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Leiland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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Mr. E. Mason.
71, Crawford Ave. Leyland.
Tel. 21825

AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month.
(Sept. to June inclusive) at 7-30 pm.
in THE METHODIST SCHOOL
CANBERRA ROAD, LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents-----£1.50 per annum.
Adult Members-----£1.00 " "
School Members-----£0.25p. " "
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Affiliated to the Historic Society of
Lancashire and Cheshire

THE LAYLAND CHRONICLE

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Leyland Historical Society

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Dear Members,

In part of that which is left standing of Farington Mill, I was invited to take away some old ledgers, sales and stores record books (dating back to 1887 in one case) which were permeated by dust and dirt but of some interest.

A sales ledger contained entries concerning companies from John Stannings to Messrs Boulton and Paul of Norwich who made quantities of aircraft during world war two.

There is a list of cottage rents ranging from two shillings to four shillings weekly - the kind which bring up to £6000 nowadays if they happen to be in a pleasant spot.

The weight of these books must be a hundredweight, and are now taking up a considerable part of our garage space.

There are many entries concerning manors for Sunday School, of which I am not sure of their significance. Another refers to the sale of the old cottages near the gasworks.

No doubt other interesting revelations could be found after a careful perusal of the thousands of entries, if one had the time and patience.

The Evening Post got wind of them and I was persuaded into posing for the photographer in the act of examining one of them.

Perhaps one day the town will have some sort of museum to house a few of them, pieces of a fast disappearing old Leyland!

We understand that Leyland Motors are planning a museum consisting of old models plus one or two 'Leyland clocks' etc. If it could grow into a general museum embracing the whole town it would be a good thing - at least I could get rid of our Farington Factory records.

I invite anyone who might be able to interpret these records of industrial effort, to contact me.

Your committee are pleased at the popularity of the outings - long may they continue.

From next January the meeting of Leyland Central Townswomen's Guild will be changed to the first Tuesday in the month. We give any Townswomen who may wish to join us a cordial invitation to do so in 1974.

Kind regards

E. Mason (Hon. Sec.)

(3)

NEWS AND COMMENT.

By the Editor.

We are pleased to state that our annual dinner and dance held at the Tines Hotel in February was once again very successful - and it has been decided to have this event at the same venue - in 1974.

It is very pleasing to see such a good response to the outings which have been arranged for the coming months --

On Monday 16th April sixty of our members visited "The Port of Preston" and were conducted round the docks, seeing many interesting features of this authority.

On Sunday 6th May we are to have a visit to the Fylde to see some of the remaining windmills, and in particular, one which has been restored to its original condition, although it is used as a house by the man and his family who restored it --

May 19th Saturday we visit once again Lancaster University for a lecture and a meeting with members of the Lonsdale Historical Society-

On Saturday June 16th an outing has been arranged to visit the "City of York" and it is hoped to have a conducted tour round the walls, museums and other places of Historical interest.

Looking to August we are visiting once again the industrial museum at Helmsore

For full details of any of these visits please contact our social secretaries.

Mrs Barnes
Leyland.
21033

Mrs. Deacon.
Leyland.
21369

THE LEYLAND FESTIVAL.

We have once again been asked to take part - and it has been decided by our Festival Committee to stage a display of photographs with particular emphasis on showing prints of the "Leyland May Festivals" around the turn of the century to the present day.

Any Old Postcards Please?

Have you any old photographs of local scenes gathering dust in an attic or lying forgotten at the bottom of a drawer?

Many people have old picture postcards taken in the days when children wore long smocks, when tramlines carved through cobbled streets and when a starched collar and a bowler hat were standard dress

Picture postcards were a popular way of corresponding before telephones became widespread and although they were not intended as such they are now part of our history.

Our Society needs such prints and photographs for a record of History.

All kinds of illustrations are needed. Postcards showing views, pictures of local wakes and Whit processions, Lancashire Miners on their way to work.

Anything in fact, which depicts local life.

"Especially uncommon and useful are photographs showing industrial processes and the exteriors and interiors of works and Factories. No workshop is too small, for the scale for industrial History includes everything from the local Blacksmith to the large Cotton Mill"-

Mr. F.J. Knight
7, Sandy Lane,
LEYLAND
IRESTON.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

The following books are freely available to Members of this Society - on request to our Librarian.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
A Survey of English Economic History 55 B.C. to 1939	- M.W. Thomas.
Portrait of Lancashire.	- Jessica Lofthouse.
The Official Charter Brochure	- Raymond Hewett.
William Yates Map of Lancashire 1786	- J.B. Hartley.
The Old Worsted Mill at Dolphinholme.	- Mr. P.F. Hall. J.I.
Fylde Folk /Moss or Sand.	- Kathleen Eyre.
A Star Chamber Case A. Shetton v Blundell 1624-1631.	- Frank Tyrer. M.A.,B.Sc.
The City of London Coronation Year Book 1953.	- Alexander Publications
Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society vols. 119, 120, 121, 122.	-
The Age of Elegance 1812-1822	- Arthur Bryant.
The Minute Book of Leyland Naturalists Society 1909.	-
The Minute Book of Leyland and District Floral and Horticultural Society 1909.	-
The Records of a Lancashire Family (From XII to XX Century)	- R. Cunliffe Shaw.
The Vikings and their Origins	- David Wilson.
Concise History of the British Empire.	- Gerald R. Graham.
Roman Art and Architecture.	- Mortimer Wheeler.
The Connoisseur's Handbook of Antique Collecting.	- (Smith and Sons)

