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The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



"LAILAND CHRONICLE"

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1975

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

PRESIDENT

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Mr. E. Mason

71 Crawford Avenue, Leyland.

Tel.No: 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.
(September to June inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.
AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£1.50 per annum
Adult Members	£1.25 " "
School Members	£0.25 " "
Casual Visitors	£0.25 per meeting.

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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

* * * * *

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We are pleased to have recovered the time lost in our publishing activities due to the lateness of our last issue of the Lailand Chronicle and are now back on normal schedule and hope that you will consider that this edition is up to normal standards.

Certainly we have a variety of subjects and you will notice that we have a new feature entitled "Society Activities" which we hope to include as a regular item to record the history of our Society as it happens, so that members unable to attend our Meetings know what is going on and also to provide a record for posterity.

On the subject of Society Activities, however, it is unfortunate that we have had to abandon the idea of a tableau in the Leyland Festival, but it is something which could only be done with the full participation of our members and only a handful of people have shown sufficient interest.

The same sort of situation arises with regard to the Lailand Chronicle as the list of contributors is a very short one and we wish that more members would make the effort to send in articles, thus widening the scope and increasing the interest.

Remember that the strength of a Society is dependent on the efforts of the members themselves - whilst it is most gratifying to have such high attendances at our monthly meetings, we would like to see much wider participation in our other activities.

* * * * *

FAME AT LAST!!!

The following paragraph recently appeared in the Lancaster University Regional Bulletin:

"The Leyland Historical Society continues to issue its well-produced Lailand Chronicle. Its committee members conceived the useful idea of awarding a prize for the 'Historian of the Year', based on articles submitted to and published in the Chronicle. It is interesting to see that the interest of the contributors (and readers) range widely, from the learned pieces of Mr. J. N. Banister, the President, to articles on bricks, windmills, currency and haunted houses. Copies available from Mr. Mason, 71, Crawford Avenue, Leyland."

Copy of the entry by
ANNE P. WILSON (aged 10)
for the
GUARDIAN - BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY'S
HERITAGE '75 COMPETITION

CHARNOCK HALL (OLD HALL FARM)

The subject of my entry is a building known as Old Hall Farm or Charnock Hall. It is situated in Balcarres Road, near the centre of Leyland, in the local government area of South Ribble.

To the casual eye, Charnock Hall will appear a modern building, the outside walls having been pebble cast, but underneath lie the old brick, stone and timber. The Hall is now divided so that two families can live there. Its thick walls, its large door and its tiny windows are typical of the age of Charles II. Inside, the beams and woodwork have been covered in paint. It is still possible to trace the priests' hiding places inside the Hall.

The Old Hall late 16th Century was at one time the home of the Charnocks. It was rebuilt by Robert Charnock in 1660. A large stone over the entrance shows the arms of the Charnocks and the letters I.H.S. A.M. R.C. 1660.

Robert was the last of the Charnocks. He was a priest; became Vicar General of Lancashire, and lived at the Old Hall. The date of his death is given as 1670. He left the estate in trust for the benefit of Catholic Clergy. It was his wish that the Old Hall might some day become the residence of a Roman Catholic Bishop of Lancashire. After a trial at Lancaster Assizes (1686) it was declared unlawful for the property to be left to catholic priests, and it was forfeited to the King who then granted it to the Vicars of Leyland Parish Church (1690). The document, under the seal of William and Mary, is still in excellent condition in the Lancashire Records Office. The property now belongs to Leyland Motors Ltd., who bought it about 1935.

In Leyland Parish Church are two tomb-stones lying east of the Chancel, marking the place of burial of one Robert Charnock (1632) and his wife (1659), bearing the arms of the Charnocks. Further proof of the connection between the Charnocks and Leyland.

There were several other Halls built or re-built within a short distance of Charnock Hall about the same period, i.e. Dunkirk Hall, Peacock Hall, Buckshaw Hall and Crook Hall. The methods and materials used appear similar, as though the same craftsmen (masons and carpenters) had worked on these various properties. The materials; brick, stone, timber, sand and marl were all at hand. The solid, sturdy appearance; the spacious interior; the half timbering and the similarity with other local Halls, appear to show local artistic taste.

