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# Leyland Chronicle

The journal of  
**THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## EDITORIAL

Once again there has been an unintended interval since the publication of the previous issue (No.31) of the "Lairland Chronicle" and I can only hope that the variety and scope of the contributions in this issue will make up for the wait. I am very much aware that members appreciate receiving the journal.

Meetings of the Society have, in spite of some bad weather, been well attended and reflect the diversity and calibre of the speakers. We hope to continue to provide a good programme but it has to be said that more members are required to ensure this, so a recruiting drive by existing members is needed.

As ever, if the "Chronicle" is to continue to exist, contributions both large and small are needed. It is disappointing that the Notes and Queries Section could have been better supported. If you have the question, someone will have the answer.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of all the contributors to this issue, I would like to thank the staff of the Lancashire Record Office for producing the many documents used in preparing the articles and to make a general acknowledgement for permission given by the depositors and the L.R.O. to quote extracts from them. Thanks are also due to the staffs of Leyland, Chorley and Preston Libraries for assistance with printed sources.

G. L. BOLTON

### MILLERS FARM

Ulnes Walton Lane running southwards from the Moss Side area to Southport Road is, to me, an attractive and interesting highway. Even the advent of New Town development and the adjacent Wymott Prison have had only localised effect at the Northern end. The odd thing about this road is that although apparently an ancient highway, most of the farms fronting it were built in the first half of the 18th century. This probably indicates "colonisation" of moss land at a time of intensive draining and reclaiming as well as reflecting the general improvements in agriculture of the time.

Several farms have now been demolished or modernised and no longer representative of their original use, and it was the imminent demise of Millers Farm which prompted me to survey it before it disappeared.

The house was built in 1737 on the east side of Ulnes Walton Lane by either a couple or a brother and sister, the H & M on the date stone, named Miller. To judge by the size and quality of the building it must have been a substantial holding giving good returns. Indeed, the owner of this farm, still living on the site in a new house, Mr Cleminson, said that he believed the original area of the farm was some 100 acres. If so, this was an unusually large farm for this part of the world, a more usual size being about 30 acres.

When he bought it in the mid 1950's it was badly run down and substantially smaller than the original holding, part of which at least was on the other side of the road. This may have represented an increase in the size of the farm at a date later than 1737, as it is not usual for a holding to be split in this manner.

The house was demolished in 1983 on the basis of rather short sighted decisions by Chorley Borough - one of many - but in 1982 it was surveyed closely.

Although listed Grade III under the old system, it would undoubtedly have been upgraded in the new surveys if it had stood a further two years, if only on the basis of its lack of alteration and sheer interest.

The plan is typical of the period hereabouts being almost square in plan with four rooms on each of the two main floors. The stairs were central at the rear giving access to the roof space which was divided into two rooms. These may well have been sleeping quarters for the male and female farm servants.

The construction was brick on a stone plinth with rusticated stone quoins to the front elevation. The windows to the front gave the impression that the house was only two storied, but at the rear the 'cockloft' was illuminated by two rather small windows at floor level. Again the front windows were double hung sashes, while those at the back were of the Yorkshire light variety. The front ones may have been a later modernisation as rendering to this elevation concealed any signs of alteration. The porch to the front door was probably an addition, as well as that to the rear.

The rear windows had originally been glazed with diamond quarry pane leaded lights, but the only remaining section of these was an 8 or 9 inch wide vertical section in a recess in the brick wall joining the two windows illuminating the half space landings to the stairs. This was a not unusual device to reduce liability to Windows Tax.

Internally the only interesting features, apart from the usual salt pyx or spice cupboards, were the stone slab in the cool store under the stairs which had a hole in the centre which apparently was a form of waste outlet when curing bacon and pork, and the built in cupboard and bureau/writing desk in the smaller of the two front rooms. This is now in the Lancashire Museum stores in Preston along with a section of the moulded stone eaves gutter from the front elevation.

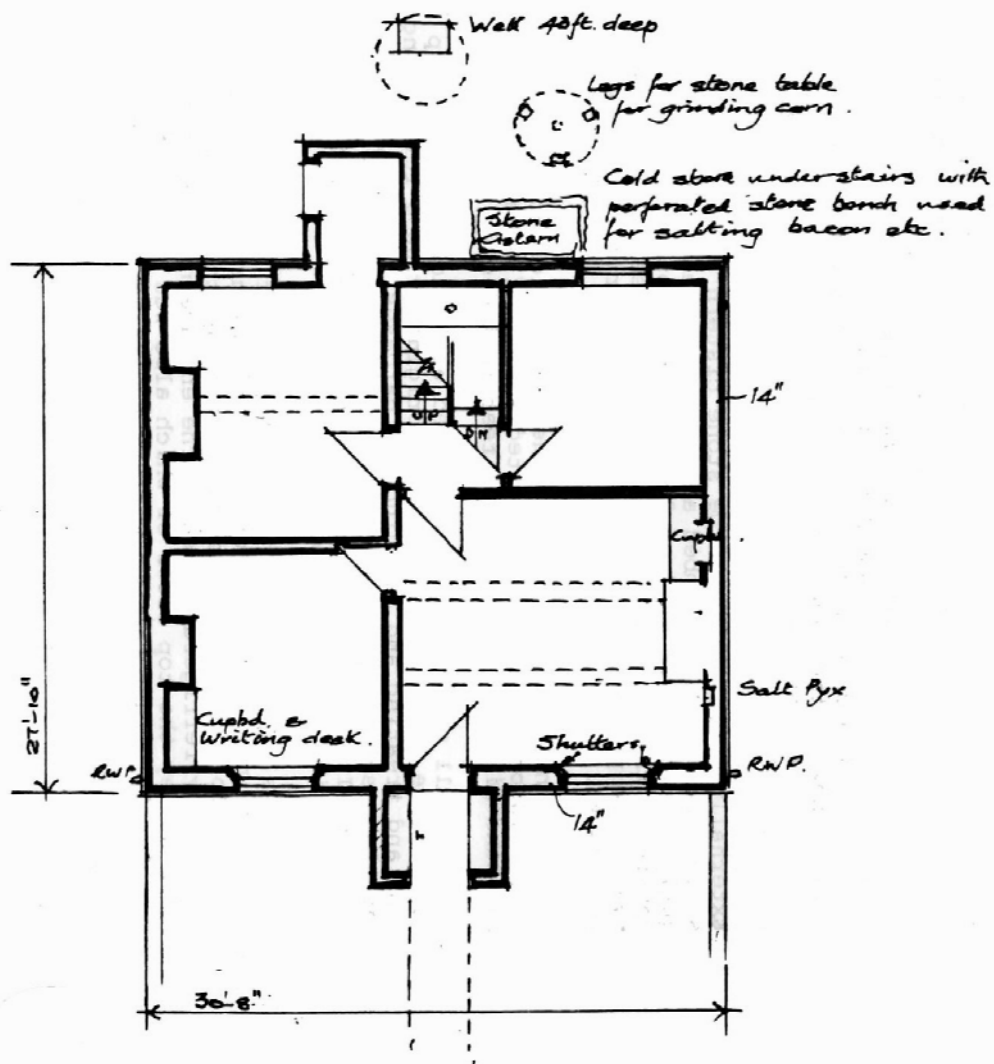
Externally there were a large stone cistern cut from a solid block, a well plumbed at 43 feet filled with excellent quality water to about 2 or 3 feet of the top, which was covered with the stone base of a cheese press. There were two cheese press stones indicating a greater output here than usual.

