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Leyland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE 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.
(Sept. to June inclusive) at 7-30 p.m.

in THE METHODIST SCHOOL
CANBERRA ROAD. LEYLAND

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£1.50 per annum.
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1973

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THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

A Letter from the Chairman.

On behalf of the Officers, Committee and myself, I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous year in 1974. At the time of going to press, the immediate prospects are rather depressing, but I hope that the fuel crisis will soon be resolved and that we can get back to a more normal pattern of life. As students of history we are conscious of the recurring cycles of good times and bad times throughout the ages and I feel sure we must be due for an upward swing of the pendulum.

However, there is no reason why our Society should be affected and I hope that we will continue to flourish, with the active support of all members not only by attending the monthly meetings, but also in supporting the outside visits which are being planned for the coming months - and also by contributions to the "Laird Chronicle";

Yours Sincerely,

F. Cumpstey.

CHAIRMAN.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members the very best for 1974.

Looking to the future, I would very much like to see far more people participating in the publication of the "Laird Chronicle". Looking through previous issues, I find that there is a tendency for the same names to keep cropping up all too often. Whilst I commend these people for their loyal and invaluable support, it would be pleasing if we had some new ideas and articles intermingled amongst them.

As Mr. Mason and I discovered at the Edgehill Conference (Ormskirk), a publication as good as ours is quite unique among societies similar in size.

Please help the "Laird Chronicle" by taking part in its publication and sending your articles (though preferred, they need not be on Local History) and comments to-

The Editor, (D.F. White)

106 Ryden Avenue,

Leyland

Wreston

LR5 2ZL.

THE RIVER LOSTOCK

BY J.N. Bannister

The River that encircles Leyland.

Continued from issue No 9 October 1973.

Lostock often mentioned

In consulting old books and documents it is surprising to find the number of times the river Lostock is mentioned. Here are a few such references. A William Fleetwood held the manor of Lostock Hall in 1574. He sold it a year later, with the fishing rights in Lostock water, to a Roger Burscough. At that time it must have been quite a good fishing river. Making enquiries on this point I was informed that salmon having been seen, in recent years as far up as Ulnes Walton area.

In an early 13th century document of the Farringtons there is a reference to some land in Farington in the west part of the Lostock, following Lostock to Blakelache. Another dated April 28th 1314, which deals with an agreement made between the Abbot of Evesham and William Farington. This refers to ten acres of waste land enclosed by John Farington, (the father of William Farington) in Farington, and also to the erection of a water mill in the same township, to which the Abbott had certain rights. The point of interest here is that a water mill had been erected in Farington at that time. This would obtain its power from the river Lostock.

An entry in the Leyland Register for the burials in 1702, reads "John Atherton of Leyland, below ye Town." a note adds: "This part of Leyland is still known as Lower Side. It applied to the portion of the township west of the river Lostock."

Another note from the Leyland Register which was compiled by the Rev. Stewart White, M.A. A senior Curate of Leyland- "Lower Farington Hall the property of the late George Hargreaves Esq. of Leyland. It retains scarcely anything to testify to its former dignity, except a portion of the moat which was replenished by the River Lostock" The situation of the Hall is within a short distance of the boundry of Penwortham. (which includes Farington township and the parish of Leyland, and near to the Lostock in its southern course.

Again from a Charity Commission Report. A letter was received by the Charity Commissioners from the trustees of a Charity in March 1862. It was explained that the rent of a plot of land in Ulnes Walton had been reduced on account of the land being difficult of access, and in parts liable to flood. These conditions still exist, and expenditure had occasionally to be made on embanking the sides of the river. In those early days the flooding of the Lostock was a scourse of trouble and expense.

At several points the course of the Lostock has been altered. It was diverted in the Fowler lane area to protect some property built by Boardmans of Farington mill. It was also moved at Erashaw Bridge in 1934, to prevent flooding at the mill. The boiler house and other parts of the building were often under water when the Lostock overflowed. At this point and at Dunkirk Lane, Slater Lane, and Seven Stars it has been a source of trouble, and caused much anxiety and damage to residents in the district. The problems have from time to time received the attention of the Local Council, and it is hoped that the nuisance has been overcome.

Prior to the building of a bridge at Longmeanygate this was a ford. Hipping farn, and Hipping cottage are reminders of this. You can take your mind back to the time when at this point you would cross the Lostock by hipping, or stepping stones.

(to be continued.)

LEYLAND MOTORS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

by Edward Almund.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close two events occurred in different parts of Europe which were to have world-wide influence in their separate spheres. One was the establishment in Leyland of the Lancashire Steam Company which was the direct predecessor of Leyland Motors and the present British Leyland Corporation. The other was the birth of the Olympic Movement in Paris.

The two men responsible for these two events came from widely differing backgrounds but they bore the stamp of greatness creativity and vision.

James Sumner, son of the village blacksmith, could hardly be called poor even though he inherited the business and a load of debts in 1892. One could only describe his origins as humble. On the other hand Pierre de Coubertin was a French aristocrat who could trace his origins to an old Norman family which had distinguished itself in the Crusades.

As a result of the pioneering work and enthusiasm of James Sumner and his partners the name of Leyland became known internationally. Likewise Pierre de Coubertin through hard work and dedication master-minded an organisation that becomes the centre of attraction every four years and which has influenced every major sport throughout the world.

The Lancashire Steam Company did not invent steam vehicles just as Coubertin was not responsible for thinking of the revival of the Olympic Games. Both have an earlier history.

