Threlfall's in the 50s then later Dobson's and Penswick's - Harry Threlfall's printers; a grocer's run in the 50s by Prudence Threlfall and later for many years by Bob Bentham; Edna Noon's gown shop (later Tudor House); a tiny front-room sub branch of the Midland Bank; Harold Baron's saleroom and estate agent's office; The District Bank (later Nat West) on the corner of Cow Lane; Frank Singleton's grocer's; the Express Cleaners; the Electricity Showrooms; Robinson's florist's; Waring's outfitters. Then on the other side of the Public Hall and council yard, the Co-op; Shorrock's butcher's and Melia's grocer's on the corner of Spring Gardens.

Turning round and coming back - if you can stand it - John Tomlinson's wood yard offices on the corner of William Street; a tiny front room haberdashery; Chisnall's baby shop; Mrs Knight's sweetshop (delicious ice cream from a recipe by her predecessor Mr Corcoran); Clarkson's butcher's; Frank Parr's paint and wallpaper shop; Booth Moss (later Mosscrop's) barber's; a chip shop run by a dapper little man called Davidson; Pickup's furnishers; Radio Relay (later Littlewood's optician's); a ladies' outfitters (Wilsons?); Dick Holme's greengrocers; the redoubtable Ronald H Baker's chemists and post office; J C Brindle's toy and cycle shop; Arthur Wood's cobbler's and shoe shop; Jimmy Walker's butchers; Bolan's paint and wallpaper shop and Heaton's ironmongers on the corner of Church Road. On the other side of Church Road before The Roebuck, Pincock's pottery shop (later Pamela Coulton's hairdresser's) and a sweet shop run by Theresa Dalton. The only one I know I've left out was another grocer's next door to Pickup's which we kids only knew by what Grandma sent us there for - The Tripe Shop!

The whole lot from Tomlinson's to Heaton's went in the 1960s redevelopment, which gave us the new market and Co-op. The other side of the road was demolished piecemeal after the Public (later Civic) Hall went.

William Hawksworth says he used to go round the back of John Lords shop to watch them slaughtering cows, blood all over the place. Threlfall's was where he got his first Woodies (shame on him). Most of the other names rung bells with him too; the bike shop belonged to Mr.Ball then, (first bike there), haircuts at the Demon Barbers, Booth Moss, and five minute turn round there. Harry Waring's Outfitters was where you joined the Home Guard, Captain Waring, no less, 12th Battalion, Railway Platoon, Sir. The Roebuck was the starting point on Saturdays en route for the Motors Club much later.

The story of the Cross redevelopment of the 1960s.

This was about the rivalry between two officers of Leyland Urban District Council in their desire to leave their mark on the town. Surveyor Frank Howe was the one who wanted to by-pass the Cross and preserve the old village centre. But his plan ran into the sand for several reasons. Clerk Bill Godsell was for wholesale demolition and redevelopment in partnership with the Bolton firm Metrolands. His vision was never fully realised, either.

Howe's plan began with the construction of Lancastergate through what had been the council yard onto Broadfield Drive. His idea was to link it with Fox Lane to give traffic coming up from Seven Stars an alternative route onto Towngate. The trouble was there were only two ways to do this – to make through routes of either the lane leading to Woodlea Junior School or the leafy and unadopted cul-de-sac, Forestway. The school route raised obvious safety fears and Forestway then contained little but some of the nicest and most expensive detached houses in the area! Neither route was deemed possible.

Another part of the plan was to turn traffic coming along Towngate towards the Cross, into William Street and via a new road across what we all called Church Road Rec (later more grandly named St Andrew's Green) coming out onto Church Road at Stanning Street. Two snags to this one - the terms of Stanning's bequest of the "rec" to the town specifying its use in perpetuity for the recreation of locals and the need to widen the junction of Church Road and Stanning Street by moving the war memorial.

Part Three almost came off. Howe persuaded the developers of Vicarsfield estate to build Vicarsfield Road straighter, wider than the other estate roads - and right up to the boundary of the old Mayfield, where for many years it stopped abruptly. His idea was to carry it over the Mayfield and bring it out in Church Road. Traffic coming up Worden Lane to the cross could then be diverted along it. That came unstuck when Leyland Motors craftily bought the Mayfield from under the council's nose and would have none of it.

So the old UDC went instead for the Godsell scheme. The businesses along Towngate from Church Road to William Street were bought by Metrolands and the council in partnership, reputedly for huge sums. It was rumoured that Arthur Woods' tiny cobbler's shop went for £30,000 - at a time when the new-detached houses in Worden Lane sold for just £3,700! Only chemist Ronald Baker stuck out, and for several years his was the only shop left as demolition and then building work took place around it. It was said he was finally given two of the shop units in the new development, fitted out to his specification and complete with a first floor flat just to shift him. But soon, the Godsell plan fell victim to changing times. We got the market, the new Co-op and the small parade of shops next door, two of which remain alongside Tesco. But Phase Two came unstuck first because of a government moratorium on council building and then by the declaration of the Central Lancashire New Town.

The delays caused the focus of shopping in Leyland to move naturally to Hough Lane. By the mid-70s, Godsell and Howe had both retired as the UDC was subsumed into South Ribble. That council's attempt to revive the Cross as a shopping centre by building the larger supermarket and shopping arcade only just went ahead in the face of political opposition by councillors who preferred shopping development on the old BTR site. But it can hardly be regarded as a success.

