

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 1024919

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month (September to July inclusive)

at 7.30 pm

in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,
West Paddock, Leyland**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£10.00 per annum
Members	£8.00 per annum
School Members	£0.50 per annum
Casual Visitors	£2.00 per meeting

A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

and

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Visit the Leyland Historical Society's Web Site at:

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Editorial

Welcome to the fifty-fourth edition of the *Lailand Chronicle*.

First it is my sad duty to record the passing of Dorothy Gardner and Lesley Fowler whose tributes appear later in the *Chronicle*.

Our season has opened on a very high note bringing into our new venue at the Civic Centre the Chairman with his talk on the May Festivals followed in October by the eminent touring theatre of 'Mikron' giving us the story of the co-operative movement from its inception in the early nineteenth century. How apt that one of the scenes should enact the year running up to the First World War circa 1913 and that the Committee should have rediscovered the diaries of Nowell Banister when they were set the task of moving the many items in its archives. You can read later extracts from Nowell's diaries where he writes of his work in the Co-op and of the long hours studying to better himself. He was called up to serve in the 1914 to 1918 War before returning to the same job in the Co-op which he describes in his later diaries.

This past year has been about space. Filling the banquetting suite at the Civic Centre with many members old and new and enjoying its facilities; also being proud to welcome speakers from the south of England and show that we don't all wear cloth caps and clogs. Finding space to rehouse the many precious items and books is the immediate problem being faced by the committee as the office blocks on the Farington Works' site, where the archives were held, are scheduled for demolition to make space to build houses; a sad decision has been taken to dispose of the 'non-Leyland' books and brochures at forthcoming meetings of the Society. Paying for space is the only answer at the present time and this adds a further expense to the Society's accounts.

One casualty of the move from the Farington Works' offices was the old 'Adler' typewriter which has done sterling work in producing Chronicles right up to issue No. 40 as can be seen from the those reproduced on the CDs now being sold at our meetings. As we left the forlorn and ravage torn building where it resided, I looked at the luggage label attached to its *space bar* and saw that it had been serviced in February, 1986, obviously in preparation for the *May Chronicle*.

As its epitaph, and also as a reminder that the extract from the editorial content written by the late Mr George Bolton is just as relevant today, I reproduce below, from that No. 32 May edition:

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.

Articles large and small have generously been submitted for this edition and recruitment has never been better, which is most definitely due to the enjoyable programme presented and advertised by the Chairman, and the committee's hard work in providing the various entertainment throughout the season, especially the Anniversary Dinner which was very well attended. I don't know about 'Notes and Queries'; however, individual comments are always welcome on any of the subject matter in the *Chronicle*.

We look forward to the 2008 – 2009 season, may it bring as much pleasure to us all as did the 2007 – 2008.

Mary Longton

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

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

Chairman's Report 2007/2008

How do you describe our fortieth Season as a Society? Do you say it was a new beginning? The Historical Society getting in the public eye through its high profile venue and speakers. Or was it just a special year? It was certainly different.

It started well on **Monday, 3 September**, in our new home, the Shield Room in the Civic Centre on West Paddock. Here, the returning members, 116 in the first night (a new record) saw our member Dr David Hunt tell the story of 'Leyland and its Historical Society' through the various members he has known throughout the forty years. Archive photographs showed what buildings and sites the Historical Society had managed to save and some we had been unable to rescue.

The return of the Mikron Theatre Company on **Monday, 8 October**, saw the third in their engineer's series, so after Richard Trevithick and Isambard Kingdom Brunel it was the turn of Thomas Telford. As the man was a workaholic whose only occupation was his occupation, hence, the title of the play: 'Married to the Job' he was shown to be an inspiration to civil engineers up to the present day.

The company was their usual professional best with new member Adrian Palmer taking the lead role. Daniel Wexler made a welcome return even reprising as Brunel for a short scene. The play had been sponsored by Institute of Civil Engineers, an organisation that he had helped to found.

A welcome return for John Fletcher, the chairman of the Inland Waterways Association on **Monday, 5 November**, saw him give a talk on 'Waterway Restoration in the North West'. In his latest talk he brought the members up to date on all the work going on in the region to restore the canals. From the reopening of the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Narrow Canals in the last few years, to the newest canal in the country, the Ribble Link from the Lancaster Canal around Preston and into the River Ribble to the connection with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

John's favourite canal, the Manchester, Bolton & Bury, of which he is now chairman having taken over from his wife Margaret, was also featured. The huge development now taking place on the Salford bank of the River Irwell will restore the first few miles of the canal as well as provide office space, leisure and homes in the area.

On **Saturday, 1 December**, after eighteen months planning, Doreen and I were on platform four at Preston Station as the cross-country train arrived from Bristol and from the back of the train emerged a familiar figure in the time team jacket and hat, looking slightly bemused, it was Phil Harding. As we walked up to him, he said 'Peter, I presume', I was tempted to say 'Oh Ahh', but didn't.

We took Phil back to Leyland giving him the short guided tour before returning home and feeding him a dish now renamed 'Phil's Chicken' in his honour. He was relaxed and down to earth, exactly as he is on television as he said himself, he's just doing his usual job. When it came to the talk, which was attended by a record 173 members and visitors, 'Making Time Team' was exactly that, he went through the programme's history, introduced the team and their different tasks on the programme; John Gater, his usual sparing partner, coming in for the usual stick. He will get his right to reply in March 2009.

Phil told us of the format of three days of excavation which is exactly how it is done: when we see trench one going in on day one that is how it happens. No sneaking in to make trial digs beforehand; however a lot of research is done before the programme starts and a large team of people are needed to make the series. Many people associate Phil with TV celebrity, but he is also a working archaeologist and frequently turns up on sites to carry out investigations. He explained that it is quite amusing when people see just him and wonder where the cameras are and why Tony

Robinson isn't with him. We were treated to a very informative, witty and extremely entertaining evening.

There then followed a long question and answer session with Phil answering all the questions thrown at him. Dr David Hunt gave the vote of thanks. This was followed by an even longer raffle draw while Phil enjoyed drawing the tickets.

Following the lecture we took Phil back home and chatted until he went to bed, his interest in blues music and Salisbury Town Football Club being topics of conversation. The following morning we took Phil to Manchester to enable him to get a better connection for the train back to Salisbury so he would be back in time for the football game; he is a season ticket holder.

On **Saturday, 5 January**, we opened the History of the Historical Society Exhibition at the Leyland Museum and Exhibition Centre, which was attended by the Mayor of South Ribble and many members of the society. The exhibition featured the story of the society from its beginnings in 1968 through all the meetings until the present. Also the books it has produced, the trips we had been on, the buildings we had helped to save and the people who have been the officers and committee of the society.

The following **Monday, 7 January**, saw the members being given the story of 'The Geology and Formation of the Leyland Landscape' by Dr Eric Isaac who was also a founder member of the society. He told how the underlying rock strata had shaped the surrounding area in a humorous style which enabled a difficult subject to be more easily understood.

To close our exhibition at the museum on **Saturday, 2 February**, we asked Joan Langford to give a talk entitled 'The History of Farington' to the assembled members and friends of the museum. With a few residents of the village in the audience, it made for an interesting morning with much information coming from and going to the speaker, as many memories came forth from the old pictures of Stanifield Lane.

For the meeting on **Monday, 4 February**, we had to move to a temporary venue: St Mary's RC Primary School on Haig Avenue. This was the school I had left in 1963, when I went from infants to the then junior school on School Lane; to my surprise, at the meeting I met two people I had not seen since those days. A good assembly of members and visitors were entertained by our old friend Stephen Sartin with 'Photographs of Old Leyland'. The meeting was mostly audience participation with Stephen asking *them* if they knew where the pictures were taken, and it led to a long night as members and visitors recognised both people and places on the screen.

Back to the Civic Centre on **Monday, 3 March**. In a change to our published programme, as George Howard was unwell and had to be replaced at short notice, Colin Dickinson informed the members about 'Sir George Gilbert Scott and St Pancras Station'. With Colin's usual style he talked about the early career of Scott as he designed Preston Town Hall which survived until it burnt down in 1947.

Then Colin went on to describe the planning and building of the Midland's London station, from the Barlow train shed, to the Scott gothic masterpiece, the St Pancras hotel which fronts the station. He also showed recent pictures of the work going on to restore the building in line with the opening of St Pancras as the London end of the Euro tunnel line.

For a change we went to Alston Hall on **Saturday, 15 March**, where we had a lovely three course meal followed by a talk given by John Shaw entitled 'Walking from Roman Ribchester to York'. It was a walk through Lancashire and Yorkshire with John showing the historical sites to be found on the way.

On **Monday, 7 April**, was the talk I had been waiting for. As I mentioned at the March meeting, Dr Lee and myself go back a long way though he did not know it. Little did I know when I was

reading *NME (New Musical Express)* back in the mid 1970s and reading about *Albertos Y Los Trios Paranoias*, then buying their wonderful singles and albums, that I would be introducing one of their lead singers (they did have three). So the last time I saw CP Lee on a stage in a performing capacity was at Preston Polytechnic on 9 March 1978. He has since gone on to do greater things and his musical past has been recorded in the book *Shake Rattle & Rain*, the story of Manchester music from 1955 to 1995 and *When We Were Thin*, the story of the Albertos.

Here is my introduction for the evening: 'So tonight we have the perfect speaker as far as I'm concerned. As most of you well know, my favourite subject is the *canal* word. However, if you visited my house (library) you will have noticed as well as the *canal* word books, there are also books on history (obviously), comedy and rock music. So tonight's speaker ticks all of those boxes for me: with the Albertos (Alberto Y Lost Trios Paranoias) covering the last two and his interest in 'Mancunian Film and Frank Randle', the first two. Are you with me so far? If so, here's Mancunian Films and Frank Randle with Dr C P Lee.'

After that introduction I thought he had better be good, and he was; using his PC (ably assisted by Doreen) to show video clips of the music hall artists that were featured in the Mancunian Films before going on to tell Frank Randle's life story. His performance was one of the most entertaining and funniest that most of us have seen. He was so popular I immediately booked him for our December meeting, so, if you missed the meeting, come along on 8 December to the encore.

On **Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May**, a group of fifty members boarded the Cosgrove coach at Tesco and headed north up the M6 for the Third Annual Historical Society Trip. Our first stop took us off at junction 43 and along the A69 towards Newcastle to the Birdoswald Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall.

Here we walked around the museum looking at the exhibits both original and reconstructed of the fort. As we walked around the walls that lead to the cliff face down to the river below, you could tell that the low walls were originally much higher but 2000 years of recycling stone into other buildings or walls have taken their toll.

We then headed into the centre of Carlisle to meet our guide organiser for the guided walks around Carlisle. These lasted almost two hours: a particularly favourite (topic) of mine, being that Bonnie Prince Charles stayed in a house on the main street in 1745, while the Duke of Cumberland who was chasing him stayed there in 1746; it is now the Carlisle Marks & Spencers. As someone who only knows Carlisle for its railway station it was interesting to learn about this border town and its turbulent history being fought over by the English and the Scots.

How do I describe our last speaker? When asked if he would give a talk to Leyland Historical Society he said: "you forget I'm a local boy from Kendal so Leyland and Leyland Motors need no introduction! That also means I'll be delighted to accept your invitation." This talk had been planned since 12 November 2006 when I sent David Starkey the original email. To get the above response was like a dream come true but it was only at 6 pm on **Monday, 2 June**, when I received a telephone call from him to say he was on his way from Rochdale, that I believed it was going to happen.

If you have viewed David Starkey on television or heard him on the radio, you may have formed the opinion that he is a strict, no nonsense type of person; however, we were all pleasantly surprised as the happy and smiling David put us all at ease as he was introduced to David Hunt and James Mawdesley before the meal.

During the talk, I had to keep pinching myself as Dr Starkey launched into the life story of Henry VIII using modern day parlance to show how the attitudes of the time changed from the top down. Here is a review from a non-member that was placed on the Leyland Forum that I cannot better:

'From hearing Dr Starkey on TV and radio I knew we would be in for a treat, but I was still very

impressed that he could hold an audience's rapt attention for over an hour without recourse to notes or slides/PowerPoint, just his own knowledge and eloquence. I hadn't expected to laugh quite so often – Dr Starkey was also an amusing speaker at times with his barbed remarks, often directed at the current government and celebrities.

‘I wish I had been quicker up to the “book sale table”, which proved very popular. I think I got just about the last book left . . . and then was up till the small hours reading it! Despite having to drive back down to London after his talk, Dr Starkey was happy to stay on long enough to autograph copies of his books and I was lucky enough to exchange a few words with him about how his TV eloquence was genuine and not just down to clever editing. He told me that for an hour's TV he has to restrain his script to under 4,000 words – or the equivalent of one page of a newspaper – so he enjoys live talks where he can give himself free reign.’

Following the talk, Dr Starkey's question and answer session was a wonder to behold as he could answer anything thrown at him regarding any period of monarchy. He managed to sell all the books he had brought, chatting to each purchaser as he signed. He returned to the Houghton residence and had a late supper before heading off back to London in his chauffeur driven Daimler (Registration Number V111 HEN) at 11.45 pm.

The June meeting is usually the last meeting of the season before the Annual General Meeting but not this year. To celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of our Society a special Anniversary Dinner was held at Alston Hall on **Thursday, 3 July**. Our guest speaker, Dr Crosby, joined a total of forty members, which included Susan Maria Farington and Dr David Hunt. We were treated to an excellent meal followed by sherry and a celebration cake which was cut by our President, Bill, and Susan Farington. After a short speech by yours truly we assembled in the lecture room where our guest speaker and old friend Dr Alan Crosby gave a talk entitled, ‘A Lancashire Courtship’.

Dr Crosby described the formal courtship which existed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when you did not marry beneath your exalted status and were lucky if you saw your ‘intended’ prior to the marriage contract being signed by the parents. Love at first sight did not come into it at all; even if, as in this case, the two parties were second cousins in the Parker family of Brusome and Colne.

For the annual general meeting on **Monday, 7 July**, after the usual business of the election of committee members, we were entertained by Glen Atkinson who talked about what appeared as news in the Victorian newspapers. This was a highly entertaining trawl through the stories of the day showing that the sensational headlines of today are nothing new.

So, with many new members enrolling after the last meeting, we have ended the season with the largest ever membership of 240, an increase of 47 on the previous year. Please help us to keep at that level by coming back every year. As I write this in September after the successful new postal renewal system and the first meeting, we already have a membership of 180 – I am so glad to see you are all coming back again.

The website continues to grow since its inception in December 1999 to a point that as of today the number of visitors to the site was over **36,408**, over 5000 hits in the last year. Enquires have continued to flood in with over 35 requiring the committee's attention in the last twelve months.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last fifteen years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future, especially Elizabeth with the planning applications and Mary editing the *Chronicle*.

Peter Houghton

Courts Baron, Manor Courts and Courts Leet

By Joan Langford

A whole tier of the old feudal justice system in this country (formerly called ‘Courts Baron’, ‘Manor Courts’ and ‘Courts Leet’¹) has survived in part since Norman times and many functions of modern local authorities can be traced back to these old Courts.

In Norman times ‘Court Baron’ was the name given to an assembly presided over by the Lord of the Manor together with a jury of prominent local men, where the Lord settled disputes and generally administered his estates. Manors were formerly called baronies and each Lord or Baron was required to hold a domestic court, called the Court Baron, for redressing misdemeanours and nuisances within the manor, and for settling disputes over property among tenants. It had its own annually appointed officers who served the Court, and who were selected from the freehold tenants of the manor. Courts Baron were normally held every three weeks but had no power to deal with serious criminal matters, these being left to the Courts Leet.

Courts Baron had jurisdiction in civil actions rising within the manor. Agricultural matters loomed large in its affairs, with frequent orders for the cleaning of ditches, etc, but it also covered other areas of concern including ‘social behaviour’. These sessions were not trials, wrongdoers were simply found and punished, and court orders then became local law.

The Lord was bound to hold a Court and the tenants bound to attend. (Courts Baron later became known as Manor Courts).

‘Courts Leet’ were held every six months, under the presidency of the lord of the manor’s Steward, who sat with a jury. Most towns and villages in the country had a Court Leet and, unlike now, the jury was selected from among the people who knew the prisoner, and also knew the background to the case.

The Court appointed local officers such as constables, ale testers (upholders of the statutory quality and price of drink); pinders whose job was to control stray animals; and house-lookers (officials whose job was to keep track of strangers; and any new-comers who might be a drain on the parish).

When the officers had all been sworn in they were then ‘threatened’ with fines of 40/- if they failed to carry out their duties to the juror’s satisfaction.