As long ago as 1619 Ransey and Wildgoose applied for a patent for a "horseless carriage." In 1770 a Frenchman, Cugnot, designed a three-wheeled steam car which carried two persons at 2 m.p.h. along a road. Richard Trevithick in 1801 devised a 10 m.p.h. steamer which carried a load of passengers in Cornwall, and from then on experiments were numerous. In 1835 W.H. Jones and Sir J. Anderton journeyed with fifteen passengers at 12 m.p.h., and three years later Sir G. Gurney coaxed his steam car all the way from London to Bath. In 1832-3 the London and Loddington Steam Carriage Co. ran the Enterprise between Loddington and the City Road with 1s. fares; when fortune smiled she did the round trip in 44 minutes on one sack of coke. Little wonder then, that in 1832 no fewer than fifty-four Bills to tax road vehicles were introduced into Parliament. Restrictive legislation progressively developed until by about 1865 practically every vehicle had been "legislated" off the road. (1)

The Ancient Olympic Games were banned by the Roman Emperor, Theodosius, in A.D. 394. The earliest known attempt to revive the Olympic Games was by a Gloucestershire lawyer named Robert Dover (1582-1652) who transformed the Cotswold Games, a rural sports meeting, into his 'Olympick Games.' In 1636 a book entitled "Annalia Dubrensis, Verses upon the Yearly Celebration of Mr. R. Dover's Olympick Games upon the Cotswold Hills" was published and among the 33 contributing poets were Michael Drayton and Ben Jonson. These Games were discontinued in 1850 but that same year the first Wenlock Olympic Games were held. The Wenlock Games were organised by the Much Wenlock Olympian Society which had been founded by a Dr. Fenny Brooke

Others were to suggest a revival. Jean-Jaques Rousseau mentioned the Olympic Games in his novel 'Emile' (1762). From Germany came the greatest support for a revival. 'The educational reformer Johann Bernhard Basedow (1724-90) and, about the same time, the Herrhut Brothers in Niesky also brought up the idea; the great humanist thinker Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) stressed the educational importance of the Games in his 'Ideas on the Philosophy of Human History.' After the French Revolution-- certainly under the influence of its educational ideas-- Johann Christoph Friedrich GutsMuths (1759-1839), the pioneer of gymnastics in schools, spoke and wrote in favour of a revival of the Hellenic Olympic Games' (2)

The Greeks entered the scene for the first time in 1858 when the community of Letrina near Olympia proposed to set up a committee to supervise the Olympic Games. However, nothing concrete was accomplished until a wealthy Greek, Evangelis Zappas, proposed to defray the expenses that would be necessary to revive the Games. After many obstacles had been overcome the Games were eventually held in Athens in 1859. They were repeated in 1870, 1875 and 1896. These Games were poorly organised and open only to Greek nationals.

These two seemingly unrelated events have a common link with Rugby School. It could be said that Rugby was responsible in some small degree for the growth and development of Leyland Motors and the Olympic Movement.

After James Sumner had taken over his father's business he continued his experiments with steam. The head gardener of a local estate presented him with a large and ancient lawn mower for experimental purposes, to which he fitted a the power unit of the ill-fated tricycle. It proved a great success, and secured first prize and silver medal at the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show. Rugby School was the first to buy one, followed by many cricket clubs and public schools.(3)

No doubt the high esteem held by the public schools for Rugby contributed to the success of the steam lawn mowers, which were to be the Company's bread and butter for several years.

Rugby owed its success to its most famous headmaster, Thomas Arnold, who was elected to the post in 1828 and held it until his untimely death in 1842. His influence, however lived on. 'Not only did it leave a permanent mark on Rugby School, but his reputation spread to other schools through pupils and members of his staff who accepted posts in other institutions. Thus many great schools continued the Arnold tradition and the prestige of public schools became higher than ever before' (4)

Arnold is probably better known, to-day, as the headmaster in Thomas Hughes' English classic, 'Tom Brown's School Days'. It was a French translation of this book read in 1875 by Pierre de Coubertin which created an interest in the English public schools and Thomas Arnold in particular.

Professor John A. Lucas wrote 'Dr. Arnold was the single most important influence on the life and thought of Pierre de Coubertin. The Baron's philosophical approach to the many facets of his life combined the "Wholeness" of the Grecian spirit of antiquity with the extreme nineteenth century moralism of Thomas Arnold. Coubertin's concept of Grecian thought, exemplified in the trinity of "character, intellect and body", was inexorably fused with the image of disciplined austerity and sportsmanship of the English Rugby School.' (5)

Arnold had sown the seed and Coubertin responded. On November 25th 1892 at a meeting of the Union of French Athletic Sports Associations Baron Pierre de Coubertin gave a lecture on athletic sports and ended by stating his intention to devote himself to the revival of the Olympic Games. He asked the Union to summon an international congress of all the important sport associations in the world to discuss such a revival. A commission was entrusted with the preparatory work. (It is interesting to note that one of the members was H.C. Herbert of Great Britain. Herbert Street in Leyland, was where the Lancashire Steam Company moved to when the original premises at the smithy in Water Street proved too small)

A Congress was arranged in Paris in June 1894. On the 23rd Baron de Coubertin's plan to revive the Games was unanimously accepted by representatives of 12 European and American countries. The international Olympic Committee was established to promote and develop the Olympic Movement. Its first duty was to organise the Games of the First Olympiad of the modern era. It was considered appropriate to award the Games to Greece. Olympia was out of the question so the honour fell to Athens where the Games were celebrated in 1896.

1896--The same year in which the Lancashire Steam Company was founded,

The latest link between Leyland and the Olympic Games was made in 1972 when Andrew Holden, the British 3000m Steeplechase record holder competed in the Munich Olympics. A pity that Andrew was a member of Preston Harriers and not Leyland Motors Athletic Club. I know of no other Leyland sports personality who has competed in the Olympic Games. Should any of our readers know of any I would be grateful for details.

As a postscript a few words on the author of 'Tom Brown's School Days'. Thomas Hughes was born on October 20th, 1822, at Uffington, near Faringdon in Berkshire. He attended Rugby School when Dr. Arnold was headmaster and it has been suggested that 'Tom Brown' was his own story but this he strongly denied. Hughes died at Brighton on March 22nd, 1896 just one month before the first Modern Olympic Games took place.