Ironically, time seems to have favoured both plans. Lancastergate does now lead via West Paddock into Fox Lane, and traffic does turn up William Street and find its way onto Church Road if by a slightly different route than Howe envisaged. And the old Mayfield has been built over. As to Godsell's grand schemes, you could argue that they've finally come off - thanks to Tesco.

COLIN DAMP With additional material from William Hawksworth

THE TANK FACTORY

The project was initiated in January 1951 and the then Henry Spurrier was made Leyland's Chief Representative with the men from the Ministry. The site was cleared and the work began with all the building erection, and by the back end of 1952 the buildings were taking shape. A new bridge had to be built over the railway line and the start to finish period was about 18 months, and was believed to be a record achievement. The official opening was on October 23rd 1953 by Right Hon Duncan Sandys M.P., Minister of Supply, with many high-ranking guests, the most prominent being General. A.M.Gunther. I think he was a four star General.

The list of guests at the top table is very impressive. The Opening Ceremony was held in one of the buildings, which was lavishly converted into a Banqueting Suite, complete with a very long Bar. Part of the building contained nearly all the exhibits from the Bovington Tank Museum, including First World War tanks up to the most recent types. An "exploded exhibit" was made of a Centurion Mk.7 tank, which I helped with. On the Opening Day I was drafted for duty as a Guide to assist the Visitors, but that's another story. I am fortunate in having one of the Souvenir Booklets and List of Visitors for the Open Day, which is impressive to say the least.

On the day a lot of VIP's were coming from London by Special Train. What better way could there be as we had our own railway platform within the factory limits? The passengers on the train were mainly Service high-ranking officers, Civil Servants etc. not the usual commuter. The train pulled in to the platform, reception parties there to guide them to waiting coaches (Standerwicks they were) when CALAMITY!!!! The platform was too high to allow the doors to be opened. You've heard the word PANIC but have you seen it in action? Ladders and steps were produced at the other side of the train, coaches repositioned and all were disembarked. Panic over. I wonder if anyone remembers it, or if they dare to! I was the Guide on No.2 coach. I WAS THERE!!

The factory was built on the site to fulfil an order for Centurion Mk7 tanks. The workforce was transferred from Leyland's to the MOS Factory to operate the factory but they were still Leyland employees. After completing the tank order we converted the plant to build an order of light tanks called the HS1200, and later on Leyland's bought back the plant and converted it to a factory for producing engines. We then transferred all the machinery from Farington Engine Factory to the new site. Much of the heavy machinery required for tanks was sold to other concerns, shipyards etc. Later on there was an experimental section, which developed gas turbine engines for commercial vehicles.

In the 1950's the MOS Factory put a target on the north face for some sort of gun sighting from the Tank Factory, I believe it was 1000 yards, I may be wrong.

When the Tank Factory was operating, many workers were brought in by public transport, Ribble and Fishwick etc. As I was living in Chorley then, transport was limited, so a local coach firm, I think it was Cliff Owen, obtained some derelict double deck buses to move workers in. He charged less than Ribble and gave door-to-door service of a sort.

Two buses came from Chorley and the drivers worked at the Factory, - so convenient! One day, returning home to Chorley on No2 bus, we saw No1 stopped in Dawson Lane (they weren't allowed on normal bus routes). We stopped to see what was wrong, and picked up the full complement of passengers on our bus.

I recall two figures from this incident. They may seem unbelievable but are true. Total passengers on bus - 127, passengers, on back platform -16. They were low bridge buses with long seats upstairs, 6 or 7 to a seat. People sat along the upper deck footway and stood two to a step on the stairs. The lower saloon was packed. When we got to Parkers Arms at Chorley we let off around 27, a large number off at the Grammar School, and a normal busload at the garage at the Big Lamp. It could never happen now, with so many cars about.

When you got to work there were no cloakrooms - you had to hang your outer clothes on a suspended frame, which was hoisted up into the roof area for safety. You nearly had to get an Act of Parliament made to get at it before the authorised finishing time. Still, wet clothes were always dry and warm.

Another memory is about a practice, which I think has gone. When someone was getting married a collection was made among workmates and a gift obtained, however, when the groom to be went for the presentation he was faced with a climb up a long ladder into the rafters to retrieve a chamber pot suitably painted inside with the all-seeing eye. This climb was accompanied with a "hammering in", when everyone banged on benches, brake drums or anything that would make a noise to embarrass the lucky man. Then, all back to work. Does it still happen? What about apprentices having their faces blacked on Shrove Tuesday morning, and then given the rest of the day off?

Once, "them", (the management), put a ten shilling note in a passageway with a big nut and a small spanner. The eventual outcome was, man puts note on window ledge with nut on top to stop it blowing away but keeps spanner. His explanation, someone lost the note and may be looking for it so he put it where it could be seen. The spanner was useful to him in his work so he kept it. What would happen today?

There was a worker called George Lamb in No.8 Shop who was a long distance walker, Manchester to Blackpool type of thing. He was challenged by another so-called "athlete" who said it was all rubbish and George took him on. The object was to walk round the outside of No.8 Shop, and George gave him half the distance start. I'd calculated that one lap was one kilometre, so he gave him a half-kilo start. It took place one lunch hour, big audience; George won by about three meters. George was well known in road walking circles. For anybody that didn't know, the walk mentioned was from Manchester Town Hall to Blackpool Town Hall and said to be fifty miles.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

TWO SOLDIERS

Part One : Frederick Hackforth

The party was in full swing for the Whit-Monday school festivities. Both children and adults were enjoying themselves but the day would turn sour for one of the organisers as tragic news put a cloud of gloom over the day's proceedings. It was June 4th, 1900, and the new century was in its 156th day.

