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Leyland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(Founded 1968)

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month
(September to July inclusive) at 7.30 p.m

Meeting date may be amended by statutory holidays

AT

PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

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AND

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

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EDITORIAL

This year has seen a major event for local history in Leyland - the publication of member David Hunt's book 'The History of Leyland and District' which is reviewed later in this issue. Without wishing to pre-empt the reviewer, I would like to record the pleasure that the book has given to the authors many friends in the Society and at South Ribble Museum. For generations to come this will be the standard work on Leyland and a prized possession on many a bookshelf.

As David Hunt points out it is now possible, for the first time in centuries, to gaze out over the Lower Townfield from Leyland Cross. The view is now unobstructed as the demolition of the last building on the site for re-development - the Masonic Hall - was completed just a few weeks ago. Hopefully, 1991 will see the new town centre of Leyland taking shape, but the pleasure at seeing the long awaited rebuilding must be tinged with some sadness. The new shops, supermarkets and market place will lack one thing : in the hotch-potch of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings that went together to form old Towngate, it was the people who lived there that made it what it was - in present day town centres a resident population seems to have no place.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this issue of the Chronicle and especially Marion Bateson and Michael Park who have presented articles for the first time, and hope that the membership enjoy the wider scope of this years contributions. If any member is thinking of writing an article but is unsure of the procedure please see me at any of the monthly meetings. The deadline for the next issue remains the September meeting at Prospect House.

Thanks are due to the Lancashire Record Office and the Leyland, Chorley and Preston Libraries without whose muniments and extensive collections, a journal such as this would be impossible to produce. Thanks, also, to the staffs of the above establishments who are always ready to assist, to Mrs M Courtney for the typing, and to South Ribble Borough Council for printing this issue.

W. E WARING

NOTE:

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

EAST LANCASHIRE LINK ROAD

In the modern world nothing stays still. The landscape is forever changing and evolving and therefore is under pressure from all quarters. One such area has recently come to the fore in the form of the 'East Lancashire Link Road' between the M65 near Blackburn, and the M6 at Cuerden. The road will be 12.8 miles long and will cost 117 million pounds as was recently announced in the local press. On close examination it was seen that the link road would pass to the north of Brindle and Pippin Street and that the north portion of Cuerden Valley Country Park would be cut through.

A walk round Cuerden seemed called for to ascertain to what extent the area would be affected. Cuerden is steeped in history and the seventeenth century historian Doctor Kuerden lived in the Cuerden Green area (his real name was Richard Jackson and his parents are buried at Leyland Parish Church).

The walk starts from Cuerden Valley Country Park car park at Stag Lodge, just off Wigan Road at Bamber Bridge. Walk south along Wigan Road passing a farmhouse on the left. Just beyond lies the half hidden entrance to Nook Lane on the right; this old lane was the access to Nook Farm before Lostock Lane was constructed. Another old farm on Nook Lane is Banastre at Bank, standing on the left just down the lane : this strangely named farm was the home of the Banastres a very old and important family in Cuerden.

The Manor of Cuerden was originally held by the Molyneux family of Sefton and passed to the Banastres of Walton-le-Dale in the twelfth century, but was later lost to the Langton family and others though the Banastres eventually recovered the Manor by purchase in 1637. When Christopher of Bank died in 1690 Cuerden went to his daughter Elizabeth who married Robert Parker who built the older parts of Cuerden Hall and died in 1738, his memorial stone lies in Leyland Parish Church and his son Robert Parker became Guild Mayor of Preston in 1762 - later marriages connected the Parker family with the Townleys of Astley Hall at Chorley.

The original buildings at Banastre at Bank have long since vanished and the farm-house has been modernised. Moving along the lane, note that a gate on the right has a tenon-top gate post; this curious type of gate post, with it's top shaped into a tenon, has the experts baffled as to its function in farming life - these posts are never seen in pairs.

Continue along to a right hand bend where Nook Farm lies just across to the left. Here leave Nook Lane for an enclosed and overgrown path on the left which soon turns left - to end at a stile into a field; this area is called Higher Green. Follow a hedge on the right to the south (if searched for, another tenon-top gate post can be found here). Cross a stile just to the left of the field corner, then discover yet another tenon-top gate post standing alone just over to the left, the east side of it has several cutouts. To what function have these been put?

Continue through the field following an old grassy ditch, the electric pylons running overhead are roughly on a line with the proposed link road that will run through this tranquil scene. Look for a pond with a stile just to the right which leads onto a rough track, this is Stoney Lane and was once a tree-lined carriageway. Built by Mr Townley Parker of Cuerden Hall, it started at the Lodge Gates on Wigan Road and went down to Leyland Road at Bashall's Straight. Cross Stoney Lane to another stile then follow the hedge to the left, the route of Stoney Lane can be seen just over the hedge. Now comes a very muddy and overgrown track and in the third field corner the stile can be found just to the right where yet another tenon-top gate post has been incorporated into the structure. Continue south to pick up a fence on the left then cross a stile here to follow a left hand fence to a gate and stile and follow a track down to Wigan Road.

Left turn along Wigan Road and view the Lodge gates on the left, half hidden by foliage from the wood, this was the start of Stoney Lane seen earlier. At each side by the posts, curious domed brick built structures can be seen - could these have been for gatekeepers?

Continue north up Wigan Road and **Cuerden** Gates Farm soon appears on the left, the gates in question were an access to **Cuerden** Hall and which ended just opposite this farm. A stone stile in a wall corner is all that remains of this thoroughfare known as the 'Cinder Path' and which was cut in two by the M6 in 1962/63. The line of the Cinder Path is supposed to be on the Roman Road that runs south to north, continuing on a straight portion of Wigan Road just to the north.

Just opposite the farm and just to the north of the stile stood the Parkers Arms, a former hostelry, but nothing now remains of the building. The link road passes right over this area and it would seem that the farms days are numbered. Continue north along Wigan Road passing Friars Farm, a fine old building on the right, noticing that it is three storeyed; the upper rooms would have housed servants quarters.

Finally return to Stag Lodge car park and the finish of the walk and reflect on yet another lovely area that is being ruined in the name of progress.

GRAHAM THOMAS

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'Lets Take a Walk' G Birtill
Victoria County History of Lancashire Vol.VI
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Lailand Chronicle No.14, p.22; No.16, p.10; No.24, p.10;
No.33, p.27.

NOT WITHOUT HONOUR

The history of a township is often a summation of the histories of its major families, and so far as Leyland is concerned a full and coherent history of many of these families has yet to be written. That of the Faringtons, of course, is a twice-told tale (with justification for a further treatment) but one looks in vain for full accounts of the Blackledge, Charnock, Walton, Worden and other local families of the historical period.

The title of this essay will be recognised as part of a quotation which continues ..."save in his own country"... and this is particularly the case with the history of the Worden (Werden, Wearden or Weorden) family. The present writer, over very many years, has had the privilege of contributing to the work of the Worden Family Association of America who rightly trace their origins from the Wordens of Clayton (le-Woods) in the early 17th century and whose Journal is titled "Wordens Past". In this essay I only propose to develop one particular aspect of this work.

Continuing the theme of "Honours" it is interesting to consider how many of the families associated with Leyland have had titled members. Immediately, the Faringtons were both armorial and had members (at intermittent periods) who were of the knightly class, but identifying the degree of their individual honour is beyond my skill. Several families were, or claimed to be armorial but I do not see any other titled figure, although I am most open to correction on this point. I exclude recent examples where a title has been granted, for life only, to a local personage for services rendered.

Having said this I am now going to quote a case of a titled family with a local connection, but immediately point out that the honour was not "in his own count(r)y".

Condensing the history of the Worden family into a few paragraphs, in the 16th century there were two main branches, those of Clayton and Leyland. Members of the latter emigrated to the city of Chester and prospered. So much so that in 1613 Richard Werden (so-spelled) claimed armorial bearings at the Visitation of that year. He clearly claimed ancestral descent from the Leyland family and indeed, his shield was almost identical with that of the Wordens of Golden Hill which is there for all to see in the heraldic window in the North wall of Leyland Parish Church.

The Chester Werdens prospered still further, though they were involved in the Civil Wars. Richards great-grandson, John (1639-1716) at the age of 33 in 1672 was created a baronet by Charles the Second. Now a baronetcy is a unique feature of a unique system. It was first created in 1611 by James the First (to raise money of course) in connection with the colonisation of Ulster. The holder adds an augmentation to his shield consisting of "a canton argent, a sinister hand erect, couped at the wrist and appaume, gules" popularly known as the Red Hand of Ulster.

A baronetcy is the lowest titled order which is hereditary and hence Sir Johns title passed to his son, another John (1683-1758) but unfortunately he had no sons, only two daughters and the

Baronetcy became extinct on his death in 1758. It had only lasted 86 years. The armorial bearings passed to his heiresses and possibly are still in existence although I have not traced them.

Much more interesting is the fact that though a baronetcy is an order below those included in the peerage, in common with those in the peerage "its title must have a territorial flavour in its letters patent", i.e., the holder must be "of somewhere".

The first Baronet Werden chose as his style - "Sir John Werden of Leyland and Cholmeaton" - according to the records. I have not been able to locate Cholmeaton precisely but it was probably some small place near the family home in Cheshire. So he was proud to record, for posterity as he no doubt thought, his family origins in our township of Leyland.

I do not think that this association of a baronetcy with the name of Leyland has been previously commented upon.

G. L. Bolton

Addendum

It appears from Ormerod's monumental "History of Cheshire" that sometime between 1685 and 1689, the first Sir John Werden purchased the Manor of Cholmondeston from the Earl of Bridgewater, and this place is the Cholmeaton or Cholmeston of the title of Sir Johns Baronetcy. Name changes of this type are not unknown, as for example Cholmondeley, pronounced Chumley.

Cholmondeston is not marked on the most recent Ordnance Survey large scale maps or gazeteers, and I am indebted to Mr W Waring for correctly identifying it on an older map as a hamlet some three miles north of Nantwich. I made a visit to the site recently and found that the residents to whom I spoke were none too pleased at being thus overlooked, incidentally they pronounce the name as spelled. There is a Cholmondeston Hall Farm of some 250 acres, obviously a rebuild of the original Hall of which only the foundations now exist. The owners, though of long standing, were unaware of the existence of the Werdens or the association of their property with the Leyland baronetcy.

G.L. B.

VISITATION OF CHESHIRE, 1613.

Werden, of Chester.

[College of Arms, C. 6, fo. 78.]

ARMS.—Quarterly of four: 1 and 4, Gules, on a bend Argent 3 leopards' faces of the field, a mullet for cadency [WERDEN]; 2 and 3, Argent, on a cross palewise Sable a crescent Or [BANBESTER].

CREST.—A horse's head couped at the neck Gules, winged Or.