RELEVANT DATES

<u>LEYLAND MOTORS</u>	<u>OLYMPIC MOVEMENT</u>
1892 James Sumner inherits smithy	Revival suggested by Pierre de Coubertin
1894 First lawn mower sold to Rugby	International Olympic Committee formed
1896 Lancashire Steam Co. formed	First Modern Olympic Games

REFERENCES

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| (2) The Ancient Olympic Games | Heinz Schobel |
| (3) The First Fifty Years | Leyland Motors Ltd. |
| (4) History of Education | S.J. Curtis |
| (5) International Olympic Committee Bulletin 98-99 | |

BRICKS

By F.F. Barrow.

The mundane and ubiquitous brick has a very long history as mans first - and most successful - attempt at prefabricated construction.

Sun dried blocks of clay are known to have been used 5000 years ago in the area between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris and possibly as long as 10,000 years. This method is still used in some primitive countries with a suitable climate, although kiln fired bricks are almost as old as the sun dried variety.

From Babylon brick making methods spread eastwards to India and China and westwards to Egypt, the Mediterranean then to Rome and thus eventually to Britain.

The Roman bricks were more akin to tiles, about 1 1/4 inches thick and in varying sizes for different purposes, and after their departure were not manufactured here in significant quantities until Tudor times, although salvaged Roman bricks were occasionally used in a few Norman and even mediaeval buildings.

The word "Brick" is of Flenish origin and was unknown in this country until the 14/15th century, and most of the first bricks used here from the 14th century were imported from the Low Countries. One theory is that they were initially used as ballast and some enterprising sea captain discovered he could sell them, particularly in East Anglia where stone and timber were scarce.

England being well endowed with widespread deposits of suitable clays and brick earths, bricks began to be manufactured in the South East in Tudor times or about the 15th century. As timber became more scarce in the 16th century, the brick makers spread, but only to those areas not bleaced with ample supplies of the traditional materials. In this part of Lancashire bricks do not appear much until the early 17th century, and even then, due to their rough texture and irregular shape all quoins (external angles) were formed in stone. In the case of more expensive buildings, door and window openings were formed in stone but lesser ones had bricks cut and rendered to imitate masonry.

Mediaeval and Tudor bricks were burnt locally in a wide variety of colours on small brickfields or even individual sites and usually in "clamps" rather than kilns. The output of clamps is variable as there is no control over the firing or ventilation, resulting in many distortions and rejects, underburnt and overburnt bricks, but when walled the range of colours gives a most pleasing effect. The monotonous uniformity and harsher shades of the modern machine made can never achieve the mellow beauty of this old brickwork, surviving examples of which are still quite sound after four or even five centuries.

Upto about 1610 most bricks were made about 2" thick although a statute passed in 1571 fixed the size to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. In the late 17th century bricks were standardized at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the irregular Tudor type gave way to the smooth crimson coloured Georgian brick with paler "rubbers" for gauges arches and other decorative work. By the end of the 18th century the size had increased to 3" due to the brick tax which was levied by number irrespective of size.

Many old brick houses have been (and still are being) ruined by ignorant or unsympathetic repair work; external rendering which prevents the bricks "breathing" and thus encourages rapid disintegration is obvious in a number of local examples and when re-pointing is necessary it must be borne in mind that this is secondary to the bricks themselves. Because of their irregular shape old bricks were laid with very thick joints of lime mortar which is not hard and impervious like modern Portland Cement. It is absolutely imperative that any re-pointing is carried out with mortar that is softer and more porous than the bricks after thorough raking out, and recessed slightly from the wall face. More old brickwork has been ruined by using hard and impervious mortars under the mistaken belief that the stronger the better.

SKIPTON CASTLE

Skipton, Yorkshire.

The ancient COURT LEET and COURT BARON concerning the keeping of law and order within the Honour and Manor of Skipton.

THE MEN'S OATH (for the Jury.

You shall sweare that nothing within the Constablewick of..... is or hath been done since the last Court Leet holden here contrary to any article given in Charge to the Jury this Day to your knowledge, so help, etc.

THE JURY'S CHARGE

Gentlemen of the Jury,

I am satisfied you are all of you well acquainted with the business of this place and which is inquireable into, presentable and punishable - therefore the Charge I shall give you shall be very short.

First You are to enquire into all High Treason, Petty Treason, Murders, Manslaughters, Burglaries, Roberies, felonies and Petty Larcinies if any offences come to your knowledge, wee are to Certify them to the Quarter Sessions.

YOU are to enquire of and present all nuisances, as if any incroach upon the highway by hedging, ditching or incloseing any part thereof.

If any person lye any dunghills, carrion, or stinking dirt in the highway, or obstruct the highway by lyeing any thing therein.

If any person does not scour his ditches, lop his trees and keep his Bushes low near the Highway. If any way or water course be out of repair.

YOU are to enquire if any divert any ancient way or Water Course out of its proper channel, or lye anything to corrupt any common stream of Water, All these are Nusences and by you Enquireable, lresentable and punishable.

If any person do not maintaine a Sufficient Wall, hedge or fence against the Common or Common High way whereby his Neighbour's Cattle may the more easily trespass upon him and he impounds them, this occasions suit and tends to the breach of the peace and consequently by you enquireable.

YOU are to enquire of (about) Eves Droppers such as listen under walls, or windows to hear tales and report them amongst their neighbours.

Courts LEET at SKITTON CASTLE SKITTON YORKSHIRE

The Following dates of Courts Leet
20th April, 1588 and 5th October, 1588.

are taken from a SKITTON CASTLE Court roll of 1587-88

during the reign of Elizabeth 1.

COURT LEET held half yearly, on Saturdays.

You are to Enquire of all Common Barrelors, Scolds and other Breakers of the Peace and punish the offenders accordingly. You are to Enquire of all Riots, Routs and unlawful Assemblies.

You are to Enquire of all unlicensed Ale houses and present the same and if good order be kept by such as are licensed.

You are to enquire of all Bakers, Butchers, Brewers and others that they send good and wholesome Meet and Drink, if any offend herein you are to present and punish them.