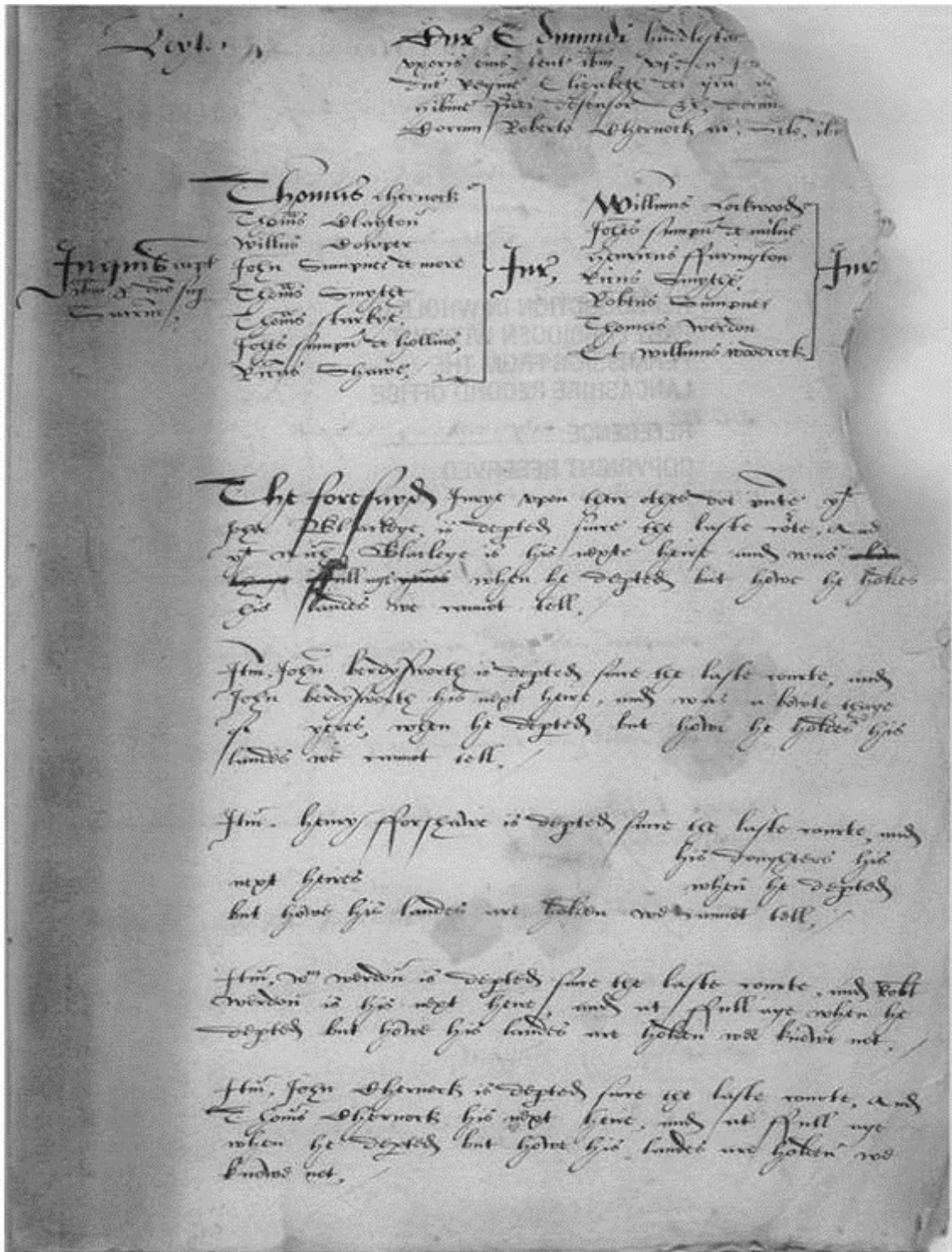
The jurisdiction of these Courts began to decay in the 17th century when many serious cases began to be judged by Circuit Courts with Courts Leet sitting only on petty misdemeanours – and this function too was gradually taken over by justices of the peace sitting in magistrates courts – causing most manorial courts to go into terminal decline, although a few survived.

By the end of the seventeenth century the remaining Courts Leet lost the power to imprison offenders and after the 1880s Courts Leet no longer even imposed fines. The Law of Property Act of 1925 took away more of the old manorial rights, and then in 1977 the Administration of Justice Act aimed at abolishing all Courts Baron and Courts Leet completely. However, thirty or so manorial courts still sit in England even today, the best known being the Court of Verderers which regulates the New Forest.

It is well known that Farington, Cuerden, Leyland and Clayton were manors since earliest times and it is certain that manor courts would have been held in all of them. There is no doubt that records of the various courts’ early activities would have been made, but unfortunately very few still exist.

¹ Leet: an Anglo-French word, related to the old word ‘litte’ (which is still in use in Scotland) meaning a list of candidates selected for an office.

Leyland Court Leet



Front page of Leyland Court Leet book 1567 (LRO DDX 102/66)

A Leyland Court Leet record book dated 1568 has survived the years and is now in the safe-keeping of the Lancashire Record Office Preston. Not surprisingly after so many years it is in a very bad state and, although written in English, it is quite hard to read the 16th century

LEYLAND

*Sir Edmund Huddleston (and Dorothy)
his wife hold in the same place (i.e. Leyland) (the) 7th day of June
Lord Queen Elizabeth thanks be to God
Defender of the Faith etc the tenth (Regnal Year) {17 Nov 1567 – 16 Nov 1568}
In the Presence of Robert Charnock Gentleman in the same place.*

<i>Thomas Charnock</i>	}	<i>Jurors</i>	<i>William Lockwood</i>	}	<i>Jurors</i>
<i>Thomas Clayton</i>			<i>John Sumpner of Milne</i>		
<i>William Cowper</i>			<i>Henry ffarington</i>		
<i>John Sumpner of the Moor</i>			<i>Richard Smith</i>		
<i>Thomas Smith</i>			<i>Thomas Worden</i>		
<i>John Sumpner of Hollins</i>			<i>And William Woodcock</i>		
<i>Richard Shaw</i>					

*The aforesaid jury upon their oaths do present that
John Blackledge is departed since the last court. And
that Nicholas Blackledge (is) his next heir, and was
of full age when he (i.e. John) departed, but how he holds
his lands we cannot tell.*

handwriting. A translation of the surviving part of the front page reads:-

The following four paragraphs are all the same, giving the name of the man who had died since the last Court Leet and giving the name of his heir or heiress. None of the five deceased had deeds showing how they held their lands. The four other names were:

John Beardsworth and his heir, John
Henry Forshaw and his heiress, his daughter ?? [name not filled in]
William Worden and his heir, Robert
John Charnock and his heir, Thomas.

All heirs and heiress were stated to be of full age ie, 21 or more. If they had been minors the Court would have appointed trustees or a guardian.

Further, in the much damaged pages of the book, I was also able to make out:

‘ Glass was found at Edward Longton’s house which doth appear to be parcel of the glass of Farington Hall.’ Sadly the verdict is missing.

‘The wife of William ffarington is ordered to fill up two clay pits against the 7th November upon pain of 3s.4d.’

Leyland Court Baron

A report of the Leyland Court Baron held in December 1877 was published in the Preston Guardian newspaper:

Miss Farington, Lady of the Manor, held her Court Baron at the Railway Inn.

The Court opened, the jury was sworn, and officers were appointed. Several presentments were made of foul ditches, obstructed water-courses, etc., which were ordered to be remedied. The Court was followed by dinner for the jury with a number of friends, provided by Miss Farington.

Also in December 1877 the Preston Guardian reported on the local Rent Audit:

The half-yearly rent audit for the receipts of rents due to the Misses Farington, Ladies of the Manor of Leyland and Penwortham, was held at the Railway Hotel (the home of Mr. John Carr) on Monday last. Rents were received, the tenants sat down to a beautiful and excellent dinner provided by the

Misses Farington.

Some other local surviving examples:

Cuerden Manor Court

On 1 July 1522 it was recorded in the Court Roll of the Manor of Cuerden that John Woodcock freely held of the lord certain lands in socage² and did fealty³ for the same to Thomas Langton Esquire, Lord of the Manor, and was thereupon admitted as tenant.

By 1625 fishing offences were regularly reported at the Cuerden Manor Court. 'We present James Critchlow, William Harrison and Richard Shorrock for fishing in Lostock without liberty.' They were each fined 4 pence for the said offence. However, '9 men from Leyland, 2 from Brindle and 1 from Whittle will be fined, quite properly they being foreigners, the rate of 12 pence each.'

Clayton Manor Court

For Clayton only one example, from the 16th century, has survived – dated 1574 (during the reign of Elizabeth I). The Court Roll is 'a handsome document in a scholarly hand, and is headed 'Cleyton Curia sive helmot' held 26th November 1574, before James Anderton Esq. the lord there.'

Lists of 22 tenants are registered; names of the court jurors are then given who, upon oath, made their presentments. Deaths of tenants occurring since the previous court are noted, together with names and ages of their sons and next heirs who inherit and are admitted to the tenancies – this being one of the principal functions of manor courts.

The remainder of the roll records minor civil offences such as 'making an affray one upon the other and drawing blood; receiving certain stolen goods; failure to repair the highway or allowing ditches to become choked; failing to take corn or grain to the lord's mill to be ground; or harbouring strangers.' Rules were laid down to prevent the felling of oak or ash trees without permission and for the clearing of ditches and highways.

A Clayton court roll of 1609 sets out the names of the tenants who for the next twelve years were to provide the constables on an annual basis. The office was an onerous one and if the appointed person did not wish to do the job personally, he had to provide a substitute at his own expense. There is some evidence that in this case they were still regarded as the constable, the substitute being known as the 'watch'. The rota was described as being 'by howse rowe order the least tenement with t'other.' 'House row order' was a term generally used whereby parish or manor officers were chosen by rotation and houses were chosen in the order in which they stood, to supply the necessary candidates. In 1666 the Hearth Tax details would have been recorded by the parish constables.

Local Constables

The office of 'Constable' is an ancient one and before the appointment of parish constables by the vestries, they were the responsibility of the Manor Court. Duties included maintenance of the stocks and other local means of punishment, inspecting ale-houses, collecting certain taxes, provision of watch and ward (an ancient duty) and removal of itinerant strangers.

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² Socage: Feudal tenure of land by a tenant not a Knight, in return for agricultural and other non-military service or for payment.

³ Fealty: The obligation of loyalty owned by a vassal to his feudal lord. (Vassal - a person who held land from a feudal lord and received protection in return for homage and allegiance.)

Worden gravel pits – history and exploitation

By Derek Wilkins

As children growing up in the Bent Lane area of Leyland in the forties and early fifties much of our school holidays were spent roaming over the fields along Bryning Brook between the A49 Wigan Road and the A6 at Whittle. During these outings one of our favourite destinations was what we always knew as ‘Bluebell Wood’ to the north of Dawson Lane and opposite the present-day entrance to Buckshaw Village. Here we would spend many hours climbing trees, building dens and playing either cowboys and indians or commandos, depending on the last film we had seen at the ‘Palace’ cinema.

Much later I noticed on the 1978 edition of the OS 1:25000 map that the name of the wood was in fact ‘Gravel Hole Wood’. I initially assumed that this reflected the sand and gravel workings which were there when we were children, the exploration of which added considerable (and probably illegal) excitement to our adventures and it was only when I came across one of George Bolton’s *Chronicle* articles that I realised there had been sand and gravel extraction in the vicinity at a much earlier date.¹

There is no evidence of any workings in the 1725 Farington estate survey, although the field which was later to become Gravel Hole Wood is referred to as ‘Stony Field’, indicating its nature and foretelling of its future use. Yet only five years later an entry in the Farington’s accounts for 1730² suggests that some exploitation, albeit on a small scale, had begun when John Foster was paid 10d [4p] for ‘getting up stone at Worden’. Over the next few years various people were paid wages for ‘filling gravel’, ‘leading gravel’ and ‘gravelling’, all seemingly related to maintenance of the Farington’s estate roads.

By 1746 gravel was being sold: ‘Rec’d from Euxton people for gravel. £1.’ Thereafter such references increase, with sales to several townships in the surrounding area for use on their roads. These included Leyland itself, Farington, Cuerden, Euxton, Clayton-le-Woods, Ulnes Walton and Hoghton, the following examples being typical:

1775. From the officer of Cuerden for 60 loads of gravel for the By-lanes at 4d [1.5p]³ per. Load. £1

1779. From Robert Lang for 225 loads of gravel at 3d [1p] p. load for lower end of Fox Lane. £2 16s 3d [£2.81]

1819. From John Boardman for 498 loads of Gravel had for the Highways of the Township of Farington at 8d [3p] per load. £16 12s. [£16.60]

1819. For gravel had by various townships from Worden Gravel Pit. £39 3s 2d [£39.16]

1834. From Surveyors of the Higher Division of Leyland for gravel per book. £5.

Sand was also being sold but only in relatively small quantities:

1755. Rec’d from Wm. Clayton for five loads of sand for Holt Brow. 1s. [5p]

The majority of these transactions took place during the autumn months of September to November, presumably in an attempt to have the roads in good repair before the ravages of winter.

Gravel was also supplied for use on the Wigan to Preston road (A49) which had been upgraded to a turnpike in 1726. This resulted in a somewhat acrimonious dispute in 1752 when William Farington (1720–81) was accused by the turnpike commissioners of taking stones from this road for his own use – somewhat strange considering he owned a gravel pit! Their threat to deduct ‘something for the stones I mov’d’ resulted in him writing a passionate letter on May 6, apparently to one of the Hoghton family, asking for his assistance: ‘... as I am prevented attending the turnpike meeting by an unexpected affair ...’ He complained, ‘I cannot say I think I have been used much like a gentleman ...’ and threatened a counter-claim for damage to roads into two of his fields

resulting from work on the turnpike.⁴ Hoghton seems to have been unsuccessful in pleading Farington's case, an entry in the accounts for May 22 reading:

Paid to what the commissioners of the turnpike made me allow for the stones taken from the road – £1 2s. 6d.' [£1.13].

A week earlier, following the above meeting, £15 had been received from the turnpike commissioners for an unspecified amount of gravel.

The commissioners had to be chased for the next payment of £22 1s. [£22.05] which was only made in 1765 for 'gravel since 1753', Farington's agent Robert Lang being paid 5s. [25p] as 'his expense for getting turnpike money for gravel.'

Thereafter, regular payments were made in the form of a rent for what is referred to as 'statute gravel', presumably relating to the right to take gravel under the 1726 Act.

Another series of records give details of sales to the residents of Ulnes Walton for the upkeep of their non-turnpike roads.⁵ They are detailed accounts for the years 1817 to 1836, the entry for 1817 reading:

Paid Wm. Farington Esq. gravel, 482 loads at 8d [3p] per load.	£16 1s. 4d.	[£16.07]
Paid do for stone 37 loads at 8d per load.	£1 4s. 8d.	[£1.23]

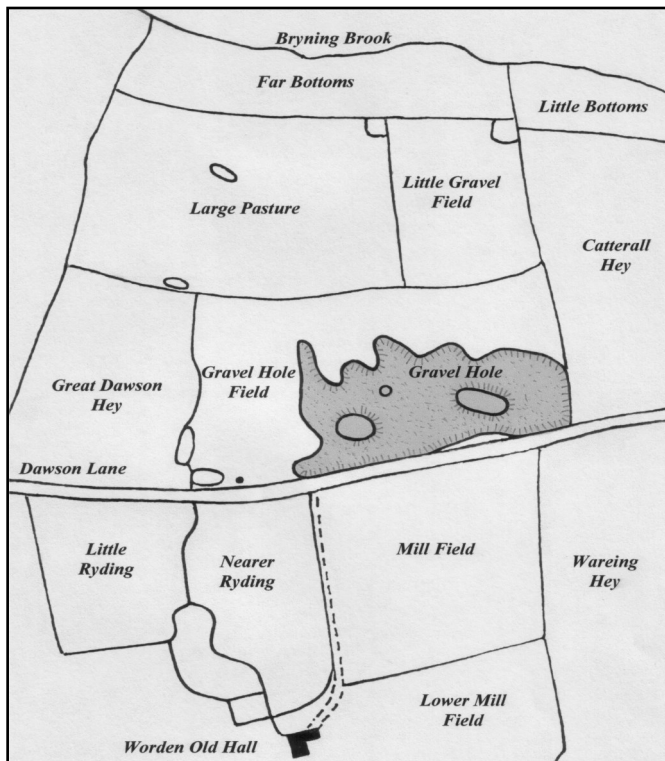
The entry for the following year confirms their origin:

Gravels. 298 loads from Worden at 8d per load.	£9 18s. 8d.	[£9.93]
Stone from Worden.	£1 1s. 8d.	[£1.08]

It is thus clear that very significant quantities of both gravel and larger stones, along with some sand, were being extracted from Worden over several decades for use on local roads – a total of well over 3000 loads of gravel costing over £100 (about £4000 at today's value) being sold to Ulnes Walton alone over a twenty year period.

Although the first record of a sale is in 1746, it is probable that commercial exploitation coincided with the turnpiking of 1726 and in this respect it may be significant that William Farington began keeping his own accounts from 1746, prior to which much less detail is recorded. Whatever the actual date there is no doubt that the demand for road materials brought about by the need for increased movement of goods at this time was the driving force behind the development of the pits and that the Faringtons were taking advantage of this new market.

The gravel pits, located to the north of Dawson Lane on the site of 'Stony Field' are clearly shown on the Leyland tithe award of 1838:



Redrawn from the Leyland Tithe Map. Although the actual award was made in 1838, the copy in Leyland Library, from which this was redrawn, is dated 1844.

Only six years after the original award and in the same year as this copy, the area had been landscaped and named 'Gravel Hole Wood.' (See below) This hardly seems to be long enough for such changes and suggests that the original tithe map may be based on a somewhat older survey.

Dawson Lane

Dawson Lane, being the only access road, would have been an integral part of the workings from their beginnings.

Following the family's move to Shaw Hall earlier in the century, Worden would have become less important to the Faringtons and, perhaps as a consequence, the condition of Dawson Lane was allowed to deteriorate.

With the development of the economically important gravel pits it would have regained some of its former importance and proposals in 1756 and 1757 appear to be attempts by William Farington to regulate its use and at the same time bring about improvements in its condition with the approval and financial assistance of Leyland ratepayers.