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR.</u>
English Antiques.	- Ward Lock.
Gods Graves and Scholars (The Story of Archeology)	- C.W. Ceram.
Happy Wanderer. (Round about Clitheroe)	- Jessica Lofthouse.
A History of England.	- Keith Fieling.
History Today.	- Bracken Publications.
A Guide to Turton Tower.	- Reginald Dart.
Robespierre and the French Revolution.	- J.M. Thompson.
Civil War in England.	- Jack Lendsey.
The Traditions of Lancashire (Two Volumes)	- John Roby. M.R.S.L.
Lancashire - The first Industrial Society.	- C. Aspin.
Euxton and District Floral and Horticultural Society. Schedule of Prizes - Annual Show 1932.	-
Over the Five Barred Gate	- George Birtill.
A Book of Memories - Leyland Congregational Church Jubilee Services (1877-1927)	-
The Story of Leyland Congregational Church and Centenary Programme (1846 - 1946)	- Rev. H. Townley.
Bygone Preston	- George C. Miller.
Leeps at Old Preston.	- George C. Miller.
Leyland Cricket Club Record Books 1877 - 1900.	- Thomas Kirby and John Stanning.

EARLY UNION JACKS

Tractate by Louis Loynes

Submitted by Arthur Jones.
(Associate Member of the
Flag Institute) with permission.

The proportions of early Union Jacks can be seen by referring to Loynes's Illustrated Flag Sheets. However, as these cannot be reproduced in this Chronical some descriptive details follow here.

I have conducted rigorous research into this subject, going carefully through Herrin's British Flags 1922, and examining countless paintings of naval battles, naval scenes, also museum pieces.

One fact is very noticeable regarding flags made in Britain. This is, that never at any time was a Union Jack ever made to the proportions of 1 by $1\frac{1}{2}$, with the sole exception of one made by John A. Stewart (Scottish flag lore author) who, finding that such a flag had NEVER BEEN MADE, and trying to create a mean between differences, actually had one made and flown, 1911- and then wrote books and articles recommending it; - and all in vain.

Official British flags are all 1 by 2 in shape, with the exception of Admirals' flags, 1 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ (St. Georges Cross). See British Admiralty Flag Book, B R 2 C, 1975-1960.

Shipping House Flags and Yaght Club Burgees are shape 1 by $1\frac{1}{2}$. This shape is in Geometry the very bottom for aesthetic value.

In Herrin's book we find that British flags are made in "breadths" (strips) of nine inches wide; and throughout the centuries the varying shapes of flags gaining in length, pass from shape 4 by 5 to shape 1 by 2, but completely missing the shape 2 by 3.

The Union Jack starts at $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 18 and progresses to 11 by 18, then to 10 by 18, and in 1864 it was standardized by statute to be 9 by 18, which equals shape 1 by 2; and named officially the UNION FLAG.

The Ensigns, with the Union Jack in the canton, were shape 6 by 10; the Union canton itself being shape 3 by 4; the remaining fly was an exact square to hold the badge of some Government Department or Colony.

This shape prevailed until the Admiralty Regulations of 1864 settled all official flags at 1 by 2, the canton becoming a full-quarter of similar shape.

The first representations on paper of the early Union Jack 1707 and the modern one of 1801 are the manuscripts, drawings preserved in the Records Office in London.

These show the 1707 flag as 1 by 1.33, and the 1801 flag as 1 by 1.2, also as 1 by 1.26. Their crosses are all rather narrow.

The varying proportions of the crosses in course of time are shown in Loynes's Flag Sheets (photocopies); diagrammed after years of careful research. Any flag-maker ignoring these diagrams might produce (say for an historic, or a period film) an early Union Jack which would cry out as a piece of bad period-detail.

The 1750 Union Jack of 10 by 18 had its white saltire very narrow and also this was not true to diagonal.

THE GREAT UNION

This is the army banner version of Union Jack and has developed independently of the naval version, and finally standardized by Army Regulations 1898.

It is shape 4 by 5; has a fringe and its crosses are broad; its fimbriation ver narrow; This subject is fully dealt with in Major Edward's book on Standards and Guidons.

The Union Flag and the Great Union Banner are both VERY EFFECTIVE; there is no need for a third one, Stewart's mediocre 1 by 1½ style. A flag of shape 1 by 2 takes the wind ripples better than any other shaped flag.

Observe the large Union Flag flying over the House of Lords.

Criticism and rejoinders invited from vexillologists.

Louis Loynes.

Bureau of Historic Flags,

4, Stanhope Road,

St. James,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.

COINAGE

6,000 Years of Progress

By F.J. Knight.

In primitive civilisations there was no money as we know it now and so goods were exchanged. The cow, for instance, was worth a certain amount of other goods.

Although not used much as a medium of exchange, slaves were regarded as a measure of a man's wealth in some early societies.

The North American Indian wampum was a rather clever form of primitive money. Its value depended upon its length and colour - black beads being the more valuable.

As time passed, the disadvantages of exchanging cows for other goods became apparent. So objects such as the cowrie shell were used instead.

Chinese pu, or spade money is interesting as the general belief is that its shape is derived from an ancient agricultural tool which had also been used as a medium of exchange.

The search for a more flexible currency led to systems where weights of metal were given a fixed value. The Kat, was the basis of early Egyptian currency.

Ancient British coins were strongly influenced by the Roman coins which were widely in use. Different coins were issued by various tribes.

Roman coins were often used in Ancient Britain. The system was based on the denarius which was to give us the d. in the £.s.d. of pre-decimal days.

By about AD 800 a definite British coin was emerging. This was the silver penny which was to be in use for hundreds of years.

The need for a denomination larger than a penny led to the general issue of the great - or great piece - during the mid-fourteenth century. The great was worth four pence.