You are to present all frauds and Deceits in buying and selling by false weights or measures and punish the offenders.

You are to enquire of all fforestallers, Ingrossers and Regretors and present and punish them.

You are to enquire of all lound Breach and Resious. If any township or place that ought to have them, do not keep the Stocks, Millory, Linfold, Ducking chair.

You are to Enquire if your Constables, Surveyors of the Highways, Clerks of the Market, Searchers and Sealers of the Leather, Ale tasters, and all other Publick Officers within the precinct of this Leet if they have duly executed their respective Offices, if any have been therein remiss you are to present them. These, Gentlemen, are offences Inquirable presentable and punishable by you as Jury of the Court Leet.

From a SKILTON CASTLE Court Roll of 1587-88 (continued)

Court Baron

18 Nov. 1587	24 Feb. 1588	8 Jun. 1588	17 Aug. 1588
16 Dec. 1587	18 Mar. 1588	22 Jun. 1588	14 Sep. 1588
13 Jan. 1588	27 Apl. 1588	13 Jul. 1588	28 Sep. 1588
3 Feb. 1588	18 May 1588	27 Jul. 1588	19 Oct. 1588
			9 Nov. 1588

COURT BARON monthly or twice a month on Saturdays.

Gentlemen as you are also the Jury of the Court Baron, You are to enquire of all persons that owe Suite to this Court and have made default, you are to present their names, for all persons that hold of his Lordship by suite of Court wheresoever they live or of what Age soever they be should attend here to be ammersed.

You are to Enquire if any of his Lordship's Lands, Customs, Rents, Services, ffranchises, Royalties or Evedenn. be concealed or withheld from him by whome and what it is and how long it hath been withholden.

If any Incroachments be made upon his Lordship's Land or upon the Common without licence. If any take Common that hath no right to do it, or having common keep more than his number or the Quantity of his Land or otherwise abuse or appress the Common by inclosing, digging or otherwise.

You are to Enquire if any have withholden any Waifes or Strays from the Ld of this Manor and present the same.

You are to Enquire whether any person hath taken away any meer Stones, Bounders or Stakes between his Lordship's Lands and any others or between Tenanat and Tenant and present the same.

You are to Enquire if all the Defaults and Complaints that were presented at the last Court were sufficiently redressed or not and that all the Laws and orders you formerly made are observed and kept, and present such as have offended against same.

Gentlemen I shall not trouble you with any more particulars at present but give this in Generall that whatsoever you know of your own knowledge to be here inquirable and presentable that you make due presentation thereof, so pray goe together and consider the Verdict.

THE JURY

You good men that are sumond to appeare and serve upon the Jury for this Court, answer to your names and save ffines.

THE OATH OF THE FOREMAN OF THE LEET JURY.

You shall sweare that you shall diligently inquire and true presentment make of all such things as shall be given you in Charge concerning our Sovereigne Ld the King and the Ld of this Manor, His Majestie's Councell, your ffellows and your own, you shall well and truly keep. You shall not concele any thing for favour, ffear, promise or affection you bear to any person or persons or present any thing for hatred or malice but you shall present the truth according to the Evidence or your own knowledge, so help, etc.

THE oath that yr fforman A.....B..... hath taken on his behalfe the same oath shall you and every of you well and truly keep on your part so help me, &c.

CONSTABLES OATH

You shall sweare that you will well and truly serve our Sovereigne Ld the King in the office of Constable for the (district) for the space of one whole year now next ensuing or so long as your shall continue Constable here. You shall to the utmost of your power endeavour to help the publick peace and do and execute all things appertaining to your office well and faithfully so help me &c.

THOSE SUMMONED

All manner of persons who were summoned to appear here this day to serve our Sovereigne Ld the King and the Ld of this Manor for his Court now holden, draw near and give your attendance and every one answer to his name as he shall be called and save your amercement.

The Suitors and Defaulters then called twice.

if any one will be "esscined," come into Court and you will be received

If any person can inform the Steward or this Inquest of any offences comitted against our Sovereigne Ld the King which this Court takes Cognisance of lett them come into Court and they shall be heard.

SKIPTON CASTLE.

Note for the Reader.-

The frequently held Court Baron dealt with day to day offences and the Court Leet with those of a more serious kind, the graver of which had to be remitted to Quarter Sessions.

The matters to be enquired into, are worth perusing as covering a great deal of ground in a few sentences most clearly expressed.

It is intriguing to consider if our word "brawlers" may not have something in common with "barrelors" in the text; also to consider if we may not have lost something of value in the passing of the compulsory Stocks, Pillory and Ducking Chair.

Whatever our point of view, it is interesting to see an authentic copy of the procedure for administering the law in Skipton's early days.

THE SUZERAIN OF THE HALLOWED ACRES.

By permission of
F.N. SUMNER.

Dong-g-g! The muffled note of the passing bell broke the drowsy stillness of the afternoon. I went along the south side of the church until I stood under the battlemented tower. There I halted and looked up. Sure enough, framed in the arched window of the ringing room was the face I wanted to see, looking down at me, red and friendly as always.

"Na lad" it shouted, "thee come on up" They were the very words I was hoping to hear. I straightaway entered the Church and made my way to the southwest corner of the tower. There I passed through a small arched doorway and began to climb.

Up and up, higher and higher. It was heart-quickening to be alone in that musty echoing darkness. How my footsteps rang on the worn stone steps that wound spirally upward into the gloom!

At length the atmosphere grew lighter. An opening appeared above me showing an interior wherein eight bellropes hung from the ceiling. Warm and rather out of breath I stepped into the ringing room.

"Hello, Jack"

I greeted the solitary figure that was seated by the south window with a bell-rope dangling between his knees. The grave-digger gave a pull at the rope. A deep and solemn note resounded in the loft above.

I stood before my friend. Red of face and blue of eye, Jack was my boyish conception of a good sort. Unfortunately he was often drunk. He swore freely. But somehow I liked Jack. He had a way with boys and took to me from the first.