The first, a minute in the 1756 vestry book of Leyland parish church,⁶ refers to an agreement between William Farington and the inhabitants of Leyland parish that the latter should have the right to 'pass and repass with all sorts of carriages in and through the lane called Dawson Lane'. This was on condition that the parishioners would 'thoroughly repair, widen and gravel the said road and that 'William Farington Esq. shall consent and agree to allow the said inhabitants to take and carry away all the material that shall be wanted for the said repairs out of his demesne of Worden without making any satisfaction or recompense for such materials.'

The second, a draft indenture of the following year between William Farington, the Rev. Thomas Baldwin and the churchwardens,⁷ states that it had previously been used only as a bridleway with the agreement of the Faringtons but that '... by reason of some doubts and disputes ... hath lately grown in great decay and become unsafe.'

In exchange for £40 from the parish the road would be upgraded and maintained by Farington and in recognition of their contribution the inhabitants of Leyland parish would have 'free liberty ... of passing ... not only with horses, cattle and beasts as heretofore used but also with wagons, carts and all manner of carriages.'

William Farington would be lawfully entitled to have ‘a Barr with one or more gates and paickes [pikes] ... at New Inn’ which would be locked to prevent ‘any cart, wagon, timber or stone carriage ... not belonging to the parishioners from passing through.’ A key would be kept in a convenient house to allow parishioners free passage. (It is not clear if an earlier bar, shown on the 1725 survey, was still in use at this time). Reference is also made to another ‘ancient fence, gate or Barr’ which was on the boundary with Whittle-le-Woods, near to Old Crook.

That this indenture was implemented is confirmed by an entry in the account book for October 28 1757: ‘Received from the church wardens in full of an agreement for Dawson Lane. £40.’

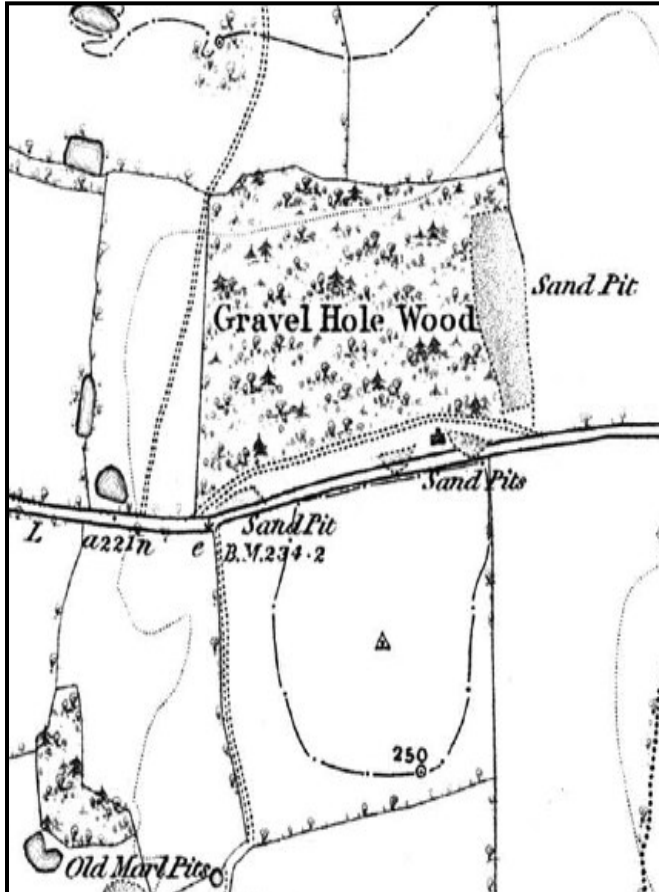
The effect of this agreement is seen in the Ulnes Walton accounts referred to above:

1821.	Paid for carting [gravels] through New Inn Barr	8s. 4d. [42p]
1823.	Paid toll at New Inn Barr for Gravels	6s. 8d. [33p]

This toll bar was the source of resentment amongst inhabitants of the surrounding townships and in 1816 three individuals from the Croston area were charged with ‘breaking down the bar fixed upon the private road of William Farington Esq. at the New Inn’ and as part of their punishment they were required to make ‘a public acknowledgement of our misconduct.’ The actual document is displayed in the South Ribble museum.

By the time the first edition 6” OS map was surveyed in 1844, although limited sand extraction was still taking place, it appears that the supply of gravel had become exhausted (later events show that there was still plenty of material left but presumably outside the scope of nineteenth century technology - see below) and the area landscaped with trees - in the 1841 census a cottage in the wood was occupied by a gamekeeper suggesting that the wood had been planted as a game covert.

The somewhat curious diversion of Dawson Lane into the wood as shown on this map was the



subject of an agreement between James Nowell Farington (1813 – 1848) and the ratepayers of the Higher Division of Leyland in 1843.⁸ Farington’s proposal was for the road to be lowered from ‘the Mill Field Gate to the Lower Gravel Pit Gate,’ a temporary road was to be built at his expense and he was to have the ‘rockage and gravel from underneath the present old road.’ On completion, the new road was to be taken into the care of the township. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

The reason for the lowering of the road is not given but it may well have been in connection with the development of new gravel pits to the south of Dawson Lane and the presence of three sand pits on the old road may indicate exploratory digging.

This diversion and the accompanying excavations were followed by the development of new workings in Mill Field

First edition 6” O.S Map surveyed in 1844 (The O.S. triangulation point marks the highest point in Leyland)

to the south of Gravel Hole Wood. These were well developed by 1874 when it was reported that they had, ‘... for many years past been the chief or only source of supply for a considerable district of coarse and fine road – gravel ...’ The excavations then consisted of a 30 – 40ft bed of marine gravel (shingle) and sands. The gravel was a mixture of pebbles ranging in size from large stones down to coarse and fine shingle and sand and was screened and sorted on site.⁹

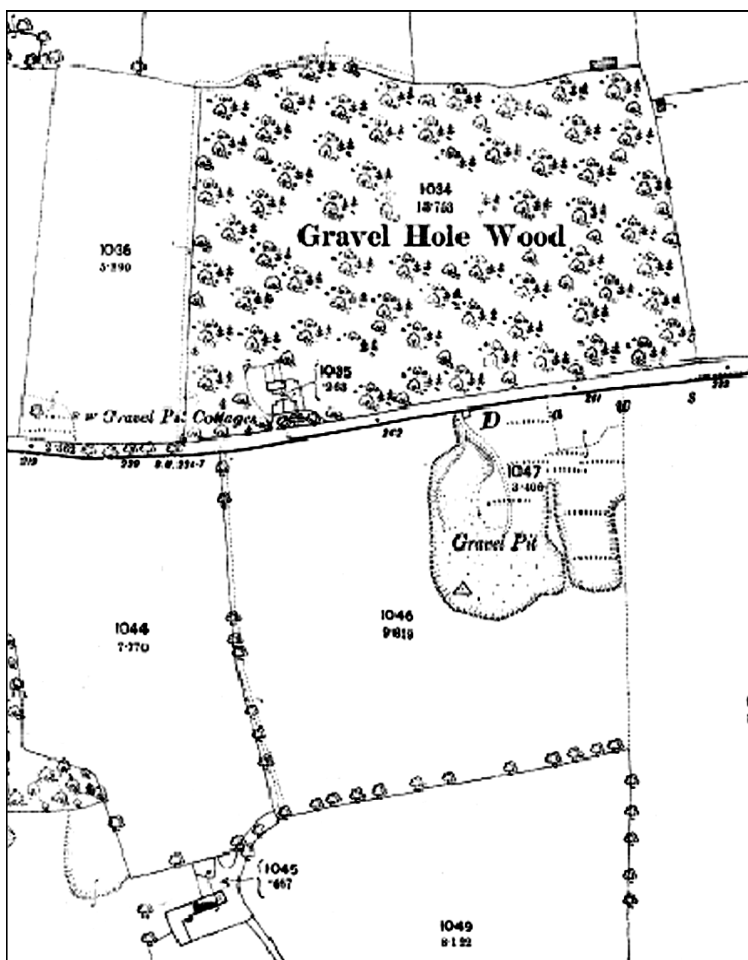
When the first edition 25” OS map was surveyed in 1894, landscaping of the wood where the old pits had been was complete and two cottages had been built in its south west corner. By now the operation was of sufficient importance to warrant a separate column in the estate receipts under ‘Royalties and Gravel Pit’.¹⁰ Cash was then received from John Baker, the tenant of Old Worden, in the form of a royalty. After his death in 1895 the monies were received from his son James, a labourer in the pit living in one of the cottages. These were in the form of proceeds from sales rather than royalties, suggesting that the latter were a condition of the lease for Old Worden which had expired on the death of his father. Certain larger customers paid monies direct to the estate and included various local authorities along with local undertakings such as John Stanning, Berry and Son, Brailsford and Son and later Leonard Fairclough. In the years immediately prior to the First World War by far the largest customer was Liverpool Corporation, presumably buying materials for the construction of the Rivington reservoirs. From 1897 the sales revenues averaged around £150 p.a.

Subsequent maps in 1909 and 1928 show substantially the same picture as that of 1894, although in the later year the eastern-most workings appear to have become exhausted.

In 1924 the operation of the pit was sub-contracted to William Goodier and Son on the basis of a royalty payment of two shillings [10p] per ton. In 1925, the first full year of their tenure, 3000 tons

of sand and gravel were extracted yielding £300 in royalties to the Worden estate. In 1936 the gravel pit and surrounding land to the south of Dawson Lane were purchased by the War Office. The completion statement¹¹ allowed for the outstanding debts for sand and gravel sales as well as receipts due for refuse tipping to be collected by the estate. The fact that refuse tipping was underway may indicate the imminent exhaustion of the pits. The last receipt from Goodiers was in November 1936.

Two years later these workings to



First edition 25” OS map of 1894. The spread of the new workings has not been deterred by the presence of the Ordnance Survey’s triangulation point.

Between 1851 and 1901 one of the Gravel Pit Cottages was occupied by labourers in the new pit: the well in the field north of Dawson Lane (centre left) was still in use by the inhabitants of these cottages in the 1950s.

the south of Dawson Lane had disappeared for ever under the ROF. About the same time the old workings in Gravel Hole Wood were briefly reopened by A Monk & Co, who in 1937 extracted 3280 tons at a royalty of 9d. [4p] per ton. This was presumably made possible by the use of technology not available in the nineteenth century.

There is no record of any extraction during the war years although it is not clear whether this was due to none being carried out or to the fact that it was under some form of military control.

Extraction from Gravel Hole Wood was resumed in July 1948 by Thomas Williams & Co who between this date and April 1954 extracted over 100,000 tons of sand and gravel, paying a royalty of two shillings per ton. (Goodiers' interests had by now moved north to Clayton Hall, where evidence of workings can still be seen).

In the mid 1950s sand and gravel extraction from within William Farington's 'Demesne of Worden' finally came to an end after more than two centuries and the holes left by the workings were used for several years by Leyland Urban District Council as a refuse tip. The centre of the former wood, surrounded on three sides by fine mature trees from the nineteenth century landscaping, is now used as a practice ground by Leyland Golf Club.

It was only during the final stages of gathering material for this article that I realised that one of the features on the 1838 tithe map was still present when we played there as children. It is a narrow, steep-sided gully in the form of a 'pointing finger' running for about three quarters of the length of the gravel hole on its western side: (it was particularly useful for luring Indians in to be ambushed by the cavalry hiding in the surrounding bushes.) It is still there today; on a recent visit I noticed that it was being used for motor cycle scrambling. It could well date from the mid-eighteenth century and must be amongst the earliest surviving features of Leyland's industrial past.

References and notes

¹ Bolton, G L. 'A Stone in the Way'. *Lailand Chronicle* No 47, 2001.

² LRO DDF 32, 34, 37 and 42. Note: DDF 37 (1781 – 1796) has a few references to sand and gravel being obtained from Northbrook. This seems to have been a short lived source and of much less importance than Worden.

³ Note Conversions to decimal currency are rounded up, hence the apparent errors when multiplying.

⁴ LRO DDF 2070

⁵ LRO DDX 1852/2

⁶ LRO PR 2908/2/1

⁷ LRO DDF 2026

⁸ LRO DDF 2027

⁹ Darbshire, R D. 'Note on a deposit of Middle Pleistocene Gravel in the Worden - Hall Pits... Quarterly journal of the Geological Society, v. 30. 1874. pp 38 - 42. (Also has a description of Mary Hannah Farington's shell collection).

¹⁰ LRO DDF 2458 - 2471

¹¹ LRO DDF 2467

The diaries of Nowell Banister

By Edward Almond

Introduction

In the first week in August, seven members of Leyland Historical Society's Committee assembled in a derelict, soon to be demolished, building to sort out and pack the Society's archives with a view to moving them to a new home. Our storage space at our previous home in Prospect House had been vacated in February, 2007 and now we have been asked to move again as the premises we shared with the Model Railway Society are soon to become the site of more new housing.

Among the material were four diaries formerly the property of Nowell Banister, founder member and President of Leyland Historical Society. Mr Banister died in 1977 aged 87. The diaries form part of the Society's library and are catalogued under the number 181. As we glanced through them it occurred to several of the group that they could form the basis of an article for our *Lailand Chronicle*. The four volumes are hard-backed, commercially produced, diaries, with red covers, and deal with the years, 1913, 1920, 1921 and 1922

The first volume is entitled 'Home Diary for 1913' and inside it states: 'Home Diary and Ladies Note Book, printed and published by Boots the chemists'. Even without Nowell's entries the diary makes interesting reading and thrusts one into the world of ninety-five years ago: (pages from the diary are reproduced at the end of this article). As I read through the diary I am aware it is an account of social activity at a personal level. This is history – a slice of life, in Leyland, during the course of one year and before the events of the following year which are to create havoc in society and alter so many lives.

Before he begins his entries, Nowell lists his working hours;

Monday	8 am to 8 pm
Tuesday	8 am to 8.30 pm
Wednesday	8 am to 8.30 pm
Thursday	8 am to 12 noon
Friday	8 am to 9.30 pm
Saturday	8 am to 6 pm

The entry on 1 January:

Let the New Year in at Lizzie's. Retired at 1.30 pm. Rose 7.30 am ... 9.15 pm to 11.15 pm studied Deitics, also 2 hours further study during the day. Retired 11.30 pm. Decided to abstain from fish.

It is the start of a familiar pattern: Lizzie is his girlfriend and Nowell is avid for knowledge with the intention of bettering himself academically. He is meticulous in recording times of rising and retiring. The entry for 2 January reveals another major part of his life:

Visited Sunday School Scholars from 5.30 pm to 7 pm.

These three areas dominate the diary entries and it is these and several other areas I have identified which I propose to deal with one at a time.

Lizzie is only mentioned by that name and there is no indication of where she lives apart from Nowell accompanying her part way home along Golden Hill Lane. We neither know her age nor occupation; however, we can draw a picture of her from Nowell's comments. They must be close for on Thursday, 16 January he writes, 'Got signet ring from Lizzie.'

15 February (Ash Wednesday) is Lizzie's birthday: 'Sent Lizzie a birthday card.' The following day: 'Went down to Lizzie's and wrote her a letter for her birthday.'

On the Saturday, 8 February he writes:

At night had a walk with Lizzie to Preston. Got a silver hair brush with inscription on 'From Nowell to Lizzie'.

5 February: Got a book on Miracles. Trained from Preston to Farington back and walked home from Farington.

(Elsewhere it is recorded that the brush cost 10/6d).

Lizzie must have been of a slight build for on 4 March: 'Lizzie called at shop and was weighed 103lbs' [7 st 5 lb]. (On 8 August she was the same weight). She probably kept slim by walking to work and by having regular walks with Nowell during the weekend in the evenings and also by cycling.

Saturday, 12 April: After closing time went down to Lizzie's. Had a walk round Euxton with Lizzie.

Tuesday, 13 May: Went down to Lizzie's. Cycled with Lizzie to *South port*. Left our cycles at Churchtown and then walked on to *South port*. Had a walk about and then had one hour's sail on the Marine lake. Started off back from *South port* at 6.30 pm and arrived home at 7.55 pm. Stayed in for remainder of the night.

No doubt they were both tired!

Lizzie shares Nowell's religious commitment:

Sunday, 13 April: Went to Sunday School at St John's. Lizzie gave two prizes for her Sunday School scholars. After school had a walk with Lizzie and then to Eva's for tea. After tea went to Church and after Church a long walk.

Saturday 18 October: After closing time went down to Lizzie's. Cycled to Preston and got a book for Lizzie — a course of lessons on 'Christian Faith and Duty'.

Nowell is obviously very attentive to Lizzie and in June he becomes more affectionate in writing about her:

Thursday, 5 June: Had tea and after tea went down to Lizzie's. Had a long walk with darling Lizzie. Left her at about 10.30 pm. True love overruleth passion.

Tuesday 10 June: Went back to work at 6.30 pm. Afterwards went down to see my darling Lizzie.

Is it significant that on both days he had gone to the Swimming Baths in Preston?

Then on 21 October:

After closing time went down to see Lizzie and gave her some everlasting flowers as a token of my love.

Unfortunately he reverts back to 'Lizzie' for the rest of the diary but he still continues with his swimming.

In July, Nowell is studying and Lizzie helps out by copying notes. On the 21st:

Sent notes on English for Lizzie to copy out.