The sovereign appeared in Britain during the reign of Henry VII and was current at 20 shillings - the shilling being another coin which appeared at this time.

Seventeenth-century England saw the development of banknotes which originated from the practice of London goldsmiths making their receipts for gold deposited, freely negotiable to the bearer of the receipt.

Since the abandonment of the gold standard in 1931, modern banknotes have been entirely inconvertible into gold and are accepted as a simple and flexible form of money.

A further development, the cheque, gave even more flexibility to the operation of buying and selling goods.

Charge cards appeared in the U.S.A. in the 1950s and quickly spread to this country. They allow you to buy goods without cash but the account must be settled quickly, usually within a month.

TRAGEDY ON MAY FESTIVAL DAY.

By F. Sumner.

My two grandfathers were each awarded a medal for rescue work following the railway accident, which occurred at Leyland Station in 1898. They were both railway servants, one a signaller in the box at Leyland, the other in a similar capacity at Exton Junction, neither being on duty on the fateful night. I have in my possession one of these medals, the name Thomas Sumner being inscribed on one face. The reverse bears the legend "Presented by the L and Y Railway Company in recognition of valuable aid rendered to the injured in a collision at Leyland on June 2nd 1898." I am not sure as to the number who gained a medal, but there were at least seventeen other recipients, members of the Leyland and Farington Ambulance Section. They were given medals at Preston Public Hall during the annual concert of the Preston Ambulance Corps on October 8th. Their names were or possibly are, in some cases - Thomas Fazackerly, James Smith, Thomas Morris, James Wood, Robert Holmes, James Irescott, William Irescott, John Fearnley, James Fearnley, Thomas Huxley, Albert Banister, John J. Yates, William Jackson, Edward Lambert, Thomas Marsden, John Hampson (jnr.), Mathew Hackworth.

June 2nd was the Thursday of Whit-week in that year, and it was also the first day of Leyland May Festival - the May queen whose reign had just begun was Miss Susan France. There was to be a tragic event so soon after her coronation.

At 8-55 p.m. the Lancashire and Yorkshire excursion train was standing 200 yards north of Leyland station with the signal at danger. It was crowded with excursionists returning from the annual outing of the Canon Street Band of Hope, Beswick, Manchester. They had started out, 600 men, women and children, at 4-40 that morning to enjoy a day at the seaside. The Preston Guardian of June 4th set the evening scene in dramatic fashion; "The moon was up, and the landscape was flooded with brilliant light. Everything was peaceful and serene, many of the excursionists had fallen asleep, and the stillness of the beautiful night was broken only by the sweet strains of hymns some of the children were singing."

Suddenly out of the night, came excursion train No. 14, bound from Morecambe to Radcliffe, and on the same rails, smashed its way into the rear of No. 2. The Guardian then goes on; "The scene was awful beyond description, No. 2 train suffered severe damage. There was but a momentary paralysis of senses, and the railway officials, uninjured passengers and the people of the neighbourhood were soon at work extricating the sufferers." The Queen's Hotel and the billiard room of the Railway Hotel were turned into casualty stations, while local people opened their homes to comfort the distressed. Gangs of men were seen at work with stretchers on which they carried people away. Doctors Phillips, Berry and Fraser from Leyland and Doctor Sharples from Lostock Hall were soon present, together with doctors from Chorley and Preston.

Benfires were lit along the embankments so that the rescuers should not lack light, and two special trains were commissioned to take the injured to Lreston Royal Infirmary. The final toll was miraculously low, two dead and fifty seriously injured.

The following day a preliminary enquiry was held in the waiting room at Leyland Station by the Board of Trade, in the person of Colonel Addison. The coroner Mr. J. Parker was present along with several prominent railway officials.

On June 9th, the inquest on the two deceased was held at the Coroner's Court. The proceedings began with a mass of technical evidence regarding the state of the signals. The evidence given by signal box staff, and corroborated by independent witnesses was disputed by Driver Whyte and his fireman of the No. 14 train. It transpired that a third train was indirectly involved. This was a goods train on the 'up slow' line, and it was ahead of the No. 14 by its own length, the two trains in collision being on the 'up fast'. Suggestions that the two moving trains were racing or that Driver Whyte was drunk could not be borne out said Colonel Addison, in his evidence. Whyte was warned that any evidence he might give at the inquest could be used against him should a criminal charge be preferred. He elected to speak however, and said in conflict with the signals staff that the signals gave him a clear road. In answer to the coroner, he blamed the smoke and steam from the goods train for obscuring his view of the rear lights on the No. 2. The jury retired at 9-15 to return at 10-23 when the foreman said that they found that the accident was caused through wilful and culpable negligence of William Whyte.

The following day, at a special sitting of the Magistrates Court at Leyland, Whyte was remanded on bail until June 16th, on a charge of manslaughter.

During the weeks interval, the Mayor of Lreston received an enquiry from Queen Victoria, asking for news of the injured.

The Remand Court sat at Leyland on the 16th, the bench being under the chairmanship of Mr. R.L.Crosse, and some important new evidence came to light. It transpired that the signaller at Bashalls Sidings had allowed a farmer's lad, William Bennet of High Ash Farm, to visit the box on a number of occasions, and furthermore, he had been allowed to pull the signal levers. Bennet had in fact been in the box on the evening of June 2nd, but both he and Robinson maintained that he had not pulled any levers, and that he had left for home before the accident occurred. It was of course against company rules for any unauthorised person to be in a signal box, and when Robinson was asked to say why he had not disclosed Bennet's visit, he replied; "Because I was not asked." At the closure Whyte was formally committed to Manchester Assizes.