WORDEN ICE-HOUSE

PART I

On Ice-Houses Generally

An important feature of most large country houses from the seventeenth century onwards was the presence of an ice-house in the grounds to provide ice for domestic use during the summer months (1) There were various types of ice-houses including circular, rectangular and even tunnel shaped chambers where the ice was stored in or below the level of the passage. The Worden ice-house however falls into a further category; that of domed or globe shaped pits.

As the name implies, this form of ice-house is characterised by a passageway leading to a chamber with a deep cylindrical or cone-shaped pit, generally with a domed roof. They were often dug out on sloping ground or against a bank and frequently in or near woodland. The bottom of the pit sloped to a sunken drain covered by a grid to permit water from the melted ice to seep away. At the same time the drain was "trapped" to prevent air from entering the wall. The ice, gathered from all available sources during the winter months, was pounded into fragments and then stored in the pit. The ice-house was normally lined with straw to prevent thawing and when it was full, the surface would be covered with further sheaves of straw. For additional insulation, the entrance passage would also be filled with straw and the doors kept shut. During a harsh winter it would, of course, be possible to have more than one ice-harvest.

By this means, ice gathered in the winter could be kept and used during the warmer months for chilling wine, making ice-creams (2) and to provide a cool atmosphere for preserving meat and fish. It was the gardners' task to bring buckets of ice, as and when required, to the kitchen. If gathered initially from local ponds it was frequently thin and dirty - far too full of impurities for actual consumption and indeed contact with food was strictly avoided. Instead the ice, having arrived at the kitchen was placed in the base of a portable ice chest. This was a large wooden box lined with zinc and insulated with a layer of sawdust between the zinc and the thick wooden exterior. Above the layer of ice were wire-mesh trays on which perishable foods could be placed and a small tap at the bottom allowed melted ice to be drained off. In other words, the ice chest acted exactly like a primitive domestic refrigerator.

From the middle of the nineteenth century pure crystal ice began to be imported from abroad and weekly deliveries to the door made ice-houses less important. Eventually the arrival of mechanical refrigeration at the end of the century rendered them obsolete. It is interesting to note however, that some more remote estates that had neither gas nor electricity, were still using their ice-houses in the 1930's.(3) A description of filling an ice-house in 1913 at Buckland House in Oxfordshire will be found at the end of this article because it illustrates so well what must have taken place generally.

PART II - The Worden Ice-House

The exact age of the Worden ice-house is not known but there is

at least one reference to it in the Cash Book of Sir William ffarrington (1720-1781) it certainly seems likely that it was one of the many improvements to the estate that he originated.

Like others of its kind, the Worden ice-house was built on the edge of a wooded slope - behind it, the ground falls steeply towards Shaw Brook. From the outside it appears to be a large earth mound fronted in irregular shaped blocks of Millstone grit, our local stone. There was much controversy amongst early experts as to the direction an ice-house should face. In this case north was chosen, presumably so that the entrance would face away from the sun. The short flight of stone steps by which one approached the oak door have long since disappeared as indeed has the door itself. The entrance was bricked up, largely because of vandalism, shortly after Leyland Urban District Council took over the park in 1950 but old photographs show the door to have had a ogee arch and heavy iron hinges.

Unique features of the Worden ice-house are the carvings which have been used to decorate the front of the structure. These include some stones carrying what appear to be very worn coats of arms, two empty niches and the top stones which are neatly cut and dressed rather like a mantelshelf. There are also two winged angel figures standing either side of the doorway on identically carved stone brackets and holding shields in front of them. Sadly one of these angel figures has been damaged to some extent. At one time there was a carved head of a boy near the top left hand side but this has disappeared. Although we have no written evidence as to the origin of these particular carvings, we do know that when the nave of Leyland Parish Church was widened in 1816, William ffarrington (heir of Sir William mentioned earlier) bought some of the gargoyles which were "sold as old materials" (4). It seems very likely therefore, that other pieces of carved stone were included with these gargoyles and, like the latter, used to decorate the park. Mr Ben Edwards, the county archaeologist who has examined the carvings says they are definitely both mediaeval and ecclesiastical in origin and certainly they do resemble other carved stones in Leyland Churchyard.

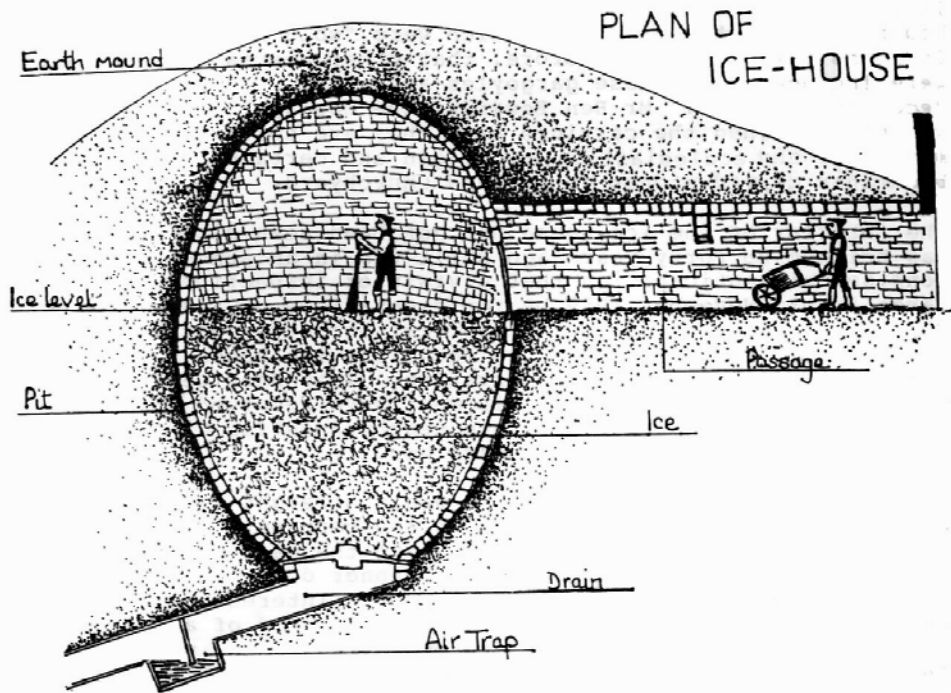
The interior of the ice-house had not been seen since the entrance was bricked up forty years ago so it was in an atmosphere of considerable anticipation that a visit of inspection was undertaken in mid-November 1989 by representatives of South Ribble Borough Council and Leyland Historical Society. Nor were we disappointed for once inside we found the ice-house to be in a remarkably good state of preservation. This despite the passage of time and the crushing blow it must have received when one of the large beech trees from the nearby Apostles Circle fell directly onto the mound many years ago.

Immediately inside the outer door was a straight passage-way approximately twelve feet in length and perhaps seven to eight feet across with a vaulted ceiling. In the past this had obviously been divided into two chambers by an inner doorway, the iron stanchions of which could still be seen. Interestingly the brickwork of the first part of the passageway seemed of a later origin than the handmade brick of the second part and the pit itself. The floor of the passageway and the base of the pit were covered to the depth of about a foot (more in the case of the pit) by

rubble made up entirely of yellow coloured bricks. These were small and lightweight with chamfered edges ($5\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$), quite different from the red rustic brick which had been used in the construction of the ice-house itself. It is difficult to imagine the purpose of those yellow bricks; three possibilities present themselves however:

1. The bricks had nothing to do with the ice-house and had merely been dumped there when it fell into disuse. This seems unlikely in view of the way they were distributed so evenly along the floor of the passageway and curved slightly up the side walls.
2. Their function was to lift the ice away from the trap at the base of the pit to facilitate drainage. This was the suggestion of Mr Rob David to whom I spoke, whose article on "Ice-Houses of North Lancashire" explained how great importance was attached to keeping the drain free from any blockage if the Ice-house was to function efficiently. He had seen various methods employed but never previously the use of rubble.
3. The bricks were used either on their own or together with straw for insulation. This would explain their presence in the passageway as well as the pit.

As none of these possibilities is convincing on its own, the presence of the yellow bricks must, for the time being, remain a mystery.



At the end of the passageway there was a small rectangular opening with stone lintels and only by crouching could one see through this entrance into the pit beyond. The latter was imposingly large; we estimated ten to twelve feet wide in the middle and having an overall height of perhaps fifteen feet. The ceiling was vaulted and beautifully constructed; the chamber itself was perfectly ovoid with the aforesaid entrance approximately ten feet above the rubble at the bottom of the pit. The brickwork was completely intact and, like that of the passageway, in excellent condition. Beneath the rubble at the back of the pit there is undoubtedly a drain which will connect with Shaw Brook in the valley below. Indeed the remains of a drain pipe can be seen projecting from the river bank immediately below the ice-house. There were no signs of any of the ventilation pipes to be found in some ice-houses nor was there a hole or "loading eye" in the centre of the roof through which the ice could have been put. In the case of the Worden ice-house, unloading must have taken place at the passageway entrance to the pit.

Conclusion

Despite the fact that most of the large country houses in the area must have possessed an ice-house at some time, few now remain and very few in anything like as good a state of repair inside as the one we have here (5).

There again most ice-houses tended to be built in unfrequented parts of the estate and had no interesting architectural adornments whereas the Worden ice-house is quite remarkable in that it was obviously designed to be an architectural feature and to be admired as a part of the landscape of the garden. The stone frontage of the ice-house is at present in a poor way. It would be tragic if it continued to deteriorate for lack of funds.

Suitably restored and open to the public, as it surely deserves, the whole structure could become as unique a feature of the park as the maze, of tremendous educational value to the parties of school-children who visit Worden and, like the ice-house of Towneley Hall, something people would travel to see. Visitor appeal alone surely makes restoration a worthwhile consideration and we remain hopeful that sufficient money will indeed be made available by South Ribble Borough Council.

E SHORROCK

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Initially, ice houses were a luxury available only to the rich and the first recorded ice-houses were associated with royalty. By the nineteenth century they could be completed for as little as £10.
2. "The principal utensils required for the making of ice-creams are ice-tubs, freezing pots, spaddles and a cellaret. The tub must be large enough to contain about a bushel of ice pounded small when brought out of the ice-house and mixed with salt. When the ice tub is prepared (as above) the

freezing pot, containing the ingredients to be frozen, is put into it and turned round and round by the handle until congelation commences" Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management 1st Edition, paragraph 1510.

3. The Ice-house at High Borlase in Cumbria was built in the 1920's according to Mr Rob David.
4. Susan Maria ffarington. A quotation from the paper she read to the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire on January 25th 1855. Chorley Reference Library.
5. The following country estates within the area are known to have possessed an ice-house. Those marked with an asterisk still do.

Astley Hall	Rufford New Hall*
Walton Hall	Clifton Hall
Salmesbury Hall	Cuerden Hall*

6. Description of filling an Ice-house at Buckland House in Oxfordshire. Built in the eighteenth century but still used as late as 1913.

6th April 1913

I remember clearly because it was my sixteenth birthday. Two men went out in a punt and broke the ring of ice and then got two long poles with iron spikes on the end and pulled the ice onto the bank.