3 August: After dinner went to Sunday School. Stayed to tea at Lizzie's. After tea went to Church. Had a short walk and afterwards Lizzie wrote out notes and I got 45 mins at English.

A week later both are on their way to Ireland for a cycling holiday.

Sunday, 10 August:

Arrived in Larne about 12.30 noon. Found that the place we had written to was not suitable so had to find a fresh place which was better. After tea went to Larne Church.

Why is the place not suitable? I suspect it is shared accommodation and because of their religious beliefs they want single rooms. Whilst in Larne, Nowell purchases a silver bracelet for Lizzie and she buys him a silver pencil holder. Even though they arrive back at Fleetwood at 7.30 am on Sunday 17 August, they do not neglect their religious duty:

We arrived back in Leyland about 10.15 am after cycling from Preston. Stayed for breakfast with Lizzie. After dinner went to Sunday School. Had a walk and tea at Lizzie's. After tea went to Church. Finished the most enjoyable holiday we have had. On Tuesday, 26 August: Lizzie took my ring to have gold added and also pencil holder and her silver bracelet to have names engraved.

Studying is taking its toll on Nowell and he records on 13 October:

Had lesson on Algebra with Mr J R Woodley. Afterwards sat thinking if it was worth while going on with Mathematics etc.

He must have discussed this with Lizzie for on the 16th:

Received a new inspiration from Lizzie to go on. By early November his fears are returning: During the day got ½ hour study at Mathematics and wrote a pessimistic letter to Lizzie. After closing time Lizzie waiting for me at the shop. Took her part way home.

On 16 December, Nowell's twenty-fourth birthday, he writes:

Got a p.c. from Lizzie.

The rest of the day is spent working and studying and he only retires at 1.05 am. Lizzie has not forgotten his birthday entirely for on Saturday, 20 December:

After closing time cycled with Lizzie to Preston. Lizzie bought me a Swan Fountain pen for my birthday and I bought Lizzie an 'Autograph Album'.

As Christmas approaches Nowell studies every evening and between 16 December and Christmas Eve it is early morning before he retires. He receives a Christmas card from Lizzie on the 23rd and later that day: 'wrote a xmas card out to send to Lizzie.'

On Christmas Eve after closing time:

Lizzie met me at the shop and down to our house and had some Grape Juice and Mince Tarts. Let Christmas in at Lizzie's.

On Christmas Day he:

Attended Morning Service at the Parish Church with Owen and Frank. Preacher Rev Dr Barnes. Had dinner and went to Lizzie's. Owen, Frank and Jack went also. Had tea and after tea spent a most enjoyable evening with parlour games.

Boxing Day is celebrated by a visit:

after tea to Preston to the Empire. Not enjoyed very much.

New Year's Eve is a working day but in the evening:

went down to Lizzie's and then went to dance at St John's. Came home about 10.45 pm. Cycled home to let the New Year in and then went back to Lizzie's to let it in and let it in at Eva's from 1.30 am to 2.45 am. Penned a clock and the following verses in Lizzie's Autograph Album with new fountain pen that Lizzie bought.

What time is it?

*Time to do well
Time to live better
Give up that grudge
Answer that letter*

*Speak the kind word
To lighten a sorrow
Do the kind deed
You would leave till tomorrow.*

It is advice that Nowell tries to live by.

The third of the ten commandments asks that people remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. Throughout 1913 Noel observes this meticulously even whilst on holiday. He takes a Sunday School class at St John's in the afternoon and regularly goes to church in the evening. A typical Sunday is 26 January:

Rose 10 am. From 11.15 am to 12.45 am getting lesson ready. Went to S. School during the afternoon and after a walk with Lizzie. At night went to Church.

On Palm Sunday, 16 March, he records:

Rose 9.15 am. Had wash, breakfast and so on. From 10.30 am prepared S. School lesson. Had dinner then went to S. School and gave a lesson on 'Felix or The Danger of Delay'. After school came to our house to tea with Lizzie. After tea went to Church, a walk and called at our house. Started reading *Our Life after Death* by Rev A. Chambers. Retired 11.35 pm.

During the early part of the year he is studying for his Sunday School Examination and at the end of each week he records the hours spent studying.

W/E Saturday	15 March	Bible	4 hrs 20 min.
	22 March	Bible	8 hrs
	29 March	Bible	2 hrs 15 min
	5 April	Bible	4 hrs 20 min
	12 April	Bible	17 hrs 15 min
	9 April	Bible	11 hrs
	26 April	Bible	19 hrs 30 min
	3 May	Bible	5 hrs 30 min

On 28 April he:

sat for the Sunday School Teachers Examination Preliminary at the Vicarage with T Lazenby. Subjects: Acts XIII–XXVIII and Catechism.

17 June was a day of mixed emotions:

Rose 7 am. Had 30 mins study at English before going to work. Got rather a bad cold. During the evening the vicar came to tell me the result of the Sunday School Teachers Examination. Obtained a first class certificate – 65 marks in Scripture and 99 marks in Catechism out of a possible 100. Went down to tell Lizzie but in bed Read a ch. of Matt. Retired 9.45 pm

The certificate does not arrive until 18 November.

Nowell's diary reveals a dispute at St. John's Church:

20 April: After dinner went down to S. School. Only 2 scholars turned in out of 41 as a result of bother between a teacher and the superintendent. This narrow petty spirit among Christians to my mind does great harm to the Church perhaps more than those who attack it from outside.

On the following Tuesday he is determined to do something about the situation. After closing time:

Went to see the vicar re the uneasiness down at St. John's. He expressed his sympathy with me and hoped that after the little friction had got over, that I should continue to teach as that was the most important thing.

The dispute does not stop the annual Whit Procession.

Monday, 12 May: During the morning went to the vicar's to make final arrangements for Whitsuntide Treat. Lizzie assisted with cutting up during the morning. After dinner went down to StJohn's to take part in the procession, joined the Parish School at Stanning's and went to Hough Lane and to Worden. Lizzie's first time of walking with her class. Weather kept up splendidly and in spite of a little friction everything went off 1st class. Spent a most enjoyable day. Retired 11 pm.

On Trinity Sunday, 18 May, some progress is made to resolve difficulties:

Went to Church. Had a splendid sermon and the prayer from the *Accession Service for Unity* by the Rev F E Hutchinson – a much needed appeal for unity.

Nowell's application to study is outstanding. He is determined to improve himself academically and undertakes correspondence courses in a variety of subjects:

W/E 19 July English 13 hrs 45 min Mathematics 12 hrs 45 min

On 26 July, a massive 23 hrs 45 min is recorded for Mathematics and on 30 August it has increased to 25 hrs 15 min then up to 27 hrs 45 min on 13 Sept and a huge 31 hrs 30 min a week later! This is in conjunction with other subjects and working full time. It is hardly surprising he had doubts about continuing. It is bound to affect him for he records on 10 Dec:

Unable to study any further tonight. Could not concentrate my mind.

Being a true Christian, Nowell is concerned about the welfare of others and he records visits to friends and acquaintances:

10 May: Visited Mr Campbell out of Infirmary.

2 July: Visited S.S scholar who was sick.

6 July: Went to see A. Wood who was very ill.

On 26 September he is particularly concerned about Mary Pedder who has gone to the Infirmary with appendicitis and on 2 October he writes a letter to her whilst still at the infirmary. By 24 October Mary's condition has worsened:

After closing time got news that Mary, Will's sister, was taken worse and not likely to recover. Unable to do anything further that day.

Two days later on Sunday, 26 October:

Cycled to Runshaw twice to make arrangements about seeing Mary. At 11 pm cycled down to Preston Infirmary to see about Will's sister. Mary died 10.15 pm. Got back 1.15 am.

He attends Mary's funeral on 29 October:

Took a harp which Lizzie bought for Mary Pedder who was buried in Leyland Churchyard at 3 pm.

Although it is not stated, Nowell works for the Co-op in Chapel Brow which involves five full days and one half-day of work. On 20 March he records:

Got an advance to 30/- per week.

By 30 June he wants a further increase: 'made an application for an advance in wages.' Was this on account of purchasing extra clothing? For on the same day he goes to get measured for a new suit. His request for an advance was soon considered for on the following day:

Heard that I had got a 1/- raise with my application which started on 4 July.

He sends another application for an advance in wages on 15 December. The result?

17 December: Rose 7.35 am. During the day got 15 mins study at Algebra and 45 mins at English. Finished Xmas decorations at the shop. Got to know that I got the advance to 33/- per week.

How does he celebrate?

From 9 pm to 10 pm studied Arithmetic. From 10 pm to 12.30 am studied English. From 12.30 am to 1.00 am studied Elliott's notes. Read Matt. VI:21 to end.

There is time for recreation. Apart from his visits to Preston Swimming Baths and walks and cycle rides with Lizzie and friends, he visits the theatre and the cinema.

4 January: During the evening went to the Theatre Royal, Preston to see the *Quaker Girl* with Lizzie. Bought this diary. *Quaker Girl* not enjoyed Moral poor. Music not good Wit and humour poor.

His next entertainment is not until Good Friday, 21 March:

Went to Church with Lizzie at 10.30 am. Sermon 'Barabbas and Jews', Rev Dyer. After dinner went down to Lizzie's and had a walk until tea-time. After tea went to the Picture Palace.

After going round the Trough of Bowland on Easter Monday which he says was 'the nicest place I have seen in Lancashire', he has another visit to *Green Picture Palace*. Further visits are made in June and August but no mention of the programmes are recorded. A different kind of entertainment is the Pantomime *Mother Goose* in November: 'in aid of the Parish Church Roof Fund.'

Later that month:

29 November: After closing time went to our house with Lizzie to hear a gramophone.

Other evenings are spent attending meetings of the Naturalist Society in the old Grammar School with lectures on a variety of topics: 'Tidal Friction', 'Ancient Art and Crafts', 'St Columba', and 'Electric telegraph with Experiment'. There are also public meetings:

Monday, 10 February: In the evening went to a Liberal meeting in the Public Hall.

This is followed two days later by a meeting of the Unionists.

Monday, 17 February: Went to a crowded meeting in the Public Hall held under the auspices of The National Union of Women's Suffrage given by Rev F E Hutchinson.

Election for the Chorley division is held on Wednesday, 19 February.

A meeting of a different sort is attended in Preston on Tuesday, 6 May:

Got off to go and hear McFadden, the Physical Culture Expert's lecture. Went on 7.24 pm train with Lizzie. First lecture to both sexes with a series of strong feats and poses by McFadden and two ladies. Stayed afterwards to the special lecture for men which was on sexual subjects.

In addition to attending lectures Nowell also gives them:

23 January	Man's Natural Diet to the Naturalist Society
2 March	Christianity and Suffering at Eaves Lane Wesleyan, Chorley
1 June	The above lecture to Unionist Methodist, Railway St, Chorley
5 October	Abraham at United Methodist
27 November	Natural Food of Man at Primitive Methodist Fellowship Club

In spite of his interest in diet and health related matters he is not free from illness. In July he is suffering with pain.

21 July: Rheumatism felt a little in heels.

25 July: Attended to rheumatism in feet which was rather bad.

26 July: Rheumatism very bad in ankles.

27 July: Rheumatism much better, bathed feet and rubbed with olive oil.

28 July: Rheumatism much better.

From the diary we learn a little of local events and happenings:

16 January: Rev Leyland Baldwin died.

A memorial service is held for him on 19 January by Rev E G Marshall. The burial takes place on 22 January.

The May Festival is held on Thursday, 29 May and Saturday, 31 May.

29 May: Leyland May Festival. Watched the procession during the afternoon and the Balloon ascent, saw the balloonist after he had come out of the pit in which he dropped. Afterwards went down to Lizzie's and spent together an enjoyable evening on the fairground.

31 May: After closing time went down to Lizzie's and went together on the fairground to see the fireworks.

The King (George V) visits Preston and Chorley in July and Nowell records the event.

Tuesday, 8 July: Holiday for the Royal visit to Preston. Started off with Lizzie on our bicycles at 12.30 pm. Waited on Fishergate Hill and there saw the King and Queen. Saw them again in Church St. Afterwards cycled down the route they came around Longton. Had tea at Lizzie's and after tea cycled to Chorley to see what preparations they were making for the Royal visit.

Thursday, 10 July: After tea went to see some absent scholars and then went down to Lizzie's. Cycled to Chorley to see decorations for the King's visit.

In February he goes to a Church sermon by the Rev F Hutchinson on the death of Captain Scott and his party. (Although Scott died circa 29 March, 1912, his body was not found and recovered until 12 November 1912).

The diary is interspersed with spiritual and religious phrases and thoughts which probably reflect his feelings at those times:

There is nothing in the world so beautiful as religion. Let the future be dedicated to Thee and to Thy service.

O God, be thou my help.

O God, my faith is weak, give me thy strength.

Whilst some may not agree or feel uneasy with these statements one cannot deny that Nowell's faith is strong and that he truly tried to live that faith in his everyday life as expressed in his diary.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this diary and when I told my aunt, Winifred Jolly, aged 97, a lifelong resident of Leyland, she could remember the family and provided background information of events not contained within the diary. She said, 'I can remember events of long past events but I cannot remember events from yesterday.' Oral and written accounts of everyday happenings are valuable tools in understanding our past. Although Nowell Banister is better known for his writings and work on local history I was surprised to find no mention of the study of History.

A few days after completing this article I came across the name, *Mary Pedder*, whilst reading St Andrew's Parish Magazine for April 1892. Mary had entered a competition, set by the Rev Leyland Baldwin, regarding 'the moral lessons to be learned from a black lead pencil' which had been the children's address on the last Sunday in March. The vicar commented on each child's entry. For Mary he wrote: 'This is in some respects the best, but an ill-spelt word mars it.' In spite of this she was awarded the second prize.

Nowell probably wrote other diaries which are not part of the Society's collection. If anyone knows of their whereabouts please contact any committee member. Observations of the war years would help considerably in understanding the trials and tribulations of that period. It is known that Nowell served in the armed forces during World War I.

19—SUNDAY (Septuagesima)—19-346

Rose 9. 20. ^{Sup rises 7.58 Sun sets 4.24.} Wrote to ~~Dr~~ Dr R. H. Perkins M.D. & J. A. Olley for diet testimony. Went to J. H. Woodley. Afternoon Mr. Morris took the class subject "Confirmation". Evening went to Church. Teacher Rev E. G. Appaishall memorial women sermon for the Rev D. Bayland Baldwin. Retired 11. 30 p.m.

20—MONDAY—20-345

Rose 7. 25. During the evening went to Dr. Fraser with medical tickets, in connection with the National Insurance. Also sold him two tickets for concert in aid of the Church of England Waifs & Strays. Got a certificate for lecture on "Diet which certified that I was in excellent physical condition". From 10. 30 p.m. to 12. 30 a.m. writing at paper for Naturalists Society paid 3/6 for physical examination. Retired 12. 40

21—TUESDAY—21-344

Rose 7. 20. Afternoon 2 1/4 hours preparing charts for lecture. Received pamphlets & book numbers of the "Herald of the Golden Age" for lecture. Also got tickets to sell for drama in aid of Church roof. From 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. preparing paper on National Diet of Man. Retired 3. 15 a.m.

22—WEDNESDAY—22-343

○ Full Moon 3.40 p.m. Accession of King Edward VII—1901.

Rose 7. 25. During the day 3 hours preparing charts & lecture. From 9 p.m. to 11. 45 p.m. writing at paper to be given on the 23rd finished at 11. 45 p.m.

Rev L. Baldwin buried

Retired 12 p.m.

8

Nowell Banister's entres for 19 to 22 January 1913

182 Recept S' Lozdog W

M^{ME}. GIRARD'S SPECIALITIES

15 16 17

18 19 20

Fig.	Price
15	Halle Extrait, for the Hair 1/6
16	Dental Cream 1/6
17	Eau de Toilette 2/6 and 4/6
18	Eye Shampoo 1/6
19	Sublime Hair Wash 2/6
20	Glycerine, Cucumber and Honey Cream 1/6 and 1/8

SUPPLIED ONLY BY *Boots* Cash Chemists.
Orders by Post to Boots Postal Department, Nottingham.

For The Bath Room

21 22 23

24 25

Fig.	Price
21	Girard's Bath Crystals, per box 1/8 and 2/6
22	Girard's Bath Powder, per box 1/6
23	Bathroom Soap, per box 1/6
24	Bathroom Soap Brushes, 1/11 and 2/11
25	Bathroom Soap Brushes, 1/11 and 2/11

SUPPLIED ONLY BY *Boots* Cash Chemists.
Orders by Post to Boots Postal Department, Nottingham.

PERFUME SPRAYS ETC

55 56 57

58 59 60

61 62

Fig.	Price
55	Perfume Spray 5/6
56	Pump Spray 2/6
57	Pump Spray 4/6
58	Smelling Salts Bottle 2/11
59	Perfume Spray 4/6
60	Smelling Salts Bottle 1/11
61	Perfume Spray 2/11
62	Perfume Spray 4/11

A LARGE VARIETY OF OTHER PATTERNS ALWAYS IN STOCK:

Pump Sprays	each 1/11, 2/11, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6
Sprays, with bellows	1/6, 1/11, 2/6, 3/6, 4/11
Smelling Salts Bottles	6/11, 10/11, 1/6, 1/3, 1/6

Hair Preparations

62a 66 64

65 67

Fig.	Price (post paid)
62a	Concrete 1/11
63	Girard's Brillantine 1/6
64	Tonair Brillantine 9d.
65	Girard's Eau de Quinine 1/8 and 2/6
66	Girard's Violette Oil 1/6
67	Tonair, 1/2 and 2/6

SUPPLIED ONLY BY *Boots* Cash Chemists.
Orders by Post to Boots Postal Department, Nottingham.