He stood trial there July 13th before Mr. Justice Ridley. The Ireston Guardian's account begins "The indictment of a driver is fortunately a rare occurrence, but the extraordinary nature of the case, with the anticipation of sensational developments led to the Assize Court being besieged long before the court opened." Defending Council made great play of the fact that Robinson had Bennett as a visitor to his box on the fatal night, but both repeated that Bennett had left some time before the accident. It was clearly the aim of defending counsel to shift the blame on to the signalman, and Whyte maintained to the end that he had a clear signal. Evidence that this was not so was overwhelming. The jury retired for one hour and thirty five minutes, and on returning, Whyte was pronounced guilty, with a recommendation to mercy in view of the prisoners long service and previous good character. The judge remarked that he agreed with the verdict and concurred with the request of the jury, sentencing Whyte to only one month's imprisonment with hard labour. The Ireston Guardian's account closes: "On hearing the sentence, two women, evidently relatives of Whyte, commenced screaming, and had to be assisted to a cab, in a hysterical condition. The decision of the jury was received with applause which was quickly suppressed."

The vicar of Leyland paid glowing tribute to his parishioners in the Parish Calendar for July 1898. In this he says: "Many a patient, many a loving action, many a deed of generous charity, was called forth by that which, to outward appearances, seemed only productive of woe."

Also in the calendar was this article:

The following letter has been received by the vicar, with the request that it should be printed in the magazine-

We have much pleasure in doing so, as probably this is the only way the passengers who were in the fated train can express their thanks to their unknown friends.

A shawl kindly lent on this occasion, has been returned to the vicarage; owners can have same on giving satisfactory description-

"We the members of Canning Street Total Abstinence Society, desire to express our heartfelt thanks to the people of Leyland for their kind brotherly feelings towards their brothers and sisters who were in the disaster on June 2nd. Some of us, who were in the accident, will never forget the kindness and attention we received at their hands. If ever the word charity (which means love) was shown in a true sense, it was by the people of Leyland - God bless them.

sec: E Kayler and W.H. Henshall

YOUR LOCAL HISTORY.

By F. Cumpstey.

Many of us are interested in our local history, whether of county or parish, town or village - or we may wish to know more of some period in history or some historical subject such as local government, poor law administration, development of education transport, or agriculture; or perhaps our interests lie within the realms of genealogy.

Up to a point our needs are met by the resources of the public library, for many excellent books are available on most aspects of general and local history. Also it may be remembered that much valuable information can be obtained from the volumes of transactions published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Record, Historic and Antiquarian Societies. However, the amount of historical information which has got into print is infinitesimal compared with that which still remains in manuscript form - therefore, in effect almost unknown.

In order to preserve the great heritage of manuscripts relating to this county, the County Council established the Lancashire Record Office in 1940 to ensure the permanent preservation of the maximum number of Lancashire documents which their owners and custodians care to place there. The aim of the Record Office is to safeguard, repair catalogue and make accessible all the historical material placed in its custody and, thereby, to stimulate as much as possible the study of local history. Almost all the documents other than those of the County Council and the court of Quarter Sessions are deposited on permanent loan. Their public-spirited depositors have the satisfaction of knowing that their documents are kept under the best possible conditions in air-conditioned strong-rooms are cared for by specialist staff, and at the same time serve the very useful purpose of being the basis of new historical research.

The Lancashire Record Office was established in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Public Records and has been approved by the Lord Chancellor as a suitable place of deposit for manorial documents and tithe commutation awards; by the President of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice for probate records; by the Bishops of Blackburn, Carlisle, Liverpool and Manchester for parochial and certain diocesan records; and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool and Bishop of Lancaster for parochial records.

There is a constant influx of highly important and interesting manuscripts, many of which cast a new light on the social, economic, ecclesiastical and genealogical history of all parts of Lancashire.

The depositors include private individuals, firms of solicitors, owners of great estates, churches, schools and local authorities, who are recognizing more and more the virtues of the Record Office's being based upon the geographical county, as history cannot be considered from the standpoint of modern fluctuating administrative boundaries.

The core of the Record Office consists of the very extensive archives of the justices of the peace who, until 1889, were responsible for the administration of the whole of Lancashire except a small number of boroughs, as well as for the carrying out of the judicial activities which they still perform. The very large numbers of justices' records here date back to the reign of Edward VI - few counties having older - and they relate to such varied matters as proceedings of the court of Quarter Sessions, administration of poor relief, repair of roads and bridges, appointments of high and parish constables, coroners' accounts, registration of dissenters' meeting-places, militia, prisons, transport of army baggage, taxation, licensing of alehouses, registration of the estates of Roman Catholics, land-tax assessments, electors' lists etc.

Also in the Record Office are the archives of such superseded authorities as boards of guardians of the poor, rural sanitary authorities, highway boards, turnpike trusts, school boards, improvement commissions, local boards of health and drainage boards.