Two other men standing on the bank with wooden mallets broke up the ice into small bits and the two who were in the punt had two mesh sieves wired into a forked stick and they dipped the ice out in the sieves and put it into a wheelbarrow. Six men and wheelbarrows on a chain, wheel-barrowed the ice up the hill and tipped it and two more in the ice house and levelled it out. The head gardener, Mr Gough, heated beer for us and also provided bread and cheese.

The ice was wheeled from the ice-house to Buckland House every morning and washed before use and the ice lasted practically until the next winter's ice was brought in.

Bobby Kinch who lived in Mildenhalls offered me a clay pipe and some tobacco. I have smoked a pipe ever since.
(signed) F.G Painter.

The above description was found in "Follies and Grotto" by Barbara Jones (Harris Ref. Library).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My grateful thanks to Mr Rob David, Mr Ben Edwards, Mr Ben Houlton, Mr Arthur Holt, for their help in the preparation of this article, and also to Mr David Lister and Mr Monks whose kind invitation enabled representatives of the Leyland Historical Society to be present when the ice-house was reopened.

THE CROSSING OF THE RIBBLE

On entering Preston at Walton-le-Dale the Romans crossed the river by way of a ford just a little downstream from the present bridge. It is thought that a track passed up, or not very far from, the track now named "Swillbrook" and thence into Preston.

In the seventeenth century a fast running stream also named Swillbrook ran into the River Ribble here. The mouth of Swillbrook Steed (Steed: O.E or SAX. STEDE (Stead or Place)) was next to "Washing Steed Brow" and tradition says that this is the place where the women of the area did their washing. "Swill" comes from the Anglo Saxon word "Swilian" to wash; and "brook" is from the Anglo Saxon "broc" rushing stream.

There was a spring of water here but there is little to see now, just the name of "Spout House" to remind us of this.

RIBBLE BRIDGE

The first known bridge to cross the Ribble was described by LELAND who made a tour of the country in the time of Henry VIII (1491-1547). He refers to "the great stone bridge of Rybill having five great arches". Up until 1755 there was no other bridged crossing point of the Ribble for entry into Preston.

It is thought that the next bridge here was completed in 1625 and consisted of five pointed arches.

In 1883 there was still a stone engraved "P.B. 1625" in a wall on the Preston side of the river facing the water, next to the site of the old bridge. This is presumed to be the date stone from the bridge on which the famous "Battle of Preston" was fought. This bridge was about 90 yards downstream from the present bridge.

The road passed in front of the Bridge Inn situated on the Walton side of the river, and can still be seen. On the northern side the exit from Preston was narrow, crooked and wound downhill crossing Swillbrook Lane, and thence via a holloway in a sharply sloping field down to the River.

BATTLE OF PRESTON

During the Battle of Preston in 1648 somewhere near the "narrow and deep" Swillbrook Lane, Cromwell himself, by good luck only, escaped injury or death by forcing his horse into quicksand whilst the Royalists hurled huge stones at him from the higher ground.

The Royalists were forced to retreat by the bridge. The bridge was stormed and the fight was renewed with great slaughter on both sides and was carried at "push of pike" after a great struggle.

THE NEW BRIDGES

When the 1625 bridge began to look unsafe a new stone bridge was built by John and Samuel Laws in 1779, 80 and 81 under the inspection of Richard Threlfall at a cost of £4,200. The old bridge was demolished when the present three arched bridge was

completed.

Until 1867 a portion of one of the piers of the 1625 bridge was still visible in the middle of the river. It appeared to be constructed of cobble and boulder stone.

In August 1867, a land agent making or mending an embankment, demolished the remnant of the bridge as he thought it would divert the water and cause pressure against his embankment. This action caused great indignation at the time as the surviving remnant of a bridge famous in English history was removed without any authorisation.

The present bridge was doubled in width in 1936.

DYERS HOUSE

On one of the paths leading to Swillbrook Lane was Dyers House (previously called "Dyers Farm") it was demolished in the summer of 1989. It is known locally that this farm once cultivated all the land to Old Tram Bridge. When the house was demolished there was still hay in the loft. The land above Dyers House was used as watercress and strawberry meadows, these must have utilised the water from the Swillbrook.

In 1844 the occupier of Dyers House was Peter Melling described as a farmer. The Melling family must have given their name to Mellings's Fold a small road near the house, as they farmed there until at least 1882. Mellings Fold was one of the old entry lanes into Preston and is still unmade.

JOSEPH LIVESEY

The owner of the house in 1844 is stated as Joseph Livesey. I have been unable to confirm whether or not this is the Joseph Livesey founder of the teetotal movement, who was born just over the bridge and a few hundred yards down the road in Walton-le-Dale in 1794. Joseph Livesey was very familiar with this area and fished at Walton Bridge as a boy. He progressed from being a cheese factor to also owning a printing business and founding the Preston Guardian newspaper in 1844. He owed over £1,000 at one point when a joint cotton enterprise foundered. He lived at a farm at Holme Slack for over 20 years and later in life purchased a house with a park at Windermere and loved the garden there. He also had a fountain built at Bowness where the steamers came in.

Joseph owned Working Mens Clubs and Reading Rooms being a believer in education for all the workers.

In 1844 when a Joseph Livesey owned Dyers House he was campaigning for the repeal of the Corn Laws as the price of corn was being kept unnecessarily high - too high for many of the poor people in Lancashire.

Joseph submitted a family petition to repeal the Corn and Provision Laws in 1843. Public opinion was changing at this time as to the necessity for protection, the harvest had failed, and Joseph and his friends were buying up freeholds to qualify for free trade voters. It was proposed to raise a "quarter million pound fund" to this end. Joseph Livesey helped to purchase

£17,600 worth of property for freeholds in Preston, with purchases made by others it is probable that £20,000 worth of property was obtained in the Borough of Preston for making freehold votes.

Such was the change produced by this purchase of property that although the County had been Tory from time immemorial, and had had no contest for over a century, a liberal and free trader was returned. The law was repealed in 1846.

In 1847 a great number of people in Preston were out of work due to the depressed cotton trade and there were many male and female beggars.

Joseph proposed that many of these men could be found work by doing improvements, and much of the work was done in the Swillbrook area.

The Ribble Walks were started which allowed the towns people to promenade a goodly stretch of the riverside. A foot road leading to Walton Bridge which had been almost impassible was levelled, re-layed and cindered.

The people of the area were very happy with these improvements. Joseph lived to be 90 although always sickly, and had 13 children.

MARION BATESON

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History of Borough of Preston - Hardwick
Historic Preston - Stephen Sartin

PRESTON CHRONICLE MARCH 13TH 1847

"Three returning drunk from a hare coursing meeting at Tarleton lost their way and their chandray was upset in a ditch on Longton Marsh. Villagers pulled them out but the third was presumed dead. He subsequently recovered however and all three repaired to the Golden Ball at Longton for the night where they regaled their rescuers until dawn".

EARLY USE OF ANASTHESIA PRESTON CHRONICLE MARCH 20TH 1847

"A girl's finger was amputated whilst under the influence of ether. The operation was performed by Mr Taylor surgeon of Chorley."

PUB SIGNS

The Leyland area, in common with other districts, has many pubs most of which display a suspended sign outside. These signs are colourful and have a wide variety of themes such as animals, both real and imaginary, historical figures, local and national, and everyday articles such as the plough, bell, anchor etc.

The public house is the only trade today which still uses these suspended signs outside the premises to identify itself to passers-by. At one time all trades used such signs which were generally large, simple and instantly recognisable to a mainly illiterate public.

The Romans probably introduced to this country the practice of using trade signs as it was the custom in Rome and it would have been adopted by the tradesmen of the Romano-British towns that grew up.

Originally the accepted sign of the alehouse keeper was a simple pole or alestake which jutted out from the building. Where establishments were authorised to sell wine as well as ale (a tavern) the pole carried an evergreen bush. A good example of this can be seen in the Bayeaux Tapestry which depicts a large building with a bush on a pole projecting from it.

As the alehouses, taverns, and inns (an establishment which also provided food, stabling, and accommodation) became more numerous the alestake was not able to give individual identification. Enterprising inn-keepers began to use painted signs as a means of attracting custom and so the pub sign that we are familiar with today was born. The alestake was still used however but as a signal for the ale-taster to call. In the middle ages the law said that when a brew was completed and ready for sale, the ale-taster had to be summoned to pass it as fit for sale and to set a price at which it must be sold.

Queen Elizabeth I was dissatisfied with the state of inns for travellers and urged the building of new ones. A popular name for these was the New Inn. This name was often also taken when a second pub in a town was built, therefore many old pubs today are called the New Inn.

As towns grew and competition increased signs became bigger and more elaborate, some even stretched right over the street and were known as gallows signs. Charles II ordered, after the Great Fire of London, that all signs should be fixed against the wall or balcony.

Queen Victoria decreed that no pub sign could depict a living member of royalty, a ban which the Lord Chamberlain enforces to this day.

Over the centuries there have been many influences on the subject matter of pub signs but the church, the Monarchy, and the aristocracy were the greatest.

Many public houses were built on church land and indeed the church would have a financial interest in them. This combined with the influence of pilgrims produced many religious symbols on signs such as the Angel, Cross Keys, Mitre etc.

Similarly establishments built on land owned by the Monarch might be called The Crown or Kings Head. A great many signs feature heraldic animals taken from the coats of arms of national figures or the local Lords of the Manor. The Red Lion, White Hart and White Horse are some of the more popular ones.

Local occupations played an important part in the naming of pubs, associations of tradesmen were in the habit of meeting in licensed houses, giving us The Spinners Arms, Farmers Arms, and many more.

The coming of the stagecoach in the 1720's saw the building of special coaching inns to serve them, giving rise to many Coach and Horses signs. Likewise the advent of the railway produced The Railway Hotel or The Railway.

So the pub sign had many wide ranging influences over the centuries, indeed there are new ones created every year. Most people never give a second thought to the name and the sign, but they are a visible link with the past. So the next time you go into a pub, take a look at the sign, it is a social document steeped in history.

Here are some local pub names with their original derivations most dating back hundreds of years.

Blue Anchor

Originally used as a religious sign as it is the Christian symbol of the virtue of Hope. Blue is its emblematic colour.

Blue Bell

Originated with pubs attached to or near churches. In early times it was believed that the sound of a bell could protect the listener from harm by lightning and storm.

Cross Keys

Comes from the papal arms. St Peter is the bearer of the keys to the kingdom of God.

Eagle and Child

Legend has it that in the reign of Edward III, Sir Thomas Latham, ancestor of the Stanleys, Earls of Derby had only one legitimate child, a daughter Isabel but he had an illegitimate son by Mary Oscatell. He ordered this child to be laid at the foot of a tree in which an eagle had built its nest. Taking a walk with his wife he led her past the tree and pretended to find the boy later persuading her to adopt him as their son. The boy was called Sir Oscatell Latham and considered heir. However Sir Thomas confessed the fraud and at his death his fortune went to his daughter who later married Sir John Stanley. At the adoption of the child, Sir Thomas had an eagle looking backwards as a crest, this, out of ill feeling towards Sir Oscatell, was later changed into an eagle preying upon a child.