Close to the well were three stone legs, which according to Mr Cleminson, originally supported a form of stone quern for hand milling corn, a unique feature indeed.

A small outbuilding nearby used as a store and workshop had a large fireplace and benches originally used for killing pigs and treating and scalding the carcasses. This building was also used on occasions as a "Paddy Shanty" where itinerant Irish potato pickers slept. Nearby there is still a privy with three seats!

The barn is large and substantial typical of the kind erected in the mid nineteenth century when agriculture was in its heyday before the import of cheap grain in the 1870's followed by refrigerated meat. The end against the road is three storey the top floor of which also was used in the past for itinerant harvest workers. Like many other barns here and elsewhere, it is slowly falling into decay for lack of use and maintenance. Altogether, one more example of a vanished way of life.

P F BARROW



Datestone N.T.S.

Millers Farm 1737  
 Ulmes Walton Lane  
 Surveyed April 1982  
 Demolished 1983  
 Owner for 20 years - Mr. Cleminson

Scale:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$  Drawn PFB  
 Date 10/5/82

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN SOUTH RIBBLE

PART ONE, AGRICULTURE

It is increasingly apparent that many of the social and economic innovations usually associated with the 'Industrial Revolution' (c.1780-1830) in fact have much earlier origins. In particular E.KERRIDGE has argued that many features of the "Agricultural Revolution" were well established as early as the sixteenth century. Central to this argument is the question of enclosures, the bringing into cultivation of lands previously considered barren, infertile or too marshy. The orthodox model of these developments sees the intensification of agriculture as a response to a growing population, high prices and good profits. To take advantage of these opportunities it was essential to change over from the open field system to enclosed land.

Developments in South Ribble appear at odds with this pattern. There the open field system seems to have passed away much earlier, certainly by the early seventeenth century, when large numbers of tenant farmers appear in the rent rolls of both the Hoghton and Ffarington estates. Evidence of the existence of former strips within open fields may be clearly seen in the subsequent patterns of fields in the vicinity of LONGTON and HUTTON (BAGLEY & HODGKISS 1985) and along Leyland Towngate (DDF 84), 1714 : ADDISON 1769, Museum Collection). Many of the seventeenth century tenant farmers were comparatively prosperous, the hand-loom industry began to develop, and many fine farm-houses from this period have survived. The will of JOHN COOPER, Yeoman, of Walton in le Dale, who died in 1716 is particularly illustrative in this respect. In an estate valued at £284-12d are the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>£. s. d</u>
Four Cows	18. 0. 0
In corn growing upon the ground	16. 0. 0
In old hay	3. 0. 0
In two carts and a pair of shod wheels	1.10. 0
One Harrow	5. 0
In meal and malt	4.10. 0
But also ....	
In Linen	3. 0. 0
The Clock	1.18. 0
In Pewter dishes and plates	2. 1. 0
In cash	180. 0. 0 (!!)
(LRO DDH/641)	



When the ffarington estate was surveyed in 1714 the picture to emerge was one of farm tenants with holdings of hedged and ditched fields, patterns which were to survive in many cases, well into the present century. Thus by c.1700 most, if not all agriculturally useful land, had been brought into use. The potential for development of the remaining extensive tracts of MOSS-LAND was, however vast, and today well drained, they provide the most fertile soils in the region. A vast marshland environment, the Lancashire plain, had formed since late-glacial times, extending from the River Lostock westwards to the Ribble. In Longton higher glacial debris and consequently better drainage had enabled settlement and agriculture from at least Norman times.

The edges of these marshes had been undergoing enclosure on a piecemeal basis for generations, and the CHARTERERS (people with a share of the COMMON - i.e. unenclosed land) had a long established tenacity in asserting their rights. Formally recognised practices governing the reclamation of such areas existed, and when new land was enclosed it was allotted on the basis of the proportion of land an individual owned in the parish. This was obviously the cause of much disagreement, and throughout the eighteenth century disputes between the ffaringtons and the other Leyland Charterers were very common. An account of 1750 lists the enclosure rights of the various Leyland Landowners:

"An account of all the antient of charter land in the township of Leyland.

The share belonging to Mr. Geo ffarington, Esq.  
Total 949 acres.

The share belonging to Charterers - 63 acres

The whole antient land is 1012 acres

At inclosing 54 acres every acre will have for its share proportionally 8 perches". (DDF 2016)

For his 949 acres George ffarington received 50 acres, all the other charterers combined received 3 acres. He allowed his tenants, as per custom, to take small parcels of mossland ('Moss-Rooms') on which to extract peat ('Turfes') for fuel.

The importance of TURBARY (the right to cut peat for fuel) is illustrated in this deed of 1423. "Agreement: William of Farington and Edmund of Anderton : Edmund of Anderton to have sufficient turbary in LEYLAND MOSS with liberty of ingress and egress, and leave to spread and dry it during the lives of W.F. and E.A., paying 20d a year to W.F., if rent in arrear W.F. may take stes in the DOWFIELD until it is paid, being the award of Richard HORTON, SWYER. Given at LEYLAND in the feast of ST.ELENE, 1 HENRY VI". (21st May or 18th August 1423) (LRO.DDF 1932).

Only after 1750 did the private Act of Parliament become the main method of enclosure, so that enclosures prior to this date are often without a formal AWARD listing the division of the enclosure. This greatly complicates historical analysis and is particularly pertinent locally in the cases of Leyland and Charnock (Penwortham-Lostock Hall) mosses. After the passing of an Enclosure Act however, which specified the precise land area involved, enclosure commissioners were sent to visit and survey the parish and to re-allot the land in an award that was legally binding on all parties. The parliamentary bills and the enclosure awards thus provide very detailed information on the process and extent of enclosure; "An Act for the inclosing of waste grounds or commons in Longton in the County of Lancaster, and for enjoying Part thereof as a stinted pasture until the inclosure of the same ... And whereas the said Commons and waste grounds at present afford little or no profit or advantage, but are capable of great improvements and the same would (if divided and enclosed, so that they might be converted into Tillage) be of great advantage to the persons interested therein, and be of public utility....." (1761).

Thus in Central Lancashire enclosure essentially meant an intensification of the reclamation and bringing into more intensive agricultural use of the Mosses of Western Lancashire, but also (if to a lesser extent) the uplands of the Western Pennines. The 'Moor Quarter' of Leyland Parish, GUNNOLFS-MOORS (the Belmont-Withnell area) had been undergoing encroachment over a very long period, and enclosure is recorded as early as 1508 (LRO.DDP-57). In 1768 an Act of Parliament was obtained for the enclosure of upland moor in Chorley Parish, and in 1821 for Horwich. By contrast Ribbleton and Fulwood Moors were enclosed later in the period 1811-25, despite their proximity to industrial Preston (See Appendix).

Within South Ribble enclosure may be considered under three headings:

- (i) Early and restricted enclosures in Walton and Penwortham
- (ii) The reclamation of farington-Longton Moss
- (iii) Enclosure of Sea Marsh along the River Ribble
  - (i) As early as 1375 the Penwortham Priory is recorded as holding 24 acres of Penwortham Moss, whilst the Lords of the Manor owned the turbarry rights. Penwortham Holme was enclosed in 1551. A sketch map drawn by William ffarington of Old Worden c.1590 illustrates the contemporary extent of enclosure in the Middleforth area, between the River Ribble and MR TARDIES house where the road from Leyland had been gated (LRO.DDF 1334) : BAGLEY and HODGKISS 1985 D.24). From this

map it would appear that the CHARNOCK MOSS (appearing on the 1849 6" OS map and lying adjacent, if to the north, of Farington Moss) was then known as Middleforth Moss.