Make a Note of

Name.....
 Address.....
 Size of Hat..... Size of Collar.....
 Size of Gloves..... Size of Shoes.....
 No. of Watch..... No. of Season Ticket.....
 No. of Bicycle..... No. of Insurance Policy.....
 Height..... Weight.....

LIGHTING-UP TABLE.

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
JAN.	4 59 5	7 5	17 5	29 5	41
FEB.	5 46 5	59 6	12 6	24 6	
MAR.	6 37 6	49 7	17 14 7	25	
APR.	7 31 7	41 7	53 8	4 8	16
MAY	8 20 8	30 8	42 8	51 9	1
JUNE	9 5 9	11 9	16 9	19 9	18
JULY	9 18 9	16 9	10 9	2 8	53
AUG.	8 47 8	36 8	23 8	9 7	53
SEPT.	7 46 7	31 7	15 6	59 6	44
OCT.	6 39 6	22 6	7 5	52 5	39
NOV.	5 35 5	21 5	10 5	2 4	54
DEC.	4 53 4	50 4	49 4	51 4	56

The above times are approximately one hour after sunset and lamps should be kept lit until one hour before sunrise. The times apply to London and allowance should be made as follows:—For each degree west of Greenwich the time is four minutes later or four minutes earlier for each degree east of Greenwich

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The sums required for the payment of Old Age Pensions are provided by Parliament. Men and women are alike entitled to receive pensions, married persons as well as single.

The statutory conditions for the receipt of an old age pension are as follows:—

- (1). The person must have attained the age of seventy.
- (2). The person must satisfy the pension authorities that for at least twenty years up to the date of receipt of any sum on account of a pension, he has been a British subject, and has had his residence, as defined by regulations under the Old Age Pensions Act 1908, in the United Kingdom.
- (3). The person must satisfy the pension authorities that his yearly means as calculated under the aforesaid Act do not exceed £31 10s. (thirty-one pounds ten shillings).

Application forms and any further information is procurable at any post office in the United Kingdom.

THE A.B.C. OF HEALTH.

As soon as you are up, shake blanket and sheet, Better be without shoes than sit with damp feet. Children if healthy are active, sit still, Damp beds and damp clothes will both make you ill. Eat slowly, and always chew your food well, Freshen the air in the house where you dwell. Garments must never be worn too tight. Homes should be cheerful, and airy and light. If you wish to keep well, as you do I've no doubt, Just open all the windows before you go out. Keep all the dark corners most carefully clean, Let dust on the furniture never be seen. Much illness is caused by the lack of fresh air, Now to ventilate properly must be your care. Old rubbish and rags must be burnt and not kept, People should see that their floors are well swept, Quick movements in children are healthy and right, Remember the young cannot thrive without light. See that the cistern is clean to the brim, Take care that your dress in the morning is trim. Use your nose to find out if there be a bad drain, Very sad are the fevers that come in its train. Walk as much as you can without over-fatigue, Xerxes could walk full many a league. Your health is your wealth which your wisdom must keep, Zeal will help a good cause and the good you will reap.

Published by the Ladies Sanitary Association.

OBSTETRICAL TABLE.

Jan.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
Feb.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	
Mar.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
Apr.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
May	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
June	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
July	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
Aug.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
Sept.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
Oct.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
Nov.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
Dec.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

INFANTS' AILMENTS.

QUINSY.—There is considerable fever and constitutional disturbance with great prostration, delirium, soreness and dryness of the throat, with pain on swallowing. One or both tonsils may be affected, becoming enlarged, firm, dusky red, and puffy. There is much swelling of adjacent parts. The glands of the neck are enlarged, the lower jaw fixed so that the mouth cannot be opened.

RICKETS.—Irritability, restlessness, sleeplessness, profuse sweating of head and neck, particularly when the child is asleep. Nutrition is much impaired, and digestive disturbances prominent. There is slight fever. The gait is feeble and unsteady. There is a general soreness of the body, which is so marked that the child cries when moved. The skin is pale, the tissues soft and flabby; the head looks large, and the "openings" remain for a long time. Teething is late. The abdomen is prominent, and when the child begins to walk the legs become bowed, and knock-knees develop. The child is often pigeon-breasted.

SCARLET FEVER (OR SCARLATINA).—Throat almost always affected, being very red and swollen. Rash comes out on second day as small red spots, which quickly spread until the whole skin becomes scarlet. Fever slowly

abates and in a week should have entirely disappeared, when peeling of the skin commences.

TONSILLITIS.—Begins with aching pains in the limbs and back, and shivering. The temperature may rise to 103°. Sore throat and difficulty in swallowing are early symptoms. The tonsils are swollen, the glands in the neck enlarged, the tongue furred, and the breath heavy and foul. The pulse and respiration are accelerated. The voice has a nasal twang. There is more or less prostration of strength.

Whooping Cough.—Commences as an ordinary cold, or respiratory catarrh, the cough gradually becoming morbidly pronounced and convulsive, until the characteristic "whoop" is developed. The paroxysms of coughing are followed by vomiting. The face becomes swollen and congested during each attack, while the veins become spasmodic cough and whoop have ceased for 2 weeks.

WORMS.—Symptoms of the presence of worms are most prominent in nervous children, and take the form of restlessness, irritability, picking of the nose, grinding of the teeth, twitchings, or convulsions.

HINTS TO DOG OWNERS.

REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETORS OF SHERLEY'S WELL-KNOWN DOG MEDICINES.

The dog is naturally a hardy, healthy animal, and if properly fed and exercised, generally goes through life without much trouble or suffering, and lives to a good age—12, 16 years or even longer.

EXERCISE.—To keep a dog in health, and especially to keep him free from eczema and other skin troubles (except mange and ringworm which are due to contagion) he must be regularly exercised.

Dogs in London and other large towns are often better exercised than those kept in the country as the latter are frequently confined to a garden and are not walked out regularly. The best times to give exercise are in the morning before the principal meal, and again before the evening meal. A dog should likewise be given a run a few minutes after eating, and, if a house dog, again at night before going to bed.

Walking, with an occasional gallop, is the best exercise to give; hard exercise, such as following a bicycle, motor, or carriage is not good for dogs, and for dogs used for breeding it is

positively injurious. Exercise should be regular but not over tiring.

FEEDING.—As a rule a dog is more hungry and enjoys its food better at mid-day, and as this is a convenient time to feed house dogs the principal meal should then be given, and may consist of meat, bread, and vegetables, in equal parts. The second meal should be given about 7 or 8 o'clock in evening, and should consist of half or one small dog biscuit. When the dog refuses a hard biscuit, a bone should be given two or three times a week.

HOUSE MANNERS.—An unclean dog about the house is a nuisance to everybody, but it is seldom the dog's fault, being as a rule the result of bad training, which, however, with patience and perseverance it is never too late to correct. All house dogs should be put out five or six times a day, and always the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night, besides immediately after eating.

WASHING.—All dogs are better for being regularly washed, and this should be done every week during the summer, and every two or three weeks in the winter, except when the dog is old or very delicate.

Approximate Time Taken in the Transmission of Correspondence from London to places abroad.

Name of Place	Days	Hours	Name of Place	Days	Hours
Adelaide	30	—	Lucerne	—	22
Aden	10	—	Lyons	—	20
Aix-les-Bains	20	—	Madeira	—	16
Alexandria	4 6	—	Madras	—	1 18
Algiers	2	5	Madrid	—	1
Amsterdam	—	12	Malta	—	31
Antwerp	—	12	Manila	—	1 14
Ascension	14	—	Marseilles	—	1
Athens	4	—	Mauritius	—	27-33
Auckland (via Suez)	37	—	Nevfouland	—	9
Baden-Baden	—	21	Mexico	—	12
Bale	—	20	Milan	—	1 4
Berlin	—	13	Mombasa	—	20
Barcelona	—	12	Monte Video	—	21
Batavia	—	25	Montreal	—	8
Bombay	—	15	Munich	—	3 11
Bordeaux	—	2	Naples	—	2 5
Bergrade	—	2	Newfoundland	—	7 8
Bergen	—	2	Nice	—	1 9
Bermuda (via New York)	13	—	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	—	7 21
Berne	—	1	Odessa	—	2 9
Beyrout	—	7-10	Oporto	—	2 3
Blairitz	—	1	Palermo	—	2 22
Bloemfontein	—	19	Paris	—	— 10
Bombay	—	14	Pernambuco	—	13
Bordeaux	—	21	Perth (West Australia)	—	26
Boston, U.S.A.	—	8	Pietermaritzburg	—	20
Bremen	—	2 13	Port Said	—	5-7
Brindisi	—	2	Pretoria	—	19
Brisbane	—	33	Quebec	—	8
Brussels	—	2 15	Rio Janeiro	—	17
Bucharest	—	1 18	Rome	—	2
Budapest	—	22	Rotterdam	—	— 10
Buenos Ayres	—	5-7	St. Helena	—	17
Calabar	—	20	St. Louis, U.S.A.	—	9 1
Calcutta	—	16	St. Lucia (West Indies)	—	15
Cape Coast Castle	—	16	St. Petersburg	—	2 18
Cape Palmas	—	25	St. Vincent (West Indies)	—	14
Cape Town	—	17	San Francisco	—	12
Chicago	—	8	Shanghai (via Vancouver)	—	31
Christiania	—	2 10	Sierra Leone	—	12
Cologne	—	— 14	Singapore	—	22
Colombo	—	16	Smyrna	—	6
Congo	—	20	Stockholm	—	2
Constantinople	—	3 18	Suez	—	5-7
Copenhagen	—	12	Sydney	—	32
Cyprus	—	7	Tanger	—	4 5
Dresden	—	1 1	Teneriffe	—	5-9
Florence	—	1 17	Tokio (via Vancouver)	—	26
Frankfort-on-Main	—	20	Trinidad	—	14
Geneva	—	— 23	Valparaiso (via Andes)	—	38
Genoa	—	1 14	Vancouver	—	13
Gibraltar	—	3 22	Venice	—	1 11
Grand Canary	—	5-10	Vienna	—	1 1
Hague, The	—	10	Vladivostok	—	17
Hamburg	—	21	Washington	—	8
Havana	—	12	Wellington (via Suez)	—	39
Hobart	—	32	Winnipeg	—	11
Hong Kong (via Suez)	—	27-30	Yokohama (via Vancouver)	—	26
Jamaica (via Bristol)	—	15	Zanzibar	—	22
Johannesburg	—	19	Zurich	—	— 2
Lagos	—	17			
Lisbon	—	2 4			

Farington's continuing connection with Henry VIII

By Joan Langford



KING HENRY VIII

The original 1537 portrait by German artist Hans Holbein was painted as a mural on a wall at the palace of Whitehall but the palace subsequently burnt down in 1698 and the mural destroyed

Henry VIII was the most formidable and famous King ever to sit on the English throne. His achievements were immense; he carried out sweeping political and religious changes; was one of the main builders of the English navy; and made England a great power. Today he is popularly remembered for his six wives and his visual image familiar to all of us through Holbein's famous portrait above.

Henry VIII came to the throne on 22 April 1509 (the day before St. George's Day) aged just seventeen years and ten months. In April 2009, the five hundredth anniversary of his accession will be celebrated in a number of ways throughout the country and the main event will take the form of a major exhibition at the British Library in London.

What is the connection between King Henry VIII, the British Library exhibition and Farington? Sir Henry Farington was a 'Knight of the Bodyguard' to Henry VIII and the exhibition is being sponsored by Mr Mark Pigott, the American Chairman of Paccar Inc, who now owns the former Leyland Motors 'empire' - known today as Leyland Trucks.

Sir Henry ffarington (1471 - 1551) ‘Squire of the King’s Body’

Various documents belonging to the ffarington family detail connections with British monarchs from the 13th century. Susan Maria ffarington’s history of her family gives an insight into Sir Henry’s appointments with both Henry VIII and his father Henry VII:

Now it was that c1499 Sir Henry ffarington became ‘Squire of the King’s Body’. We know this because a patent¹ given by Henry VII at Richmond for the Chief Stewardship of the Manors of Penwortham, Farington, Leyland, etc. describes him thus.

We are told they were 4 in number and ‘kept the door of the King’s Bedchamber’. This could not have been a necessity at the date of the patent though for the duties imposed upon him (as Chief Steward of the Manors) required his presence in the County. As Chief Steward he was able to take oaths of the tenants of the Manors that they were ‘retained’ by the King only and to wear no badge, cognisance or livery but the Red Rose. Offenders were to be committed to ward without bail until the King was certained of their names, etc.

The document has the Royal Sign Manual and the Privy Seal.

Henry VIII reigned 1509 – 1547

Henry was young, handsome and well educated and he had a great zest for life. Also, he inherited from his father a peaceful Kingdom and an overflowing treasury. Henry was the second son of his father and was not at first groomed for the throne but when his older brother Arthur died the plans for twelve years old Henry’s future changed totally. (Henry’s first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was the widow of Arthur and six years older than Henry).

When Henry VII died the Council (government) assembled to debate how the impressionable young King should be brought up – should it be in worldly knowledge or in pleasure and liberty, leaving the running of the country to his Council, in total contrast to the reign of his father? The resolution was ‘to bring him up in all pleasures, for otherwise he should grow too hard among his subjects as the King his father did.’

As a result the small group of intimates and personal attendants who made up the staff of his Privy Chamber organised his daily life, and both encouraged and accompanied him in jousting tournaments, hunting and revelry generally, and acted as contacts between the King and the formal machinery of the government, which Henry controlled yet never ran in detail.

As a young man Henry was good-looking and athletically built but, according to a Venetian observer, Guistiniani, by the end of his life Henry was so corpulent he could hardly walk. Hans Holbein’s 1537 portrait shows that the King (aged 44/45) was already quite portly. Only a few years later it took four Gentlemen of the Bedchamber and a block and tackle to hoist Henry into bed. His surviving suit of armour also bears testimony to the King’s increasing size over the years as it is clear that the back of it has been ‘let out’ several times.

Sir Henry ffarington in the Court of King Henry VIII

Susan Maria ffarington’s family history records that:

A similar patent (to that given by Henry VII c 1499) dated 1539 styles Sir Henry ‘Knight of our Body’. It also complains that parties in the Manor still wore their badges and not the Red Rose only.

This patent has the signature of Henry VIII.

¹ Patent (or letters patent) – an open document, usually from the Sovereign, to put on record some agreement or contract to authorise or command something to be done.

Sir Henry was 69 years old at this time and whether he was over zealous in his duty, magnified his office unduly, or had a great appetite for bickering, or found the tenants of the Manor very contumacious² we cannot say, but he seems to have lived a life of perpetual lawsuits on the King's behalf and on his own.

In Tudor days the Lancashire population was small enough for a gentleman to be acquainted with most other gentlemen in the county. As boys and young men many of them had met at Gray's Inn in London, where it was increasingly common for landowners to send their sons for a couple of years, to the Inns of Court – Gray's Inn was the favourite of Lancashire men – in order that they would be better able to carry out their duties as justices, and be armed against the all too common litigious neighbour.

Among the old papers of the ffarington family are some receipts which show that Sir Henry rented a house in London during the reign of Henry VIII. One reads: 'Received of Sir Henry ffarington Knyte ... of rent for his howse due to my Lorde ye Duke of Norfolk, ye fourth day of July ye xxxiii yere of ye Kynge Henry ve VIII'. Another reads: 'Received of Sir Henry ffarington Knyte for his howse and stabyll at Clerkenwell ye sixth day of Janieure ye xxxiii yere of Kynge HENRY ve VIII'.

Sadly there is no record of how often Sir Henry travelled to London or, more interestingly, how long the journey took. Travelling was not easy in 16th century England as the roads had been deteriorating ever since the Romans built them, and were worse than they had been for a thousand years, or would ever be again after the improvements introduced in the 17th century. It would seem though that the hardships of travelling did not deter Sir Henry, who is known to have been a keen horseman and who enjoyed hunting.

As has been shown, Henry VIII's Council was very happy to handle the affairs of state on the King's behalf whilst encouraging him to indulge himself in his 'sporting past-times and pleasures'. The King's carelessness and inattention to business gave the Council as a whole much greater freedom and opportunity to use their initiative and by 1515 a principal minister, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, emerged and stepped into the King's place in charge of day-to-day administration of the country.

Sir Henry ffarington - a King's Commissioner

The dissolution of the monasteries was one of the key features of the reign of Henry VIII, the monasteries being seen as cornerstones of Papal authority in England and Wales. By the mid 1530s Henry had spent a great deal of the considerable sum of money he had inherited from his father, and his Council reminded him of the considerable wealth held by the various 'religious houses' throughout the country. As a result, after the introduction of various pieces of legislation which ended the Pope's authority, the monasteries then became for focal point of the King's attack.

In March 1536 Parliament passed an Act which stated that any monastery with an income of less than £200 a year was to be dissolved and their property passed to the Crown. (300 came into this category). Their gold, silver and lead were taken by the Government and melted down and their land quickly rented out or auctioned locally. (*When the dissolution of the monasteries was resolved upon, Sir Henry ffarington was chosen as one of the Commissioners.*)

The King then turned his attention to the larger 'houses' and appointed Commissioners who were sent to all of these establishments throughout the country, with the instructions to 'leave these houses once they had spread some degree of fear in them'. The method used by the

² Contumacious - obstinately disobedient or rebellious

Commissioners to persuade each head of a religious house was to make a threat couched in terms of 'if you love the King.' Many succumbed. Lancashire was the strongest Catholic county in England and had numerous monasteries, priories and other religious houses, the largest being those at Furness, Whalley and Cockersands.