Green Man

Not Robin Hood despite some modern signs. It was originally Jack o' the Green, a Celtic god and medieval image of the spirit of fertility. It is also a figure in May Day celebrations wearing a green outfit covered in leaves.

Red Lion

This is generally believed to be the most used pub sign and first appeared in the 15th century. It is taken from the badge of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

Rose and Crown

The marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York ended the war between the houses of York and Lancaster. The Tudor rose surmounted by a crown became the royal badge and a popular pub sign.

Royal Oak

Commemorates the escape of Charles II after the battle of Worcester in 1651 by concealing himself in an oak tree at Boscobel.

Seven Stars

This has several possible derivations. In the Middle Ages it was a religious sign, being the seven stars in the crown of the Virgin Mary. It could also be a secret masonic symbol or the seven stars of Ursa Major.

Ship

Where there are no obvious seafaring connections it could date back to the middle ages when the Ship referred to Noah's Ark.

Sumpter Horse

This is an old name for a pack or baggage horse.

Wagon and Horses

This originates, not so much from the farmer carrying his wares to market, as from the local carrier who used inns as his points of delivery and collection.

Wheatsheaf

At one time it was used as the sign of the baker. It has been said that some pubs with this sign also baked on the premises and thereby combined the two staffs of life in one business.

White Hart

This was the favourite badge of Richard II. The origin of the creature goes back to Alexander the Great who is supposed to have caught a pure white stag and placed a gold collar round its neck.

Withy Trees

Another name for the willow.

Michael Park

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'There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn'.

Samuel Johnson

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LEYLAND. PRESTON CHRONICLE 10TH JULY 1852

On Monday night last, about eleven o'clock, an accident which resulted in immediate death, occurred to a man named Hugh Cross, a gamekeeper, residing at Leyland.

From the evidence of a young woman named Betty Ashcroft, taken at an inquest held the following day by R Palmer, Esq., Coroner, it appeared that at the time above stated the deceased, in company with a friend named James Tuson, came up the lane towards the gate leading to her fathers house, at which she was standing. On coming up to her, Cross asked for her father, she replied that he was in bed, and turned round to go into the house. The deceased wished to shake hands with her, and placed a gun which he was carrying upon the ground, holding the muzzle in his left hand.

When she put-out her hand towards Cross, who appeared to have had some drink, he stepped upon a wall about a foot high, but slipped in the act, and the gun, which was a double-barrelled one, instantly exploded, the hammers of the locks having grated against the wall as he fell. A wound which extended from the jaw to the temple was inflicted upon the left side of the face of the deceased, who groaned two or three times and expired.

A verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned. The deceased was thirty-five years of age.

THE STANLEYS AS LORDS OF MAN

The Stanleys were Lords of Man from 1406 until 1593 and Elizabeth I from 1594 to 1603. From 1603 until 1607 James I was Lord of Man, granting the Island to the Earls of Northumberland and Salisbury in 1607, but in 1610 he restored the Stanleys as Lords of Man. From 1651 until 1660 the Island was ruled by the Commonwealth, which in 1652 granted Man to Lord Fairfax. On the Restoration in 1660 the Stanleys were again the Lords until 1736.

Sir John Stanley I

The new kingdom of Man granted to Sir John Stanley for life by Henry IV in 1406 was no mean gift. Already rich, as he owned manors in Cheshire and Wales, his marriage to the heiress of Lathom consolidated his great wealth and power. To the Manx people he was the latest in the line of English Lords and saw him as a stranger thrust upon them; none could foresee the Stanleys renewing their strength, and rebuilding their race as an independent nation.

In 1408 Sir John sent his younger son John to take possession of his kingdom. This he did proclaiming his father king at Castle Rushen.

Since cession to the Scots in 1266 strife had ravaged the Island, and the people sought the protection of the church, and as the Lords of Man were absent the power of the church increased. As the bishops power could not be challenged by John, and unable to enforce his authority more directly to reduce the anarchy he restored the Tynwald, a form of Scandinavian legislature considerably different from Parliament. Also, John appointed Michael Blundell as Governor, and garrisoned Rushen and Peel Castles with loyal retainers from Lancashire.

John Stanley II

In 1414 John Stanley, then a man of 24, became King of Man as John II. In 1417 he hurried to the Island to suppress a rising and establish his authority. He consulted the Deemsters and the Worthiest Men upon the Islands laws and customs and a meeting was convened at Tynwald. The Deemsters were required to deliver the laws, also to be written down; these remain on record as the first Island Statutes. In 1422 an attack on Governor Walton brought John again to Man. The trouble was suppressed, but he made the spiritual barons swear fealty; the Abbot of Rushen did so, also the Prior of Douglas. The Abbots of Furness and of Bangor and Sabhal and the Priors of Withern and St Bees failed to appear by the allotted time, and were deprived of their Insular lands.

In 1428 John strengthened his administration by his purge of corrupt officials. The first Stanleys were menaced persistently by the Scots and in 1428 John II barred the Scots from the Island by his law "all Scots avoid the land with the next vessel that goeth unto Scotland".

In 1456 David II of Scotland dispatched an expedition to seize Man but this failed. In retaliation Thomas I in 1457 sent his eldest son Thomas II in command of six hundred men who plundered Kirkcudbright.

Thomas Stanley I

In 1432 the son of John II succeeded his father. Thomas never visited Man, he was too busily employed by Henry VI. For his service to the king his reward was enobling as the first Baron Stanley. In 1460 Thomas I was succeeded by his son Thomas II.

Thomas II Earl of Derby

Thomas II became Earl of Derby for his aid to Henry Tudor (Henry VII) at the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. While it seems that Thomas II did not have many dealings with the Island personally, the defence of the Island against the Scots was his responsibility. One of the fortifications on the Island is named "green curtain wall". This is built up of very large slabs of slate, with the interstices filled in with smaller pieces. It is a remarkable wall running completely round the isle at the edge of the rocks. Its date is fixed by the fact that it was a useless defence against artillery, so it must have been set up before 1500.

In 1504 he was succeeded by his grandson Thomas III.

Thomas III 2nd Earl

In 1507 he paid a visit to the Island, and named the place of his landing as Derbyhaven, and confirmed the church in its possessions. This apparently was his only visit to the Island. He is remembered by the Manx people as their last titular King of Man preferring to rank as Lord of Man. In 1521 he was succeeded by his son, Edward.

Edward 3rd. Earl

Edward being a minor became a ward of Thomas Wolsey, and while Wolsey had Edward instructed on Manx affairs he never visited Man. On the religious houses being dissolved in Man, at Rushen Abbey plate was bought for Edward for £37.8s.8d. The Scots still troubled Man and Edward advised the Abbot of Whalley to hold twenty archers with the badge of the "Legges of Man" to leave for the Isle for its defence. In 1572 he was succeeded by his son Henry the 4th Earl.

Henry 4th. Earl

He paid a brief visit to the Island in 1577 and 1583, when he presided at Tynwald. He wore Manx home spun clothing, and made an effort to learn the Manx language. Also very keen to assert his rights not only to treasure trove, but also to hawks, falcons, puffins, porpoises and whales. In 1577 he established the Lords custom which increased his revenue, a busy trade especially in wines. In 1580 import of wine exceeded Man's requirements, so English merchants bought the surplus and smuggled the wine into England. Nevertheless the dealings in wine became a good business, and the Governor sent shipments to Earl Henry at Knowsley. In 1593 Henry was succeeded by his eldest surviving son Ferdinando.

Ferdinando 5th Earl

Ferdinando died mysteriously seven months later and poisoning was suspected by political conspirators. He left no son and his brother William succeeded him, but Ferdinando's daughter disputed her uncle's right to Man. This led to lengthy litigation, and to settle the matter Elizabeth I assumed control over Man in 1594. Elizabeth's successor James I ruled Man until 1607 when he granted the Island to the Earl of Northumberland and the Earl of Salisbury.

William. 6th Earl

In 1610 the lawsuit being settled, he reinstated Man to William the sixth Earl and his Countess jointly. William lacked interest in Man, he resigned to Elizabeth his Countess, and, after her death in 1627, to their son Lord Strange.

James 7th Earl

In 1627 James Stanley assumed the government of Man on his fathers behalf, and in 1642 as Lord. He is remembered as "STANLAGH MOAR", the Great Stanley in Man. The problems of the day demanded greatness, but he was confronted by too many. The claims of the Manx were dwarfed by those of his King, Charles I. His failure to appreciate the powerful Christian family ruined his good relations with the Manx people. Civil war divided England in 1642. In the same year he left Man to devote himself to the King's service. Anxious to secure his Island realm he appointed Edward Christian Captain of his forces. As Lord Strange James had appointed Edward Christian Captain of his Insular forces at an earlier date but Christian betrayed that trust and in 1639 James deprived him of his command, a rebuff that rankled. To James he was still an obvious choice in 1642, but again Christian betrayed the Earls trust by stirring up civil unrest and finally rebellion. To suppress the rebellion the Governor, John Greenhalgh, summoned Earl James and the rebellion was quelled; to maintain peace he held Councils at Peel and Rushen Castle. James punished Edward Christian with a heavy fine and life imprisonment in the Moar Tower Peel Castle. In 1651 Christian was released by the Commonwealth, which had then seized the Island, but he rebelled again in 1659. Once more imprisoned in the Moar Tower, he died there in 1661.

To improve relations with the Manx population James surrendered certain dues and services, then threw away goodwill by imposing one more burden. Hitherto land holders had behaved as landowners, able to sell or bequeath their land at will - James destroyed their security. He claimed ownership of the land which he would grant on tenure of only three lives, or twenty-two years. In due course, both land and tenants suffered. When tenants realised that the land they worked was not their own they became neglectful. Money marked for improvements was withheld, stock and implements and buildings fell into decay. The Island suffered a long agricultural depression. James strengthened the Island's defences, raised troops of horses, armed the militia and established training camps, building forts at St. Michael's Isle, Douglas, Ramsey and Cranstel.

The naval forces were also strengthened, they drove off a fleet of five vessels, captured three merchant ships off Castletown, prevented a landing on the Calf, and, until the Commonwealth attacked Man in 1651 kept Manx waters free from enemy privateers. James' last journey to Man in 1643, had compelled him to leave the defence of his Lancashire home, Lathom House, to his Countess Charlotte de la Tremouille. In 1644 he returned to the mainland and his wife but he could offer no aid. After the rout of the forces at Marston Moor compelled the Earl to join his wife the Countess in Castle Rushen, he passed a few years in comparative peace, maintaining an efficient defence. He left the Island in 1651 to aid Prince Charles who was defeated at Worcester. James was captured at Chester, tried for treason and executed at Bolton. From 1651 until 1660 the Lord of Man was the Commonwealth. From 1652 Lord Fairfax was Lord.