In Bamber Bridge it seems likely that a considerable area of land lying to the "top" of Bamber Bridge, is in fact reclaimed marshland. A part of it is marked "Walton Moss" on the first 6" map. This enclosure may date back to at least the early seventeenth century, and 17 acres was enclosed c.1661. In 1804 the Cuerden enclosure perhaps extended this process to the west of the Hob Inn. Though much of this is tentative, place-name evidence is interesting. The area is dissected by an old MEANY GATE (of which more later) whilst the name BROWN-EDGE imply the boundary of contemporary enclosure?

- (ii) By far the most extensive of these landscape changes however has been the reclamation of Farington-Longton Moss. To complicate matters this extensive tract of natural marsh occupies the boundary of Leyland, Longton and Farington, and of Much Hoole, Longton and Leyland. Thus in the present context we need to consider the reclamation of Longton Moss, Leyland Moss and Farington Moss, that is, the eastern edge of the great belt of marshland extending to Southport. The longest established of these seems to have been the reclamation of Leyland Moss : this never had an Enclosure Act, and the process seems to have been based on local agreement, though disputes are common and the faringtons were zealous at maintaining their rights. Central to the problem is the line of the meanygate, ultimately defined by the present day Long Meanygate, In local dialect the MANIGATE was "a straight road over bog or moss land". MEANY was simply an extinct form of many, whilst GATE was a right to run as pasture a cow on a common field or on private ground for an annual rent. Thus the line of the Meanygates might be taken as indicative of the penetration and reclamation of the marshland, and there might have been an extending succession of such roads. In 1619 and 1620 references occur to "the newe meaniegate upon the Moss" so that enclosure of the moss may have been underway albeit on a piecemeal basis, since at least the sixteenth

century. In 1697 30 acres was enclosed, in 1723-5 53 acres. An agreement dated 1749 details the extent of enclosure, which appears to lie between the boundary with Farington and the Meanygate, so that taken with earlier references it seems land to the north and west of the meanygate was being enclosed to the boundaries of Farington and Little Hoole.

Origins of enclosure on the Longton side are as yet unclear, but an Act was obtained in 1761, and enclosures were made under it in 1761 (750 acres) and 1821 (281 acres of sea marsh). Many of the roads on the north end of the moss were laid out at this time and the "Farington" Roundhouse may have been a related development.

In Farington enclosures were piecemeal prior to the Act of 1819, and its implementation (award) in 1833. In the final accord between the HUDDILSTONS and William Farington in 1580 1000 acres of moss are listed in the survey of the Manor. In 1651 151 acres was enclosed, and a further 52 acres in 1705. The RAWSTORNE papers contain many references to the enclosure of odd fields from the moss. The award of 1833 is, however, comprehensive and contains a plan showing the lines of roads to be laid out. A very detailed copy is available in the Leyland Library (Graham Thomas personnel communication).

- (iii) Land reclamation from the sea has reached spectacular proportions along the south shore of the Ribble. Enclosure of Longton Marsh dates from at least the late eighteenth century and was greatly extended in 1821 (almost 300 acres). At Hutton enclosure prior to 1748 is recorded, and the existence of cattle gates are noted as early as 1729.

Overall it is clear that enclosure was locally a long established practice in the Borough, and that by the early nineteenth century very large areas had been reclaimed and brought into agricultural use. This implied a different form of agriculture to that practised in the higher areas since a great input of labour was necessary for the removal of peat and the digging of drains. Thus, even in quite remote country districts the effects of economic growth were instrumental in bringing about profound and far-reaching environmental, economic and ultimately social developments.

D.A.HUNT

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See Also

L.RAWSTORNE (1843) 'Lancashire Farming' (refers to Penwortham)

G. BEESLEY (1849) 'Agriculture in Lancashire' (He notes the often backward status of agriculture in Lancs. S.W. of Preston).

J HOLT (1795) 'General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancashire' (includes prints of local breeds).

## APPENDIX

### LOCAL ENCLOSURES SUMMARY

- (i) Cuerden (1804) LRO.DDTa/323
- (ii) Brownedge (17th Century) LRO.DDHO/1556
- (iii) Penwortham (1551) LRO.DDF/1336
- (iv) Farington (1705) LRO DDR/3/1  
(1784) DDR 3/4  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT (1819).Award (1833)  
LRO AE/3/3
- (v) Chorley ACT OF PARLIAMENT (1768)
- (vi) Horwich ACT OF PARLIAMENT (1821)
- (vii) Gunnolfes.Moors (1558) LRO DDP/57
- (viii) Ulnes Walton (1618/19) LRO DDF/718  
(1718) LRO DDF/2062
- (ix) Longton ACT OF PARLIAMENT (1760)  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT AWARD (1) 1761 (Moor) LRO AE/3/5  
(2) 1821 (Marsh)LRO A6/3/6
- (x) Leyland (1697) LRO.DDF/1983/4  
(1723/4) LRO.DDF/1991/2  
(1748) LRO DDF/1998 (1749) LRO DDF 2000 a  
(1785) LRO PR 2908/5/2 (AMBYE MEADOW)
- (xi) Croston : ACT OF PARLIAMENT (1724) AWARD (1725/6) LRO A6/3/2  
PR 736/7
- (xii) Hutton (1770) LRO DDR, DDX-882.
- (xiii) Ribbleton, Fulwood '1811-25) LRO DDPT/18

ROBERT ROBINSON

Readers of the "Laird Chronicle" will remember that an earlier issue of our journal (1) contained the Text of a sermon delivered by the Rev. Gardner Baldwin in the Parish Church at the interment of a certain Robert Robinson. The latter was executed at Lancaster on Saturday, April 2nd 1825, for a burglary committed in the neighbourhood of Leyland. His body was brought home for burial and Mr Baldwin took full advantage of the occasion to warn his congregation, in the most dramatic manner, of the dangers of "continuing in evil courses". Indeed his sermon made such an impact that it was afterwards published "at the particular request of the churchwardens and parishioners".

No details however, of Robinson's background were included in the address, nor or the circumstances surrounding the burglary and these questions might have remained unanswered were it not for an unexpected find in the Record Office. Sifting through a box of miscellaneous Farington papers, I came across another sermon on the subject of Robert Robinson. This second address was given in the Chapel of the House of Correction in Preston on the evening of Sunday, April 3rd and it too was afterwards published. In moral tone and content it much resembled Mr Baldwin's but it was preceded by a short description of the burglary itself which was sufficiently intriguing to merit further investigation. This inturn, revealed the information which now follows



(1a)

Shortly before 2.am on the 25th October 1824 a young widow, Martha Andow, who lived at what later became known as Holme House in Moss Lane (2), was awakened by the sound of her dog barking. She got up and was opening her bedroom window when a pistol was fired at her shattering the glass. Mrs Andow observed by the flash from the pistol-shot that there were four men, "diabolical wretches" in the yard and they then proceeded to force open the front door of the house. Mrs Andow's screams

awakened her sister and their servant, Bartholomew Cutler, "a stout old man", who came immediately to their aid. Cutler locked the two women in the bedroom for their own safety, and then went downstairs and asked the men what they wanted - they replied "We'll let thee know what we want" instead of returning to the comparative security of the bedrooms, Cutler then hid on the stairs leading to the kitchen, in a position where he could observe the thieves. The latter collected several articles together; some linen cloth, a pair of stays, Mrs Andow's work bag and a brace of pistols are mentioned. Cutler recognised the men (even though they had disguised themselves by blackening their faces with soot) as Robert Robinson, his brother Henry and John and Thomas Rigby).

