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The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month
(September to June inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.
excluding statutory holidays.

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£3.25 per annum
Adult Members	£2.75 per annum
School Members	£0.20 per annum
Casual Visitors	£0.50 per meeting

A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

AND

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

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CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society shall be the Leyland Historical Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to promote an interest in History generally, and of the Leyland area in particular.
3. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All except the President to be elected annually.
4. The Committee shall consist of the above officers and twelve elected members who will serve for two years - six of whom will retire each year, but may offer themselves for re-election. Any Committee member who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause shall be deemed to have resigned.
5. The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies which may arise during the year, but any members so appointed must offer themselves for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.
7. Sub-Committees may be formed for particular purposes. The President, Chairman and Secretary shall be 'ex-officio' members of such Sub-Committees.
8. The Annual General Meeting and elections of officers and Committee Members shall be held no later than the 15th day of July in each year.
9. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held on the written request of five members of the Society, subject to at least three weeks' notice.
10. Any change in the Constitution must be approved at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. At least two weeks' notice, in writing, must be given or proposed changes.

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

News & Commentary

The Blake Report

Committee To Review Local History

Summary of Report

Formed in 1977, we met as a Committee on fourteen occasions so as to discharge the duty we had accepted "To make an assessment of the pattern of interest, activity, and of study, in local history in England and Wales; and to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". The Committee's Chairman was Lord Blake, Provost of the Queen's College, Oxford, and its Deputy Chairman, Dr. E. Miller, Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Written evidence was invited from any person, organisation or institution wishing to make a submission. 701 submissions were received from places and people throughout England and Wales. Oral evidence was taken also from a variety of people, including teachers of local history at various levels and representatives of national bodies. Moreover, where we felt that a comparative study of experiences and organisational methods might prove profitable, information was obtained from certain selected agencies in this country and in others such as Italy, Holland, Norway, China and the USSR. We are grateful to all those who enabled us to advance our work.

Acknowledging that there is no one acceptable definition of local history, we venture to define local history as the study of man's past in relation to his locality; locality being determined by an individual's interests and experience.

We are convinced as a result of our enquiries that growth in the study of local history in England and Wales has been remarkable, especially since the end of the Second World War. It has clearly become a means of personal satisfaction for many people. The amateur/recreational tradition is a distinctive characteristic of local history here; comparison with Continental countries suggests that it would not, but for that tradition, be so clearly delineated as a distinct form of historical study. An analysis of the dates of formation of the 240 local history societies from which we received written evidence showed that 195 were established between 1946 and 1976, only 27 being formed prior to that date. (No dates were given in 18 of the pieces of evidence from local societies). The average membership figure for the societies is 151).

Whilst their number is for the obvious reason difficult to assess accurately, there are known to be many people involved in local history who are not in membership of any society.

The reasons for the growth are many and complex. We believe that for the most part they are deeply rooted in social and psychological needs which have their origins in the dramatic changes wrought in our countryside, our towns and our lifestyles. Although these changes have resulted in certain rewards, they have not infrequently led to the disruption of older patterns of society and blurred local distinctions and differences. We have some sympathy with the view that the creation of a "great sea of undifferentiated porridge where all the crucial characteristics (and) the guiding features have been obliterated" has left many people uncertain and unsure. An understanding of the history of a locality gives people a sense of roots, identity and individuality.

We believe that local history performs both a social and a recreational role. We submit that it has an environmental role too; and offer by way of illustration the claim made to us that local history lessons among school children in a London borough so stimulated a feeling of pride in the district that they led indirectly to a reduction in vandalism in the area. Local history has yet another role about which there can be no dispute. It is an educational one. Local history offers people a process of discovery; it gives them an opportunity to work towards the discipline required to collect and analyse information and material so as to offer an interpretation of its meaning.

Though that discipline can be selftaught, it is more usually acquired through one of the formal educational channels. No university in England or Wales offers a first degree in local history, and, although the subject can be - and often is - used as part of other courses, its role in under-graduate studies varies considerably from university to university and from time to time. The University of Leicester has the only local history department in the country, and that is primarily concerned with post-graduate rather than under-graduate students. Rather better provision is made for part-time students who wish to gain some recognition of their expertise. A number of University Extra-Mural/Adult Education Departments offer certificates and diplomas. In some quarters, local history's reputation is low because some academic historians remain to be convinced that its study will not

divert students into parochial studies, irrelevant to the broad historical movements which are considered by them to be an undergraduate's proper concern. We contend that emphasis should be placed on the opportunities which local history affords for the development of skills in handling and evaluating source material and in using both old and new research techniques. The subject is one in which it is possible for the individual to make a genuine contribution to scholarship.