Mrs Mary Hackforth was supervising the children from the Bradshaw Street Mission Sunday School when she was called to one side. Her husband, Frederick, looked sombre and held a small piece of paper in his hand. Almost instinctively she knew it was what every mother dreaded. It was news of her eldest son, Frederick, whom she had last seen at the end of January before he embarked on the SS Africa, at Liverpool, for service in South Africa.

The telegram, from the War Office, addressed to Mr. F. Hackforth, local chemist of Towngate, stated that his son, Trooper F. W. Hackforth had been killed during an engagement with the Boers, on May 30th, at Faber's Spruit, near Douglas in Cape Colony, South Africa.

His last communication, written on April 15th, had expressed the view that his company were keen to '*get to the front and see some fighting*' for the following day (April 16th) they were to proceed to Belmont. Perhaps the destination reminded him of Lancashire.

What chain of events had led to Trooper Frederick Wilson Hackforth's untimely death at an early age of 26?

There had been unrest in South Africa for several years between the Boers and the British and in the last year of the old century (1899) hostilities had broken out. The Boers were unconventional fighters and the British troops were unfamiliar with the tactics and resilience of the enemy. There were heavy casualties and a number of defeats largely due to the effectiveness of the Boer farmers who, mounted on sturdy horses, were able to strike quickly and with deadly effect.

In December the British Government was increasingly worried about this state of affairs and appealed for volunteers to be used outside Britain in specially formed units. Special legislation had to be passed to allow the Yeomanry Regiments to participate.

The volunteers needed were men who could both ride and shoot well. They were expected to fight on horses and armed with rifles. There were many volunteers throughout this country and the Empire, hence they became known as members of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Bolton was the home of the Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry Cavalry, which had been renamed in 1834 after their Colonel-in-Chief, William IV. Previously it had been called the Lancashire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry and it was a combination of the Wigan, Bolton and Furness troops. For service in South Africa the Bolton based troops were reorganised to form the 23rd Company of the 8th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

Young Hackforth had just returned to Leyland for a holiday, from Manitoba, Canada, where he had been engaged for the previous six years in farming, and in particularly ranching. Thus he was well equipped to meet the first requirement for volunteering, that of being a competent rider. In addition he was a good shot. He volunteered immediately, which may have surprised some as he is described as *'of a very quiet and retiring disposition.'* In spite of this he was accepted and on January 4th, 1900. he assembled at Chorlton Town Hall for the compulsory medical inspection under Surgeon Major W.W. Wingate-Sand of Lancaster. According to accounts it was *'a searching physical scrutiny.'* The report of the event gives an idea of the type of person volunteering. *'They were a finely built lot of young fellows obviously connected with a superior social station and they discussed their military prospects with evident enthusiasm.'* Probably, most, like Frederick Hackforth, had no previous military experience. Those who passed the medical were sworn in by the adjutant of the regiment, Captain E.W. Pedder.

They were to form a company of 126 men under the command of Captain George Kemp and their duty was to act as Mounted Cavalry and for this purpose each man was armed with Lee-Enfield rifle and bayonet. After measurement for uniforms the company went to Southport for further preparations. Included in the company was another local man, Trooper Jacques, who was the son of the vicar of Brindle.

Trooper Hackforth is reported as having an enthusiastic send-off from Leyland. I wonder if it was as great as that given to two other local volunteers, of a lower social class, who left Leyland on New Year's Day? These two were members of the St John Ambulance Association—Thomas Clayton of Moss Lane and Thomas Fazackerly of Grundy Street. They travelled to the railway station accompanied by the Leyland Prize Band and the local police, led by Inspector Williams. A large crowd gathered to see them off and as the train pulled out of the station the band played "*Auld Lang Syne,*" and *'a number of fog signals were fired as a salute.'*

Both men carried with them gifts from grateful well wishers with each receiving *'a sum of money and a quantity of tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and pipes.'* No doubt these were comforts for the casualties they would be tending in the theatre of war.

On arriving in South Africa the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry would have had to adjust to the new climatic conditions. The horses which had travelled with them had suffered on the sea journey as no doubt had some of the volunteers. As a consequence some of the horses were unfit and could not be used. Young Hackforth might have been used to the wide-open spaces of South Africa having been in Canada for six years. Whether he could adjust to the heat and other deprivations is not known. Water was not always available and when it was it had more than likely been fouled by the horses. Food was not plentiful and the troops, when on the move, had to survive on a diet of hard biscuits, bully beef and tea.

At the end of May the force, commanded by Sir Charles Warren, comprising of the Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers, the 23rd Company (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry), the 24th Company (Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry), Paget's Horse, the Royal Canadian Artillery and Warren's Scouts camped at Faber's Spruit. This was 12 miles from Douglas, which lay close to the Orange River. Douglas was a further 25 miles north west of Rorke's Drift where in 1879 a small British force held off a much superior force of Zulu warriors. This event was immortalised in the film *'Zulu'* starring Stanley Baker and Michael Caine.