When they moved on into the parlour, Cutler seized his opportunity and escaped from the house with the idea of summoning help but he only got as far as the road before he was seen. A pistol was fired at him, the ball from which grazed his coat and broke the middle bar of the gate. He pressed on but was overtaken by the house-breakers and beaten with an iron crow-bar until three of his ribs were broken. They then dragged him back to the house so that he could show them where the money was kept. Just as they were in the act of breaking open the money cupboard, the sound of galloping hooves alarmed them and they ran away thinking the neighbours were coming. In fact it was only a young farm-horse frightened by the pistol firing and noise.

The following day the Robinson brothers and Thomas Rigby, identified by Bartholomew Cutler, were arrested and dispatched to Lancaster Prison to await trial. John Rigby was also indicted but he'd had sufficient sense to abscond and never came to trial. There is a description of the three prisoners in the Nominal Register of Crown Cases for Lancaster Prison which reads as follows:

Robert Robinson: A weaver, age 34, born Leyland, 5'6½" high, sallow complexion, light grey eyes, short brown hair turning grey at the sides: Scar first joint of little finger of left hand.

Henry Robinson : A weaver, age 35, born Leyland, 6' high, pale complexion, hazel eyes, short brown hair, stout made. A figure of a man and woman and H.R. in black ink on left arm. A long scar in corner of left eye.

Thomas Rigby : A weaver, age 22, wife and children in Leyland, 5'7" high, hazel eyes, short brown hair, pitted a little with small-pox. A hairy mole on the right side of his chin.

The Spring Assizes at Lancaster took place in March and were preceded by a special church service attended by the two Judges, the Sheriff and "his numerous and splendid retinue". The Grand Jury consisted by twenty carefully chosen members of the gentry (3) who could have had very little idea of how hard life was for the majority of the poor wretches who appeared before them in the Crown Court. Robert Robinson and his partners in crime had to wait until Friday, March 11th

for their case to be heard. The trial aroused much local interest and was very fully reported in the papers. It appears that for a long time previous to their detection, the Robinsons and their gang had terrorised Leyland and its neighbourhood. Burglaries had taken place almost nightly and it had even been found necessary to employ armed watchmen to protect property during the long hours of winter darkness.

The principal witnesses for the prosecution were Mrs Andow, her sister and Bartholomew Cutler but others too came forward and testified as to seeing both the Robinsons and the Rigbys on the night in question. Early in the evening they had been at the Wheatsheaf Inn on Croston Road not far from Heaton Street (or Tup Row as it was called then) where both families lived (4). After that they had visited the retail shop adjoining Hunt's Brewery and then, shortly after 1.am all four men were seen on Golden Hill by a certain Hugh Jackson. Jackson called to them but they turned out of his way as if to avoid him and then went on in the direction of Moss Lane. Jackson described how he ran when he had passed the men and on getting home, told his mother he had met "four rough-looking fellows". On the morning after the burglary, while Robert Robinson was in custody, another witness told how he had noticed soot marks on Robinson's face but when he commented on this fact, Robinson had lifted up his handcuffs and threatened to strike him. Finally John Riding who owned a farm on Golden Hill adjacent to Tup Row explained how he found the cloth, stolen from Mrs Andows, under a bush in the field immediately behind the Rigby's house. The case for the prosecution being closed, only two witnesses were produced for the defence; one to prove an alibi, the other to testify as to the good character of the accused. Justice Bayley then summed up and, after a short deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners including John Rigby in absentia.

Sentence was not passed until the following Tuesday evening. The judge then commented "with great impressiveness" on the outrage the men had committed in proceeding armed to the house "of almost unprotected females" and "in firing their pistols "in a manner likely to kill innocent people". He told all three to expect the worst and Robert Robinson was "forbidden to entertain any hope whatever" sentence of death was then passed on all three.

A reprieve was later obtained for Henry Robinson and Thomas Rigby. Their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment and they were put on board one of the retribution hulks at Sheerness (5). Thomas Rigby's sentence must have been reduced still further at some later date for he appeared on trial again at the Liverpool Assizes in 1866 this time for bigamy. By that time we are told he had lost all his front teeth.

Up to the morning of the execution, Robinson evidently showed no sign of repenting his misdeeds appearing to prefer that it should be thought he died "game". Bravado in the face of death was a quality genuinely admired by those who regarded public hanging as entertainment and condemned men



knew that courage on the scaffold would enhance their reputation as well as leaving their families with some shred of pride. Prior to his leaving the castle however, Robinson requested that his father should be told it was his last wish that he should give up "the baneful practice of drinking, swearing and sabbath breaking as it was the commission of these vices that had brought him to this situation".

At this time in Lancaster, executions took place just outside the castle in an angle made by two of the Walls called "Hanging Corner". As an added ordeal, prisoners on their way to the scaffold had to pass through a room bare of all furniture save their own waiting coffin. An immense crowd had assembled by the time Robinson mounted the scaffold. He is said to have gazed about him with apparent unconcern and recognising former companions in the crowd, called out "Fellows take care of false witnesses"(6). Sentence was then carried out, the courage of the poor man only faltering at the last moment.

Once back in Leyland the body was "laid in state" at the house of Robinson's mother for the for the inspection of the curious. We are told that the old woman herself pointed out to the numerous visitors the marks on the neck of the corpse and that two basins were placed near the body in which upwards of ten pounds was collected. Over two thousand people attended Robinson's funeral at the Parish Church on the Monday and the congregation included many of the dead man's companions as well as his family. Following Mr Baldwin's soul-searing eloquence it is not surprising that afterwards the crowd was said to disperse "in the greatest order".

Grass has crept over the flagstone beneath which Robert Robinson is buried so the inscription is now hidden. Nevertheless, we know from the records that it reads as follows"

Robert Robinson died  
2nd April 1825 AETs 33

Oh mortal man who ever you be  
Behold this grave and pray.  
This body lived once like thee  
But now returns to clay.  
But tis the will of God on high  
Whose son has died for all  
That we should to a Saviour fly  
And answer to his call.

The grave lies half-way between the old Grammar School and the Chancel on the side nearest Church Road. Ironically the grave of Martha Andow is only a short distance away. She died just four years later on March 18th 1829 aged 30.

Now much of this narrative has been pieced together from various newspaper accounts of Robinson's trial and execution and although one account has been checked against another wherever possible and subjective material largely eliminated, it has to be acknowledged that journalists in 1825 were no more likely to spoil a good story for the sake of accuracy

than their modern counterparts. Even so the underlying harshness of the penal system at that time is terrifyingly clear. On the other hand, the wind of change was blowing hard. From the beginning of the century there had been a movement towards reform and as early as 1810, bills had been introduced in the Commons to repeal the death sentence in the case of minor offences.

The reformers argued that the death sentence, far from deterring crime, actually encouraged it because the injured were reluctant to prosecute, the juries to convict and the Crown to confirm sentence when the penalty was so severe. Against this view Lords Eldon and Ellenborough, both justices of the old school, argued that relaxation of extreme penalties would lead to uncontrolled violence, and for many years they succeeded in balking every reform bill passed in the Commons by rejecting it in the Lords. It was not until 1827 that Peel, as Home Secretary, gave government support to the reform movement and bills were passed which reserved the death penalty for a few particularly nefarious crimes.