The King could do what he liked and the government's Commissioners 'went about their task with great energy'. By 1540 more than 800 monasteries in England had been dissolved, numerous protesters hanged and Henry's finances bolstered.

The King's minions

Some criticised the King for his excessive involvement in sporting activities, but others saw the chance to enjoy themselves in the King's company and at the King's expense, and supported him. This group of fit young men became known as his 'minions' (obsequious followers). Eventually, to 'regularise' the closeness to the King of many of the minions they were given the title of 'Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber'.

Wolsey was not happy with the Minion's favour with the King because he perceived them 'to be so intimate with the King that in the course of time they might oust him from government!' and in May 1519 he managed to have most of the minions expelled from court. No formal criminal charges were preferred against them – instead they were simply denounced for unbecoming conduct.

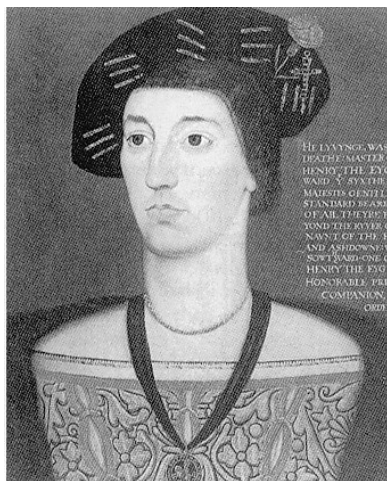
A Farington minion

One of Henry's minions was Sir Anthony Browne who, a lawyer and a playboy of the time, had a passion for sport and also had connections with Farington.

Sir Anthony was a 'supervisor' of Sir Henry's 1549 will, and, more pertinently, was the manipulative third husband of Sir Henry's granddaughter Joan. Joan was the daughter of Sir Henry's eldest son William, who had died many years before his father. Sir Henry's second son, Thomas, also pre-deceased his father. Therefore as Sir Henry wanted traditionally to leave his estate to a male heir, he made his will in favour of his third son Robert.

According to Susan Maria Farington Sir Anthony was also 'a most astute lawyer and in 1544 was made "Sergeant at Law"³. He was similarly appointed a few years later in Mary and Philip's reign.'

'The manipulative lawyer had other ideas about Sir Henry's will. Susan Maria Farington recorded:



29. Sir Anthony Browne, as one of the King's young minions. Later Cromwell denounced him as 'a vain old beau', but he survived to become an important conservative leader in the 1540s.

Sir Anthony was too eager for his step-daughter's interests and too cunning for the aged Knight. By what means he got such influence over Sir Henry we do not know.

Somehow Sir Anthony persuaded the King's 'Knight of the Bodyguard' to allow his will to be changed in favour of Joan, his own step-daughter – which resulted in the Farington family losing their ancient 'seat' in Farington to the Huddleston family. (Joan's daughter and heir, Dorothy, later married Sir Edmund Huddleston).

From that evil day to this Farington has been in alien hands and we have not had a possession in the township from which we take our name as the cradle of our race. We had it for about 370 years when it went away in 1575.

³ Serjeant at Law – Barrister of the highest rank.

Continuing Connections

At the beginning of this article I mentioned that the 2009 Exhibition in London is to be sponsored by the Chairman of Paccar Inc. – the current owners of Leyland Motors.

The years between the two World Wars saw Leyland Motors factories steadily expanding and a large part of that expansion was into Farington's green fields. The trend was to move more and more of the commercial vehicle manufacturing processes to the factory in Farington which became so big that 'the tail was beginning to wag the dog'. Then in 1938 a vast new engine shop was opened in Farington covering an area of 3.5 acres and equipped with more than £200,000 worth of new plant; six months later a re-organised and extended axle shop appeared alongside the engine shop; and at the same time a new 'secret' factory was being built for the production of military tanks (given the 'secret' name BX factory).

As the Motors works expanded so dramatically into Farington they became next-door-neighbours of the Farington family's former home – old Farington Hall – and actually demolished another of the family's homes (Higher Farington hall) in their expansion of the test track area (now to the east of Enterprise Way).

Towards the end of the twentieth century Leyland Motors experienced financial difficulties. In 1998 it was bought out by the world renowned American based company Paccar Inc. and is now known as Leyland Trucks. I understand that it is the Chairman of Paccar Inc., Mr. Mark Pigott, who will be sponsoring the Henry VIII Exhibition in London in 2009.

The British Library Exhibition

The Exhibition will open on 22 April 2009 to coincide precisely with the five hundredth Anniversary of Henry VIII's accession, and it is planned to run through the summer, closing on 6 September. The contents of the exhibition are not yet finalised but they will include a broad range of the most important artefacts of Henry's life time including his armour, canon, ship's tackle and, above all, the highlights of the extraordinarily rich, important and very often beautiful manuscripts of the British Library.

I have been told by a member of the British Library staff that among the exhibits will be:

some very exciting loans, including one of Henry VIII's love letters to Anne Boleyn which the Vatican has agreed to lend to an exhibition for the first time. Exhibits from the British Library's holdings will include Henry's own library: the books he chose, read and annotated, which will take visitors, as nothing else can, into the King's own mind. Denver Art Museum Colorado will lend the oldest surviving portrait of Henry, painted shortly before Prince Arthur died and the Worshipful Company of Surgeons has agreed to lend the Holbein Barber-Surgeons portrait of the King.

In addition, loans are coming from the National Portrait Gallery, The Royal Collection, The National Archives, Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, Lambeth Palace Library, The Bodleian, The Mary Rose Trust and Simancas Archives in Spain.

Indeed, an exhibition not to be missed!

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‘Where there’s a will....’

By Derek Wilkins

Probate records, wills and inventories, are rich sources of information for genealogists and local historians alike. Usually written shortly before death, wills tend to be intensely personal in nature and can provide intimate glimpses into the lives of our ancestors, not normally found in other classes of document.

Personal possessions were bequeathed to chosen relatives, beds and bedding being particularly valued: ‘Alice my wife to have the use of one good feather bed, bedstocks and bedding’ wrote Cuthbert Meadows, a yeoman of Longton in 1787, whilst Margaret Cliff of Penwortham (1803) was more specific: ‘the feather bed, mattress, one bolster and two striped pillows on which I lie’ were left to her nephew.

Treasured possessions were singled out for special mention. William Loxham, who farmed Little Moss Farm on Longmeanygate, was proud of one particular achievement: ‘To my son William the silver cup and certificate won by me at the Royal Agricultural Society’s Show held in Preston in 1885 for the best managed farm.’ He left to his daughter Jane: ‘The patchwork quilt made by my late wife with the words, “*Fear the Lord*”, worked on it.’

It is not uncommon to find expressions of concern over the prospects of leaving behind needy relatives to fend for themselves. In 1857 Jane Taylor, a Longton spinster, left to her sister the residue of her estate ‘with an anxious desire that my said sister will not turn a deaf ear to the wants of my afflicted brother Richard Taylor.’

In similar vein in 1787, Katharine Martin a widow, also of Longton, was very concerned over her handicapped son ‘as my son William is infirm and likely to remain so to the end of his life, my executors shall grant to him, and whoever attends him, whatever shall be convenient.’

John Miller, a yeoman of Much Hoole (1818), was more optimistic: ‘should it please God to restore my nephew John Watkinson to his proper right and reason then he shall have an equal share.’

James Simms, a carpenter of Longton (1808), was concerned about the future conduct of his children; they would be allowed to live with his widow providing they ‘shall conduct and behave themselves as children ought to do towards a parent.’

It is not only the wills themselves which are interesting. Before 1858 the responsibility for probate was an ecclesiastical function under the jurisdiction of the Archdeaconry courts, that for Lancashire, south of the Ribble, being at Chester. The normal procedure was that shortly after the death of the testator the appointed executors would take the will to a surrogate, usually a local clergyman, and in his presence swear an oath as to the validity of the will and the amount of the personal estate, i.e. that not consisting of freehold or real estate. The will would then be endorsed accordingly by the surrogate and sent to Chester for the formal grant of probate. At this stage a probate copy would be made and sent to the executors as authority for them to carry out the instructions of the testator. The original will was then folded into a parcel about 30cm by 4cm, wrapped in an outer wrapper on which was written brief details of the will and filed in the diocesan registry. It is these wills which are now in the Lancashire Record Office (LRO).

The probate clerks, centuries before our concern over the environment and shortage of landfill sites, were into recycling in a big way. They frequently re-used scrap paper for the wrappings and these can be as interesting as the wills themselves. They cover a wide variety of subjects and whilst many are concerned with the dry business of diocesan administration, some are edicts issued by central bodies such as the Privy Council, one example including instructions for prayers to be said for the illness afflicting King George III.

It is a template for a spoof decree accusing an individual of an alcohol related offence and threatening dire consequences if he does not confess and pay a fine.

It is believed by the archivists in the LRO to have originated in an eighteenth century gentleman's drinking club and the fact that it ended up in the diocesan registry at Chester perhaps speaks volumes for the conduct of the clergy at that time.

References

All wills are in LRO WCW except that of William Loxham which is in LRO WLa 1902

Acknowledgements

The kind permission of the County Archivist, Lancashire Record Office to reproduce the wrapper is greatly appreciated.



Fox Lane and the hen cabins

By David Harrison

In the early fifties, at the end of April or early in May, the swallows would return each year to the plots behind my home in Fox Lane and nest where they had always nested in one of the hen cabins there – a reminder, if I'd been sensitive to it, that life had a gentler pulse to it then that was measured by natural things. Memory preserves it now – the reality was taken years ago – but this was a world tucked away and one that existed independently almost of the wider scheme outside, a private place where rows of quiet gardens lay side by side, with orchards of apple and pear, where swathes of rhubarb, blackberry and raspberry grew, and hens foraged in rich grass. And always there, whenever you might look up, a huge but somehow kindly presence, the tower of the parish church and the west face of its clock gazing eternally towards Southport and the sea.

Bill and Bob

The hen cabins, where the swallows nested, and the orchard pens surrounding them, were held and occupied by the Harrisons, an ancient threesome as they seemed to me then, who lived in the house at Leyland Cross, the front part of which served as branch office of the Midland Bank and which, rather quaintly when I think of it now, still had a privet hedge against the Towngate footpath. The brothers, Bill and Bob Harrison, and their sister, all lived there together and running alongside the house, and connecting with Towngate, was a cobbled entry which led into a cobbled yard, known appropriately as 'Harrison's Yard'. On one side of this yard stood a row of brick and wooden buildings used as garages. It was from here that the brothers had once carried on trade or business in the style of 'Harrison Carriers', serving Leyland, or at least the 'Cross' end of town with the fetching and carrying by vehicle of goods that could not be conveniently handled otherwise. Bill and Bob were, to me, almost identical, an impression heightened perhaps because they each wore a sort of uniform. Starting at the top, a flat cap or 'nebbler' crowned the whole appearance, below this, always a collar and tie; importantly, the knot of the tie pulled right up against the throat. This last detail is one that has always fascinated me about old sepia photographs of workmen and tradesmen of years ago – shown on great building projects, perhaps constructing a dam, or maybe the first Mersey tunnel, stood to attention and all looking very serious – unfailingly, they all wore a collar and tie! In Bill and Bob's case, a waistcoat came next; though this was usually unseen because of the khaki coverall, or 'slop' coat: which might be thought of as a statutory requirement, worn as an outer garment, and which had brown buttons right up the front. The trousers were gathered at the ankles and were secured by a pair of bicycle clips and, lastly, shiny black boots. They had something we

miss very much these days, style!

I remember that I hardly ever saw Bill or Bob when either one did not have a galvanised bucket in his hand. A mania for tarring everything in sight siezed the brothers in the summer heat, when the hen cabins in the plots came in for attention and Bill and Bob came clanking down the ‘backs’ as a team, wearing black aprons over the khaki slops, wielding black buckets and long black tarring brushes: the swallows would go mad, wheeling and screaming around the hen cabins, the hens scuttled into the apple trees and the air was sweet with the smell of tar.

The bottom end of Harrison’s yard led into the dirt road known as ‘the backs’; this, after a tight corner at the rear of the Bay Horse and Lord’s butchers premises, straightened out and ran the full length of the backs of the houses on the north side of Fox Lane, next to the Cross. It closed where once there were iron railings against the cinder footpath that ran from Fox Lane to Cow Lane and which bordered the junior school grounds. This was a private roadway, and the entry to a largely unseen part of the old township which few passing down Fox Lane from the Cross would ever think existed on the other side of the terraced houses where stone steps led up to the front doors. But don’t be tempted to climb the mound at the edge of the Tesco car park and peer over to look for that little world now, because, Leyland’s baths and then, much later, the supermarket took it away..



'The backs', Fox Lane *Drawing by David Harrison*

Hen pen therapy

The hen pens were a delight; bowers of peace and quiet, particularly in spring and summertime. The hens, always rounded and glossy-looking birds, were given freedom to roam amongst the deep grass and the apple and pear trees that formed the pens and runs. Watching them scratch the earth and forage for worms, and listening to their soft murmur, was often a summer afternoon’s pastime for our neighbours, Mrs Jackson and her daughter Cissy. They lived three houses down from us on the north terrace, and they would carry kitchen chairs out into the backs and sit there for hours on end, side by side in the sun, just gazing into the pens. People suffering stress and nervous disorders might well benefit by a prescription of idle hours spent watching hens.

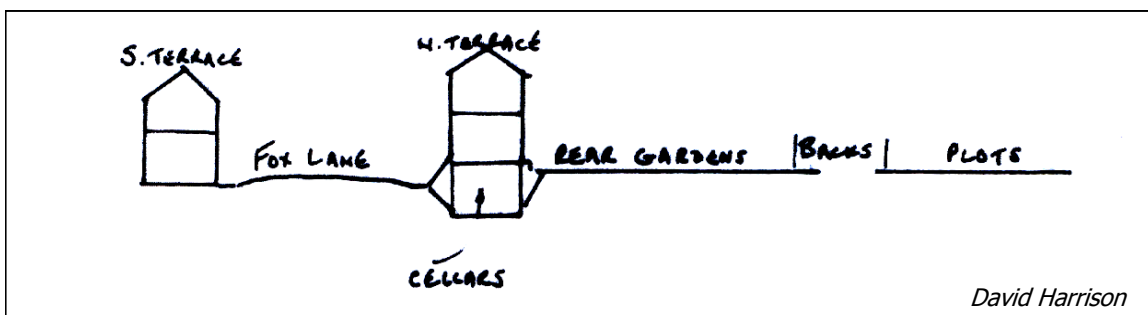
The north terrace of houses in Fox Lane, next to the Cross, is older than the facing terrace, much older, I understand, and, whilst the full detail is something I know little about, the houses on the north side, where I was brought up, or rather the cellar quarters, were used in connection with the cottage weaving industry; the cellars having once been occupied separately to the ground and first floors above, and by different families. There was every indication of this at number twenty-two where I lived, and where the cellar was divided into three rooms, or sections. The ‘front’ cellar, which was entered by a flight of stone steps leading down from the street level to the front cellar door; the ‘back’ cellar, from which a similar, though twisting, flight of steps led up and gave access

to the back of the house and the immediate run of garden which adjoined the backs; and, lastly, a side room, which I always knew as the ‘cellar pantry’ and which featured a large stone slab, mounted and set on upright stone supports, which mother often explained was used for curing meat which would then be kept for fairly long periods. Generally the obvious ‘domestic’ set-up and arrangement indicates that the cellars in these houses were occupied separately to the floors above, and, again, there is the further detail that the front cellar room also had a fireplace, with a flue leading from it to join the common flues and chimney which also served the other fireplaces in the house above. As for evidence of the weaving that was once carried on in these houses, my father was probably right when he explained that the machinery, the frames and members and such-like, had been rigged and fastened to the large beams that ran across the cellar from front to back and that the hand-made nails he spent so long digging out of the cellar woodwork were used for the purpose. I still have one of those nails – one of the familiar things acquired in childhood, which aren’t particularly treasured but which stay with you for a lifetime.

Most of the houses in the north terrace had four fireplaces, not including the one in the front cellar. Two of these were ‘downstairs’ – one in the front room (the parlour), which was seldom used, and the other in the back room, or living room. The two remaining ones served the bedrooms, front and back, but it was a rare event indeed for either bedroom fire to be lit – usually for a prolonged illness in winter requiring a lengthy stay in bed. When illness did come, and there was a fire lit in a bedroom fireplace, understanding neighbours seeing smoke issuing from a chimney pot that didn’t usually smoke would be round to see if they could possibly help.

A cross-section of the north terrace in Fox Lane, looking down the street from the Cross, east to west, would look something like the following diagram:

Although it may seem unlikely when viewed from the street, each one of the houses in the terrace



The north terrace, Fox Lane – Leyland Historical Society archive

differs in one aspect or another from the others; there are significant features in them all, such as full length landing windows, divided into smaller frames and often leaded, which allowed light into the staircase from the rear elevation; arrangement of first floor rooms, and so on.