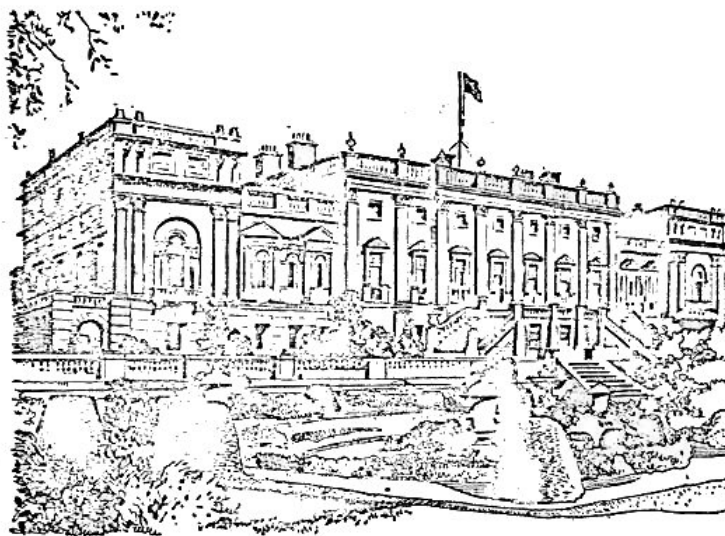
A great deal of useful material is provided by the many collections of parish records deposited in the Record Office, such as the registers of christenings, marriages and burials, the accounts of churchwardens, overseers of the poor, surveyors of the highways and parish constables, township meeting minutes, apprenticeship indentures, rate-books and charity papers. There are the interesting archives of the Lieutenancy and the Society of Friends in Lancashire, as well as those of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Liverpool before 1894; the original wills and inventories for the whole county dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, the vast series of bishops' transcripts of parish registers, the tithe commutation awards and plans for nearly every township and the awards and plans made for the enclosure of commons. Also there are thousands of plans, dating from 1791 to the present day, made in connexion with projected canals, roads, waterworks, railways, gas and electricity works and other developments and improvements.

Scores of thousands of estate and family documents, dating from the reign of Henry 1, have been deposited by many people, including the Earls of Derby, Lathom and Sefton; Lords Kenyon, Hesketh, Chesham, Garard, Lilford and O'Hagan (Towneley); Sir Cuthbert de Houghton, Sir Roger Hulton, Sir Dverard Scarisbrick, Barts., and the families of Alison of Lark Hall, Archibald of Rusland, Bankes of Winstanley, Bird of Cockerham, Ireland Blackburne of Hale, Blundell of Crosby, Weld Blundell of Ince Blundell, Bourne of Iresall and Stalmine, Braddyll of Brockall and Lortfield, Fitzherbert-Brockholes of Claughton, Cavendish of Holker, Clifton of Lytham, Cross of Shaw Hill, Farington of Warden, Finch of Mawdesley, Fernby of Fernby, Garnett of Quernmore, Greenwood of Clerk Hill, Hopwood of Hopwood, Knowlys of Heyshan, Larker of Brawsholme, Ledder of Finsthwaite, Letre and Walmsley of Dunkenhalgh, Rawsterne of Hutton and Tenwortham, Stanley of Cross Hall, Hawkshead Talbot of Eccleston, Tatten of Cuerden, Trappes-Lomax of Allsprings, Walmsley of Westwood, Weld (Shireburn) of Stanyhurst, Willis of Halstead, Winkley of Brockholes and Worsley of Ilatt.

The public search room of the Lancashire Record Office is open during normal office hours and there are no more formalities than at your reference library. There are lists and indexes available an ever-growing collection of reference books, and trained staff to assist you; so all who are interested are invited to call at, or communicate with, the Lancashire Record Office, Sessions House, Lancaster Road, LRESTON.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS & STATELY HOMES.

2. HAREWOOD HOUSE.



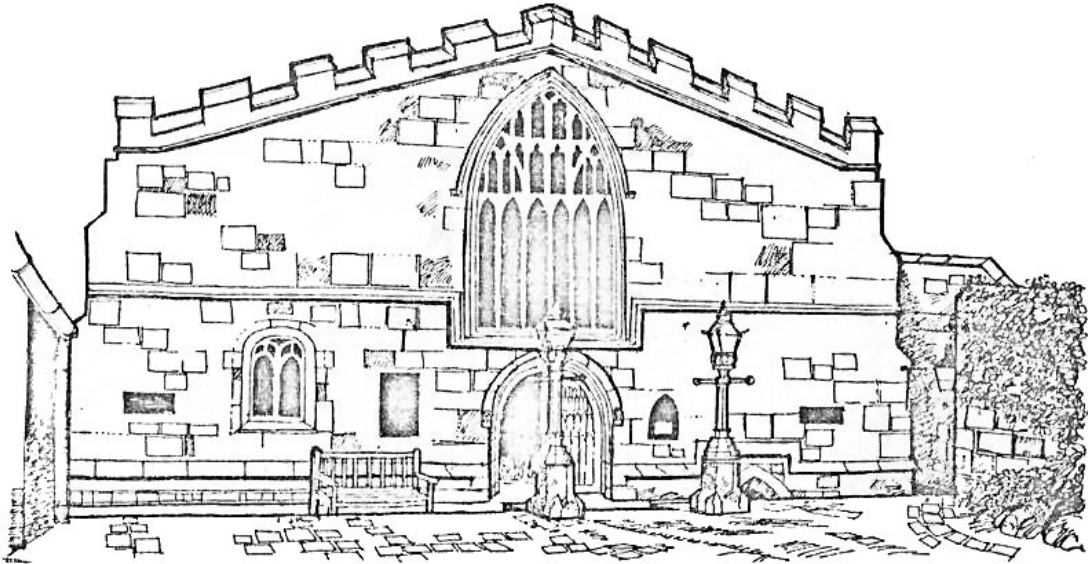
ONE OF YORKSHIRE'S GREAT HOUSES

Harewood House was built in 1759-1771 for Edwin Lascelles (later Lord Lascelles), descended from a line of Yorkshire squires. It is a fine example of the Corinthian style of architecture & was designed by the famous architects Robert Adam & John Carr of York and its setting is a timbered landscape & lake laid out by the noted 18th century landscape gardener, "Capability Brown".

Edwin Lascelles was succeeded by his cousin Edward who was created 1st Earl of Harewood in 1812. The family have been collectors & patrons of the arts over the past 200 years & the collection of paintings, furniture & porcelain make Harewood House a veritable treasure house & well worthy of visiting.