The amount of local history activity in schools, though growing, has far to go before it matches that among adults. This may be due, at least in part, to the fact that certainly in the primary and middle schools the greater proportion of teachers engaged in local history work have neither academic qualifications in history, nor initial training in local history skills. The inclusion of more local history work within the curriculum will demand a proper supply of teachers with the qualifications required to promote and guide it. Currently we are not confident of local history studies being able to maintain the place they have so far managed to win within the initial teacher training courses. In our opinion there is both a case for the maintenance of that place and for an expansion in local history studies in initial teacher training schemes.

The increased interest shown in local history both here and elsewhere is borne out by the attendances at our monthly meetings.

Sub-committees

Social:- Mesdames, Deacon, Barnes, Wilson, Woodward and Way.

Exhibition & Publicity: Mesdames Way, Gardner, Morris, Iddon and Mason.

Conservation: Messrs Iddon and Bolton,
Mesdames Kelly, Deacon and Iddon

Librarian: Mrs. Way.

Programme: Messrs. Iddon, Cumpstey and Bolton
Mesdames Mather, Kelly and Calderbank

Archeological Group: Leader Mr. Bolton.
(Information about FOLD'S FARM - Ulmes Walton would be welcomed).

Our members enjoyed the tour around the New Town Development Area in June. This was organised by Col. Barras of Lancashire New Town Development Corporation for which he is the Public Relations Officer. The tour ended at Cuerden Hall which is a well preserved mansion of some historical significance now serving as offices for Central Development Corporation.

Cuerden Valley is now open to the public; is easily accessible and a pleasant place for an easy walk or ramble.

Whilst at Cuerden Hall, being addressed by Col. Barras on its historical past, he recounted an amusing story. Quite recently he was visited at the Hall by a very elderly man who informed him that his grandfather was coachman to the then owner and occupier of the hall.

On Fridays the routine was to take his 'boss' to Preston by coach where he (the boss) would spend about 3 hours at the Bull and Royal (at a 'meeting') before returning home. This waiting time was used by the coachman to do a bit of shopping for his wife. One Friday, however, his stay of the Bull and Royal was cut short by his having a dispute with one of his cronies and he left in high dudgeon.

The coachman being missing added to his bad temper so he got on the high driving seat and drove the coach by himself back to Cuerden wearing the coachman's cloak. The butler whose job was to see his master out of the coach came out to his duties, looked in the coach and seeing it was empty called out to the 'driver' "Where have you left the old fool?"

He lost his job and so did the coachman.

Editors

E. Mason
R. Woodward

Rambling into History

I have the good fortune to be able to combine my interest in local history with walking, or rambling as it is sometimes known.

By leaving the road to walk the paths and tracks, some of which used to be the main thoroughfares in olden times, you are able to step back in time. A lot of the tracks pass through farmyards, some of which started life as grand old halls. All these houses can be recognised by the date stone over the door, often accompanied by the initials of the newly married couple for whom the house was built, and the mullioned windows of which I never tire of looking at.

One such walk is situated in the Tockholes area, which is roughly between Blackburn and Withwell. After passing through the yard of Bradley's farm, a short walk through open fields brings you to "Red Lees", a charming old hamlet of farm buildings all clustered around the track. The end one where the track turns left is dated 1674, and is thought to have been built for the daughter of the Houghton family. It has a priest hole, and a lovely Inglenook fireplace.

A short distance on, after walking up Green Lane, an old overgrown walled track leads to "Lower Hill". This was formerly a 17 century manor house, a feature of which is a window overlooking the valley, where a lamp was lit in the old days as a signal to summon the local populace to secret mass.

Next are the farms of higher and lower Crow Trees. A barn here is dated WM 1671. In 1833 in a pit close by, 38 horses heads, bones and cannon balls were dug up in a field called Kill Field. The finds were thought to be relics of a battle fought about 1642, during the Civil War. The dead soldiers of this battle are presumed to be buried in the old Tockholes churchyard which was demolished in 1832.

After dropping down into the charming wooded valley of Shaws Plantation, then crossing Whitehalgh Brook via a footbridge, a short climb up into a field brings you to Higher Whitehalgh, rebuilt in 1616. A dwelling has been on this site for 1000 years. During the Civil War 300 of Cromwell's men, having been killed in a battle on Darwen Moor, not far away, were brought here to be buried in the field in front of the house, the ground being sandy and easier to dig.