The night was relatively quiet and perhaps complacency had set in among the pickets. Warren had set up camp near some farmhouses, which seemed to offer protection but unwittingly contributed to the subsequent events. Under cover of a particularly dark night two parties of Boers had quietly surrounded the camp and moved into the gardens of the farmhouses which afforded further cover. Just before dawn the enemy force of approximately 1000 attacked. Their firepower created such a commotion that the British horses, stabled in the Kraals, stampeded and burst through the walls. The British troops quickly returned fire and according to Creswicke *'poured shot and shell into the gardens where the Boers had hidden themselves and for a good hour the troops were at work driving the invaders from the neighbourhood of the camps. The Boers lost heavily and a portion of the Yeomanry suffered correspondingly while pressing forward to the support of the pickets.'*

Wilting under the British firepower the remaining Boers fled on horseback but because of the earlier stampede the Yeomanry were unable to pursue them. It is quite probable that Frederick Hackforth died in the rush to aid the pickets. He was one of 18 killed in addition to about 30 wounded. Among those killed was Colonel Spence, shot while giving out orders. Curiously Creswicke gives the date of the engagement as May 30th and the death of Colonel Spence as May 29th. This is obviously a misprint.

There are two names attributed to the location where the action took place. Both Creswicke and the Chorley Guardian call it Faber's Spruit but Milehan gives the name as Faber Putts. Spruit is a South African name for *'a small tributary stream or watercourse.'*(Collins English Dictionary) I have been unable to locate *'putt'* as any connection with water but it could be an obscure alternative name for a *'spruit.'* Possibly the name has changed since 1900.

The Chorley Guardian reports that Frederick was *'well known in the township and was widely respected.'* Just how many people really knew him is questionable for he appears to have spent more time away from Leyland than in it. Although born in Leyland he did not attend the local Balshaw's Grammar School. He spent some time at Taplow Grammar School in Maidenhead. Then at 13 he gained an entrance scholarship to Hawkshead Grammar School where he stayed for three years before transferring to Preston Grammar School.

His interest was in agricultural matters (he was also a member of Bamber Bridge Fanciers Society). So he went to learn about farming at Great Bangley, Tamworth. Then he went to Canada practising his profession and stayed there for six years before returning home at a most inopportune time. It was his intention to return to Canada to continue ranching. Had the Boer conflict occurred later he might still have volunteered while in Canada for that country sent a total of 8372 troops to South Africa.

Because his father was a local businessman, a member of the Leyland Urban District Council and a former churchwarden of St Andrew's, the flag at the Parish Church flew at half-mast in memory of the deceased. On June 10th the Rev. L. Baldwin mentioned Frederick at the end of his sermon and Mr H. E. Knowles, the organist, played the *'Dead March'* in Saul on the organ in his memory.

His parents erected a monument in a quiet corner of St Andrew's graveyard, which backs on the copse between the Eagle and Child and St Andrew's Close. The monument is in the shape of a broken fluted column resting on a plinth on which details are given of his demise. The column is encircled by a sash and bow accompanied by a sword in its scabbard. No doubt the sword is symbolic that Trooper Hackforth belonged to a cavalry regiment.

However it is unlikely that Frederick ever wore a sword as the Chorley Guardian reported on their equipment *:'No sword or other cavalry weapons will be used.'* This reflected the intended purpose of the Yeomanry, which according to Mileham was *'to fight in the mounted rifle role.'*

Was the Yeomanry successful? Let Mileham have the last word: *'The Boers surrounded a column of Yeomanry at Lindley in the Orange River Colony and forced them to surrender. The effect of this fiasco was to raise doubts at home concerning the wisdom of employing enthusiastic but relatively untrained volunteers in a type of warfare that demanded experienced soldiers and expert leadership.'* Had the lessons been learned 14 years later?

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Part Two; Joseph Blakeley

Not far from trooper Hackforth's monument lies the grave of another soldier who fought in a famous engagement but in another continent and in another century. In contrast to Frederick he did not die in action and came from a much lower social class. But he saw action in close contact with well-known military figures whose names are inscribed on his gravestone.

Although the monument to honour bugler/drummer Joseph Blakeley is not as impressive as that of Frederick Hackforth it is better known and has been written about more often. It is situated on the left-hand side of the path leading from the Museum by the wall and gate that led to Vicarsfields. Unfortunately it is broken having lost the top section of the cross many years ago.

I remember the monument very well for I passed by it over 50 years ago on my frequent walks to Little Brook. The inscription LUCKNOW meant little to me then but as I grew older another name caught my imagination. This was Havelock. The first line of the inscription on the side facing the path reads, *'Saved by the valour of Havlock.'* I had heard of Havelock the Dane and I attributed his heroic deeds to the defenders of Lucknow. Even though I studied the Indian Mutiny as part of 'O' level History I did not recall the name of Havelock. Many years later I came across the name again in George McDonald Frasier's novel *'Flashman'* (The bully from *'Tom Brown's Schooldays.')*

In the November 1977, and April 1978, editions of the *'Lailand Chronicle'* Bertram Morris submitted two articles entitled *'The Leyland Hero of Lucknow.'* This is what he wrote in his introduction: *'In the year 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 121 years since Joseph first joined the army, and the following extracts from the Parish Calendar will, I am sure, be of interest to our members.'*

The extracts are important social documents because they are eye-witness accounts of an ordinary soldier placed in an extraordinary situation even though they were written over 37 years after the event. At this time Joseph would have been in his mid-fifties and whilst not an old man the passage of time may have clouded his recollections. However, the horrific events he lived through at an early age probably left a lasting imprint in his memory.

I thought it would be interesting to compare some elements of Joseph's story with a series of letters written at the time of the Indian Mutiny by Arthur Moffatt Lang. Although Lang was not one of the defenders of Lucknow he was part of one of the forces which had to quell the mutineers and he was present at the second relief of Lucknow. He might very well have met Joseph Blakeley.