It is situated in the village of Harewood at the junction of the A61 and A659 roads approx. 8 miles from Leeds and it is open to the public on several days each week during the summer months.

3. THE GUILDHALL, YORK.



The Guildhall is an integral part of York's history. Built in the 15th century on the site of a former Commonhall, it served the guilds as a meeting place, though, as well, most guilds had their own hall or shared one with another guild. These medieval guilds largely controlled the trade of the city, saw that work was up to standard and also looked after the interests of their members.

The present Guildhall is a replica of the 15th century building, the original being destroyed by fire in an air raid in 1942; it was opened in 1960 by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The ancient stone walls escaped total destruction and form the frame of the reconstructed Hall. Each oak pillar is cut from a single tree trunk. The original pillars came from the medieval Forest of Galtres nearby; the present ones from northern estates. The bosses in the timbered roof are in the form of heraldic shields, grotesques and foliage, copies of former bosses. At the apex of the roof are the Royal Arms and the Arms of York. The city arms are also incorporated as a floor design in front of the raised dais.

The stained glass window depicts the history of York. To the left of the dais is a wrought-iron balustrade, gift from Münster, York's twin city in Germany; to the right is a bronze plaque which survived the fire. It was given to York in 1924 by 'her god-child' the City of New York 'as an expression of friendship and goodwill'.

In its long life the Guildhall has served many purposes. Perhaps the most splendid social occasion was in 1483 when Richard III was entertained there on his first visit as King. For hundreds of years the ancient ceremony of the Reading of the City Assize Commission took place there before H.M. Judges proceeded to the Castle, the last occasion being in 1971 when the Assizes were replaced by the Crown Court system. Meetings, concerts, exhibitions are still held in the Hall and in 1971 the first dinner for over thirty years - to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the York Civic Trust.

The Guildhall is open to the public on weekdays throughout the year and at weekends during the summer months.

A Master Known by a Mouse

Submitted by Mrs D. Mather.

Quietly and unobtrusively, James Thompson scratches out sheaves of notes. He is writing about Robert Thompson (no relation) the master craftsman whose oak furniture made him world famous as the Mouse Man.

Thompson - whose work can be seen in many cathedrals and churches throughout the British Isles - adopted the mouse as his trade mark.

Mr. Thompson, 59, first became interested in the carver's craftmanship eight years ago. His son Brian, was killed in a road accident and he commissioned Thompson's firm to carve a memorial font.

Later, when he tried to find out about Thompson himself in more detail he had difficulty finding written information. So he has set out himself to write about the Mouse Man, working steadily and unnoticed - in much the same way as Thompson himself once did.

From his seafront home at Morecambe, he embarked on the task purely out of personal interest, but as the information flows in, Mr Thompson, a retired insurance broker, now hopes the eventual story of one of Britain's finest craftsmen will be worth publishing.

"A retired bank manager has had a book about misericords (choir seats) published, so I thought I could list all the mice. "

Last June, he began the painstaking task of tracing information about examples of Thompson's work in 700 churches. He says he'll be happy if he gets replies from 250. Most of the master's work is to be found in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Durham, although there are known to be examples abroad.

On the door of the new St. Mary's Catholic church at Leyland, the mouse is upside down, which Mr. Thompson believes to be unique. Several pews are adorned with mice.

At latterdale Church in the Lake District, church wardens carry Thompson-carved staves, also distinctive because the mice have front paws - an indication that they are very early works. The front paws were left off when it was found continual polishing tended to break them.

Robert Thompson's name has been associated with ecclesiastical woodwork since 1919 when he made a large cross for a cemetery at Anpleforth village in the North Riding. It was the medieval oak-work of the choir stalls in Ripon Cathedral which inspired him to rekindle the spirit of true craftsmanship in natural timber.

He carved the two great candlesticks on the main altar at Westminster Abbey, York Minster only a few miles from his native Kilburn, has many examples of his work.

Mr. Thompson says he has had a good response so far to requests for information. Among a batch of letters is one from the Bishop of Natal, saying that he possesses two Thompson ashtrays, one cheeseboard and a fruit bowl.

People owning examples of the carver's domestic pieces have contacted Mr. Thompson and he hopes others will do so. He has also been promised a student's thesis on ecclesiastical wood-carving, which contains a section devoted to the work of Robert Thompson.

Although the master craftsman was world famous when he died, it was through his humble beginnings that he came to use the mouse as a trade mark.

Thompson once described how the idea came to him: "I was carving a beam on a church roof when another carver mumbled something about us being as poor as church mice - and on the spur of the moment I carved one.

"Afterwards, I decided to adopt it as a trade mark, because I thought how a mouse manages to scrape and chew away the hardest wood with its chisel-like teeth, and it works quietly; nobody takes much notice.

"I thought that was maybe like this workshop hidden away in the Hambleton Hills. It is what you might call industry in quiet places - so I put the mouse on all my work."

He was certainly on his beam ends at one time, because Mr Thompson has been lucky enough to get a photocopy of a letter the carver wrote from Kilburn in 1926 to the local vicar, "I am clear run down and want to go away for a few days rest...I should be glad if I could have some monecy this week"

In view of the mark he was to leave on church woodwork for years to come, one can only assume that he got his much needed rest.

THE LEGEND OF THE LINCOLN IMP

Submitted by
Mrs. L.M. Lazenby

The devil was in a good humour one day,
And let out his sprightly young demons to play.
One dived in the sea, and was not at all wet;
One jumped in a furnace; no scorch did he get;
One rode on a rainbow; one delved in the dirt;
One handled fork lightning, nor got any hurt;
One strode on the wind as he would on a steed.
And thus to old Lindum was carried with speed,
Where aldermen heard him conceitedly say
"There'll be, ere I leave it, the devil to pay."