Cromwell is said to have stayed in the house for three days.

The whole of this walk, and many more are to be found in a book written by a local man, Mr. Cyril Spiby, called "Walking in Central Lancashire". The historical facts for which I am deeply grateful. The feeling of peace and tranquility that accompany one on these walks are a safety valve in these days of fast living.

Graham Thomas

LEYLAND

In common with most areas of Lancashire, the history of that part lying south of Preston and the Ribble Estuary which forms the Hundred of Leyland would appear initially to commence at the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, in the 11th century. Patently, this is not the case, although it must be admitted that the historical evidence becomes increasingly vague, the further back in time one goes.

We do know that the elk was hunted in the Fylde some 12,000 years ago, and it seems feasible that similar activities were pursued on the other side of the Ribble, with its almost identical environment of inland lakes, marshes and forests. The addition of a fauna of probable savagery would not endear it even to primitive man as a place to linger without caves as secure refuges.

In the Ribble estuary in the environs of Penwortham, dug-out canoes together with animal and human remains have been discovered, which would indicate that a substantial settlement existed there for some time, presumably with fishing as the prime food source.

The Bronze age burial circle recently excavated at Astley Hall to the west of Chorley raises more questions than it answers. This is a sand site and similar areas exist for example, at Leyland, Clayton and Cuerden. Are there other Bronze age sites waiting to be discovered or have they been destroyed by subsequent development?

Archaeological finds have been so few and so scattered that no firm conclusions can be drawn, and the sole legacy of the Celts are river and stream names, for example, Ribble Douglas, and possibly Linstock and Wymott; and place names such as Eccleston, Penwortham, Charnock and Heskin. Scant evidence, it is true but perhaps one day we might discover a local version of Sir Arthur Bryant who will match up these scattered fragments.

No real in-depth history of this area has, as yet, been written but we are hardly unique in this, and most of what has been published has been written by scholars and for scholars, and is almost unintelligible to less erudite mortals. Much more has surely been written, yet not published, and certainly not cumulated in one volume.

The Romans built a road from Wigan north to Walton-le-Dale and on to Lancaster. Only the part in the South of the Hundred is still defined whilst the rest has been ploughed out or built over. The camp at Walton appears to have been dismantled fairly early on for reasons unknown. Perhaps this and the road were superseded by Ribchester and its roads to the East.

Although neither the Romans nor the Celts have left any lasting evidence of their effect on the natural landscape and wild wood, there must surely have been a few isolated and tiny settlements which were gradually enlarging clearings in suitable locations.

The Anglians came comparatively late to Lancashire and the land between the Ribble and the Mersey became a disputed border area between the kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia. After changing hands several times Mercia consolidated its hold and Northumbria retreated. In the centuries prior to the Normans came the Norsemen via Ireland and the Isle of Man - up the Ribble and its tributaries the Douglas and the Darwen and probably also the tidal parts of the Yarrow and the Lostock. This period saw the stabilisation of the basic pattern of settlement upon which virtually all future development has been based.

Also these varied peoples bequeathed to the North West a fascinating mixture of place names and dialect forms the like of which is unknown elsewhere. The amount of published material on this subject is quite substantial and represents a great deal of interest as well as research. For a long time I have been puzzled, and not a little proud, by the apparently disproportionate number of references to Lancashire compared with other parts of the country, in history books of almost every period. When one considers that up until the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire was one of the most sparsely populated, impoverished, backward and remote parts of the country, this seems quite remarkable. Access and travelling conditions were notoriously bad and even the speech of most of the inhabitants was incomprehensible to Southerners - it still is so on occasions!

The Normans in the 11th century brought more efficient government, or alternatively a more competent tax collection system so to speak. They seem also to have brought trouble because in 1066 the manor and hundred was worth £19-18s-2d but in 1086 the value had dropped, to £2-10s-0d. Much land was distinguished as 'waste', presumably the result of Williams 'harrying of the North'.

The total population at this time would probably have been little more than 200 souls or about $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per square mile compared with the present day figure of getting on for 2,000.

The ensuing eight centuries up to Victorian times appear to have been largely undistinguished and uneventful, although one feels that many of Leyland inhabitants of the past would disagree violently with this point of view. No doubt if we had to endure a series of failed harvests and their concomitants of hunger and even famine, along with occasional bouts of the plague, marauding Scots, foraging armies, recusants and persecution, then we might well take a different attitude.