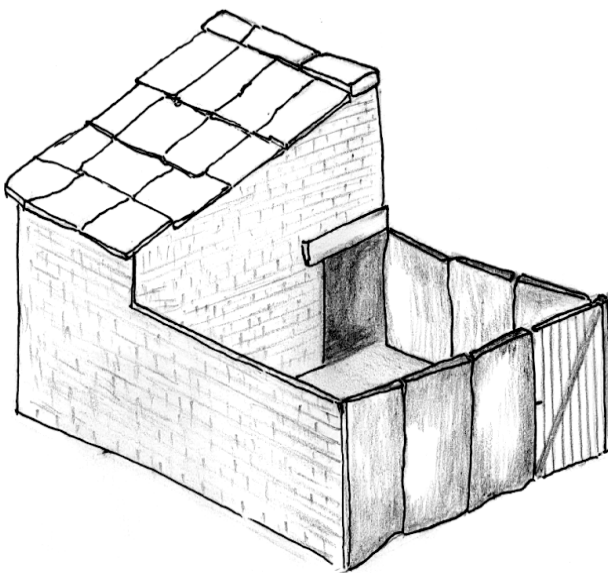
At the rear of the terrace, ranged up in neat rows and separated commonly by either a privet or hawthorn hedge, were gardens, twenty yards or so in length and usually made up of a run of lawn flanked by flower beds, with a flagged path up the middle, or to one side, which led to a gate giving access to the backs. The tradition or custom that existed in the locality was that each occupier had the responsibility of tending the hedge on his or her left, as one walked out of the back door, and so it was that I often had the rather more difficult job of trimming the hawthorn hedge between us and number twenty-four rather than the right-hand side which was a privet hedge, and so less trouble.

Pigs and Pears

Very tall, old pear trees grew in most of the gardens in the terrace and these very nicely broke up any sense of the gardens being ‘overly uniform’; they even created the illusion of one long orchard when viewed from the east or south end of the backs. Sadly, many were felled as they became too overgrown. My mother’s explanation was that in her grandparents’ time the fruit from these old fruit trees, apart from providing for the occupants of the terrace, was picked and sold in order to pay rates and other outgoings on the properties.

These pear trees yielded a surprising quantity of fruit and then, as the autumn drew on and the fruit at the tops of the trees in the garden next to us ripened, fermenting in the sun, the wasps would come and make holes in it followed by the starlings to take their fill, perching in the top branches, intoxicated, and warbling away, their throat feathers glittering in the sun.

At the end of several of these gardens were the remains of structures that had originally been pig sties, which fifty-odd years ago were still in a good state of preservation and easily recognisable as sties. One



*Flagged walled pig cote – 20 Fox Lane
Drawing by David Harrison*

such structure stood at the end of the garden next to us, at number twenty: with an opening in the side for the pigs to enter, this sty was built of brick, with the roof and the outer pen and its walls being constructed of stone flags. Once more, I rely on my mother’s recollection and information, and am told that the custom was for the pig killer to be called to carry out his grizzly business at the back end of the year, then for the carcass to be properly cut up, the meat cured and then stored on the large stone flag in the cellar pantry I mentioned earlier, thus providing food for several months to come. I cannot think of this without my mind going back to one of the early chapters of Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*, where Jude is scorned by his wife, Arabella, for his lack of skill and his clumsiness in making a mess of things in trying to kill the family pig

and ruining the meat in the process. Arabella knew all about how it should be done, her father had taught her.

In the familiar names of several of its places and streets, there is an indication of what lies beneath Leyland: *Sandy Lane*, *Water Street*, *Well-field*, all point to underlying layers of sand and

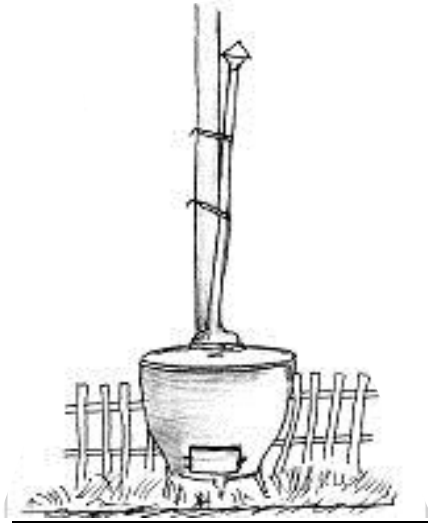
clay, and the likelihood of associated springs and issues. I have nothing more to support this than the memory of an old hand-worked hollow coping stone which for as long as I can remember was stuffed with soil and planted with flowers in the garden at number twenty-two. I was given to understand this once served the purpose of a small well head, and was told that long ago a spring ran beneath the gardens for the whole length of the north terrace in Fox Lane, and that each household could tap into this for a supply of water in the days long before a municipal service became available. That was all there was to hint of a water course running beneath the gardens – just an old coping stone; except perhaps the story I heard thirty-odd years ago now, that Mrs Withnell, who lived at number 46 (or 48) Fox Lane, was working in her garden when suddenly the ground near her gave way, and it was thought that the subsidence was caused by the presence of an underground spring.

Co-extensive with the backs, on the other side, was a strip of land divided into sections (mostly of unequal size) known as the ‘plots’. This area of land was, I believe, owned by the trustees of a long-established family trust based in Preston and known as the Osbaldeston trust, but from odd comments picked up from my parents from time to time over the years, the management and administration of the trust often went neglected, and the rents were often uncollected for years. Perhaps this should not have been surprising because most of the plots were not taken and cultivated by the owners of the houses in the terrace, but rather by ‘outsiders’, non-residents. Plot sizes often changed quite randomly according to the whim and agreement of the people using them. The same applied to actual occupation of the plots, and so tracing the name and address of whoever might at any time be responsible for payment of the rent must have been a nightmare for the agent. The Osbaldeston trust must have owned the ground over which the ‘backs’ ran too because the wayleave payment of something like six shillings for the year was paid to the same people. The largest plots were taken up by the hen pens and the cabins and the orchards, but others were used for the growing of flowers, vegetables, fruit bushes, rhubarb, strawberries, marrows, and, unusually in one case, tobacco. In full summer, with growth at its height, those beds of bounty were a magnificent sight and fairly hummed with insects and the scent of herbs. It was Bob Crook who grew the tobacco in one of the plots he had taken, but our next door neighbour, Tom (otherwise known as ‘Den’) Robinson, had a great expertise in being able to promote colossal growth out of rhubarb and, as a child, I could easily disappear into his forest of the stuff which must have grown to almost five feet in height.

Bob and Polly

Bob Crook and his wife, Polly, once kept the ice cream shop in Towngate which stood in the middle of the row of small cottages opposite the Co-op and the entrance to the old council yard. You had to step down into the shop from the street through a low door, and this triggered the strident clanging of a bell which would jarringly tell Bob or Polly that service was required in the front. The shop had a lot of ‘whiteness’ about it and it smelled of ice cream and toffees, and on summer Sundays, when the sun shone and everyone seemed to go walking on the park, business was brisk to say the least. The ice cream was wonderful stuff, and it was said it was made to a secret recipe that was known only to successive owners of the business. Bob wore much the same clothes as the Harrison brothers, except that a battered brown trilby replaced the ‘nebber’ and shoes replaced the shiny boots.

When Bob and Polly retired, in about 1952, they brought their corgi, Meg, with them and came to live opposite us in the south terrace in Fox Lane, and Bob acquired tenure in three of the plots behind us on the north side. One was at the top of the backs where he grew vegetables and kept an old Austin 12 in a converted wooden hen cabin that served as a garage, with a carpet rolled around a pole that served as a door; a second was lower down where he kept hens and grew tobacco (which he hung in the hen cabin for curing), and lastly, the very end plot at the bottom of the backs, next to the cinder footpath, where he had a flock of geese.



*Beetroot boiler
Drawing by David Harrison*

Bob's Austin 12 was usually 'laid up' for the winter months behind the carpet door in the old hen cabin, and only resuscitated when the warmer weather came in the spring.

The radiator always leaked, and I believe the remedy for this was a sort of ceremony in which Bob would get the engine started, and the water hot, and then pour egg white into the radiator, which would cook as it found and then blocked the holes. Other memories are of the ancient pot-bellied beetroot boiler which stood near the garage, glowing and bubbling away in the autumn dusk, white smoke issuing from its stovepipe chimney which Bob had lashed to a telegraph pole with wire; that, and being allowed to collect the eggs from his hens, feeling them softly peck the back of my hand as I felt beneath them for the eggs.

Living on the south terrace presented Bob with a little difficulty in getting to his plots at the back of us on the north side because this meant a walk up to the Cross and then down

Harrison's yard (or Cow Lane when an alternative route into the backs was opened up by the Army cadet hut). My mother provided the answer – Bob could simply take a short cut by walking across the street, down through our cellar, up to the back garden, and he was working at his plots in next to no time. It became a familiar sight to see Bob suddenly appear in our back garden, trilby jammed on his head, pipe between his teeth, and a galvanised bucket of provender in his hand for the hens. He used his own tobacco, mixed with a proprietary brand of twist and apple, and the result was a fragrance unlike any other which used to linger and hang about our cellar like perfume.

Certain words put together, phrases that endure, linger always with us and constantly occur.

Scott Fitzgerald wrote this, the last line of *The Great Gatsby* :

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.



'Bob could simply take a short cut by walking across the street ...' The cellar at No. 22 Fox Lane

Did you know my great-grandfather on my mother's mother's side?

By Peter Houghton

We come now to part three. We began this search with the Houghtons from Euxton to Clayton and Standish, then last year we went further afield with the Hindle and West families back to the start of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and their lives working on the Wigan flight of locks, so, where to this year? How about somewhere even more east.

In case you missed the first two episodes here are the five main websites to get information on your relatives, some are not complete and some you have to pay for.

1. <http://www.1901censusonline.com>

This was the first site I encountered as this is the famous website that crashed on its first day of being available. It is the government site that includes the complete 1901 census, and is the latest available at present: the information is only released after one hundred years, the 1911 being due in three years time. Most users use their credit or debit cards to pay for viewing images or transcripts – £5.00 for 500 credits which last for seven days. If you do not own a credit or debit card you can buy 1901 census vouchers.

2. <http://www.familysearch.org/>

The site is as it says 'the largest collection of free family history, family tree and genealogy records in the world' and is maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). It is their belief that if you become a member of their faith so do all your ancestors; this makes their interest in family history seem more logical. The free site contains the collection of information from parish records around the world, together with the 1881 census from the United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

3. <http://www.findmypast.com/home.jsp>

This is the government site for the births, marriages and deaths from the start of registration in September 1837 up to the present day. It also includes the complete 1861 and 1891 censuses.

4. <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

This website, whilst not as complete as No. 3, is a *free* site for the births, marriages and deaths from the start of registration in September 1837 up to around the 1920s.

5. <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

If you are serious about this hobby, on this site you can pay £9.95 per month for the full list of censuses from the first in 1841 up to and including the 1901 census (seven in total). The site also includes the free births, marriages and deaths site.

The Whole Story: Part Three - The Goodrich dynasty

We pick up the story with my grandparents John William Hindle who married Beatrice Sarah Goodrich, this time though it's the turn of the Goodrich family. Beatrice was the sixth child of John Goodrich and Sarah Jane Hastings who lived out their last years with my grandparents in Chorley. It is one of those things with family history where you would love to talk to some long deceased relative and ask them about their life and in the case of John and Sarah Jane I think they would have both be very interesting to chat to.

Administration County *Lancashire* The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the
 Civil Parish of *Chorley* Ecclesiastical Parish of *St Lawrence* County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of *Chorley* Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District of *Chorley* Rural District of *Chorley* Parliamentary Borough or Division of *North Pennine* Town of *Chorley*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Number of Houses	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Working at Home	WHERE BORN						
12 Back Mount	1		John Goodrich	Head	46	Shipwright	None		At Sea (British Subject)						
			Sarah	Wife	38				Norfolk, Kings Lynn						
			Lewis	Son	13	Carder in Cotton Mill			Pembroke, Milford Haven						
			Ethel	Daughter	12	Half time - Cotton Weaver			Cheshire, Halton						
			Alfred	Son	11				Cheshire, Halton						
			Selma	Daughter	8				Lancashire, Liverpool						
			Beatrice	Daughter	5				Lancashire, Blackburn						
			John	Son	1				Lancashire, Blackburn						
			Grace	Daughter	7 mths				Lancashire, Chorley						

Extract from 1901 Census above and deciphered in part below

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Where Born
John Goodrich	Head	46	Shipwright	At Sea (British Subject)
Sarah Goodrich	Wife	38		Norfolk, Kings Lynn
Lewis Goodrich	Son	13	Carder in Cotton Mill	Pembroke, Milford Haven
Ethel Goodrich	Daughter	12	Half time - Cotton Weaver	Cheshire, Halton
Alfred Goodrich	Son	11		Cheshire, Halton
Selma Goodrich	Daughter	8		Lancashire, Liverpool
Beatrice Goodrich	Daughter	5		Lancashire, Blackburn
John Goodrich	Son	1		Lancashire, Blackburn
Grace Goodrich	Daughter	7 mths		Lancashire, Chorley

We start where all usual family history enquires start, namely with the 1901 census where the Goodrich family could be found at 12 Back Mount in Chorley.

As can be seen from the above, the family were country-wide before settling down in Chorley. Checking the family search, census, and the births, marriages and deaths websites, I managed to get a full picture of the children and their subsequent lives, including two children who only lived for short periods and therefore missed the 1891 and 1901 censuses.

1. Lewis John Goodrich: Born December 1887 in Haverfordwest
Married March 1910 in St James, Chorley
Spouse Laura Worsley
2. Ethel May Goodrich: Born 30th November 1888 in Runcorn
Married December 1918 in Kingston, Surrey
Spouse Arthur Watkins
Died 27th October 1983 in London
3. Alfred Edward Goodrich: Born March 1890 in Runcorn
Married December 1918 in West Derby, Liverpool,
Spouse Alice M Grosant
Died: 11th March 1979 in Hoylelake

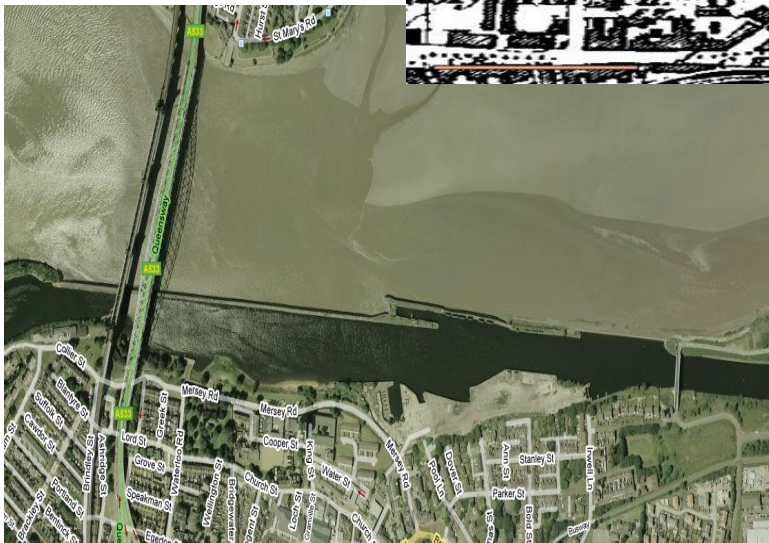
4. Alice Maude Goodrich: Born March 1891 in Runcorn–Died September 1891 in: Liverpool
5. Selma Alma Goodrich: Born March 1893 in Liverpool–Died 2 October 1977 in Chorley
Married 1920 in Trinity Methodist Church, Chorley
Spouse Harold Sanderson Turner
6. Beatrice Sarah Goodrich: Born 17 September 1896 in Blackburn
Died 28 December 1987 in Withnell
Married 10 September 1923 in Parish Church Chorley,
Spouse John William Hindle
7. John Michael Goodrich: Born September 1897 in Blackburn–Died September 1897 in Blackburn
8. John William Goodrich: Born September 1899 in Blackburn–Died 4 June 1978 in Blackburn
Married March 1922 in Chorley Parish Church
Spouse Margaret Mona Rushton
9. Grace Henrietta Goodrich: Born 1901 in Chorley
Died 9 December 1986 in Sydney, New South Wales
Married 1920 in Chorley Parish Church,
Spouse Frank Bortfield

Where they lived on their travels and why they first settled in Haverfordwest or Milford Haven is still a mystery; though it is not too far from the Welsh coast so John would have been able to get work doing ship repairing. During my research I have also come across other Goodrich families living in the Pembroke area but as yet have not found a connection.

Their next move in 1889 in time for the 1891 census – when the family was living at 37 Irwell Lane, Runcorn – was closer to the sea; this was where the boats from the Mersey & Irwell Navigation were transhipped to ocean going vessels. All this changed as the Manchester Ship Canal was built between 1887 and 1893, though I have yet to discover if John worked on the building of the canal: (see maps below):

The family had moved on to

Looking at this map on the right from 1875, the Old Quay House (company offices), Mariners Church, the lock and pier at the end of the Mersey & Irwell Navigation can be seen together with the tidal basin denoting where the river and ocean going traffic met.



A modern aerial photograph of Runcorn with Irwell Lane being close to the Manchester Ship Canal which now runs between the River Mersey and the town of Runcorn. The two bridges across to Widnes were built at the narrowest point on the Mersey, the height of the LNWR railway bridge being decided as the standard height for the Manchester Ship Canal.