Joseph does not give any dates when the situation in Lucknow became serious but Lang, in a letter dated May 12th, 1857, 5pm, states; *'I have heard some very less pleasant intelligence, really very bad - that a mutinous spirit has been pervading the Bengali Regiments; that at Dinajpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Philtaur and Ambrala regiments have been either mutinying or burning.'*

On July 3rd he wrote: *'A letter from Mrs Harris (wife of the clergyman at Lucknow) has found its way here, date June 12th, written in a very desponding strain but reporting all as yet safe in the residency, big guns pounding in all directions to protect them.'*

It is interesting to note that Joseph's account gives the name of Polehampton as the clergyman who *' was never away from his duty by the dying, except when burying the dead in the night time.'* It is, of course , possible there were more than one clergyman at Lucknow.

By the time Mrs Harris' letter had arrived, Lucknow was under siege and news of what was happening was haphazard. Joseph's headstone gives the date of the siege as July 1st though he wrote *'after being fastened up since the 30th of June.'*

As late as October 4th Lang mentions the arrival of an assid (messenger) from Lucknow *'who said all well at Lucknow on 24th August, that Havelock was marching northwards: that two regiments of sepoys held Aligarh.'* The message was in Greek. Whoever wrote it thought that if it was intercepted by the enemy it could not be read or understood!

Blakeley wrote *'It was thought that we could not hold out against the enemy longer than 15 or 20 days.'* That would make it July 21st at the latest yet they were still holding out a month longer than this. It should be noted that Lucknow did not have a protecting wall but was a collection of buildings built beside the River Gomati into which flowed a canal. The largest building was the Residency and its grounds, which were on the side of the Gomati.

What Lang and the British military leaders did not know, in October, was the Residency had in fact been *'relieved'* by Havelock. Unfortunately Havelock's march (August 24th) was delayed by the sheer volume of the enemy's forces but *'after a series of brilliant battles forced a way through to the Residency.'*

The relief force was not strong enough to bring the besieged out and as Joseph comments *'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 wagons, and cut off the supplies they were bringing with them; so though we had more men, we had less to eat, and this increased our trouble.'*

The date of the relief was September 25th (given by Joseph); his headstone gives September 26th.

Just what kind of food was available to the defenders of Lucknow? Joseph's account provides the answer; *'We had neither tea, nor coffee, nor bread, nor tobacco, nor rum, nor ale We used to make cakes of flour ground between two stones. We burned 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.'

A further message was sent in October from Cawnpore with a request *'to urge immediate advance as provisions at Lucknow could not last beyond the 10th November.'* Supplies did in fact last longer for it was not until November 17th that Sir Colin Campbell's relief force managed to break through to the Residency. Joseph's memory must have failed him for he comments after the first relief, *'In about another month Sir Colin Campbell came up with a large army and released us from our prison:'* It was in fact more than seven weeks.

News from within Lucknow must have been very scanty and possibly deliberately inaccurate regarding its strength in order to deceive the enemy. On November 14th Lang wrote, *'I hope this will take home the happy news of the liberation of Outram and Havelock and all the ladies and children.'* Havelock had died from exhaustion a few days after September 25th. Even on November 17th Lang is still supplying inaccurate information. *'Outram, Havelock, Napier and Russell (Engineer)-(the two latter wounded) had met Sir Colin.'*

The following day, November 18th, Lang gives a different picture of the scarcity of provisions. *'Tobacco seemed to have been the principal want of the garrison. As for drinkables, however, at the Relief there was a regular squandering of hoarder's stores and even Walter treated me to Moselle, it seemed hard to think of them as a starved garrison. They really were not in want of food; though spirits and tobacco and vegetables were much wanted and scurvy attacked many.'*

However what Lang and Blakeley do agree on is the destruction suffered by the Residency. Joseph writes of the mining, the explosions and the shells flying over. *'The hospital fared very badly, it was fairly riddled with shot and shell.' '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 and it was one of our strongest buildings.'*

Lang reported in his letter of November 18th. *'saw the shattered buildings.....Some buildings only existed in memory, pounded into indistinguishable ruins.'*

Campbell took out the troops, women and children and left Lucknow to the enemy. Safety was to be at Cawnpore but the journey was fraught with danger. Joseph wrote, *'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 retook the town.'*

Cawnpore left a bitter taste in the mouths of British soldiers because of the atrocity earlier in the year. War is brutal and death is not noble and honourable as inscribed on Frederick Hackforth's monument.

Lang wrote on November 16th, 'Sixty or more were taken alive and put in line and they got no mercy, being caught when our fellow's blood was so much up; they got kicked and spit at and pricked with swords and always with 'Cawnpore, you scoundrels,' and then they were all shot, a great many are 1st N.I., the bad regiment at Cawnpore.'

Joseph's memorial mentions that he served as a bugler to Sir Henry Lawrence and Colonel Inglis during the siege at Lucknow. Joseph recalls, *'I was Colonel Casey's bugler. Casey was lost during the retreat to the Residency at Lucknow'*. Joseph could not have been Lawrence's bugler for very long because he (Lawrence) was mortally wounded in the thigh on July 2nd and died on July 4th which was in the first week of the siege.

After Lawrence's death Inglis took command. He was a brave and inspirational commander and in Joseph's words *'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.'*

Joseph served a total of 21 years in the army and as the Chorley Guardian, on July 28th 1902, reported on his death, *'he was practically incapacitated from work since leaving the service and his pension of 7d a day was insufficient to keep him independent of the parish.'*

He was well known and it is reported that *'he was very fond of relating his experiences during the trying time of the Mutiny.'*

Joseph was aged 62, was married, and left a widow and four young children! The eldest, a boy, was at the time of his father's death being educated at the Military College in Dublin.