The Industrial Revolution came late and very gradually to Leyland particularly if we now turn our attention to the manor and parish of Leyland or the urban district as local government had it until 1974. By 1914 however factories of many kinds were established, and development increased between the wars, although Leyland was still recognisably a village. Since 1945 the pace of development has accelerated and the last 5 years has seen the almost total obliteration of the countryside forming the parish, until now only about 15% remains of its farmland and most of this is reclaimed mossland to the west - fertile but flat and almost treeless with few hedges. All this is an area that was once called "The Garden of Lancashire".

One assumes that the lack of written history simply indicates that there has been nothing worth recording. This was my opinion until a few years ago, when, at a lecture on vernacular architecture, I studied several maps indicating the distribution of various types of buildings and found them to be quite blank for the Leyland Hundred. The map for cruck framed buildings was particularly galling, and the lecturer was suitably surprised when a further dozen or so were promptly named. Although Leyland is hardly unique in its importance or significance, the realisation that aspects of its development were different from any other area, encouraged me to study in greater detail the area within which I was born and knew so intimately.

In this I have been much helped by Mr. John Hallam, M.A., for which assistance many thanks.

However, we have barely touched upon such important local historical issues as the development of agriculture and reclamation of the mosslands, the extent of common fields,

pastures and meadows, their progressive enclosure and intermixture with early enclosures, highways, driveways and ancient paths and routes of communication, their effect on and how they were affected by new settlements or ground conditions. The number of unanswered questions is endless and whole books might be dedicated to all these subjects for this one area alone if only the information could be unravelled. Much can be learned from maps but the earliest known survey of Leyland, or more accurately the Farington Estate's without boundaries, leaves some large and tantalising gaps.

It is however, becoming fairly clear that the original settlers much have been attracted here because the sandy subsoil encouraged only lighter overgrowth, more easily cleared by primitive tools. The very high quality of easily obtained water was no doubt another plus factor. Some thirty years ago a local public health official horrified at the discovery that some local cottagers still drew their water from a shallow well, had it analysed and was even more shocked to discover it was far better quality than was supplied through the towns water mains. No doubt the establishment in the 19th century of a large bleach works or 'croft' on a site with copious natural springs was no coincidence.

The manorial system does not appear to have been very strong, probably due to agriculture always being pastoral rather than arable. The name Leyland means fallow or unploughed which would seem to indicate pasture or grazing land. Certainly the vast number of abandoned cheese press stones around the county bear out the past reputation of cattle rearing and dairy products. Enclosure of the common lands both arable and meadow appears to have taken place by mutual (and hopefully amicable) agreement from an early date. Although fairly substantial areas of two open fields were cultivated in common in 1725 these finally disappeared around the end of the 18th century or perhaps in the first years of the 19th century.

Leyland does not appear to have been a village of the 'nucleated' type but rather a ring settlement with possibly four small common fields in the centre and although the precise extent and layout has not yet been ascertained and perhaps never will, the maximum size must have been less than 100 statute acres. Statute - because the Lancashire long measure was much in evidence here as elsewhere and can be confusing to say the least. The tenants of the enclosed ring type farmsteads in some instances also had holdings or strips in common fields certainly in the 18th century.

All this has only touched upon a few of the fascinating aspects of local history so much of which has been and is still being destroyed or lost by modern obliterating development. We have for example being constructed at this time a large shopping precinct covering 250 yards of one side of the main street in the original village area. It appears massive and out of scale even now, and when one considers that it represents almost half of the village area of 1848, some idea of the scale of development in the past century or more can be imagined. The advent of the Central Lancashire New Town made many people apprehensive which the blotting out of a square mile of good farm land in a bare four years has done nothing to lessen.

It may be that the only good thing to come out of this is the awakening in people an interest in local history with the realisation that so much is being lost forever.

P.F. Barrow

"O'ER AGAIN"

by
Septimus Tebay, B.A.

One time Schoolmaster at Rivington Grammar School.

Owd Tummus hed bin eawt one neet
Wi' bacchanalian friends, sirs,
Un Sarah Jane hed set up late,
O'most at hor wit's end sirs;
For when the husband stays eawt late,
Un keeps his woife i'waiting
He little knows the trouble he
Is in hor moind creatin'.

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

But when at last he did cum whomme
He wer a gradely felly,
Un squeezed owd Jane, who o'but thowt
He hed gone off it, well'y;
For barleycorn hed med him reet,
He hed no care or sorrow;
Un little thowt o' th' after claps,
That would cum on to-morrow.