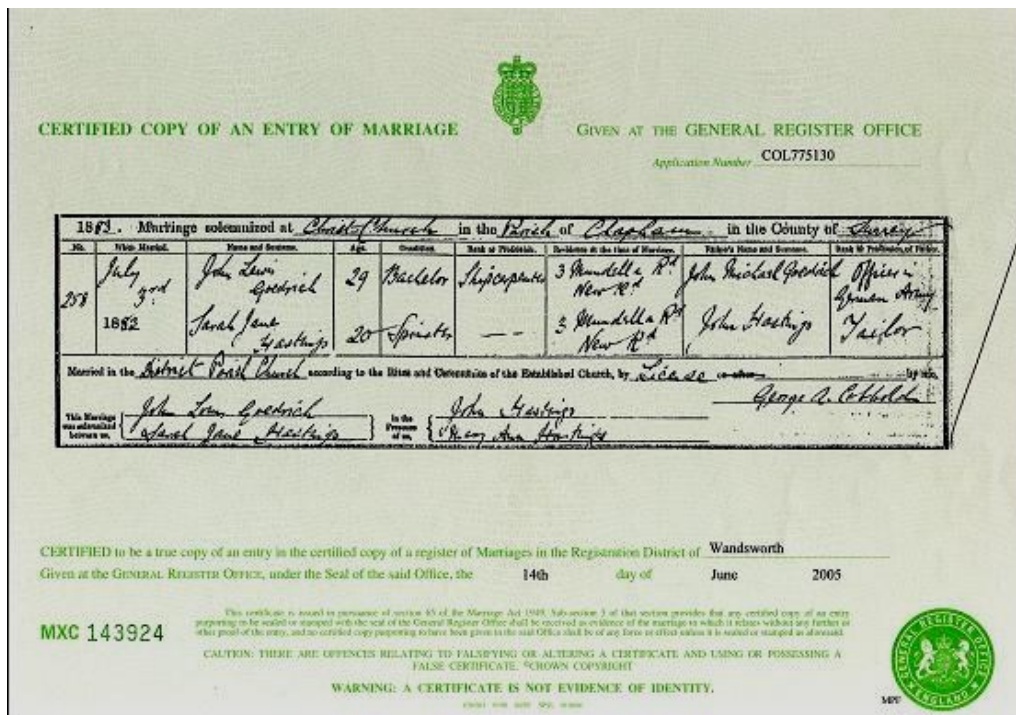
Liverpool by 1893, then being recorded in 1896 in Blackburn before finally arriving in Chorley by 1901. But where had John and Sarah Jane come from? The big question was, ‘Why had they lied on the 1901 census?’ While I knew that Sarah Jane was from Kings Lynn in Norfolk, John Goodrich was not born at sea and may not have been a British subject. I had always been told that great-grandfather was German and had to report to the police during both world wars. So, how to find out more?

The Clapham Connection

Looking for Sarah Jane Hastings, as I already knew her maiden name in Norfolk, in the 1881 census I found the eighteen year old unmarried Sarah living with her family at No 1, Brewery Buildings, London Road, Kings Lynn, working at the time as a domestic servant. So more questions immediately arose, how and when did she meet John Goodrich and when and where did they marry?

As a sea port, Kings Lynn would be the obvious place for them to meet; however, there is no mention of John Goodrich anywhere on the 1881 census in any variation of the name, so we assume that John Goodrich was at sea at this time. The marriage question was much trickier and as searches in the Kings Lynn and Haverfordwest records did not throw up any details, the only option was to do a country-wide search and trawl through all the entries. Imagine my surprise when I found the following marriage certificate dated 3 July 1883 showing the wedding of John Lewis Goodrich and Sarah Jane Hastings at Christ Church in the Parish of Clapham in the county of Surrey.

Why they were staying at 3 Mundella Road, New Road, Clapham I have not been able to find out though the area was the former home territory of Sarah Jane’s mother when she was growing up. So



it can also be seen that John was born around 1855-1856 and Sarah Jane around 1863-1864, he was a ship’s carpenter and her occupation was blank.

The most informative column on the certificate, however, concerns the two fathers, John Michael Goedrich, whose occupation is detailed as ‘Officer in German Army’ and John Hastings, detailed as ‘Tailor’. The wedding was witnessed by Sarah Jane’s parents, John and Mary Ann Hastings.

We now leave the Hastings line and head over to Germany.

When is a German not a German?

We know now that John Lewis Goodrich (Goedrich) was born in 1855-1856, not at sea but, according to the 1891 census, in Dantzic (sic), Germany. We now have a date, a place (that had a different spelling then and a different name now) and a father with a different surname spelling.

First of all I looked up *Danzig*, to give the town its name at the time and its history at the time of John's birth would suggest that his father's occupation was as an officer in the Prussian Army. Danzig had been chosen as the seat for the new Prussian province *West Prussia*. Formally, *West Prussia* with *Danzig* was Prussian, but not part of the German Confederation. During the revolution of 1848, the city council applied for the city, with all of West Prussia, to be accepted into the latter. With very few signs of revolutionary sentiment in the city being suppressed; law and order were, at no stage of the German Revolution, in jeopardy. The city of Danzig grew in size and population: 1850 – 60,000, 1860 – 83,000, 1870 – 89,000 inhabitants, although not as rapidly as the centres of industrialisation or as seaports profiting from the industrialisation.

Trying to find any information on that period now seems to be impossible as since 1871 it has been passed from Prussian to German then to a free city, welcoming both Poles and Germans between 1919 and 1939, then occupied by the German army until 1945. Since 1946, *Gdansk*, the former Danzig, had a distinct Polish character. As Poland was integrated into the Warsaw pact, Gdansk again became the seat of a strong shipyard industry, producing mostly for the Soviet Navy. The Polish city administrations rebuilt Gdansk in the style it had been before the war. To her credit it has to be said, that Gdansk has preserved much more of her pre-war city-scape than many cities in western or eastern Germany, even if these have suffered considerably less wartime destruction. In 1979 – 1980, Gdansk gained world fame when the city's Lenin shipyard became the birthplace of the *Solidaenosz* movement, which openly challenged the communist authorities: Gdansk shipyard worker and *Solidaenosz* leader Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1985. In 1989 – 1990 the communist authorities fell, and a democratic Poland arose.

The chances of finding relatives I thought were somewhat slim, so imagine my surprise when I put John Louis Goedrich into the Mormon website, quoting his birth date as 1855 though not quoting any country and up popped the following information:

This confirmed his birth on 1 April 1855, his father's name, his mother's maiden name: Henriette Wilhelmine Rewitz, and where he was christened on 22 April 1855. Searching on the internet I managed to find a picture of the church which survived the many invasions of the previous century. The brick-built building dates back to 1467 so this is definitely the same church where my great-

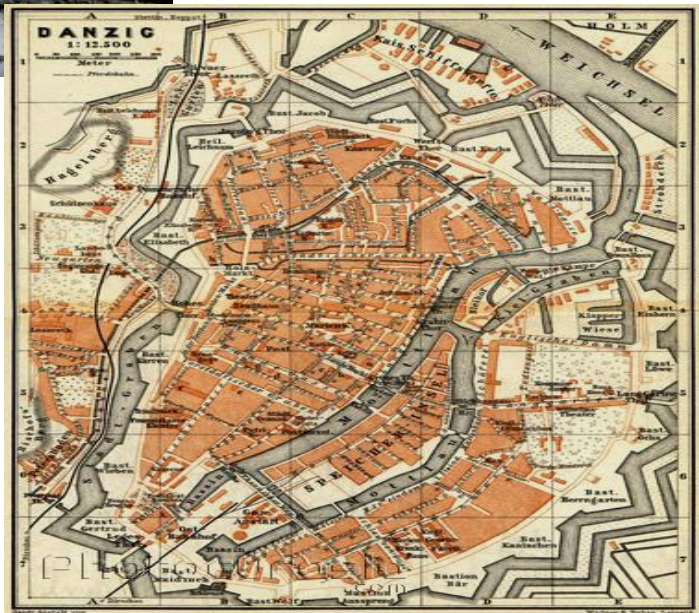
IGI Individual Record			
Family Search™ International Genealogical Index v5.0			
JOHANN LOUIS GOEDRICH			Pedigree
Male			
Event(s):			
	Birth:	01 APR 1855	
	Christening:	22 APR 1855	Katholische Kirche Sankt Joseph, Danzig Stadt, Westpreussen, Preussen (St Joseph Catholic Church, Danzig City, West Prussia, Prussia)
Parents:			
	Father:	JOHANN MICHAEL GOEDRICH	Family
	Mother:	HENRIETTE WILHELMINE REWITZ	
Source Information:			
	Batch No:	Dates:	Source Call No.:
	C998411	1845 - 1872	0585758

grandfather on my mother's mother's side, JOHANN LOUIS GOEDRICH was christened.



Katholische Kirche Sankt Joseph,
Danzig Stadt, Westpreussen,
Preussen
(St Joseph Catholic Church,
Danzig City, West Prussia, Prussia) whilst we

This unfortunately is where the trail goes cold. We know where John's mother and father were when Johann was born, they are no other records of their marriage or previous life in Danzig. As Johann Michael was an officer in the Prussian Army it could be assumed that if he was on active service his home was probably in another part of Prussia whose records have yet to be indexed on the Mormon site.



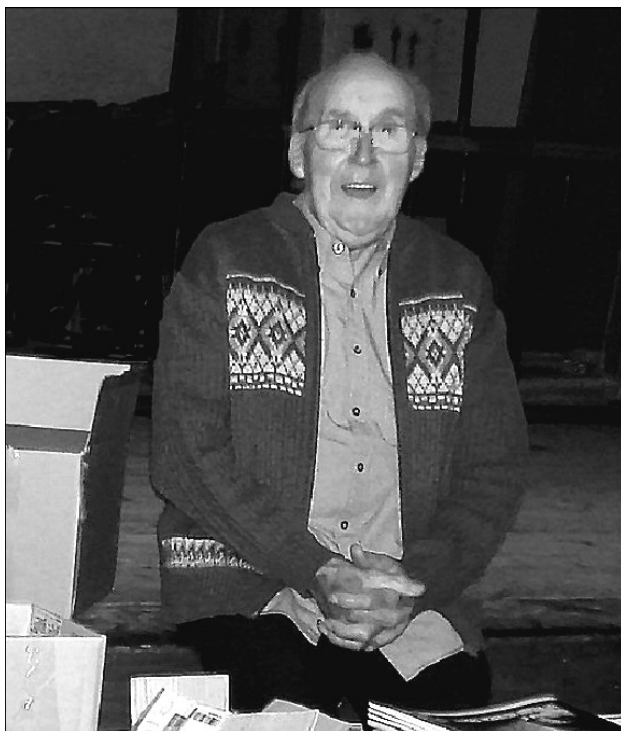
Danzig Map 1887

I have also drawn a blank with the Prussian Army records as all personnel rosters and card indices (Stammrollen und Karteimittel) of the Prussian Army, the transition army (Übergangsheeres), and the Army (Reichswehr) were burned in an air raid on Berlin in February 1945.

There is a glimmer of hope however as lists of Prussian and other German officers are generally available in book series with titles like *Rangliste des aktiven Dienststandes der Königlich Preussischen Armee und des XIII (Königlich Württembergischen) Armeekorps*, which translates as *Rank List of the Active Service Conditions of the Royally Prussian Army and the XIII (Royally Württemberg) Army Corps*. These books were published roughly annually since at least 1796 and some have been reprinted.

So with replies awaited to enquiries made to the Clapham Historical Society and over in Gdansk, in the next issue of the *Chronicle* we will head over to Norfolk for the Hastings side of the family.

Obituaries



Thomas Leslie Fowler (Les)

1926 – 2008

To many Historical Society members, Les's was the cheery face that welcomed them to meetings, always ready to help and make everyone feel at home including bringing cushions to make the hard Prospect House chairs more comfortable for members and visitors.

Les joined the Society after he retired in 1989, and for a while he just stayed in the background until in 1994 a shortage of committee members made Les take the plunge and volunteer. Here he was to stay and he enlisted his wife Mary onto the committee as the Editor of the Chronicle. Les helped with preparing for exhibitions, finding many more places to display our posters in Leyland (it could be down to Les's efforts that you first heard of the society), and he was the person that the chairman could always count on to give the vote of thanks to our speakers, a thankless which Les took on with his usual smile followed by, 'Go on then.'



Les with Mary on duty at the sales table

In 1999 he became the Vice Chairman, and continued in this roll for the next six years, occasionally standing in for myself and helping, as ever. On the many rail trips, Mary and Les were the main stays, in fact, they even attended one I missed. The one trip I remember the most was the sunny trip on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal to Les's homeland, Ince. As we walked around the Top Lock area at Kirkless Hall Inn, Les was able to take us back to his childhood with his memories of growing up in Ince.

Les attended St William School, Ince but due to

ill health missed quite a bit of schooling; however, he made up for this by studying and listening to educational broadcasts on the BBC.

His first job was in a cotton mill but he eventually realised that this work did not agree with his chest and so started work at Leyland Motors in 1948 as a gear grinder, a skilled job.

As he had worked night shifts quite a lot, Les did not have much time for socializing during his working years but after taking early retirement in 1989 at the age of sixty three he became an active member of various local groups.

Besides the Historical Society, Les could be found at the Leyland Horticultural and Chrysanthemum Society where he had an interest in growing and propagating plants, many of which he gave away to various groups such as the scouts to help raise funds. At St Ambrose Church, Les was on various committees and was a banner man on walking days. Les could always be relied upon to paint boards to advertise Christmas fairs and other events.

In his spare time, he enjoyed making things with wood, bookshelves, coffee tables, a dolls house and lovely rocking horses for his children and these are now being handed down to his grandchildren.

After the Leyland Festival folded in 2000, Les was one of the first to volunteer help with promoting the Craft & Local Societies Fair, preparing display boards for the motorway exit, Bashalls, outside Kwik Save (one of his regular advertising sites – I think most of Leyland knew him) and at the Methodist Church itself. Even when he wasn't well this year, I didn't expect to see the boards being displayed but Les was never one to let you down and the Methodist Church board appeared as usual, he had managed to get someone to assist him, that was Les.



Les on the Leyland Historical Society stall at the last Leyland Festival on Worden Park in June 2000.

Les will be sadly missed by us all, especially at the committee meetings which have felt somewhat subdued without his presence, and our sympathies go out to his wife Mary, their daughter and three sons and to their grandchildren.

Peter Houghton

Dorothy Olwyn Gardner

October 1921 - November 2007

In November of last year, members of the Historical Society were much saddened to hear of the death of our friend and fellow member, Dorothy Gardner. Although she had recovered well from a serious heart operation some ten years ago, her recent health had deteriorated to the point that she had retired to a nursing home in Coppull.

Dorothy served on the committee of the Historical Society from 1978 to 2000 – a record twenty-two years, and for no fewer than eighteen of those years she was our valued and most conscientious Treasurer. In 1998, she was awarded Honorary Life Membership for her stalwart service to the Society.

Born and brought up in Hindley, Wigan, Dorothy was a pupil at Abram Grammar School. Mathematics was undoubtedly one of her best subjects. ‘I always enjoyed figures,’ she once told me and this ability was certainly borne out in her years as Treasurer.

Dorothy admitted to being something of a tomboy in her young days but all this was to change when she met her future husband, Arthur. Once married, the young couple settled in Stanifield Lane, Farington and over the next few years four boys were born. The children all became pupils at Farington County Primary School and Dorothy, pleased to find something that fitted in so well with the boys’ schooling, worked there too as a dinner lady. Former staff as well as pupils remember her with much affection.

A natural modesty and reticence belied Dorothy’s inner strength. Her life was touched by tragedy on several occasions. As a girl her much beloved brother was killed in a motorbike accident when Dorothy herself had been riding pillion and by a cruel quirk of fate, Kevin, one of her sons, was also killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of sixteen. Blows like these are not easily overcome, particularly for someone as family orientated as Dorothy. Her husband Arthur’s early death in 1978 must have left her feeling totally bereft yet sadness was never the impression one had on meeting her. Somehow she had found the resolution to come through those dark times and to face the future with courage and equanimity.

I always enjoyed Dorothy’s company whether visiting her at home or on historical walks and outings. Her love of all things historical was only exceeded by her love for her family to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

Elizabeth Shorrock



At Fleetwood, looking over the docks area next to the River Wyre on one of the railway trips, both Dorothy and Les were regulars.

Leyland Historical Society

Programme 2008 – 2009

Meetings to be held in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,
West Paddock, Leyland**

at 7.30 pm

2008

Monday, 1 September
“Leyland and its Festival”
Peter Houghton

**Note: Next three meetings on
second Monday**

Monday, 13 October
**“Fair Trade – Reaping the
Dividends”**
Mikron Theatre Company

Monday, 10 November
“The Lune from Source to Sea”
Cliff Astin

Saturday, 8 December
“Comedy Routes and Roots”
Dr C P Lee

2009

Monday, 5 January
“Leyland on Film”
North West Film Archive

Monday, 2 February
**“History of Lancashire
Folk Music”**
Brian (Sid) Calderbank

2009

Monday, 2 March
**“Geophysics – the
Underground Story”**
John Gater

Saturday, 5 April *
Alston Hall
Meal and Talk
(Details later)

Monday, 6 April
**“Preston to Wigan – the
North Union Line”**
Ray Farrell

Monday, 4 May *
**Fourth Annual Historical
Society Trip (tba)**

Monday, 1 June
**“The Origins of Surnames – the
Next Generation”**
Peter Watson

Tuesday, 6 July
**“Sir Edward Lutyens and the
Building of New Delhi”**
Colin Dickinson

* Not included in membership