Conversely, as he had neglected to follow his trade as a cobbler, so strong was his attachment to the churchyard, my grandfather held him in disdain. He was wont to say that Jack couldn't keep away from t'churchyard if he were offered a kings ransom."

Brimmin' pint

"Sit thee down lad." Jack enjoined me.

I sat down beside him, Jack tolled again. Suddenly he said: "What wouldn't I give to handle a pint pot brimmin' o'er!"

I murmured sympathetically in reply. Jack seemed to ruminat
"Hast seen him anywheer about?" he presently asked. (By him
he meant that fearsome and formidable being, the sexton).

"No," I said.

The grave-digger rose to his feet, felt in his trousers
pocket and drew out a handful of coins

"Then I mun hev a pint. Here," he said, putting three
pennies into my hand, "thee stop here and toll while I'm away."
and he strode to the doorway saying he'd be back soon.

The sound of Jack's descending footsteps died away. I was
alone in the ringingroom. I guessed that the grave-digger,
driven thither by the pangs of a consuming thirst was making for
the white-washed public house which stood hard by with a stretch
of garden decorously interposed between it and the churchyard.
In by-gone days this inn had been the resort of church members
and officials; bellringers and members of the choir often
sought its hospitality, and its back bedroom windows overlooked
the last resting place of many who in life had shared in its
conviviality and partaken of its good cheer.

I tolled dutifully and the minutes sped by. With resonant
notes the church clock struck the half hour. Then I heard
the sound of footsteps ascending the tower. I listened, but
soon decided they were not those of my friend Jack - they were
too light, too steady. Up and up, nearer and nearer they came.

Then it dawned upon me whose they were.

Terrible as doom.

I sat there rigid, my heart fluttering wildly in the icy
clutch of fear. I stared through the doorway, fascinated.

At last the head, then the complete form of the sexton
rose before my view. Another moment and he was in the ringing-
room, and I was confronted by a sinister looking blackbearded
man whose features were as sharp as his manner was intimidating
he surveyed me with magnetic black eyes under bushy brows which
he bent ominously at me. For perhaps half a minute he stood
looking down at me terrible as Doom itself.

"Wheres Jack" he demanded.

The grave-digger I told him had descended a while ago.

"On t' spree agen. is he?"

"I think so," I said, quailing beneath his searching gaze. For a space he stood regarding me; then, taking a key from his pocket, he turned to the cabinet which contained the mechanism of the church clock. In a trice the door was open and I saw him apply a giant key to the works within and begin to turn the same in the manner of one turning the handle of a wringing machine, each turn of the key being accompanied by a loud creak. After maybe twelve strong turns he desisted, removed the key and locked the door of the cabinet. Then he swung round upon me. "Toll!" he commanded sharply.

Startled fearful I obeyed.

For indeed the sexton daunted me. Driven by some dark and troubled spirit, he was about the churchyard at all hours of the day, sometimes after night had fallen. He dug under the eye of the sun, watched by the evening star, and occasionally even by lantern light. There was a hint of stealth in his manner - he liked to appear suddenly and unexpectedly on the scene. Then woe betide any children who happened to be playing in the churchyard!

Life appointment

Like an eagle out of the ~~blue, down would~~ swoop the sexton black-visaged and terrible, and the startled mites would scatter for their lives!

He was deemed acquisitive by not a few. Combining his office with that of parish clerk, he had come to look on the churchyard as his own especial territory, a region over which he held sway by inalienable and prescriptive right. Moreover I had heard my grandfather say that his appointment was for life; it was his boast that not even the vicar could deprive him of it.

Secure in his possession of the Bishop's licence, he had established a suzerainty over the hallowed acres which none ventured to challenge or impung. He cared for nobody, and snapped his fingers at churchwardens and suchlike temporary officials. To visitors to the churchyard his expression said: "This is my realm, my kingdom. Here I reign absolutely. My eye is on you so beware!"

I perceived that it was now regarding me intently. I tolled again. The sexton seemed satisfied. Vouchsafing me an approving nod, he then turned and left me without saying another word.

I breathed freely once more. As I listened to the sound of his descending footsteps my serene mood returned. I thought of Jack slaking his thirst at the inn and guessed that I should see no more of him that day.

Within its cabinet the gigantic timepiece ticked on. Below all was silent. The minutes passed, but no stumbling footsteps announced the grave-diggers return.

For a long time I sat there with the bellrope between my knees, draped in romantic day dreams, but tolling dutifully between whiles.

"Jack's on t'spree," my grandfather said on the morning of the following day.

Ominous aspect

Looking through the schoolhouse window I saw the sexton in his shirt sleeves and with his brow black as a thunder-cloud, wheel his barrow out of the toolhouse and trundle it morosely into the churchyard. He was having to shift briskly for himself, and later in the forenoon as I walked abroad, I saw him digging like a Trojan in order to finish the grave in time.

During these periods of defection on his assistant's part, his aspect was ominous as mighty Jove's and his temper the worst that ever men had. Himself a staunch teetotaler he hated drunkenness and all such spendthrift folly. Yet I don't think he ever publicly upbraided Jack for his elbow-lifting and foolish neglect of his work.

He suffered it in moody ferocious silence. It was when the truant's last coin was spent and he hung, shamefaced and repentant, about the churchyard or by the toolhouse door, that the sexton would simulate indifference to the plight of an underling who had left his employer in the lurch, and passed the crestfallen Jack without bestowing upon him as much as a casual glance.

Sometimes for days he would completely ignore his existence, until at length Jack, driven to desperation, would meekly and abjectly beg to be restored.

At first the sexton would shake his head, mortifying the suppliant with a heartless stare. But as he could neither do without Jack nor the latter keep away from the churchyard, sooner or later he would relent and a reconciliation followed. Jack would then appear, rehabilitated and content and pushing the plank-laden barrow, set forth once more to follow the vocation he loved.

He would dig diligently until evening. Then master and man would confer in full view of the schoolhouse window; out would come the sexton's leather purse, he would select several silver coins therefrom and drop them into the grave-digger's needy palm.