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Ses he, "Owd wench aw feel quite young;"
"Tha favvurs being' young, mon;
Its' nobbut drink what's i' thi yed,
Aw wish tha'd howd thi tongue, mon;
Cum doff thi shoon un get to bed,
Tha'lt feel it in th' morning,
Un grunt as ta wer gooin' to dee
When tha should get thi corn in."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

"It's well'y forty year sin' neaw
Aw used to knock at th' window;
Aw wer sun gradely fain, owd wench,
As soon as aw hed sin thee;
Aw could so loike it o'er agen,
Sich toimes are worth repeatin',
Fur thee t'get up un oppen th' dur,
Un gi' me th' gradely meetin'.

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Its o'yed wark, its nuthin' else;
Aw loikes yed wark sometimes, lass;
We talk o' what we han bin once,
Un what our youthful proime was;
Cum gi's a cuss fur owd lung soine;
Well owder it's un th' madder,
Aw'll just goo eawt, thee fassen th' dur,
Whoile aw look eawt fur th' ladder."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Then Jane went reet away to bed,
Un Tummus knocked at th' window,
But Jane lee still, un Tummus cried...
"Cum Jennie, let mi in, doo;"
But Jennie thowt hoo'd sarve him eawt
As he hed bin so cunnin',
Un cure him of sich silly tricks
As in his yed were runnin'.

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

At last hoo coom to th' window,
Un saw Tummus in the moonlight,...
For it wer gradely leet that neet,
As leet as it wer noon, quite;
"Why Jennie what's ta meean by this,
Aw'm well'y starved to deeuth,"
"It sarves thee reet, tha should ha' sense,
Un not caare theree o' t' eearth."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Hoo leet him in ut last, un then
Theere coom th' explanashun;
Ses he "it's a peevish trick,
Un nuthin' but vexashun;
Aw'll sarve thee eawt before it's lung,"
He said in voice the sternest,
"If tha begins to tomfoo' me
When aw'm i' gradely yearnest."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Ses she, "owd lad, when fost tha coom
A coorting here aw feared thee,
Un leet thee knock un goo away
As if aw'd nevvur yeard thee;
Un as tha wished to try th'owd mank,
'Fore aw went in for winnin,'
Aw thowt as it wer nobbut reet
To start at the beginnin'."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

"Aw don't believe a word tha ses,
It's o' my wark to please thee,
Un when tha sees me th' reet soide eawt,
Tha olis tries to tease me;"
Ses Jane, "whoy will ta ne'er be towd,
Aw loikes thee weel as evvur,
But when tha'st geet a gill or two,
Tha wants to be so clevvur."

Fal da lu ra laddie O,
Fal da lu ra lido.

Septimus Tebay, B.A. St. John's College, Cambridge, was born in 1820. He was appointed Headmaster of Rivington Grammar School in 1857 and he retired in 1875 and received a gratuity of £400. He wrote some historical notes of Rivington School, he was a skilful mathematician, Macmillans published a text book of his on 'Elementary Mensuration' and he was a poet of no mean order. He died in April 1897 and was buried in Rivington Churchyard on Friday, 23rd April 1897.

RING A RING OF ROSES

The Story of the Village of Eyam in Derbyshire.

On a September day in 1665 the carrier delivered a box of cloth from London to George Viccars, tailor, in the village of Eyam in Derbyshire. Within two days the tailor was ill with a raging fever and odd swellings which developed into a rosy red rash on his body.

The villagers soon realised what had happened - the deadly plague had arrived. It was rife in London and was spreading rapidly. No-one knew then that the disease was carried by fleas from infected rats. Healthy and sick people were confined together; their doors marked by a red cross.

As the plague began to spread in Eyam the Rector William Mompesson and the nonconformist Minister Thomas Stanley took charge. They called on the villagers to shut themselves up with the plague to prevent the spread of infection. The people agreed and a circle of stones was placed round the village to mark the boundary. It was arranged for food to be left at certain points and money to pay for it was to be put into running water.

Plague victims were buried in their own gardens or in nearby fields. The Rector's wife Katherine was the 208th person to die and is one of the few victims buried in the churchyard. Out of 350 inhabitants 260 died; but after fifteen months the plague died during the hard winter of 1666.

In the parish church of Eyam a small wooden cupboard is used to store hymn books; this cupboard is reputed to have been made from the box containing the fateful rolls of cloth. Here also is a copy of the Parish Register for 1665/6 giving the details of all who died so bravely. Several cottages in the village near to the church have small boards fixed to the wall giving the names of those who died in the house.