Charles Stanley 8th Earl

The Restoration of 1660, enabled Charles Stanley the 8th Earl of Derby to recover his rights as Lord of Man; he lost no time in reverting the old order. He replaced all those having Round-head sympathies, and restored the Bishopric. The dominant figure in this period was a friend of Earl Charles, Isaac Barrow, who with the Earls aid increased the stipend for the clergy, and introduced compulsory education for the young with penalties for non-compliance. The lighter penalty was a fine, the greater barred the ill educated from his service. It was two hundred years before this type of enforced education was applied in England. The rule of Earl Charles is also notable in that it saw the first issue of Manx coinage, previously Scottish Thistle half-pennies, St. Patricks Farthings and Limerick tokens were the currencies of the trade, but the evils attributed to this medley of money now intensified by the abundance of groats circulated by smugglers. In 1668 John Murray, with Tynwald approval, struck his brass and copper pennies. These continued in circulation until 1709, when Lord James Stanley the Tenth Earl minted his own. In 1672 Charles was succeeded by his son William the ninth Earl.

William Stanley 9th Earl

His name is little known, his role is unremarkable, yet his work is most worthy of remembrance, for he was the first of his line to concede that his rights imposed irksome burdens on his tenants and the first to offer relief from their oppression. His interest in Man and his reforms by Thomas Wilson, his former tutor who he appointed Bishop in 1696. The Bishop was shocked by the poverty in his diocese, realising that the land rights claimed by the Lord were ruining the Manx. Impressed by Bishop Wilson's arguments Earl William came to the Island in 1699. He informed farmers of his readiness to make redress and appointed the Bishop to receive their proposals for a settlement. In 1708 before much had been done, Earl William died, and was succeeded by his brother the tenth Earl.

James Stanley 10th Earl

Though unfriendly towards the Bishop and indifferent to the Manx James was a realist who agreed to fulfill his brother's promises. In 1704 the Act of Settlement that redressed many grievances is

remembered as the Manx Magna Carta. Briefly it abolished many irritable services, and gave tenants security of tenure. Subject to the payment of a Lords Rent the tenant became owner of the land, which he might sell or bequeth.

Bishop Wilson realised how eagerly the Stanleys seized every opportunity to curb the power of the church. Church and State collided in 1714 when Governor Horne refused the church the assistance of the army to aid the Church Courts, this rendered its officials impotent. The Governor arrested the Bishop and two Vicar-Generals and imprisoned them in Castle Rushen. The Bishop appealed to George I and nine weeks later he was released. James showed his hatred against Bishop Wilson by replacing Horne with a more hostile Governor, John Lloyd, who was ready at any cost to get rid of the Bishop.

The first church, St Mary's Castletown, was erected mainly at the cost of Earl William who, at its consecration in 1701, was the probable donor of its fine Charles II silver chalice with paten-cover. In 1708 John Murray's success persuaded Earl James to provide his own currency, but the condition was that it bore the image of Queen Anne. James founded the mint in Castle Rushen and there cast pennies and half-pennies in 1709. The obverse bore the Stanley crest, the Eagle and Child, surmounting a Cap of Maintenance with the motto SANS CHANGER and the date. The reverse carried the Three Legs. The Derby Eagle and Child is accounted for in the legend which relates that Sir Thomas and Lady Lathom having no son, adopted a child found lying in an eagles nest. He received their name and inherited their estates.

His only child Isobel married Sir John Stanley who, in memory of the event, took the Eagle and Child for his crest. In 1736 on the death of James Stanley, James, 2nd Duke of Atholl succeeded to the Lordship of Man. This he claimed through his grandmother Amelia. John Murray, 1st Marquis of Atholl, married Amelia daughter of James Stanley the 7th Earl. Their son John, 1st Duke of Atholl, was succeeded by James, the 2nd Duke, who succeeded to the Lordship. While the blood of the Stanleys was in the line of the Atholls, the name of Stanley was no longer Lord of Man.

In this article no account is given of the income that the Stanleys obtained from their Isle of Man estates. To appreciate the value of Man, with regard to some other Stanley estates, the following comparison is made. For the year 1677, income from Demesnes, rectories, and casual profits : the Isle of Man £900 against £400 for the Lathom Demesnes, the park and the New Park; £350, Knowsley Demesnes and Park; £450, profits of the court of exchequer at Chester.

From these figures it can be appreciated that the Isle of Man was a valuable acquisition to the Stanley estate.

A. W. SEGUSS

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TWO OLD HALLS OF LEYLAND

- Their Origin and People -

Very few seventeenth century houses survive in Leyland especially those built 'of a piece'. Two well known buildings bearing seventeenth century datestones - Old Hall and Atherton Hall Farm - are, in fact, products of different periods, but two excellent examples of early seventeenth century architecture have, however, survived.

Dunkirk Hall and Peacock Hall although built within two years of each other - 1628 and 1626 respectively - are quite different both architecturally and in origin. Since this article concerns the origin of these two properties the architecture will not be dealt with, perhaps someone more qualified than the writer will attempt this at a later date.

DUNKIRK HALL

Facing east, as many old houses and halls did, the Dunkirk Hall public house as it became in 1983 presents an imposing facade to the western by-pass of Leyland which runs directly in front of it at the intersection with Dunkirk Lane.

After being used for many years as the offices of Road Springs Ltd and later Jones Woodhead Ltd, who took over Harry Suttons Road Springs, the building was in a neglected and run-down condition and must have been a possibility for demolition. Thankfully, John Smith the Yorkshire Brewers purchased the property and restored it, externally at least, to something like its former glory.

To understand the origin of this hall one should, perhaps, refer to it by its original name 'Lostock'. The name 'William Sumner of Lostock' runs like a thread through the 16th and 17th century chief rent lists in the rentals of Leyland in the Farington of Worden muniments (Ref 1). It was in the latter half of the 17th century before a different christian name - John appeared as head of the house.

By tracing back through the records from the 19th century it is possible to show that what became Dunkirk Hall was, indeed, the property known simply as 'Lostock' - a logical name standing as it does just above and to the west of the River Lostock although the road alterations of the late 1970's makes their juxtaposition less obvious.

Lostock was one of the ancient freeholdings of Leyland, its origins lost in the mists of time which lift for the first time with the earliest extant rental of Leyland of 1398 (Ref 2) when Adam de Bretherton paid 4 shillings per annum chief rent to the Lord of the Manor. In 1412 the heirs of Adam de Bretherton were in possession but by the time of our next rental nearly one hundred years later - 1505 - a William Sumner appears for the first time.

Few rentals exist for the early 16th century but in 1542 (Ref 3) the heirs of William Sumner were paying the same amount -

4 shillings. By 1570 the family had added to their holding as William Sumner of Lostock was now paying 4s 3d, but details of the family in this period are sparse and it is the early 17th century before we can learn something of their circumstances.

The standing of the Sumners of Lostock in Leyland is difficult to assess. Certainly, as freeholders they were a prominent family and at the Inquisition Post Mortem (Ref 4, Note 1) after the death of William Sumner (1st of May, 1615) he is referred to as 'gentleman', and holding One messuage, a garden, an orchard, and 15 acres of land, meadow and pasture in Leyland. In his will (Ref 5) dated 29th of April 1615 the amount of money that he left - £201.3s.7d - shows that he was of much greater than average wealth, but his estate seems to have been too small to have generated enough income to account for such a sum; almost certainly he was involved in some commercial enterprise but no obvious 'tools of the trade' are mentioned in the will. In his inventory where the items listed are the usual mix of farming, domestic and personal possessions the last two entries give a clue as to a possible activity : Debts owing to the deceased : with specialty £94.16s.10d, without specialty £25.15s.11d. So 'lent money' accounts for over 50% of the sum total of the inventory (Specialty: presumably this means that the lender held a note or IOU for the amount).

It is not uncommon in the early wills of Leyland to find instances of money lending. Jane Sumner of Leyland who died in 1638 had debts owing to her of £70.12s.0d out of an inventory total of £128.13s.10d. In fact, the very first item in her will before any bequests are made is "First, I doe give unto everyone who at the time of my death hath any money of mine at use, one years Interest".

In the Preston Guild Rolls of 1622 (Ref 6) William Sumpner of Lostock was sworn as a Foreign Burgess as were his sons William and Christopher. In 1636 William Sumner and his son William are noted as 'Wearing the Sheriffs Cloth': this shows an involvement in both Preston and Lancaster. Just what circumstances led to the building of their new house in 1628 one can only surmise. Obviously the family had flourished and in a period of relative prosperity what became known as the 'Great Re-building' was going on throughout England.

An indication of their religion is given in the Protestation Return of 1642 (Ref 7) when both father and son refused to take the oath : this almost certainly means that they had adhered to the Roman Catholic faith. A possible confirmation of this appears in a list of convicted recusants in 1667 (Ref 8) where Ann, wife of William Sumner, is fined for recusancy.

In the Michaelmas 1664 collection of the Hearth Tax (Ref 9) 'William Sumner of Lostock' paid for six hearths. To put this in context only two properties in Leyland had more : William Farington for Worden - 16 hearths; and Lady Frances Tyldesley widow of Sir Thomas Tyldesley, (occupying Old Hall at this time) - 7 hearths. The Lady Day collection of 1664 gives an insight into the relative prosperity of the inhabitants of Leyland in this period : out of 146 dwellings in the township, 120 had only one hearth.

The Sumner occupancy of Lostock lasted until the early 18th century; the last entry of this family in the Leyland Register (Ref 10) appears to be the burial of Richard, son of John Sumner Junior on the 1st of April 1717. Certainly by 1724 the Sumners had gone: a deed (DDF 1991) of that year, concerning enclosure in Leyland, includes the entry :- Edward Atherton for Sumners of Lostock, 14 acres.

This may seem a small estate but the freeholders lands in Leyland were indeed a small proportion of the manor. A deed of 1575 (DDF 113) when the Huddlestons held the manor of Leyland and the Farington family held Worden and their 'Ten Mark Lands', the division of Leyland was as follows :- the Huddlestons 621 acres, the Faringtons 300 acres, and the Freeholders (eleven of them) 182 acres. (These are all customary acres, the Leyland measure being 7½ yards to the pole). So, the average freeholding was some 16½ acres customary, approximately 30 acres statute. At this time the estate of Lostock was 16 acres customary, and the largest in Leyland that of Nicholas Blacklache, 30 acres, for the estate that became known as Old Hall after the occupation by the Charnocks in the 17th century.