This procedure became quite familiar to me. Jack frequently needed to be "subbed" as my grandparents called it, being usually by the middle of the week entirely without the wherewithal to tide him over the remaining days until week-end.

Library List.

The library list is as printed in issue no. 9 with the following additions.

The Georgions at Home by Elizabeth Burvon.

A series of books on Effective Speech, which should prove interesting to any of our members who would like to give a talk, but who lack confidence.

HARRINGTON-BLAKE. FASHIONABLE WEDDING AT COWES.

LIST OF WEDDING PRESENTS.

At Holy Trinity Church, Cowes, Isle of Wight, yesterday afternoon, the wedding was celebrated of Mr. William Edmund Harrington, of Worden Hall, Leyland, and Woodvale, Cowes, and the Hon. Marguerite Phyllis Blake, daughter of Lord Wallscourt, of Ardry, Oramore, co. Galway, and granddaughter of the Dowager Countess of Harrington, of Stanhope Lodge, Cowes, where the bride has resided practically from childhood.

A very large number of guests attended the ceremony, and the church was charmingly decorated for the occasion with palms, lilies, carnations, roses, &c.

The bridegroom was early in attendance, accompanied by Mr. J. A. St. G. Robertson as his best man. At half-past one the bride arrived, and entered the church escorted by her uncle, the Earl of Harrington, who gave her away. The bridal dress was of very Duchesse satin, the bodice being draped with Limerick lace, while the Court train was also draped with Limerick lace and trimmed with chiffon and orange blossom. The bride wore a wreath of orange blossom and myrtle, and a beautiful veil of the same old Limerick lace. Her exquisite bouquet was composed of gardenias (the bride's favourite flower) and lilies of the valley. This was the gift of the bridegroom, as also were the jewels worn by the bride—a large diamond marguerite pendant and a diamond star.

There were four bridesmaids, viz.—Miss Eva Stanhope (cousin), Miss Alice Ince, Miss Venios Corbett, and Miss Beryl Hollingworth. They wore picture gowns of ivory oriel satin and Romney caps of pale blue and silver, with long veils. Their bouquets were composed entirely of La France roses, and each wore a pearl and turquoise brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridal train was borne by Miss Violet Pasley, a little girl, who looked sweet in a director's costume of white oriel satin with pearl buttons, lace jabot, and cuffs to match.

The bridegroom's mother, Mrs. Twyman, wore a handsome dress of Saxe blue silk voile, with lace and pearl trimmings. Her hat was of blue feathers and tulle. Miss Harrington, the bridegroom's sister, was attired in a costume of white muslin, with mauve flowers, with a black tulle and feathers hat. The other sister of the bridegroom, Mrs. Hew Kennedy, looked charming in a costume of pastel blue embroidered voile, with brown tulle hat and brown feathers.

The marriage ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Miles C. Berkeley, vicar of Holy Trinity and chaplain to the Royal Yacht Squadron, assisted by the Rev. Roscoe Shedden, curate of St. Peter's, Leicester. The hymns sung were "Lead us, heavenly Father," "O Perfect Love," and "To Thee, O Loving Saviour," the last-named being to music from Rossini's "Moses in Egypt." The psalm was sung to a chant composed by Mr. F. Rutland, the organist of the church, who presided at the organ, and, in addition to playing appropriate music during the assembling of guests, gave Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," as the bride and bridegroom emerged from the vestry after signing the register and passed down the nave, bowing right and left in acknowledgment of congratulations of their many friends, among who wedding favours of gardenias had meantime been distributed.

The wedding reception was held at Stanhope Lodge, music being provided by the famous string band of Marina at Portsmouth. Later in the afternoon the newly-married pair departed for their honeymoon, which will be spent on the Thames. The bride's travelling dress was of pale gray crepe de chene, the body being draped with Valenciennes lace. The hat was of the same colour as the costume, with two birds of paradise forming the trimming.

The presents were very handsome. In addition to the jewelry worn by the bride at the wedding, the bridegroom's gifts to her included two emerald and pearl bracelets, a diamond and enamel bracelet, four diamond rings, a turquoise and diamond ring, a ruby ring, a number of other rings, and a quantity of other jewelry, in addition to a tortoise-shell mounted dressing bag and a pair of race glasses.

LIST OF PRESENTS.