Ring a Ring of Roses
A pocket full of posies
Atishoo, Atishoo,
We all fall down.

This children's rhyme is a grim survivor of the plague. Ring of roses referred to the signs of the plague on the victims body; posies were the nosegays they carried to try and ward it off. Sneezing was another symptom of the disease; once the victims fell they never got up again.

One approach to the village of Eyam is through a cleft in high dark rocks, it is easy to imagine the village cut off from the rest of the country, those brave villagers undoubtedly saved the north of England from the horrors of the plague.

Reference.

A Little Guide for Visitors
The Parish Church of St. Lawrence, Eyam

By Ernest M. Turner
M.A. B. Litt.
Rector of Eyam 1946-75.

D.M. Barnes

THE CLAYTON WATER MILL

Introduction

The discovery or confirmation that in an area under study there once was a mill of either the wind or water driven variety is stimulating and tracing what can be found of its details and history is an interesting task.

Such was the case in the instance of the watermill formerly situated in that portion of Clayton-le-Woods known as Clayton Town. The actual location is at NER SD 567227, lying above the west bank of the River Lostock which at that point flows South-North, bisecting Clayton-le-Woods.

The most positive siting of the mill is that shown on the 1848 O.S. Map, Sheet 69, which clearly shows the outline of the mill building, naming it as "Clayton Mill (corn)", the mill race, sluice and weir being also marked, thus identifying it as a water driven mill.

Only the merest traces of the undertaking now remain, the site being heavily overgrown but a combination of map evidence and on-site examination disclosed the method of usage. Water was extracted from the River Lostock at a point some 1500 feet upstream from the mill and led to it by a narrow channel being controlled by a weir and sluice. The channel was cut along the hillside, the Lostock being at this point banked by a quite severe hill slope on the west, and a flat flood plain on the east. Shortly before the mill, the channel broadened out into a reservoir or mill pond from which the water was led to the water wheel by a short channel known as a "head-goit".

Although levels have altered in the intervening period it is evident that the fall from the sluice to the mill was quite gentle, giving a controllable flow, whereas the fall of the Lostock over the same distance was of the order of 8 feet. By this arrangement, which is normal in watermill construction, a convenient gravity return of the spent water to the river was assured and at the same time the mill was located safely above the flood plain of the river. The reservoir would overcome to a large extent the seasonal variations in the volume of water in the river except in very severe droughts.

The whole site had been chosen with skill at some point in antiquity and it is not unreasonable to suppose that its siting was the original focal point around which the small township or hamlet of Clayton grew, though this cannot of course be proved.

As will be shown, the mill was manorial in ownership, belonging to the Lords of Clayton Hall.

Documentary History

The earliest reference to Clayton mill which has been traced is a Final Concord of 1557 (Reference 1), between William Lyster Esq., and Bridget, his wife, and Hugh Anderton, Esq., deforciant of a moiety of the Manor of Clayton and of a moiety of 50 messuages, 10 cottages, 10 tofts, a dovecote, a watermill, 50 gardens, 50 orchards, 800 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood, 12 acres of moor, 12 acres of moss, 100 acres of turbary, 200 acres of furze and heath and 20s. of rent in Clayton. William Lyster remitted all rights to Hugh Anderton for £400.

In 1666, (Reference 2), James Anderton of Clayton gave the manor of Whittle (le-Woods) to Grace Bold, reserving a few parcels and the right to take millstones for Clayton Mill out of the quarries, roaches or delphs in Whittle at the rate of 13s. 4d. a millstone. This document is extremely interesting for both its reference to the mill and the origin of the millstones from the millstone grit quarries at Whittle and also to the recipient of the gift, namely Grace Bold. This seems to be a hitherto unrecognised chapter in the controversial and fascinating lawsuit arising out of the transfer, allegedly illegally of Charnock Hall (Old Hall, Leyland) and other estates to the Roman Catholic religion, with Grace Bold as a nominee, for the subsequent use of the priesthood. The grant was eventually overthrown, the property reverting to the Anglican vicar of Leyland. The interested reader can peruse the admirable summary by W. Stuart-White, a former curate of Leyland, (Reference 3).

The manorial obligations of tenants in Clayton may be illustrated by an extract from an indenture of 1677, where the tenants are required to "do suit of Court Baron for the manor of Clayton as often as it shall be held, to pay an annual rent of 2s. 4d on the Feast of St. Martin the Bishop in winter and further to bring all their corn and grain growing upon the premises to the water corn milne in Clayton and not elsewhere and pay their accustomed dues and multure for grinding the same when the water and stream is sufficient to grind and being well and honestly used therein". (The last phrase is a reminder that such was not always the case).