His funeral service, on Thursday July 26th, was a simple affair, in contrast to the memorial service for Frederick Hackforth, and was at the parish's expense. However he did have a Union Jack draped over his coffin which was *'sent by a gentleman who had taken much interest in the case of the deceased and who had endeavoured to obtain an augmentation of his pension from the authorities.'*

Not far from Joseph's grave are several War Commission military headstones of men who served in the First World War. So much has been written about trench warfare and the horrors of the European battlefields between 1914-18 that previous military campaigns have been neglected, overlooked and ignored. They were just as bloody with many casualties and wounded. Those who fought in them were just as much heroes although mainly forgotten. Joseph Blakeley's graphic account of the siege of Lucknow and the fictitious Sharp novels by Bernard Cornwell are reminders that war is not glorious but a terrible human tragedy.

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EDWARD ALMOND.

GOING ON HOLIDAY FROM LEYLAND

In the Wakes Weeks when whole streets and communities migrated to Blackpool from Bolton, Wigan and all the other cotton towns, all the holiday trains came down the slow line towards Leyland station, and always "held" at the signals by the railway crossing know locally as The Forty Steps, joining Denford Avenue with Bent Lane. We always gathered by the signals and along the railway banking where the trains waited.

Holidaymakers were always in a generous mood and were asking, "Where are we?" We told them and were rewarded with bars of chocolate, toffees, and cakes. I remember one time when a lady leaned out and asked us to deliver a rolled up newspaper to a house in Denford Avenue. We were well rewarded for this.

When the train had gone we used to pool all we had got from them, and waited for the next one coming down the line. There would possibly be ten or so between ten and twelve o'clock, and this was for about six weeks of Wakes Holidays.

They never stopped on the way back to the Cotton Towns so we never got any Blackpool Rock! Sometimes the engine drivers used to throw a big piece of coal to us, with "Take that home to yer Mam," generous indeed. The year? About 1935/6.

In 1936/7 we're going to Blackpool, do all the booking of an "Apartment", book at Leyland Station for them to collect our luggage. On Friday the horse drawn covered wagon with L.M.S. on the side calls for luggage; I remember the tailboard with the rope hanging over the back for the man to get on and off. Saturday early, get ready. Water and gas turned off, locked up, then start walking down Bent Lane to Turpin Green Bridge, down Bow Lane to Moss Lane and to the station.

The Booking Hall is full of cases, but we find our own and go to the platform.

Finally we arrive Blackpool Central, where our first job is to book "Regulation Tickets" for our journey home the next Saturday. Outside the station are lots of boys with carts, prams etc to carry our cases (for a fee of course). Arrive at the "lodge" and meet the Blackpool Dragon Landlady. We have to be out by 10-30am and don't come back till 4-30pm, the front door shuts at 11-30pm so be in before then. We buy our food for the following days meal and hand it in. Enjoy your week!!! That was it.

In 1939 parents could see the way things were going. Hitler was going to bomb us out of existence, so we had a holiday in Scotland. The usual things were done and we were on the way to `foreign parts' We arrived at Gourock on the Clyde and thence by boat to Rothesay, Isle of Bute. There was a pipe band on the pier to greet us, the usual boys to carry cases, and it was a wonderful week sailing on the Clyde steamers, even to Inverary. On the Saturday we left, there was a pipe band and choir on the pier. We left to the strains of "Will ye no come back again". Not a dry eye anywhere!

Four weeks later we were at war with Germany, but we had had a holiday never to be forgotten. Enjoy your holidays abroad, we enjoyed ours in that 'foreign land' Scotland. We got the message; my wife and I enjoyed happy days in Scotland when it was all over.

When I was a young hooligan in the early 1940's, we used to go to Blackpool on Saturdays for 1/6d return from Leyland. All the Golden Mile was ours, Manchester Hotel, Tower Bar, then slum it in Yates's at Talbot Square. We used to compete with the RAF from Kirkham for a 'lady' for the night. Yes, River Caves, Ghost Train anywhere that was short of light. I won't say anything about 'under the pier'; we had a high old time.

We used to rush up Talbot Road to North Station for the last train to Preston / Leyland. We always called in that pie shop near the station for a half-baked pie, never to be finished. We used to tell the tut-tutters on the train, if they didn't like us they should have caught an earlier train! We were the perfect BAD EXAMPLE. How dare we!!!!

Another year we went to Butlins. Much against my wishes we went to that one in Wales, (Pwllheli) and had a long train journey there, waiting ages in Caernarvon station. When we got there I was very much anti Butlins; we were met by one of the Camp Comedians in a loud suit and giant tie. I thought "Oh dear" (nearly) and went to Reception. What? No queue, everybody trying to help?We got our keys and were directed to transport to South Camp (memories of Service Life coming back). We were told South Camp was very quiet for families with children. It was.

The tannoy was so quiet; no bands of holidaymakers marching round with the big drum. By now we were beginning to doubt all we had been told. The Dining Hall was terrific until . -..in he came on his bike shouting greetings to all. That was the time for the Champagne Wheel picking the Lucky table, (failed again).

We sampled all there was on offer, visited bars, shows, bet on the Donkey Derby (lost), tried everything on the free amusement park. Every night we went to the main hall for Bingo, until all children had to go to bed. Remember, "There is a baby crying in Chalet No. B4"?. Not ours, relax!!!