The presents included the following:—

- TO THE BRIDE.**
Bridalroom to bride, green crocodile dressing-case, with tortoiseshell and gold fittings, diamond marguerite pendant, diamond star, three diamond rings, turquoise and diamond ring, etc.
The Dowager Countess of Harrington, cheque.
The Earl and Countess of Harrington, diamond and ruby brooch.
The Hon. Dudley and Mrs. Stanhope, Dresden china vase.
The Ladies Fanny and Blanche Stanhope, dog collar necklace, with "Peggy" in diamonds, and other presents.
The Lord Wallscourt, ring.
The Hon. Hyndham Blake, gold hunting case watch.
Mrs. Twyman, apparel pendant and sachet.
Miss Harrington, mother of pearl fan.
Mr. Talbot Stanhope, China cup and saucer.
Mr. and Mrs. Hew Kennedy, black ostrich feather fan.
Duchess of Saxe Teudora, diamond and ruby brooch.
Miss Frances Gerhart, jewelled buckle.
Miss Amy Higg, set of enamelled buttons.
Mr. and Mrs. Croft, autograph album.
Sir Algernon and Lady de Honeser, letter weighing machine.
Earl and Countess of Londond, Chippendale clock.
Sir John and Lady Burgoyne, letter box.
Capt. and Mrs. St. Maur Higham, silver ring box.
Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Baring, crystal and amethyst umbrella handle.
Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, Sevres inkpot.
Lady Blanche Conyngham, despatch box.
Lady Mad Ramsden, green Indian necklace.
Miss Cust, diamond and enamel brooch.
Mrs. Grant, fair screen.
Miss Brooke Firman, silver note book.
Viscountess Gort, pearl and amethyst pendant.
Sir Fitzaker and Lady Ellis, old paste buckle.
Mr. Gerald O'Lea Fitzgerald, clock.
Miss Fuchs, book.
The Misses Redington, silver flower bowl.
Mr. and Mrs. Hollingworth, old silver spoon.
The Rev. M. and Mrs. Berkeley, white feather fan.
Mrs. Charles Gill, silver-mounted handbag.
The Rev. J. C. and the Misses Ince, silver-mounted telegraph case.
Mr. and Mrs. John Grettton, China inkstand.
Mrs. Finney, silver box.
Miss Chapple-Hodge, gold pencil.
Capt. and Mrs. Hayes, gold box.
Sir John and Lady Burgoyne, silver scissors.
Miss Steere, silver acet bottle.
Miss Milly Scott, old silver spoon.
Dr. and Mrs. Percival Gibson, umbrella.
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Daman, Irish lace.
Mrs. Livesey, silver sugar bowl and spoons.
Mrs. Werry, photograph frame.
Dr. and Mrs. Waldlake Hoffmeister, China figures.
Mr. and Mrs. Pasley, en tout cas.
Hon. Mrs. Percival, mother of pearl and silver inkstand.
Miss Rosemund Wood, silver sealing-wax holder.
Mrs. Mumford, silver handbags.
Miss MacLachlan, old China vase.
Dr. and Mrs. Woodlake Hudson, silver photograph frame.
Stanhope Lodge Staff, Minton coffee service.
Mr. Thomas Hopkinson, silver horn.
Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Kilkelly, China bowl.
Miss Sybil Falkner, rot pourri box.
The Rev. L. and Mrs. Whigham, teaset.
Miss Kitty Barrett, fan.
The Rev. A. H. MacEliene and the Rev. — Randall, silver photograph frame.
Mr. Frank Olliphant, gold and enamel box.
Mr. Acton, old China saucer.
Miss Kathleen Watson, pair gold batpins.
Mrs. Gordon, China box.
Col. and Mrs. Johnstone, bridge box.
Mrs. Payne, pin cushion.
Mr. Hewett, manicure set.
Mr. Gainsborough, fan.

TO THE BRIDEGROOM.

- From the Bride, turquoise and diamond pin and crystal sleeve links.
Mrs. Twyman, green marble and enamelled clock.
Miss Harrington, "Peace" and "War" shooting pistols.
Mr. and Mrs. Hew Kennedy, safety razor case.
Mrs. Allfrey, silver and cut-glass silver jar.
Miss Allfrey and Miss Mabel Allfrey, brass writing set.
General and Mrs. Scott, gold engraved large vase.
Miss Scott, silver-topped inkstand.
Mr. and Mrs. Busby, green crocodile and silver blotter.
Capt. and Mrs. Henry Allfrey, present.
Colonel and Mrs. Irving Allfrey, silver encaustic spoons.
Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Allfrey, silver soda water stand and silver stamp box.
Capt. and Hon. Mrs. Mowbray Allfrey, silver card case.
Mr. C. East, silver muffineer.
Servants at Woodvale, leather cartridge magazine.
Colonel and Mrs. Andrews, ivory and silver paper canister.
Mr. Frederick Allfrey, silver-mounted umbrella.
General Sir C. and Lady Holland Smith, jade sierra ink-bag.
Dr. and Mrs. Hoffmeister, silver frame.
Misses Hoffmeister, silver etching box.
Mr. and Mrs. Tower, silver spoons.
Rev. and Mrs. Watson, silver-topped inkstand.
Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, thermometer.
Messrs. Bowler, three hunting books.
Lady Daly and Mr. Victor Daly, silver clear lighter.
Admiral and Miss Gillett, two silver frames.
Rev. T. E. Macnamara, barometer.
Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, thermometer.
Mr. Ed. Shedden and Mr. Percy Shedden, silver cigarette lighter.
Mr. Norman Balley, inkstand.
Mrs. Leyland Horner, bridge and piquet box.
Sir W. and Lady Hilton, silver cigar lighter.
Major Stanclie Gorton, silver sovereign purse.
Mr. Russell, card table.
Mrs. Mumford, silver cigarette case.
Mr. Wheeler, silver and glass emergency.
Mr. King-French, oval silver menu stand.
Miss Eleanor Walker, gold safety pin.
Mr. Robertson, two silver books.
Misses Howell, Dresden china figure.
Mr. Fairfax, silver vase.
Mr. Bruce and Mr. Oules, large silver rose bowl.
Capt. and Mrs. Ayler, marble and silver inkstand.
Mr. F. Goodhart, silver chromo-stand.
Mrs. Conyers Morill, embossed leather card box.
Misses Texman, carriage clock.
Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Hoffmeister, cigarette lighter.
Rev. and Mrs. H. Robertson, silver-mounted clock set.
Mrs. Samuel, Irish silver menu stand.
Mr. and Mrs. Rawster, ivory paper knife.
Mr. and Mrs. Vere Allfrey, silver inkstand.
Mrs. Perry, silver and Woodwood beauty tin.
Sir Whitaker and Lady Ellis, barometer.
Major and Mrs. Littlelake, silver frame.
Mr. Bellairs, Thomas Cook.
Mr. Wilson, book on Yorkshire.
Mr. Ferrand, silver cigarette lighter.
Mr. and Mrs. Rawnsley, old flask.

AGED AND POOR ENTERTAINED.

In celebration of the wedding over 200 of the aged and poor residents of Cowes were entertained at dinner at the Victoria Hall on Monday. Each guest was also presented with a packet of tobacco and each woman with a packet of tea. The toast of "The bride and bridegroom" was honoured with enthusiasm. After the repeat a musical programme was gone through, and the guests, who were wedding favours especially prepared for them, spent a thoroughly happy time. The bride and bridegroom were unable to be present at the dinner, but were represented by the bride's aunts, the Ladies Fanny and Blanche Stanhope.

LEYLAND JOTTINGS

FIRST LEYLAND WORKS?