Turning to more recent times, the 1838 Tithe award shows the mill as being in the possession of Edward, Lord of Skelmersdale who at this time owned Clayton Hall and the Manor of Clayton, the occupier being James Scotson, the mill, a kiln,

cottages and garden forming part of a holding of 50 acres, in the vicinity of the mill.

The 1848 O.S. map, as already stated, clearly shows the mill environs.

The 1851 census provides further information, reference being made to a row of six cottages immediately adjacent and known as Mill Street. In one of lived Henry Blackburn who, together with his married son John, are shown as corn millers. Additionally to the Blackburn family, one James Kilshaw aged 18 is shown as a miller, resident in the same house. Some idea of the activity of the corn mill, which could support three employees, can thus be made.

In a Directory of Preston, dated 1873, the corn miller is named as John Blackburn, obviously the son named above in 1851, and in another directory dated 1877, one John Hesketh is named as the corn miller.

Very soon afterwards, the mill must have ceased production as the 1894, 25" to the mile O.S. map shows no sign of the mill, the water feed channel being truncated and shown as "Old Mill Race". It is very tempting to associate the decline of the Clayton Mill, using the stone-milling process, with the introduction of roller milling of flour, mainly at seaports. One mill at Liverpool was in 1878 producing 3000 sacks of flour per week (Reference 4), meeting both the output requirement and the desire for whiter flour than could be produced with the older (but now considered beneficial) stone milling process.

Whatever the reasons, just as the mill formed the nucleus of Clayton Town, its demise was followed (not necessarily for associated reasons) by the decline of the many houses in the immediate locality, until very little remains standing today.