Get in the spirit for the night's entertainment, the last waltz, then "Goodnight Campers". To me, with my worst fears quashed, it was smashing. We made friends. You had to join in things, and nobody was left out. At the end of the holiday I admired the Entertainment Staff, the Redcoats and Caterers.

I have quite a collection of Butlins Badges; the kids had Beaver Badges. I think my views changed a lot. Moral - don't believe all the horror stories. Find out for yourself.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

FAMILY HISTORY

Have you ever considered tracing your family tree? It is something my husband John had often thought about but never got round to doing. We thought it wouldn't be too difficult with an unusual surname like ours, BIRKS, but as we were to find out, nothing is ever that straight forward...

We read one or two books on the subject and they said that the best place to start is by asking relatives for their memories. However in our case it wasn't an option as both of my in-laws are no longer alive and John has lost touch with most other family members, particularly since they still live in the North East and John came to Lancashire when we married thirteen years ago.

A very good source of information is the reference section of your local library, which usually carries quite a variety of reading materials. In our case, we went along to Hartlepool library, where they keep copies of parish registers from the churches in the area. These comprise births, marriages and deaths and in many cases give fairly specific details of parents' Christian names, occupation of the head of house and the date of each event. You can also find details of monumental inscriptions from gravestones, together with their location in any particular graveyard.

So our first task was to look through these records to find my late father-in-law's birth details. From this we also found John's grandfather's details. We also noted down as much information as we could find of other people with the same surname in case we could find a link at a later date. We soon discovered that our surname could be spelt as Berk (e) s, Berk(s), Bearkes, Burk (e) s or even possibly Binks. This was because, on the whole, most people were illiterate in the 19th Century unless they were clergy or were able to afford to learn to read and write. Therefore the way a surname was spelt on any official document depended on the writer's interpretation of the name.

Many libraries will also hold information on microfiche, including the IGI, which is information gathered by members of the Mormon Church, but is available for all to look at. One note of caution however...

As this is information gathered by many individuals, it is not comprehensive, since you will probably only find data on your family if someone has already researched it! Having said that, some of the Mormon churches have a research facility, which is free for all to use, but you will need to make an appointment, as they get very busy. We have made use of their Family History Centre in Chorley on many occasions. They are open Monday to Saturday and have late night opening until 9pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Microfiche, microfilm and computers are available for your research.

Much of their microfiche and microfilm records contain data from St Catherine's House in London, i.e. births, marriages and deaths for the whole country. However, we found that by far the most useful information they hold is the census records. A census is taken every 10 years (we've had one this year!), but they are only released for public viewing every 100 years. At present the latest available records are for 1891, although the 1901 census will be released for public viewing in early 2002. The first census we discovered was in 1821, but it is unusual to find such an early one. It wasn't until 1851 that the census contained much useful information. We found that 1881 & 1891 to be the best.

However, you still need a lot of patience, since much of the information is handwritten and is therefore either faded or the writing is bad and difficult to read. The census records do provide a lot of information. In many cases they will detail

- The street name together with the village/town
- Surnames and Christian names of all those residing at the address
- Their ages
- Their relationship to the head of the house
- Their occupations, if any
- Place where they were born

For various reasons, the ages of the occupants weren't necessarily accurate, but are a good guideline. By trawling through this information we found, to our surprise, that John's ancestors were not from Scotland, as we originally believed, but from villages in Shropshire. So we felt we needed to take a trip to the area to see if we could find anything more. Our first port of call was Wellington library, where we thought we had stuck lucky when we found a family with the Birks name living there in the 1820s. We believed that John's great great grandfather was Richard Birks who would have been born about 1820. As part of our research we then requested a copy of his marriage certificate from the local Superintendent Registrar.

(These certificates can be obtained by members of the family for Family History purposes, providing you are able to supply the quarter & year of the birth, marriage or death, the reference numbers from the St Catherine's House details and the relevant parties to the event. Each will cost approximately £7.00).

When we received the marriage certificate, it showed a different father's name from that of the father in Wellington. So the family living in Wellington was a red herring, although that Richard could be a cousin of 'our' Richard. However, when we were at the library, we became aware of a Research Centre in Shrewsbury run by the local council. This is also a free service, which must be booked by appointment and holds St Catherine's House, IGI & Parish Records for the whole of Shropshire. It also has tithe maps, so you can see more details of land owned by your family and view original source material, but this is only available with a reader's card. We have been there many times, some times coming away disheartened, not having found anything of any interest, but we have had good days too, finding written evidence of something we suspected of being true. We've also visited Rotherham as at one time the family lived there also.

This summer we went to Shropshire for a few days and visited some of the villages where we believe the family had lived for a short time. It was a fascinating journey through time and we could visualise the Birks family in their daily lives, particularly since some of the villages appear to have remained largely unchanged. The only disappointment was that some of the villages had been flattened to create the new town of Telford some years ago. Through tracing our family history we have seen that the family, in common with others, seemed to move away from Shropshire with the decline of the iron & steel industry and eventually ended up in Hartlepool, where many still live. It has also brought to life various historical events such as the Battle of Waterloo, since we now know who in the family was alive during that period and we can let our imaginations run riot!

Up to now we have managed to trace as far back as John's great, great great grandfather Joseph Birks who married Sarah Lowe in 1814. It is getting much more difficult now as the St Catherine's House records only began in 1837, the year Queen Victoria came to the throne and so before that we are reliant on copies of parish records, which, as they are 250+ years old, are very faint in many cases. However, we will keep on going as long as we can and as far back as we can. When we've exhausted that we are going to concentrate on John's maternal family line, which we've started in between studying the Birks family.