Returning then to the case of Robert Robinson; the sad conclusion must be that, had he come to trial just a few years later for the same offence, his life would without doubt, have been spared. As it is his execution for burglary must have been amongst the last to take place for this particular crime.

E. SHORROCK

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T. Addison 1844  
Guide to Graves in Leyland Old Churchyard L.R.O.

#### NOTES

- 1 See Lailand Chronicle. Copy to be found in Leyland Library (November 1975)  
1a Drawing of Miss Andow's house copied from original in Preston Pilot.

Notes Contd...

2. Holme House still stands. It is obviously much changed since 1825 but the basic shape remains the same.
3. One of the jurors was William Farington Esq of Shaw Hall Leyland. Perhaps this explains why the sermon preached at the House of Correction appeared amongst those Farington papers in the L.R.O.
4. Little is left now of the original Tup Row/Heaton Street but some old stone cottages at the far end have tell-tale signs of having been hand-loom weaver's cottages.
5. The retribution hulks were old ships of the line moored near dockyards or arsenals so that the labour of the convicts could be utilised. Conditions for the men were very harsh as Dickens describes in 'Great Expectations'.
6. There is no question of Robinson being wrongfully convicted for, according to the Rev. Clay, before the two brothers were sent to Lancaster they acknowledged their guilt to their brother George who in turn related it to the Chaplain.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Mr Bolton for helping to confirm that Mrs Andow's and Holme House were one and the same and to Mr Waring for his help in confirming that the Robinson's and Rigby's lived in Heaton Street.

## EAGLE AND CHILD - LEYLAND'S OLDEST INN?

In Issue 31 of the Lailand Chronicle the author presented an extract from the Vestry minutes of the Parish Church of Leyland dated 28 March 1749 together with the Rev Leyland Baldwin's comments on the extract which appeared in the Parish Magazine of November 1894, this concerned the building of a cottage on land known as School Hillock: he identified the land in question as "that piece of land upon which now stands the Eagle and Child with its garden". Since the publication of Issue No 31 efforts have been made to establish the history of the Eagle and Child and the land on which it stands.

In fact, nothing has been found earlier than the above date (1749) either concerning the building or the land; the earliest evidence of a building appears in Thomas Addison's map of Leyland of 1769 where the building is drawn as a cottage with barn built on at right angles at the western end. Obviously, there have been additions to, and possibly some rebuilding of, the original structure; examining the Eagle and Child from the back one can see four distinct sections of building (ignoring the modern westernmost lean-to addition), the two nearest the garden corresponding to the map of 1769.

The earliest map that could have thrown light on the problem is in a Survey of Leyland in 1725 (LRO : DDF81); Fig.6. shows Church Road with only the Parish Church and the Glebe Land marked, but the "kink" in the road by the eastern end of the Eagle and Child, which only finally disappeared after the road widening of 1970, is clearly shown. This suggests either a natural feature or a man-made structure that the road had to avoid; since we have no evidence of a building the natural features of the site were examined. (It must be said that in the survey book of 1725 only Farington owned property is shown on the maps with only one or two exceptions, e.g. the Parish Church).

Prior to the road widening of 1970 it was much easier to see that the road level just east of the Eagle and Child was from four to five feet lower than the adjacent field levels, although, with nineteenth and twentieth century building on both sides of the road this was not at first glance apparent. On the Eagle and Child side of the road, however, the field level is much higher than the road; the Churchyard wall between the old Grammar School (now the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre) and the main entrance to the churchyard being some nine feet above road level. This wall was built in 1827 - the date is on a lintel above where a door used to be in the wall opposite Sandy Lane - and replaced a much older wall which had become delapidated, as the Vestry minutes of the time put it : the date of the earlier wall however is unknown but a part of it appears to survive behind the Eagle and Child. From the

above, and the fact that the old name for the land the Inn stands on was School Hillock it seems likely that the sharp bend in the road on the Map of 1725, was, in fact marking a detour round a natural feature.

Turning to documentary proof of the present building the book 'Survey and Valuation of Leyland in 1819' (LRO: PR 2797) was examined and the Eagle and Child, Inn and garden, two meadows, and two crofts, - a total of some three acres - was shown as owned by a Mr Norris. Tracing Quarter Sessions Land Tax records (LRO :QDL) back from 1819 we have in 1810 owner Mr William Norris and occupier Robert Heywood; in 1800 - owner John Norris and occupier Robert Heywood; and in 1790 - owner John Norris and joint occupiers Henry Whittle and Nicholas Plaskett.

Alehouse Recognizances (LRO : QSB/3) - Quarter Sessions records of Innkeepers and their quarantors listed yearly by hundred and township - were examined and in the list for 1790 (LRO QSB/3/85) we find an innkeeper Nicholas Plaskett. Unfortunately, the lists prior to 1800 do not name the inn but as we have already seen above Nicholas Plaskett was one of the joint occupiers in the land tax record of 1790; probably, the other occupier - Henry Whittle - occupied the meadows and crofts owned by Mr Norris. So, with Addison's map of 1769 and the two Quarter Sessions records of 1790, we have the earliest documentary record found so far of the building, with the owner, John Norris, and the innkeeper, Nicholas Plaskett; first occurrence of the name Eagle and Child appears in the Alehouse Recognizances of 1800 (LRO : QSB/3/95).

Having recounted the facts, we can now attempt to answer the question, "is the Eagle and Child Leyland's oldest Inn?"

Certainly, it is not the oldest building presently used as a public house; that distinction goes to the old Original Seven Stars, a gentlemen's house when it was built in 1686, but the first instance recorded of its use as a public house only occurs in the Census of 1871: directory entries in the 1870's and '80's refer to it as a beerhouse.

The Alehouse Recognizances list for 1800 shows eight inns in Leyland of which seven are still in existence; the list, with the names of the innkeeper, is as follows:

John Bradshaw - inn not named but from later lists he is shown as landlord of the Grapes, an earlier name for the George the Fourth.

Edward Beardsworth, the Sun - it appears that this inn became the Cordwainers or Shoemakers Arms and then, by 1823, the Ship.

Edward Barnes, the Rose - Rose Whittle appears in the Census of 1871 but has not been noted as a Public House since that date. The building which had stood empty for many years was finally demolished in October 1983.

John Fidler, Wheatsheaf; Richard Mawdesley, Seven Stars; Robert Heywood, Eagle and Child; Ann Jackson, Stag - this became the Roe Buck; and George Bretherton, the Bay Horse. These eight inns, with changes of landlord of course, appear right through to 1838 when, with the coming of the railway, they are joined by the Railway Bridge Inn, landlord John Noble and owner, the local Millowner, Edward Boardman.

Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to date any of the Eagle's six rivals to antiquity. Certainly, they were in existence in 1800 but some show signs of partial, or even total, rebuild. The author, having no specialist architectural knowledge, feels that this aspect of the study would be best left to someone qualified in the field and perhaps with a taste for the work!

So once again the question of Leyland's oldest inn is left unanswered, but does it really matter if the Eagle and Child is the oldest or not? Its position next to the two oldest buildings in Leyland - the old Grammar School and the Parish Church - gives it an air of antiquity which has been accentuated by its inclusion in the Leyland Cross Heritage Walk, an undertaking by South Ribble Borough Council which was completed in November 1985, and which followed their designation of Leyland Cross as a conservation area in 1979.