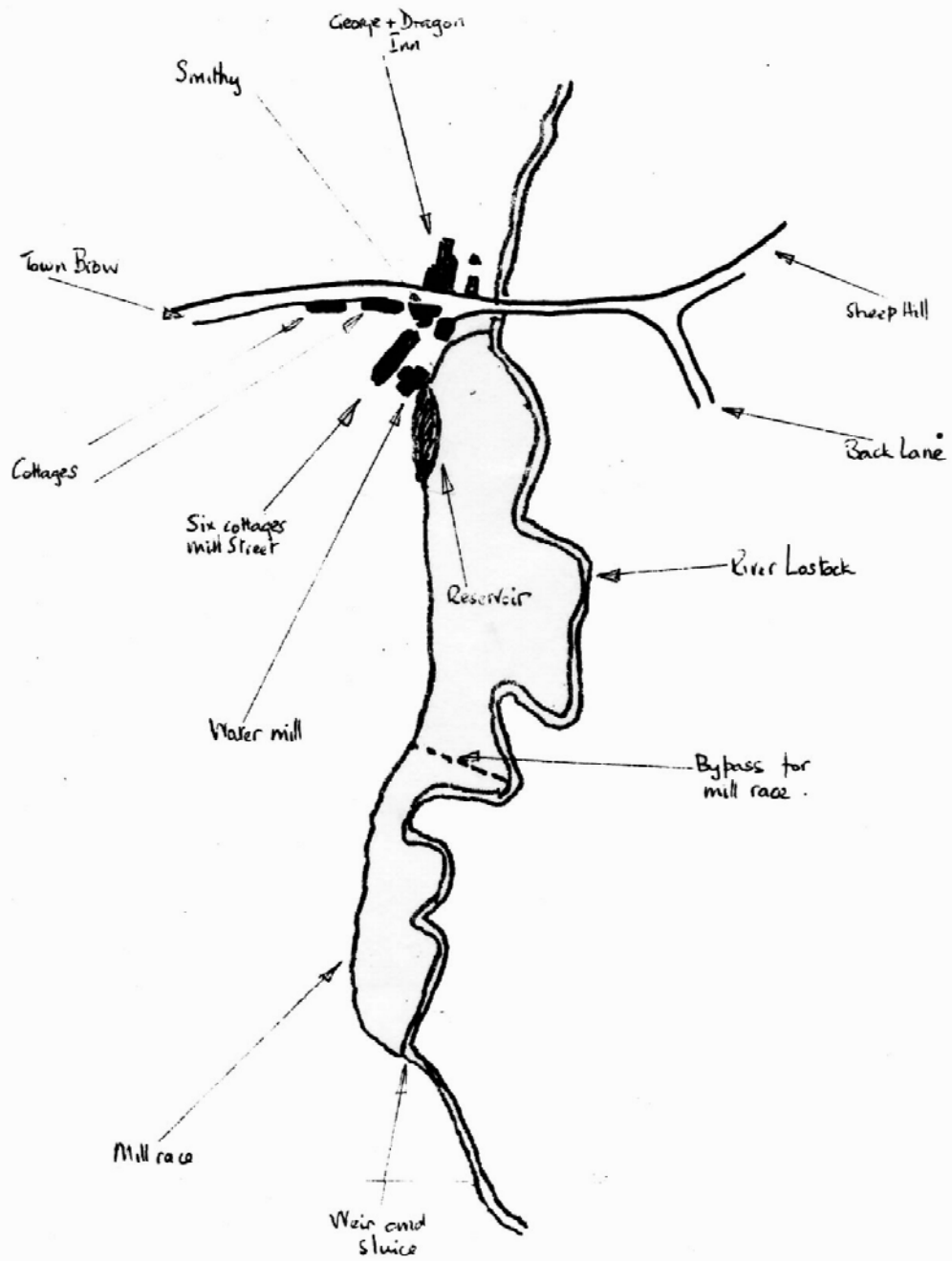
Summary

A review of the available evidence for the existence of a water corn mill at Clayton-le-Woods has been given, together with documentary references for the period 1557 to 1877. It is possible that the mill existed very much earlier than 1557 and additional and earlier documentary evidence will be sought.

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CLAYTON TOWN circa 1838



THE DALTONS OF THURNHAM HALL

For our June meeting Mr. J. Houghton gave us a very interesting talk on the Dalton family of Thurnham Hall. This Hall is situated near Lancaster and was mentioned in the Domesday book but the main theme of the talk was its' chequered history since it came into the hands of the Dalton family in 1538.

Robert Dalton was the first of the family to own Thurnham Hall. He married Ann Kitchen, whose father was responsible for the dissolution of Cockersand Abbey. In due course, therefore, as well as Thurnham, Robert owned Cockersand lands. He bought land in Lancaster and leased mills but died childless and left his estate to his nephew Thomas. The grandson of the said Thomas was known as Cavalier Dalton. The estate was divided after his death and his son Robert got the bulk of the property and lands and his ten sisters shared the rest. Robert married three times but left only two daughters when he died in 1704. The elder of the two married a grandson of the Houghton Towers family who also had connections with Park Hall, Charnock Richard.

The eldest son of this marriage changed his name to Dalton. He became involved in the 1715 rebellion in which he joined the rebels and was taken prisoner in Preston and sent to London to be tried. He was found guilty but appealed for clemency to Newgate Prison for several years. Later he got his estate back by paying a fine of £6000. On his death in 1736 he left £2000 to the Roman Catholic church and the rest to his family. Two of his sons died so the third son inherited the estate. He married three times, his third wife being a descendant of Sir Thomas More. In 1774 he left Lancaster to live in Bath, letting the house to a local farmer. As time went by the building fell into disrepair. After a report had been made, Robert and his son had repairs carried out.

John, the eldest son of the aforementioned Robert was known as Squire Dalton. He lived in Avenham House, Preston and married a certain Mary Gage who was very wealthy. After a number of years he became Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire. He helped to found the Preston Trustee Savings Bank with his son-in-law.

In 1780 he sold off Friargate Estate in Lancaster for building purposes, one condition of the sale being that there should be a square on the site, to be known as Dalton Square and that one plot should have a Roman Catholic church on it.

The son of John and Mary was also known as John. He showed no interest in Thurnham and settled in Bath like his grandfather before him. He had no legitimate heirs. The Squire was worried about the future of Thurnham so he arranged that the estate should go to the surviving daughters, the second of whom was remembered for her contribution to the Roman Catholic faith but not well liked as a person, being very strong willed. In 1837 the Squire died being then 91 years of age and Elizabeth took over the money to build a new church. She eventually fell out with the priest appointed to the church and built herself a private chapel in the Hall. She died in 1861 and is buried at Cockersand Abbey - the last of the family to be buried there and also the last to live continuously at the Hall.

In 1895, William Henry Dalton, the father of the last of the Daltons to own the Hall, inherited the Estate. He wandered the world, finally settling in America and married a lady of that country whose family were slave owners from the south. William died in 1902. His daughter did not live in the Hall which subsequently became delapidated until Mr. Crabtree, the present owner, bought Thurnham in 1975 and has since restored it.

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