"And now," says the Imp, "take me into the church;
"His lordship of Lindum I'll knock off his perch;
"I'll blow up the chapter, and blow up the dean;
"The cannons I'll cannon right over the screen;
"I'll blow up the singers, bass, tenor, and boy;
"And the blower himself shall a blowing enjoy;
"The organist too, shall right speedily find
"That I'll go one better in raising the wind;
"I'll blow out the windows, and blow out the lights,
"Tear vestments to tatters, put ritual to rights!
"And c'en the poor verger who comes in my road
"Will find"- vulgar Imp! "he may likewise be blowed."

Now the wind has his faults, but you'll find on the whole
If somewhat uncouth, he's an orthodox soul;
He wouldn't blow hard on a monarch, I ween,
Nor ruffle the robes of a bishop or dean;
And if for dissenters he cares not the least,
You won't catch him blowing up deacon or priest
The man in the street he may rudely unrig,
But he snatches not judge's or barrister's wig.
When he enters a church, as the musical know
'Tis only to make the sweet organ-pipes blow;
The toot on the choir or the "Swell" or the "great."
And hence at the Imp he was justly irate;
So in sorrowful anger he said to the elf,
"No! here I shall stop, you may go by yourself."

The impudent elf in derision replied,
"Such half-hearted folks are much better outside
"To force you to enter I cannot, but see,
"Till I've finished my fun, you must wait here for me."

Then he entered the porch in an impious way
Declaring the nave should be spelt with a K;
He roamed through each transept, he strolled in each aisle,
Then he thought in the choir he would romp for a while.
As he passed 'neath the rood no obeisance he made;
No rev'rence at all to the altar he paid;
He thumbed all the canons' and choristers' books,
And cast on the saints his most insolent looks;
The chalice and patens were safe in a box,
He was stopped in the act of unpicking the locks.
He hacked at the lectern and chopped at the stalls;
The tapestry tore from the sanctified walls;
Incensed against incense, the thuribles he
Demolished; the candlesticks broke on his knee.

Then seeing some angels he cried, "Tretty things,
"A sackful of feathers I'll pluck from your wings
"To make me a couch when I'm tired of this joke,"
Ah! soon he was sorry that rudely he spoke;
For the tiniest angel; with amethyst eyes
And hair like spun gold, 'fore the altar did rise,
Trenouncing these words in a dignified tone
"O impious lay; be ye turned into stone!"
So he was, as you'll see when to Lincoln you stray;
And the wind has been waiting outside till this day.
You can't see the wind, but no matter for that
Believe, or he'll rob you of cloak or of hat.

MORAL

This moral, I trust you'll deduce from my lay-
If ever you're minded the mischief to play,
Be sure that you're able the "needful" to find,
In other words, certain of "raising the wind";
And then, when you're bent upon "going the pace,"
Don't count on the wind, or I pity your case.
There are bikes at your service and motors galore,
Steam gas, and electric machines by the score;
Again, if for skittish amusement you search,
Dont meddle, I pray, with affairs of the church.
The puppets of politics - all will admit-
Are legitimate sport for exuberant wit;
But if ever a trick on the clergy you play,
You'll speedily find there's the "dickens to pay."

To angels - when met - be extremely polite,
Attentions too forward they'll keenly requite;
Don't ruffle their feathers; just let them alone,
Else, if you're converted, 'twill be into stone;
Don't chum with low people, unruly and bold,
And be left when they've done with you, "out in the cold."
Don't be far too clever; but seek to be good,
And when you're at Lincoln behave as you should;
Step into the Minster the Imp to behold,
Who points to the truth of the tale that I've told.
So visit old Lindum, a city most rare;
Of course take a ticket and pay the due fare!

The Heraldic Badge

By Arthur Jones.

To Quote from the Haeralds Circular to local authorities on the wrong use of the Civil Arms!

"A number of authorities disliking this practice (unauthorised persons displaying their Coat of Arms) and wishing to provide a legitimate outlet for local patriotism through the display by their citizens of some authorised device indicative of their citizenship, have obtained grants of Badges, which they do not object to see used in the same way in which the Union flag is used on occasions of public rejoicing as a mark of Loyalty"

The Badges referred to by the Herald's are regular heraldic emblems associated with the coat of arms, but not part of it.

Some examples of these badges are Greater London, Manchester, and Chester.

Badges of this type are very similar to those used by many of our ancient families, and can be used in a variety of ways as subsidiary emblems:-

- as cap and button badges for council employees;
 - for marking equipment, library books, and minor publications and papers;
 - for use as property signs on vehicles and premises;
 - additional decorations on civil insignia.
- Above all they are most suitable for use by ordinary citizens and ratepayers who are seeking some means of expressing their sense of community and loyalty to their town or county. One important use under this heading is in the badges and insignia adapted by local societies; e.g. local yacht or football clubs,

BOOKS FOR LOCAL HISTORIANS.

Members might be interested in the following:-

The Local Historian (Quarterly)	25p.
The Village (Quarterly)	5p.
Crafts, Trades & Industries by A Jewell.	13p.
Directory for Local Historians.	13p.
Hedges Local History	50p
The Historian's Guide to Ordnance Survey Maps by J.B.Harley & C.W. Phillips	50p.
How to read a Coat of Arms by I.G. Summers	30p.
Local History Exhibitions by N. Cook.	12p.
Maps for the Local Historian by J.B. Harley	90p.
A Medieval Farming Glossary of Latin & English Words by Cannon J.L. Fisher & W.R.Powell	90p.
Tape Recordings of Local Dialect by S. Ellis.	7p.
Ways & Means in Local History by A Everitt	55p.