W E WARING

#### REFERENCES IN THE TEXT

Addison's Map of Leyland in 1769 : Photocopy at Leyland Library.

LRO : DDF81. Survey of Leyland in 1725 : Farington of Worden Muniments.

LRO : PR 2797. Survey and Valuation of Leyland in 1819

LRO : QDL. Quarter Sessions Land Tax Records.

LRO : QSB/3. Quarter Sessions Alehouse Recognizances. Census Return of 1871. On microfilm at Leyland Library.

## CROSS QUESTIONS

It might be thought that there is little further to add to what has been written previously about Leyland Village Cross. However, as we approach the centenary (1987) of perhaps its most major reconstruction, a review of the previous references may not be out of place.

They include comments by Marshall (1)(1905), Rogers (2)(1903), Morris (3)(1979) and several minor references in the last few years. The wording of these comments suggests that they are all based on a common source which can be traced back to a description of the cross in an article by Henry Taylor F.S.A on the ancient crosses in Leyland Hundred (4)(1899) reprinted as a book (5)(1906) with expanded discussion on crosses and holy wells in general.

Several early and excellent photographs of the cross have survived and have been reproduced many times.

Taylor's article is remarkably restrained and factual. He quotes verbatim a note on the subject sent to him by the Rev. W Stuart White, Curate of Leyland Church 1883-1891. Taylor at this point refers to "Leyland Village or Market Cross".

Whilst we are greatly indebted to White for his patient transcription of Leyland Parish Registers (6) it is sad to point out that in his thirteen line note to Taylor there were no less than seven adjectives or phrases of conjecture and regrettably these have influenced all later writers and encouraged similar trends.

It is often stated that the cross stands "very nearly" in the centre of Leyland Hundred. Finding the centre of such an irregularly shaped area is no mean feat, but geometrically it is more likely to lie well outside the town, nearer to Euxton and Eccleston. In any case there is no special significance in regard to its placement within the hundred.

Much more important is its position in relation to the church and to the early road layout.

There seems little reason to doubt that the base steps, initially three but only two visible in this century, the socket base moulding and the lower portion of the shaft, are of considerable antiquity. Rev. Marshall (1) suggests that they date from Saxon times but cites no authority on the point. Taylor (4) himself states that the base moulding points to the Perpendicular period in style which would suggest a date of c.1350. In another place (5) he refers to Leyland and Halton as pre-Reformation crosses.

Whatever purpose may be assigned to the cross, it has been a symbol of the Christian religion and a constant reminder to passers-by of all religious persuasions, or none, of the permanence of that faith. However as Taylor states

"As a matter of history the origin of the Town Cross is lost in the obscurity caused by its Christian significance "referring of course to town crosses in general.

Its alleged location at the centre of the hundred has given rise to the idea that it was a meeting place for the pre-Conquest hundred-moot. Whilst the existence of a more rudimentary cross at the site is not impossible at that date, modern research has shown that hundred meetings usually took place in more open surroundings and not close to habitations. There is little doubt that gatherings of the people will have occurred in the vicinity on occasions but descriptions of such gatherings are speculation.

The Cross has also been suggested as the site of an early preaching station, pre-dating the church. Such usage is not impossible but why should not the preaching station have been on the mound where the church was eventually built?

In late victorian times, Leyland Cross obviously was thought of as a market cross, and Taylor included it in a list of such crosses in Leyland Hundred, as did other writers. Harrison Myres (7) made the point that markets and fairs were held formerly near to churches and the cross was intended as a symbol of fair dealing.

Little is known about early markets in Leyland and Dr. Tupling (8) in a definitive article on Lancashire markets in the 16th and 17th centuries does not mention Leyland, but his description of a typical market site could have been written about the Leyland Cross area.

M. M. Postan (9) in his book on the medieval economy points out that village markets where surplus agricultural products were sold are often concealed from our view by their very informal nature. This may well account for the apparent lack of early references to a market in Leyland.

Leyland Cross must surely rank amongst the most ill-used crosses in the country. Even in 1887 only the lower portion was stated to be of any antiquity. What had happened previously is not stated, except of course as usual the Puritans were blamed. Marshall (1) made the exquisite comment "like that of Croston the cross and part of the upright beam disappeared due to a decay of veneration for sacred things in the minds of those who lived in the days when Cromwell took his kings crown and AXED him afterwards".

The reconstruction of 1887, including the removal of the infamous "hideous" gas lamps was carried out on a cross which already had a replacement upper portion to the shaft, but did not have a cross head, so the head fitted in 1887 was not a copy but merely reflected the style of architecture then current. We are left wondering as to the style of the original cross head, allegedly broken by the Puritans (c.1570-c.1690) or even earlier iconoclasts in the period 1536-1553 (10).



Manuscript plans of the centre of Leyland prepared by Thomas Addison in 1769 and 1771 respectively, show the cross and town pump and allowing for the difficulties of freehand rendering elevations on a plan it is clear that he intended to convey that the western horizontal limb of the cross head was still in being. Does this mean that the "Puritans" had not done their destructive work thoroughly? Is it possible that the damage to the cross was caused by accident or natural effects due to its age? It is unlikely that these questions can be answered.

In more recent times the photograph entitled "Leyland Cross Accident, September 1930 (1938?)" a copy of which is in Leyland Library shows the effect of a vehicle colliding with the cross. The results are quite horrific, the whole structure is completely demolished. Several other mishaps occurred.

Leyland Cross has not escaped the attention of the followers of the late Alfred Watkins. An article in a local newspaper (12) claimed that at least three "ley lines" pass through Leyland Cross. Very appropriate, one would have thought!

G. L. BOLTON

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2. N R Rogers "The Story of Leyland" published by the author 1953
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4. H Taylor "The Ancient Crosses of Lancashire - Leyland Hundred" Trans.Lancs and Chesh.Antique.Soc. Vol.XVII-1899
5. H Taylor "Ancient Crosses and Holy Wells of Lancashire" published Sheratt and Hughes 1906
6. Rev. W S White ed. "Leyland Register 1653-1710". Rec. Soc. Lancs and Chesh. Vol XXI-1890
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1771 Plan - original DDF 1846
12. Article - "Research reveals ancient currents through Cross" Leyland and South Ribble Guardian - October 2nd 1980

## CANAL BOAT PAINTERS

The early part of this century saw great strides in the manufacture of ready mixed paints. Prior to this the canal boat painters had to mix their own paints from available pigment such as powdered white lead which was mixed to a butter-like consistency, this formed the base for white and pale colours. Darker shades were made from coloured pigments such as burnt turkey umber, venetian red, drop black and yellow ochre etc, the pigments were mixed and thinned to a brushing consistency with turpentine and linseed oil. A drying agent was added to help the paint dry. Varnish was applied to give a glossy appearance and make weatherproof.

Paint brushes were basically the same as used today but the bristles were bound or fixed to the wooden handle with fine string and had to be soaked in water before use to prevent the bristles falling out. Camel hair was not usually used to make brushes, Camel was the name of the manufacturer!

Small lettering and lining brushes were made from squirrel, ox or sable hair. Bristles were set in quill and very appropriately referred to by size as lark, crow, duck, goose etc. according to the quill used.

Older types of paint were not very light-fast this accounted for the barges having to be frequently repainted to keep a smart appearance.

The bottom and lower part of the hull was tarred to keep the barge waterproof and prevent the woodwork rotting, this process entailed hoisting the barge from the water or putting into a dry dock.