The name Dunkirk has puzzled historians of Leyland over the years with many and varied the explanations of the name. George Birtill in his 'Green Pastures' posed the question "Is it named after the hedge sparrow 'Dunnock' or the French port"? To take the two elements literally 'Dun' could be down, below, or a hill whilst 'Kirk' must surely be a church. 'Below the Church' is not very different to the 17th century expression that occurs in the Leyland Register 'Below ye town' which became the still used expression for the Leyland Lane and Moss Side area - Lower Side. 'Hill' may seem unlikely in such a flat landscape but two fields just to the south of Dunkirk Hall are Further and Nearest Slater hill! Certainly the name Dunkirk first appears in a Survey book of Leyland (DDF81) of 1725 so the name came into use shortly after the Sumners left and Edward Atherton became the new owner.

However, our President Mr G L Bolton has come up with a new and ingenious theory for the origin of the name, this follows at the end of this article.

PEACOCK HALL

Standing on the west side of Leyland Lane, a little over 100 yards south of Seven Stars, Peacock Hall is a fine example of a substantial early 17th century house. Despite being split into three in the mid-19th century it retains its individuality and deserves to be better known.

The datestone proclaims 'IS 1626' - the I being the Roman J - but who was JS and how was he able to build such an impressive dwelling? The author had long held the view that there was only one man in Leyland at that time with those initials of sufficient standing to have built the house - John Sumner, steward to the Faringtons of Worden - and an Indenture in the Farington Muniments (DDF 1690) seems to confirm this.

'On the 7th of November 1620 John Sumner of Leyland, Yeoman, and

Servant unto William Farington of Worden, Esquire, bought for £10 from the same William Farington a parcel of ground lately enclosed from the waste on the west side of Lower Lane' (Lower Lane was the old name for Leyland Lane). Whilst not proving that this piece of ground was the site of Peacock Hall further information in the indenture shows that it was certainly in this area. Clues from other sources all go to indicate that it was indeed John Sumner that built what was to become known as Peacock Hall on this site.

John Sumner became steward to the Faringtons of Worden in the very early years of the 17th century. The Farington muniments contain a unique letter (DDF 2438/92) written by John Sumner, in London at the time of the Gun Powder Plot, to his master William Farington at Worden.

The Gunpowder Plot Letter

"True it is that upon Monday late in the night being the fourth of November or rather upon Tuesday early in the morning that was found in a vault or cellar directly under the Parliament house a great quantity of gunpowder barrellled up beside the trains to set them on fire, laid there by one Mr Thomas Percy, one of the Kings pensioners, and one Johnston (Guy Fawkes) his servant or confederate.... with a full determination and purpose that when the King, Queen and young Prince, together with all the nobility and peers of the realm had been there assembled, to have set fire upon the powder and so to have blown up the house, which wicked practice was revealed by my Lord Mounteagle.

The said Johnston was brought privately upon his apprehension before the King, who asked him whether he was not sorrowful for that his wicked practice, who answered that indeed he was sorrowful because his purpose did not take full effects.

Great Bonfires were made throughout all the streets and ringing of bells throughout all London for upon Tuesday the 5th of November at night for joy the same devilish practice was revealed."

6 November 1605

(The spelling has been put into modern English for clarity).

John Sumner was followed in the office of Steward by his son William : both are in the Preston Guild Rolls of 1622 (Ref 6) being sworn as Foreign Burgesses where William is described as 'Servant to William Farington, Esquire', John is entered as 'John Sumner of Radom'; this is believed to be a contraction of Radholme, the forest to the east of the Forest of Bowland, but efforts to find references to his family in that area have drawn a blank. It seems to have been the practice that

senior servants in households such as Worden were brought in from outside the immediate area and such men were often of the gentry class themselves.

The Lancashire Royalist Composition Papers (Ref 11) show that both John Sumner and his Son William were at the First Siege of Lathom House in the Civil War, but William left the Royalist cause and subsequently joined the Parliamentary forces. He served under General Poyntz at Newark and elsewhere from the 24th of October 1645 to November 1646.

Some indication of the standing of the family is shown by the size of the fine, imposed by Parliament for their 'delinquency' in taking the side of Charles the First in the Civil War. The fact that William changed sides may have mitigated the charge somewhat, but they were still fined £85 on the 31st December 1646. For comparison, William Farington the Elder of Worden, was fined £511 on the 29th of May 1649 and his son William of Shaw Hall, £117.3s.4d on the 2nd of June 1649.

The 'Royalist Composition Papers' are a useful source of information as to the lands held by the petitioner, and also contain additional items of interest. From John and Williams petition we learn that John Sumner was 80 years of age when he took the National Covenant before James Langley, Vicar of Leyland, on the 15th of March 1645/6 which William also took on the 10th December 1646. This shows that they were not involved in the later stages of the Civil War on the Royalist side, a fact that was probably further mitigation in assessing their fine.

It is interesting to note John Sumner's age - it is rare that a persons age is given in this period in any document; certainly in the Leyland Parish register age at the time of death is not given until the 19th century - 80 years of age in March 1646 means that he was born in 1565 or 1566 making him a man in his mid-late thirties when he came to Leyland as Steward to the Faringtons, and some 60 or 61 years of age when he built his house on Lower Lane.

The will of John Sumner (Ref 12) made the 18th of February 1652/3 shows that he died shortly afterwards as the will was proved at Westminster on the 30th August 1653 and administration was granted to his widow Katherine and daughter Elizabeth (Wills during the Commonwealth were proved centrally and not at the local Diocesan Court as was usually the case). From the will we learn details of the family.

At the time of his death John Sumner was some 87 or 88 years of age - a great age for that time - and left a wife Katherine, son William, and four daughters : Elizabeth, unmarried; Anne, the wife of Richard Garner; Jane, the wife of Paul Morae; and Mary, the wife of Thomas Whalley.

Sadly, his only son William, died less than two years later. His Will (Ref 13) was made on the 7th of August 1654 and proved at London on the 7th June 1655. The wording of his will suggests that he was not living at the house in Leyland at the time of his death, certainly his burial does not appear in the Leyland Register. He appears to have been unmarried, at least he left no wife or children, and willed his estate in Leyland to remain

in his mothers hands during her life-time and afterwards to be divided between his sisters.

By the time of the Hearth Tax (Ref 9) - the 1660's - the family in occupation was that of Paul and Jane Morae. A Chester Marriage Licence exists for this couple: 10th February 1639/40 Paul Morian of Huyton and Jane Sumner of Leyland parish; and the baptism of their first child appears in the Bishops Transcripts in the printed volume of the Leyland Register (Ref 15): 'James, son of Paul Morrey, Bapt. the 22nd of April 1641.' The Morae family seems to have stayed on in Leyland as a burial in the register shows: 'John, son of Mr James Murray, buried the 22nd of May 1676.' (The name appears in many forms - Morae, Morean, Morian, Moryay, Murray and even Morris. Even in the wills of John and his son William we have first Murray and then Morean!).

A dearth of 18th century records has so far prevented identification of the owners or occupiers of Peacock Hall from the time of the Moraes until the Land Tax returns of the late 18th century (Ref 16). In 1785 and 1790 a Mr Richard Wilding was the owner; in 1795 a Miss Bateson; and from 1800 through to the time of the Tithe Award in 1838 (Ref 17) the owner was a Mr Robert Weaver. In a survey book of Leyland in 1819 (Ref 18) the property is referred to simply as 'Weavers'.

This brings us to the name Peacock Hall. First occurrence of the name so far found is in the Census Return of 1851 (Ref 19) by which time the house had been divided into three dwellings as indeed it had in the 1841 Census but in that year the name Peacock Hall did not appear. At the time of the Tithe Award the house was in the occupation of one man, John Lee; this seems to show that the splitting up of the house occurred between 1838 and 1841.

The name Pincock both as a surname and a place name in Euxton has, in the past, been seen corrupted to Peacock but the name Pincock has not, so far, been linked with the building: there is, however, a Peacock Farm in Euxton so the name is not unique in the area. Certainly, it could be described as a proud building compared to the simple cottages that surrounded it in the 18th and 19th centuries but 'proud as a peacock' suggests flamboyance and outward show a description that would do less than justice to this fine old building. Perhaps Mr Bolton could do his thinking cap once again and come up with the likeliest origin of the name.

conclusion

No doubt much more could be found out about these old halls of Leyland and the people who lived in them but the object of this article was to show their early history and particularly their origin; the one ancient going back, possibly, to the early 13th century when the Manor of Leyland was split into moieties (Note 2), and the other being built on land taken out of the waste in 1620.

The Sumners of Lostock and the Sumners Stewards to the Faringtons have, in the past, been looked upon as one and the same family, clearly they were not.

Peacock Hall has been the subject of much speculation: two of its fields behind the house were known in 1838 as Moat Meadow and

Little Moat Meadow. This has given rise to conjecture that the origin of the house was that of a moated manor house and possibly the centre of a lost hamlet. (Honkington - a lost hamlet in Leyland - was identified some years ago by Mr G L Bolton as being in this area). On the evidence to hand that, now, seems unlikely.

In the records used the name Sumner in spelt in several ways; I have used the form that occurs most commonly - Sumner for Lostock or Dunkirk, and Somner for Peacock Hall. Perhaps it should be noted, however, that in the will of William Sumner of Lostock (1615) the spelling is, in fact, Sompner.

Note 1

Inquisitions Post Mortem were held after the deaths of people of sufficient standing to enquire into what land they held, by what right they held it, and who was their heir. The object was to ascertain what, if anything, was due to the King in lands, goods, or chattels. If the heir was under age a guardian was appointed.

These enquiries were regulated by a Statute of 1540/41, but no attempt was made under the Commonwealth to enforce the rights that had been held by the King, and were abolished by Act of Parliament on the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Note 2

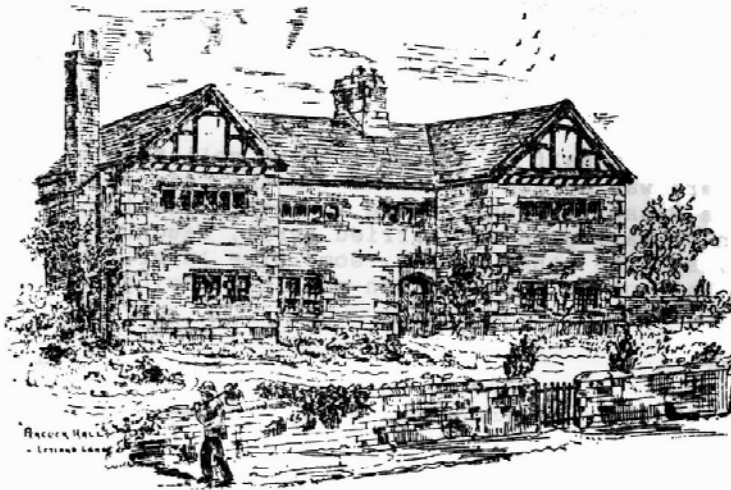
A moiety was a half of a manor; this splitting often occurred when there was no son and heir. In the case of Leyland it seems that the Bussel lordship ended in such a fashion, one half going to John de Farington who married Avril, daughter of Robert Bussel, and the other moiety, some time later, was in the hands of the Waltons of Ulnes Walton possibly having been acquired from a co-heir

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14. Chester Marriage Licences vol IV, RSLC Vol 61, p.37
15. Leyland Register 1653-1710. RSLC Vol.21
16. Quarter Session Land Tax Returns. LRO REF: QDL
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19. Census Returns on microfilm at Leyland Library.