The above dozen books and pamphlets are obtainable from:-

The National Council of Social Service.

26 Bedford Square.

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Add 10% to value of order for Post & Packing.

CHURCH BRASSES.

By F.J. Knight.

Sir Peter Legh was very happy with his wife Elaene. So much so, in fact that when she died at an early age he left the life he had shared with her and became a priest.

And when he died 36 years later a very fine monumental brass was laid in St. Oswald's Parish Church Winwick, Warrington, as a memorial to the couple.

That was in 1527, since then countless numbers of people have visited the church to admire what is probably one of the finest brasses in this part of the country.

For not only is the brass still in reasonable condition, but on it Sir Peter is depicted wearing both his knights armour and the priest's robes he took when Elene died in 1491. As well as his priest's chasuble, spurs, sword and armour can be seen, and there are certainly very few brasses where a figure is wearing both anywhere in the country.

The Legh family were well known in the Winwick area. They owned land in the parish, although their family home was Lyme Hall Cheshire. The Legh Arms, at Newton-le-Willows, gets its name from them and at one time they owned the big house and land that is now Haydock racecourse.

The 30in. high brass to Sir Peter and his wife is now on the wall in the Legh chapel in Winwick Church. It is not known whether Sir Peter is actually buried there, but there are 14 of the family in the vault there.

This is the sort of history that can lie behind a monumental brass. But as well as tracing the history of brasses there is today an ever-increasing interest in brass rubbing.

More and more mounted rubbings are on sale in the shops as wall decorations. Or a birthday card might have a "brass rubbing" on the front.

But all sports have their rules - and a great deal of damage can be done if the "rules" of brass rubbing are not adhered to.

In fact, in many cases churches have stopped permitting rubbing of certain brasses because of the damage that is being done.

Rubbing of Winwick's two brasses, for example, is not encouraged and is restricted to very special cases. As well as the Legh brass there is an early one in the Gerard Chapel, of Peter Gerard, son of Sir Thomas Gerard, which dates back to 1485 and is of a knight in armour surrounded by a canopy. The Gerard family came from Bryn, near Wigan.

But the Gerard brass is very badly damaged. It is on the floor, and the actual metal has been worn smooth. And it has been pillaged - lumps of the canopy have been stolen, so that the canopy has almost gone.

The church authorities at Winwick have been advised to put firm restrictions on the rubbing of these brasses - or else they will be completely destroyed, which would be a tragedy.

For the origin of brasses can be traced to the 12th century, although the earliest brass in England is of Sir John d'Abernon and dates back to 1277. It's 78 inches long and is at Stoke d'Abernon in Surrey.

Many of this country's best and most famous brasses are in the south and east of the country, probably because initially the metal had to be imported from places like Holland and usually came to east coast ports, Norfolk is one county which is particularly rich in monumental brasses. It was during the reign of Elizabeth I that zinc was discovered in England and brasses of local metal made.

The first thing to do when doing a brass rubbing is to make sure that the brass is clean and free from grit - and make sure that you've noted every bit of the brass to be rubbed. A quick sketch can help prevent the omission of half a sword for example.

Then strong thin paper is fixed over the brass with masking tape (Sellotape leaves marks) and black heel-ball, a compound of beeswax, tallow and lamp black is rubbed evenly over the paper.

But brass rubbing is a strenuous exercise. Hard rubbing from the start is needed to produce an even and black effect. Many people rub the stone slab as well to give a clearer idea of the brass and its surroundings.

The use of heel-ball gives a monotone rubbing, and is the most common method. But some rubbings have been done in aluminium foil although doubts have been expressed about the safety of this in relation to the brass.

What sort of people are commemorated on monumental brasses? The brasses were pretty expensive so often wealthy knights or clergy are found on them. A wife and children might also be shown. In other areas wealthy merchants such as wool traders, would leave money for a brass, or even have one done while they were still alive.

There were styles in brasses, and in fact they have little merit as personal portraits of the commemorated person. A popular theory is that there were a number of "workshops" specialising in making brasses, and each had its own style, although it is possible there was only one maker with several styles.

Brasses give an invaluable insight into the life in England between the 13th and mid-16th century... the armour that knights and crusaders wore for example, the type of mail they wore, swords, and of course shields.

For an interest in brass rubbing can lead to a study of heraldry. Many of the brasses have shields on them. The interest in brasses usually starts because rubbings can be very rewarding to make, and they look nice as wall decorations. Then an interest in their history and heraldry develops.

Some people do have rather more of a commercial interest in doing brass rubbings, and sometimes churches are against this. They may charge say, £5 for someone to do a rubbing for selling.

In all cases it is best to ask permission of the vicar before doing a rubbing, and a small charge may be made or donation requested to help in the upkeep of the church.

In the North-West there are a number of good brasses that can be rubbed, for example at Sefton, near Maghull, Rufford, Eccleston, near Chorley and Middleton.

Brass rubbing is the sort of hobby that can bring a lot of enjoyment to people of all ages. But it is essential to know how to do the job properly before starting a rubbing.

There are several books on the subject. If these brasses are abused or defaced by people walking on them or marking them they can be seriously damaged. Repair work can be done, but it is not cheap and these brasses are part of our history.

There have been cases where people have been smoking in church while doing a rubbing, and I've heard of people cooking food on a gas stove in the sanctuary of a church.

Brass rubbing requires a certain amount of elbow grease, but fine results can be produced at a fairly low cost - and a serious start on the hobby can lead to a lot of enjoyment as well as a fascinating insight into our past.

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