You need a lot of patience if you want to do this sort of research, but it's not particularly expensive, unless you want to make it so, and if, unlike me, you are a PC whiz, you can get information from the internet and there are several Family History programmes available on disk. However, I enjoy the challenge of all the legwork involved and get to see some places I might not have seen before.

HEATHER BIRKS NOVEMBER 2001

LEYLAND DAD'S ARMY

We were the Railway Platoon in the 12th Battalion and wore the Loyal Regiment cap badge. We never seemed to come into contact with any other platoons, and I'm sure there were plenty. I know there was a platoon in Euxton, but never met them. My late wife was a member of the Home Guard at Charnock Richard and received a Certificate of thanks when disbanded. What you must realise is that in the war years, there was not the means of transport; it was march or don't go. We were allocated a 15cwt truck in the later stages; this was in the care of Sgt. Cliff Chambers and moved equipment only.

The Home Guard (Railway Platoon) patrolled down Bow Lane at the Electric Sub-station. 8-00 pm to 6-00 am. A lady used to bring a large enamel basin full of hotpot for us to eat for supper. I don't know who she was, or where the meat came from, but in the time of rationing it was very tasty.

One night I caused a right rumpus. We stood guard with Lee-Enfield .300 rifles and 14" bayonets, and were given five rounds, one being "up the spout". Now I don't know what happened but... bang, I fired one round over the transformers into Leyland. Capt. Mainwaring would have been proud of us, everybody fell about wanting to know which way it went, maps were produced and an area was determined where the round landed in theory. A party was despatched to check the area to see if anyone had noticed one bullet. Needles in haystacks come to mind, but we were told to be more careful in future. We kept rifles at home with five rounds in case of invasion. Looking back, it was a bit silly. Still it was soon forgotten.

One Sunday morning we were on exercises up Whittle way in pouring rain, when we came to the Leeds/Liverpool canal. We slid and slithered to the canal and made for the bridge to get to the other side. On the bridge was an umpire who said that the bridge had been blown up so we'd have to go across the canal and get wet. We didn't have a Corporal Jones to volunteer to cross, so we made for the bridge and crossed into enemy land. This upset the umpire and Captain Waring and we were all told that we had all been killed by the enemy fire anyway. So we made our way home from Whittle. I wonder if we'd been allowed to live if we'd forded the canal and got wet?

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

WHAT LINKS CLEOPATRA, POPES AND TAXMEN?

For teachers and academics, the year begins in September. For Jews, the start is determined by the moon: Rosh Hashanah coincides with the first new moon after the autumn equinox. For the Chinese community, the start of the New Year is also dictated by the moon but usually occurs in early February. For most of us, however, New Year's Day is simply the first day of the first month of the calendar year. So by what dotty logic does the Inland Revenue decide that our tax year should start on 6th April?

Unravelling the reason rivals filling in a tax return for complexity. First, surprisingly, it is only for the last 250 years that we have considered 1st January to be New Year's Day. Until as recently as 1752, the year began on 25 March.

But we must start in 46 BC with one of Cleopatra's court astrologers, a man called Sosigenes. He was consulted by Julius Caesar to see what could be done to standardise the length of each year. He proposed that future years should have 365 days, with a leap year every fourth year in February except in centennial years. This pattern became known as the Julian calendar, with January as the first month of the year.

But that secular pattern did not satisfy the Christian Church as it gained power. By the seventh century AD, it was observing Christmas Day as the start of the New Year, numbering each year from the birth of Jesus Christ. As the years went by, it decided that, if New Year's Day really did celebrate the arrival of Christ on earth, it should be celebrated on 25 March – nine months before Christmas and arguably the date his mother became pregnant.

So, from the twelfth century onwards, each New Year began on 25th March, a date that became known as Lady Day in honour of the mother of Jesus. It also became one of the quarter days of the financial year - the four dates on which ground rents owed by tenant farmers and other taxes became due. (The other Quarter Days were Midsummer Day, 29 September and Christmas Day.) So there could be some historic rationale for the Revenue observing 25th March as the end of the fiscal year. But this is where Sosigenes once again influences our tax returns.

In 1582, astronomers advised the Pope, Gregory XIII, that the Egyptian astrologer had miscalculated the length of the year by about .0078 of a day. To correct the error, the Pope proclaimed that 5th October 1582 would become 15th October. Roman Catholic countries quickly adopted the new "Gregorian" calendar, but England in particular (where Popish plots were disturbing the reign of Elizabeth I) was having nothing to do with this Roman "theft" of 10 days.

Gradually, however, the rest of Europe drafted into line. German Protestants and the Swiss, for example, adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1700. Scotland adopted it as early as 1600, so calendars showed different dates in London and Edinburgh. Eventually, in 1750 (by when Sosigenes' error amounted to 11 days), England decided to conform. The Calendar (New Style) Act of 1750 ruled that the day following 2nd September 1752 should be 14th September 1752 and 1st January was adopted as New Year's Day. There was an outcry, on the lines of "We're being robbed of 11 days of our lives."

By way of appeasement, the Government decided that the tax year 1752-53 should remain the length it would have been without the change. So each tax year subsequently ended on 5th April – a convention that remained in force when William Pitt introduced the "temporary" measure of Income Tax in 1799.

This mixture of astrological and theological calculation was enshrined in law just 30 years ago when the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 Section 2(2) confirmed that our tax year should continue to end on 5th April.