W. E. WARING



PEACOCK HALL 1881. DAVID GRANT

ADVERT FROM "THE PRESTON PILOT" OCTOBER 30TH 1847

"For stopping decayed teeth. Patronised by her Majesty the Queen the Royal Family and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas and Howard's "SUCCEDANEUM" - for filling, however large the cavity. Put in the tooth in a soft state, without pressure or pain, hardens the enamel rendering extraction unnecessary and preventing further decay. The tooth is thereby rendered useful again in mastication".

WHY DUNKIRK HALL ?

Every Leylander knows that Dunkirk Hall is on Dunkirk Lane, was built in 1628 and has a date to prove it and has in recent years been converted into a public house, which no doubt saved it for posterity. Having said that, little or nothing has been written about its history and this short article will do nothing to remedy that omission.

I am merely concerned with commenting on the mysterious origins of its name. Previously, attempts have been made to analyse it into the components "dun" = a hill and "kirk" = a church. Well, in the vicinity of the river Lostock, "Kirks" are rare and "duns" are even rarer. At this point I am making the perhaps unwarranted assumption that the lane is named after the hall and not vice versa.

No one who remembers or had read of, the last great conflict will fail to recognise that Dunkirk (the English spelling) is a town on the north-east coast of France, the scene of such heavy fighting. It is here that I feel we should look for the origins of the name of our Dunkirk Hall, even if this does not give us a simple explanation.

Analysis of the original Flemish name - Dunkerque - shows that it means "The Church of the Dunes" and need not concern us further. The question then arises, in what way can a hall in Leyland be associated with a town in France, 1628 was before the days of town-twinning. To answer this question I must refer it to someone with knowledge of the documentary history of Dunkirk Hall and I will merely add some comments which could possibly have relevance.

The town of Dunkirk has had a long history as disputed territory. Ignoring the period before 1600 as probably being irrelevant, in 1657 by an Anglo-French treaty Cromwell "lent" 6000 English soldiers to fight under French command against the Spanish forces, in one of the frequent and confusing wars in Europe. In a desperate battle on 4 June 1658 on the "dunes" north of Dunkirk, the combined French and English forces were victorious. England was given the towns of Mardijk and Dunkirk as payment for its help.

Question - Is 1657/58 a significant date in local history?

We did not hold Dunkirk long. After the Restoration in 1660, money difficulties became acute, and by October 1662 the government sold Dunkirk to the French for 5 million livres, (£400,000). It was costing £13,000 a year to maintain and was quite useless to us, but the people pretended to be utterly humiliated, "bought with English blood" etc., etc.

Question - Is 1662 a significant date in local history?

The man who quite unfairly caught the brunt of the nations anger was Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, Minister to both Charles the First and Second and grandfather to two Queens, Mary II and Anne. Loyal to his masters he was hated by everyone. Perhaps his fault was that he tried too hard. He certainly was held responsible for the sale of Dunkirk to the French and worse

besides.



Clarendon House, Piccadilly, 1682.

It so happened that in 1662 he was in the process of building his great palace of a London house in the fields north of Piccadilly. This was called Clarendon House, later to be replaced by Albemarle House now pulled down to build the streets around Bond Street.

He had religiously employed the money received from the sale of Dunkirk to meet the deficiencies in the national Exchequer, but the fickle citizenry swore it had gone to build his new palace and christened that building - "Dunkirk House".

Question - Is it too fanciful to think that "Dunkirk House" or "Dunkirk Hall" became a general derogatory term in certain circumstances ?

In conclusion I offer the above notes for further comment on the dating and possible origins of the name - Dunkirk Hall.

G. L BOLTON

THOSE ELEVEN DAYS ONCE MORE

Yet another instance of the use of the Julian Calendar in Britain has come to light.

The Ukrainian Catholic church established their own Diocese in England and Wales on the 10th of June 1957, and later in Scotland and the rest of the British Isles on the 12th of May 1968, and use the Julian for their Ukrainian Rite Liturgical Calendar.

They celebrate Christmas Day on the 7th of January and New Years Day on the 14th (Gregorian). The eleven days difference in 1752 has now become thirteen.

HISTORIC ECCLESTON AND THE RIVER YARROW

The parishes of Ulnes Walton and Eccleston are closely linked, not only geographically but historically also. One walk, some three miles in length, discovers some of the history of the area, starting and finishing in Ulnes Walton, but spending the majority of the time in Eccleston.

Start from the Rose and Crown public house in Ulnes Walton in the hamlet known as Newtown, then cross the main road south; this road is the boundary between the two parishes. Walk south down New Lane this is the road to Eccleston and is shown on Yates' Map of 1786, so it is at least two hundred years old. After a few hundred yards the access to Ingrave Farm appears on the right, this is the route back, so continue down to the junction at Lydiate Lane. Notice Eccleston Rectory half hidden among trees on the left.

At Lydiate Lane cross to the old humpbacked bridge over the River Yarrow, look left and over the wall to see the remains of a mill race. Now silted up, this was the discharge from the Mill that was situated just up Lydiate Lane, now converted to a large modern dwelling. Water was taken from the River Yarrow further upstream, coming across the fields to drive the mill machinery, before travelling down this discharge ditch and back into the river.

This old bridge is the natural entrance to the ancient village of Eccleston where in the past there were three important areas in the parish. South of the river lay Bradley Hall and to the north of the river Sarscow and Tingreave, the latter being the older name for Ingrave. Just to the left is the entrance to Eccleston Parish Church, "the Church of the Blessed Virgin," there was a church here in 1094. This has been the entrance since 1894, before that, the old cobbled walkway from the village centre was the original access. Walk up the avenue of trees to the fine old church built of red sandstone blocks.

Proceed to the S.E. corner of the churchyard and a gate; the paved walkway beyond is the original access to the church mentioned earlier and is believed to be one of the oldest rights of way in the village. There are references in 1733 to "Payments for a new paved causey in the church fields." A photograph inside the church gives a view from the air of the church and the surrounding countryside and shows a track starting from the end of the paved access from the village, passing to the east of the church, then crossing the River Yarrow, ending up at the old Corn Mill.

Retrace your steps back to the bridge over the Yarrow, cross, then walk down the side of Bridge End Cottages, situated on the opposite side of the road. A path soon enters a field via a stile which on close examination of this structure reveals that one of the stone uprights is a tenon-top gate post. The function of these carved posts is unknown but only one of a pair of gate posts is ever found to be of this type. Follow the riverside path through several fields, passing some old willow trees with

large twisted trunks. All the fields have names as shown on the Tithe Award, such as 'Yarrow Hey' , 'Rough Hey', Long Hey', 'Marled Hey' and 'Low Ridding'.

The river twists and turns, eventually coming to Croston. Just before the road a weir is evidence of the location of a mill and by looking across the head of the weir, a bricked up entrance to the mill-race can be seen. This was the point at which the water was taken off to enter the mill and drive the waterwheel. There has been a corn mill on this site for a long time; the first reference to it names a Thomas Fleming in 1371. He granted a house in Croston to Richard the Smith and Margaret his wife, and in 1377 gave a house with a garden, an acre of meadow in Osmondleigh, and the moiety (one half portion of the estate) of his water mill at Croston to Roger Bond the miller, at a rent of 2½ marks (a mark being two thirds of a pound). Also in 1464, a jury was summoned to recognise if William Fleming, father of William, and formerly the husband of Anne, then wife of John Nevil, had been seized of 40 messuages and a water mill in Croston, Mawdesley and Longton. A messuage being a house and the ground around it.

Retrace steps along the River Yarrow and at the east end of the first field, look for a tributary going off south from the main river; this is Sydbrook and this stream forms the boundary between Eccleston and Croston. This boundary continues along the Yarrow east to a bend then north along a ditch (two hidden footbridges which cross this ditch are on the return route). In the field cross diagonally to a gate, with another gate just to the right and at the gate pick up a track. This is Sarscow Lane and runs from the main road at a point opposite Gradwells once the home of the Umpire Museum; this fine old 17th century building is being refurbished. Sarscow Lane ends at a ruin, this is Great Sarscow Farm, with Little Sarscow Farm, still a working farm, further along towards the main road.

Great Sarscow Farm has seen many alterations as can be seen from the frontage. The beams in the main downstairs room are 17th century as indicated by the shape: the undersides are chamfered at the corners. There is a well hidden under the thick vegetation in the front garden on the north side of the building. The area is famous for the ghost of the 'Sarscow Lady'. She was a girl from Sarscow Farm who fell in love with a resident chaplain of Gradwells. The priest became ill and died and the love-lorn maiden in her despair jumped or fell down a deep well at the back of Gradwells. Over the years there have been reports of a slim white female form in the house, also strange noises and movement of furniture. Some years ago a coach driver passing Gradwells, refused to go any further claiming he had run over a woman, whereupon the locals said it was the Sarscow Lady walking again!.

From Great Sarscow follow a track east for a few yards, turn to the south into a field, then turn left to follow a hedge to an opening. Go through this then walk across a field north to a footbridge which crosses Spent Brook, cross this then turn right to follow the brook through several fields, crossing a rough patch of uncultivated land. In the corner of the third field an enclosed track starts from a gate, this track circles Ingrave Farm as mentioned earlier. The remains of a moat which are shown on the map lay just to the right of the track which

eventually bends right to enter the extensive farmyard. The house can be seen down to the right, this is one of several buildings which have stood on this site, the original structure stood in the middle of a homestead moat.

Homestead moats were rarely placed as points of military vantage, but often in hollows for the sake of shelter without any command of adjacent ground. In such cases their water defences could only serve to ward off attack from gangs of robbers or wild beasts. The first buildups on these island platforms were wooden and there are 70 such sites in Lancashire including Bradley Hall but north of the Ribble they are rare. The majority are square in shape, and the most frequent size is 260 ft square (outside measurement). In the case of Ingrave, the moat has either been filled in or silted up and nothing remains visible apart from a possible trace in the thick wood adjacent.

From the farm, take the access to the road then left turn, to retrace steps to the start at the Rose and Crown.

SOURCES

Thomas Yates Map of 1786

1:25,000 O.S Map Chorley

Victoria County History of Lancashire Vols II and VI

Lets Take a Walk G Birtill

Follow any Stream G Birtill

Ghosts of the Northwest P Underwood

Dr D Hunt.

GRAHAM THOMAS

HIGH INCIDENCE OF PAUPER BURIALS

Searching through the Leyland Register for a burial in the 1780's, it was noticed that each year at the end of September the total number of the burials for the preceding year were recorded, and the number of those that were paupers was also given.