The demolition of the old cottages in Water-street is removing one of Leyland's first links with the Industrial Revolution. Built high to allow for the cellars, with two sets of stone steps to each front, the cottages date probably to the time before Watt had begun to study kettles or Arkwright to think beyond his barber's shop in a neighbouring town. Such vagueness is necessary because an exact date is not available. The property was originally part of the Knaflaw Hall estate and changed hands some time ago.

The cellars were definitely built for hand-loom weaving in the organised fashion which marked the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. Combined with the climate which brought cotton to Lancashire, their depth and their earthen floors must have ensured sufficient humidity for handling the delicate threads! In those conditions the weaver would work all day, taking his finished cloth to the manager's house at the end of the street. Here the somewhat larger cellar would be used as a warehouse.

Payment would be made on piece work, so that apart from the fact that the workers

had their homes above their heads, as it were, the cottages were not much different from the factories which followed them. Almost they might be termed Leyland's first works, for the only other cottages used for the same purpose, those in Union-street, were probably built later.

THE LAST WEAVER.

How far back this is all going may be judged by the fact that the last time any weaving was done in the cellars of the cottages was something like seventy years ago. The last weaver was Mr. Hugh Holding, a man whose almost square figure turned the scales at 16 stone, and who was of such serene aspect it is said, that children were often terrified of him. While the sound of his loom floated up through the open door of his cellar, they used to scuttle past, fearful lest, busy though he was, he should come out brandishing the large knife he occasionally showed when his temper was at its worst.

One of these children is now a woman of 59 years of age, Mrs. Seth Woods, of 21, Mosley-street, Leyland. It is curious that she and Mr. Woods should have lived in the "manager's" house some little time after their marriage fifty-four years ago, with Mr. Holding as a next door neighbour for six years. At least, during that time the care in Mr. Holding was banished, and in him the young couple found a good friend. He really had a great love for children, and regularly used to act as a "nurse" for Mr. and Mrs. Woods' son Joe, now middle-aged. The appearance of the old man was also found to be a mark of his trade. Rheumatism had invaded his bones with progressive effect.

Partly as a result of this he had given up his weaving some time before Mr. and Mrs. Woods came to live as his neighbours. He had, however, numerous other irons in the fire. Mrs. Holding, who predeceased him by about 18 months, used to bake cakes in the cellar, and the long back garden provided him with facilities for keeping pigs! The pig-keeping art he introduced to Mr. Woods, whom he encouraged to build a sty at the end of the yard. Unfortunately, Mr. Woods got the entrance facing the wrong direction, and Mr. Holding was much perturbed. He made Mr. Woods pull down the sty and rectify the error, giving him as a reward for his trouble a ten-year-old bottle of wine made from elderberries, which he made an abundance in the gardens in those



This picture shows the whole row of cottages. On the extreme left is the "Manager's House." The home of Hugh Holding, the last handloom weaver is marked with a cross.

Mr. Holding also proved stimulating company because of the stories he could tell. Before he came to Water-street he had lived at Sodd Hall on the Moss, and he used to relate to Mr. Woods that this old building was haunted. The "ghost" was an old lady in green, who could frequently be heard by the rustling of her dress as she came down the stairs. Anyone who has seen Sodd Hall, a desolate building lurching drunkenly in the mossy soil, will understand how such a story could arise.

Another home of Mr. Holding's was Cock Robin Cottage. There, he claimed, he could not "snigs" in Wymott brook, which flowed past his garden. Another fishing activity of his was to go "fuking" on Lonston Marsh. A favourite recollection of his was of the traffic in a very early Leyland. He maintained that it consisted of only two donkeys, which used to pass through periodically on their way to Carlisle! This is not so incredible, however, when it is realised that even in the time spoken of by Mr. Woods, who is now 78 years of age, the Water-street houses were surrounded by green fields practically as far as they eye could see. The nearest building was a farm opposite the site of the Regent Cinema, and Hough Lane was so desolate and uninhabited that people going to work in the dark, early mornings regarded it as dangerous!

In those days, too, the cottages were considered the height of luxury, not only on account of their large gardens, but because the dampness was confined to the cellars. The living accommodation, being high up, was more than usually dry. The only person who then appeared to find fault with them was Mr. Holding. He said he remembered the man who built them, and his handiwork preyed on his mind so much that he did away with himself! Perhaps Mr. Holding's mind was biased through over-familiarity with the dampness of the cellars. At least, in spite of that he was about 84 years old when he died—the last of the hand-loom weavers of Water-street. If any spirit of the past decides to pay a last visit to the fast disappearing haunts of these old days, his will be the one—and a fearsome ghost it will be!

SACKED AT SIX!

Curiously enough, Mr. Woods, without whose assistance these memories of old Leyland would never have been recorded, was himself a victim of the Industrial Revolution. He started work in a mill at Barrow Bridge, Bolton, at six years of age,

and was sacked the first day! The reason for his dismissal casts a reflection on conditions in the factories in those days. One of the weavers was thirsty and sent young Woods out to get his can filled with water. This was done at one of the houses near the mill, but on returning the youngster became confused with the number of floors, and climbed to the wrong one. Here one of the weavers saw the water, and expressing thanks for an unexpected opportunity to quench his thirst, took the can and quaffed the contents. Dismayed, the boy returned to the right floor, where the weaver who sent him on the errand asked "Wearst watter?" To which young Woods replied: "Yon chaps on t' other flaur supped id an!"

The weaver gave an angry cry. "Tak thi recant, and tak thisel whoam!" he shouted, and the lad, terrified, did so. He did not try to get another job until he was seven. Then his mother cautioned him, "Tha mun tell 'em vore nine year owd." In this way the boy Woods obtained a job at 3s. a fortnight, fourpence going for schooling. He thinks he gave the chance to his mother, but isn't sure! In Leyland, where he came shortly after his wedding, Mr. Woods found life more pleasant. For 33 years he was at the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Works, and later started a business on his own account.

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