F. WHITNEY

FURTHER COMMENTS ON ARTICLE ON LEYLAND MILL  
(See Issues Nos.30 p.26 and No.31 p.18)

The water-cress beds in Shruggs Wood were mentioned. This brought back memories from the 1950's, when I used to walk down Cow Lane on my way to the Infants School on Fox Lane. This lane ran alongside Shruggs Woods at the area now occupied by the Roman Catholic Church and the Priory Club, at this time there was no other road through this area. The recently constructed Broadfield Drive ended at a five barred gate at a 'T' junction. To the right was the end of Cow Lane and the entrance to Stannings Bleach Works. To the left lay the cobbled Forresters Lane. This has now become Northbrook and Southbrook Road, following the line of the older lane. These two roads still retained the original boundary hedges until recently, A child was involved in an accident when a car driver's view was obstructed by the hedge. They were removed shortly after for safety.

The majority of Cow Lane still exists. The boundary between Shruggs Wood and the lane consisted of a high brick wall, which followed the western side of the lane as far as the entrance to a market gardeners. This entrance is now covered by the access road to Nursery Close. This last section of the original wall can still be seen and ends where the wall sweeps into a modern gate into the Roman Catholic Church grounds. The older wall also swept into a pair of lovely wrought iron gates, the entrance of the drive to Broadfield House. From the gates the drive immediately turned right passing between high overgrown rhododendron bushes. The water-cress channels could be found on the left of the drive covered in a tangle of overgrown shrubbery. The channels were constructed of dressed stone.

From Cow Lane it can be seen that the new low wall does not follow the line of the older wall, the lane has been widened here. The older wall was very dilapidated and had fallen down in places, the gaps had been crudely filled by barbed wire. This section of wall was demolished when the Church was built in the early 1960's.

Opposite the entrance to the market gardeners mentioned earlier, an enclosed footpath left the lane to cross a field to the bottom of Westgate and a portion of this path still exists.

Before Westgate was built, a track continued down the same line as the road right up to Towngate, passing through an area known locally as Ship fields. The first houses to be built in Westgate were situated at the Towngate junction and consisted of a row of terraced houses known as St Andrews Terrace which are still standing and face Leyland Garage.

Going back to the end of Cow Lane, the 1911 25" map shows this junction to be in the middle of a small copse. The only remnant of this small wood can be seen just north of Elmwood Avenue. A small building probably a barn stood on the opposite side of the track, opposite this wood. The track meandered through fields crossing Bannister Brook. There was a weir on the brook in this area. From here the track passed through the yard of Balshaw's Farm, finishing on Golden Hill Lane, and was gated.

Half way down Broadfield Drive on the left opposite Hedley Road there is a playing field. This is the site of a pond, shown on the 1848 O.S. 6" map, which was filled in when Westfield Drive and some houses were constructed in the middle 1950's.

The junction of Broadfield and Leadale Road was pile-driven extensively, there must have been marshy conditions in that area.

With the estate half built in about 1946-7 there were a lot of fields standing idle but the grass was put to good use, for it attracted scores of gypsies, who tethered their ponies to feed on the free fodder.

The local landmark was unmistakably the Bleach Works chimney. This tall construction could be seen for miles around, and was missed for several years after the demolition of the Bleach Works prior to the building of the Redwood Housing estate.

The mill ponds and settling tanks are all that remain of the works, these attract a lot of water-fowl. This has now become Shruggs Wood Nature Reserve. However, this project was in the balance ten years ago when a builder wanted to develop the area. I played a small part in a local pressure group, whose hard work and determination saved the area. To advertise their aims, they entered a float for two years in the Festival, their motto being "Save Shruggs Wood".

Last year the Chairman, Mr Seguss and myself decided to sort out the cupboards upstairs in Prospect House. During our search we came across several black and white photographs that had been given to the society by the old Leyland Urban District Council. Some of these showed the Broadfield estate under construction, there was a print recording the handing over of the keys to the first tenant by the Mayor of Leyland.

G. W. THOMAS

#### REFERENCES

6" O.S. Map	1848
25" O.S. Map	1911
Tithe Award, Leyland	1838

REPLY TO QUERY NO. 7 (ISSUE NO.31)

DRAWING OF OLD LEYLAND CHURCH

This drawing of Leyland Parish Church before the old nave was pulled down in 1816 was found recently in a scrapbook compiled by the late Susan Maria Farington (1804-1894). The drawing reproduced here is a copy : photocopying of the original proved unsatisfactory.

Under the drawing in the original is written in Susan Marias hand:

"Leyland Church in 1816.  
Copied from a bad elevation  
just previous to pulling down  
and rebuilding the body of the  
church".

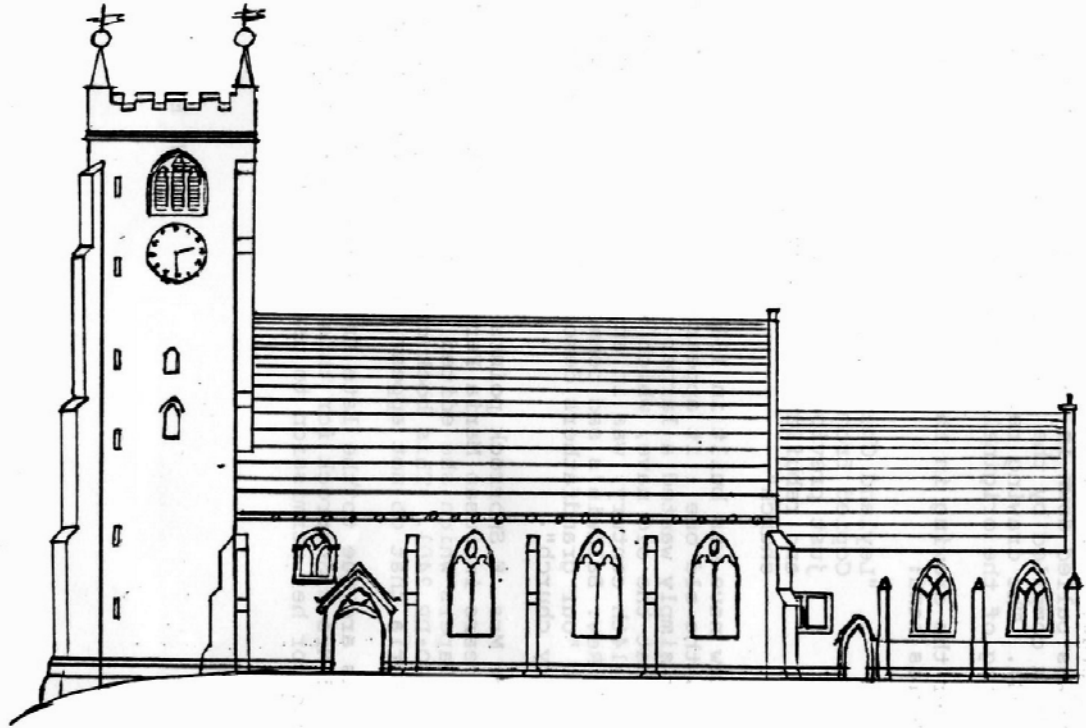
The new nave was built in 1817 and is some 18 feet wider than the old one : it appears that the authorities of the day simply wanted a larger church - there is no evidence that the old nave, which in appearance is late 13th/early 14th century, was in anything but sound condition. The Rev. Baldwin's sad comment in a parish magazine of 1901 was "our grandfathers demolished their graceful 13th century church".