The number of pauper burials seemed unusually high so the entries from the 1st of October 1784 to the 30th September 1789 were noted and are given here : The year 1784/85 burials 115, which includes 18 paupers; 1785/86 105 - 14; 1786/87 108 - 14; 1787/88 127 - 22; and 1788/89 155 - 33.

For the five years noted we have 610 burials of which 101 were of paupers - 16.8%, a surprising statistic which would repay further study.

CORONATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA, AS CELEBRATED IN LEYLAND

- PRESTON CHRONICLE JUNE 28TH 1838 -

The inhabitants of this village, on the joyous occasion of the Coronation, were excelled by none of their neighbours in the demonstration of their attachment to our fair and lovely Queen. The bells from the delightfully situated Parish Church commenced ringing at an early hour in the morning; the peals were merry and sonorous and one of them, a Treble Bob Minor called "Queen Victoria", was composed by one of the bell-ringers, a native of Leyland, which delighted all the villagers. This was followed by Kent Treble, both peals being rung without a pause between.

A band of musicians perambulated the village and marched to Mr Fletcher's Bleach Works where the work people about 60 in number, had assembled to join them. The procession then wended its way, (increasing continually like a snowball) to Messrs Bashall and Boardman's in Farington. Upon its return, it was joined by a party of gentlemen waiting at the Roebuck. From there they made their way to the new National Sunday School having their ranks swelled by 1200 children from the different schools of the neighbourhood. Being arrived at the new school, the Rev. Gardner Baldwin Vicar, opened it in form and having addressed the assembly, the service was concluded with the National Anthem. Upwards of 40 gentlemen sat down to a rich and sumptuous dinner provided by Mr Kellet at the Roebuck. Among the distinguished guests we noticed Major Baldwin in the chair supported by Mr Bashall Esq. All the children were entertained in the new school with buns and pies and spiced ale and a number of poor women were treated with tea and most kindly and charitably waited upon by the Misses Farington, Misses Brandt, by Mrs Baldwin and other distinguished ladies.

"Let not the riche deride, the proud disdain,
The simple pleasures of the lowly train
To me more dear congenial to my heart
One native charm than all the gloss of art"

At the Eagle and Child there was also an entertainment served up at the expense of the worthy and generous gentlemen who attended to witness and join in the day's festivities. The evening was spent in the greatest sociality, friendship, loyalty and good feeling.



BOOK REVIEW

" The History of Leyland and District "
By Dr D A Hunt

(Carnegie Press 1990) Price £7.95

With no fore-knowledge of the contents but a knowledge of its author, I opened this book with anticipation. First impressions were good, the volume was attractively produced on good quality paper, the typography was easy on the eyes and the reproduction of the many photographs maps and plans was such that one had an uncanny feeling that they were somehow sharper than the originals.

As to the contents, Dr Hunt has given us a definitive and scholarly (but eminently readable) account of the story of Leyland. A Leyland historian has first to decide on the area covered by his title. The name Leyland meant different things at different times, for instance the Manor, the vill or township, the Hundred, the Old Parish (a relic of the pre-Conquest shire), the civil administration and finally a constituent part of the South Ribble Borough. The author has managed to guide us with some skill through these intricacies.

In the earlier historical era he has sketched in the principles and implications of his interpretations of the landscape and documentary evidence of the wider area. As time went on he has, probably wisely, not attempted a detailed study of the lesser townships of the old Leyland such as Euxton, Clayton, Cuerden and others, these calling for separate treatment, a task as yet merely touched upon by others.

Within the compass of the book he has thus been able to treat in detail that area which we think of as the township of Leyland from the aspects of social, economic, religious, agricultural (and we must not forget that until recently agriculture came almost up to the Church door) and finally the industrial histories of his theme. If at first sight the township of Farington seems to occupy an undue portion of the book, there are two very good, but unrelated, reasons for this. Firstly, it was the place of origin of the most prominent family in Leyland, the Faringtons and secondly its textile industry development mirrored that of Leyland and can hardly be separated from the latter.

With regard to the history of the Farington family, Dr Hunt has given a comprehensive account of their importance in the story of Leyland and traced their occupancy of the Manor, a tangled web, as this reviewer has cause to know. If possible one would have liked to have seen mention of the fact that at an early period there were many small freeholders in Leyland which may account for the blank areas on the plan of the Farington families possessions in 1725.

In the second half of this book the author gives a very detailed account of the economic history of industrial Leyland, in particular the textile and vehicle trades not forgetting the other lesser but significant industries which so often have been

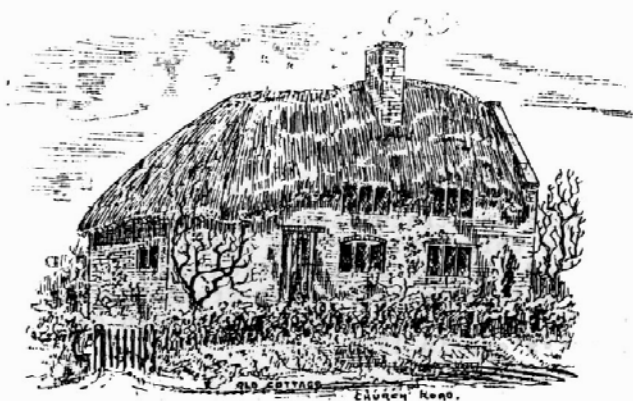
overlooked. He blends in with this descriptions of the social history of the township in the 19th and 20th centuries. The above sentences do not do justice to the amount of information contained in these later sections which like the rest of the book have to be read to be appreciated.

Finally he gives a concise but sorely needed account of the post-war development, real and proposed but not implemented, of the township. This is history brought up to the time of writing.

No reviewer standing as close to the subject as this one can refrain from constructive minor comment, and therefore I would point out on page 35 that the illustration is of the Farington family shield not of its crest. The latter is a story in itself which is perhaps why the wyvern concerned has its tail in a twist. On page 23, discussing the references to the hamlet of Honkington, Dr Hunt states that "after 1404 all is silence". Tut-tut, in c.1690 another learned Doctor (hero of both the author and the reviewer) described Honkington as the part of Leyland west of Leyland Lane thus enabling me in 1976 to make the first modern identification of this ancient hamlet.

These pleasantries apart it now has to be said that the 160 pages of Dr Hunts work contain a vast amount of information on the story of Leyland, and it will be the standard reference book for years to come. As the last Chairman of our Society stated recently, this book can form a solid basis on which to build further knowledge of Leyland history, hopefully in the form of individual contributions on specialised topics by members of our Society.

G L Bolton
July 1990



SOCIETY AFFAIRS

The Annual General Meeting was held at Prospect House on the 2nd July 1990 with a good attendance by the membership. The Chairman was able to report that the number of members had increased this year to a total of 74, and that the finances were in a healthy state. Two officers of the Society had expressed their wish to stand down, Elizabeth Shorrocks and Margaret Wilson, Elizabeth after three years as Chairman and Margaret after some seven years as Secretary with the assistance of Dorothy Deacon and Mrs Hiles. Mrs E Chaloner agreed to stand as Chairman for a one-year period and Miss Jane Penswick was elected Honorary Secretary.

The lecture programme for season 1989/90 proved very enjoyable and was well attended often by fifty or more members: the very mild winter no doubt helped in this respect. The committee is aware of the problem that exists for the last two or three meetings of the year when the light nights come and difficulty is experienced in 'blacking-out' the windows of the lecture room. Negotiations are proceeding with Prospect House to see what can be done to improve matters.

The Leyland Festival Committee have published a booklet 'Festival Centenary Souvenir' which contains the full text that we had provided for the programme for the Centenary Festival in 1989. This is available in local bookshops.

The 'Historian of the Year' award for 1989 goes to David Hunt for his article in Issue No 35 'Leylands First Building Society! Thanks to Dr J D Marshall Ph.D whose adjudication of this award is greatly appreciated.

The Chairman finally thanked the membership and the committee for their support and efforts in the past year, and especially Mrs Hiles who is leaving us shortly, but only because she is leaving Leyland in the near future.

- From the Chairmans address at the AGM 1990 -

NOTE

Just before this issue went to the typist Miss Jane Penswick tendered her resignation as Honorary Secretary owing to pressure of work. Her resignation was accepted with regret as Jane was proving an efficient and popular secretary. Margaret Wilson has stepped into the breach assisted by other members of the Committee.

When Mrs E Chaloner took the chair she thanked both Elizabeth Shorrocks and Margaret Wilson for their sterling work for the Society during the years they had been in office, a period that has seen a steady increase in membership which hopefully will be maintained.

EDITOR

BEATING THE PARISH BOUNDS

Pagan in origin when the ritual was to ensure a good harvest it gained acceptance in the Christian Church in the fifth century. In 470 a.d after a year of catastrophes, plague and earthquake in the diocese of Vienne in Dauphiny (France) the Bishop, St Mamertus, instructed a penitential procession on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day - the Rogation Days. The procession went from field to field and garden to garden praying for a successful harvest. In 816 AD Pope Leo III introduced it into Rome, and soon after it became a general observance throughout the Church.

The custom spread and in Saxon Britain the three days were known as 'gang days,' or 'Cross week'. As time went by it evolved into a procession of the boundary of the parish, town or village with the priest offering prayers for the harvest and young boys beating the boundary stones with long sticks of willow.

The religious element was discontinued after the Reformation but the processions survived in the ceremony known as 'Beating the Parish Bounds'.

PRESTON CHRONICLE JANUARY 18TH 1890

Leyland Petty Sesions - The Bench Say Rabbiting

One gentleman with the high-sounding name of Horatio Nelson and a brave and affectionate companion rejoicing in the aromatic patronymic of George Rose, were summoned for being upon land attached to Farington Mill in search of rabbits. John Roscoe, gamekeeper to Mr John Eccles, said that on the 11th of December he saw the defendants near a hedge side, place a **ferret** in a rabbit burrow. Shortly afterward a rabbit left the hole, and two dogs which the defendants had with them, pursued it, but did not succeed in securing it. Defendants said that they were not rabbiting, but had gone in search of rats. The Bench believed that they were in search of the special sort of rodents which are attractive on the table, and hence Horatio and George were ordered to stand down and pay 10 shillings and costs; alternative **seven** days.

PRESTON CHRONICLE MARCH 15TH 1890

On Sunday afternoon the death occurred of Mr Hugh Holden, one of the oldest residents of Leyland, at Quin Villa, Hough Lane, where his daughter, Mrs Iddon, lives. Mr Holden was born in September 1799, and had, therefore, attained his 91st year. In the early portion of his long life he assisted in the making of the railway line from Liverpool to Manchester, the first ever constructed, and later was employed on the East Lancashire line. He afterwards adopted and followed the trade of a hand-loom weaver up to five years ago, a period approaching forty years. During the whole of this time he was assisted by his wife, the **looms** upon which they were engaged being situated in the cellar of their house in Water Street. Deceased was the father of four children (two sons and two daughters) grandfather to 39 persons, and he had 33 great-grandchildren.