Member Mrs. E Shorrocks points out that a simplified drawing appears in Susan Maria Farington's own copy of the Farington Papers which she edited for the Chetham Society in 1856 (LRO:DP 240). This book contains many drawings by Susan Maria that do not appear in the ordinary volume.

Thanks are due to the late Mrs Chasser, Mr & Mrs Iddon, and Mrs E Shorrocks for this item - especially to Mrs Iddon for her permission to use the drawing.

W. E WARING

-27-



REPLY TO QUERY NO. 8  
LOVE LANE (ISSUE NO. 31)

In reply to the query "was this name a forerunner of Cow Lane?"

Surely, Love Lane is just a contraction of Lovers Lane, possibly a popular name for Cow Lane in the 19th century.

No instance of the name Love Lane has been noted apart from the letter by Susan Maria Farington (1809-1894) dated ? 1849 and quoted in the original query.

The name Cow Lane, however, appears as early as 1693 in a series of Court Orders in the Farington of Worden muniments : the Court Orders of 25 April 1693 (LRO:DDF 171) gives a verdict in a dispute between Henry Waterworth and Henry Eastham both of whom were tenants of property at the Cross end of Cow Lane.

This intriguing old lane which cut across the lower town fields of Leyland would no doubt make an interesting study ; the western end of the old lane survives as Broadfield Walk.

W E WARING

REFERENCE IN THE TEXT

LRO : DDF 171 - COURT ORDERS  
LRO - Lancashire Record Office, Preston  
DDF - Farington of Worden Muniments

REPLY TO QUERY NO 9 (ISSUE NO 31)

WORDEN LODGE

The building of Worden Lodge came about from an agreement between Captain Isaac Hamon of the Queens Royal Regiment and Sir William Farington of Shaw Hall; an Indenture in the Farington muniments dated 30 June 1761. (Ref.1) describes the agreement.

Sir William leased to Captain Hamon a "parcel of ground belonging to William Farington, and lately taken out of the north-west corner of a certain close called the Great Low Field, and being part of the Shaw Hall demesne".

Captain Hamon, of Portarlington, Ireland, had married Mary, sister of Sir William Farington, and the baptism of their first child, William Hector, took place at Leyland on 19 April 1761 : his "life" together with those of his parents was written into the lease. Four endorsements to this indenture tell the story.

Firstly, a second child, Isaac, baptised at Leyland on 18 October 1762, is added to the lease on 29 January 1763. Some two years later a third son, Isaac (the first Isaac having died), was born and added to the lease on 14 September 1764. The third endorsement seems to show a change of heart by Sir William....."whereas I now have fulfilled a promise I made to add the lives hereon endorsed, it is my Will and Pleasure that this lease be never on any account renewed; that no life or lives be ever added .. ...My reason for this Restraint is I think the within granted premises too near the family house for a leasehold tenant. Given under my hand this 15th day of September 1764".

The fourth and final endorsement describes how Captain Isaac Hamon, by an agreement with Sir William dated 6 February 1768, surrenders the lease of Leyland Lodge for £200 to give possession to Sir William on or before 20 May 1768. This endorsement also quotes an Indenture dated 17 March 1759 whereby Isaac Hamon and Mary his wife raised the sum of £500 from Hedworth Reed Esq and Joseph Prior Clayton gentleman (who married another sister of Sir William, Margaret), apparently for the building of Leyland Lodge: this Indenture, however, does not appear to be in the Farington muniments. At the time of the 1761 Indenture Isaac Hamon is described as "aged 30 years" and, "Mary his now wife aged 22 years" : this seems to imply that Isaac had been married before.

Clearly, from the above, the Lodge was not originally a Dower House and its building was prior to the imparkation of Worden which only took place in the mid-1840's. It stood on Whittaker Lane (see "Whittaker Lane - a name from Leyland's past", Lailand Chronicle No.30, Map p.15) at the western end of what is now the main car park for Worden and some of the brickwork to the entrance of the lodge can still be seen.



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REF. 1      LRO : DDF2,260

L.R.O.      Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston

DDF          Farington of Worden Muniments

### BOOK REVIEW

"The Surviving Past" : Archaeological finds and excavation in Central Lancashire by John Hallam - published Countryside Publications Limited 1986 - price £3.95.

In this book, John Hallam presents a very readable survey of the archaeology of the area of the Central Lancashire New Town spanning the period from Mesolithic times to the Industrial Revolution, covering both the findings of earlier archaeologists and work carried out by the authors own research unit, much of the latter being in the nature of rescue archaeology.

Most but not all of the sites described lie within the Leyland Hundred and sites within the old Parish of Leyland have received generous coverage. The use of documentary evidence is well described and helps to show that archaeology is not all spades and wellies. The types of artefact which occupy the authors attention range from burial pots to bake-houses and from coins to cheese-presses. Their sheer variety gives a new insight into the range of modern archaeological discipline.

The volume is produced to very high standards of quality and lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and other line drawings. In particular the full page illustrations which precede each of the sections are examples of the skill of the modern graphic designer, including the use of appropriate type face, setting the scene for the information which follows.

This book is recommended reading for any local historian who wishes to know more about the archaeology of our area .

G.L.B.

"Clayton in History" : The story of Clayton-le-Woods to 1800, by George L. Bolton, published Lancashire County Council Library and Leisure Committee, 1985 - obtainable from local libraries price £2.95.

Notwithstanding the considerable interest in local history, the near proximity of the Lancashire Record Office and the documentary facilities it provides, relatively little progress has been made in the study of the local history of Central Lancashire since the Victoria County History published its volumes at the turn of the century. Mr Bolton's book, however, provides a refreshing break from the successive re-workings of the latter, his approach to the subject is both fresh and clear and the writing concise, whilst more technical passages are well prefaced by introductory sections. Though just under 50 pages in length the work provides a comprehensive survey of the documentary source materials available for Clayton in the

period upto c.1800. The writer has a penchant for colourful headings, as readers of the Chronicle will know, and connoisseurs will not be disappointed. "Religion but no Church" considers ecclesiastical land holdings, and the hearth tax is discussed beneath the depressing motto "No smoke without tax".

Included as an appendix is a historical survey of individual farms in the area, a logical basis of the work and itself a product of the writer's curiosity to know more about the fields around his home. Here surely is the point of departure for all local historians, felt as keenly today as in the days of Dr Kuerden. What matter if "No instances of battles, murders, duels or finds of buried treasure within the boundaries have been traced... Clayton may thus appear to have had an uneventful history" when in the changing lines of well known hedgerows, or the ingenious efforts of successive generations of locals to avoid ever insidious attempts to tax them, can be seen the whole fabric of the social history of England in a landscape as familiar to us today as to our many-times-great-grand-parents. One illustration (it comes from the Manor Court Papers) will have to suffice:

" We present Richard Clayton, William Harrison and Richard Shorrocks for fishing in Lostock without liberty" and in 1625 fishing offences were very much in the news. James Crichlowe was fined four pence for the said offence but nine men from Leyland, two from Brindle and one from Whittle were also fined but quite properly, they being foreigners the rate went up to twelve pence" (P.16).

Mr Bolton has thus made a solid contribution, following on from his recently published paper on the practical implications of the local Domesday Survey, which did much to reinforce his reputation as a local historian. But this work has been at the publishers since April 1983 and many documents have passed under at least one bridge since then. Is it now time to reconsider the question of the development of Leyland?

R.K.

#### Editors Note

Readers should have little difficulty in penetrating the disguise of this pseudonymous reviewer.