Reflecting on the history of the time when the Hall was built, a visitor could picture the district being used for agriculture with the 'big house' being the centre of control and social life. The many Halls within a short distance from each other supports this idea and would help the local gentry to co-ordinate their activities. The case of Charnock Hall with its priests' hiding places; its owner as Vicar General of Lancashire, would teach the visitor about the times when holding to the faith could result in severe penalties being imposed on those who worked to keep it, and of the vital importance at that time of the Hall to Catholics.

Finally I think the building is worth preserving because of its construction, reflecting building methods in the 17th Century and because of its important historical link with the struggle for preserving the Catholic Faith. During my recent visit Mr. Crook (the present tenant), pointed out that there was no evidence of a cellar area beneath the house. He thought that much of this space was taken up by secret passages leading to priests' escape routes behind the large original fireplace.

I think the building could be improved by the provision of gardens; although the outside of the Hall is protected by being listed as an 'Ancient Monument' it is necessary that its main features are preserved. Perhaps the unoccupied half of the Hall could be converted into a small museum; furnished as it would have been in 1660. There is a danger that with the growth of the New City, buildings such as Charnock Hall may suffer!

References: Leyland Past and Present Marshall
 Story of Leyland Rogers
 Green Pastures Birtill
 History of Lancashire Baines
Leyland Guardian article by Mr. N. Banister (President L.H.S.)

My thanks to:

Tenants of Charnock Hall for allowing me inside the Hall and for supplying information. Mr. H. Morris (Founder Member, Leyland Historical Society), for obtaining a print and loaning a sketch of Old Hall Farm.

* * * * *

(This entry reached short-list stage in Class A (individuals, primary and junior).

IN PRAISE OF PEWTER

by Francis Knight

..... BUT THOU, THOU MEAGRE LEAD, THY PLAINNESS MOVES ME
MORE THAN ELOQUENCE.....

"SHAKESPEARE"

SO SPEAKS BASSANIO AS HE CHOOSES THE LEADEN CASKET. PEWTER,
TOO, COULD BE SAID TO POSSESS "A MEAGRE PLAINNESS".

THE WORK OF EARLY BRITISH PEWTERERS WAS RARELY DECORATIVE,
ITS BEAUTY DEPENDING ON CONTOUR AND COLOUR. TODAY, ARTICLES
MADE OF PEWTER HAVE COME INTO THEIR OWN, THEIR SIMPLE LINES
SUITING THE TREND TOWARDS THE UNCLUTTERED LOOK; THE HUMBLE
DOMESTIC UTENSIL DISCARDED IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY IN
FAVOUR OF CHEAP EARTHENWARE HAS BECOME A TREASURE..

ALTHOUGH PEWTER CAN BE POLISHED UNTIL ITS LUSTRE ALMOST
RESEMBLES THAT OF SILVER, A FINE PATINA OF THE METAL IS BEST
ACHIEVED BY REGULAR RUBBING WITH A SOFT CLOTH.

THE MOST COMMONLEY FOUND ARTICLES OF ANTIQUE PEWTER ARE
MEASURES ALTHOUGH THESE ARE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND.

BEFORE THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, MEASURES USED BY VINTNERS
AND TAVERN-KEEPERS WERE USUALLY MADE OF COPPER AND GAVE RISE
TO MANY COMPLAINTS OF "DECEITFUL REDUCTION OF CAPACITY IN
WINE MEASURES".

IN 1614 THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON COMMISSIONED THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF PEWTERERS TO DESIGN A SET OF WINE MEASURES WHICH
WOULD MAKE SHORT-MEASURE PRACTICES IMPOSSIBLE.

THESE MEASURES WERE SO EFFECTIVE WITH REGARD TO CLEANLINESS
AND ACCURACY THAT THE YEAR 1688 SAW A DECREE BY PARLIAMENT
THAT NO WINE SHOULD BE SOLD FROM MEASURES OTHER THAN PEWTER.
BY 1696 THE LAW WAS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE BEER AND ALE, ALSO
BRANDY, RUM AND OTHER SPIRITS.

THE SPECIFICATION OF THE METAL TO BE USED WAS LAID DOWN
A PEWTER CONTAINING 20% LEAD AND THE MEASURES WERE TO BE
IN SEVEN SIZES, RANGING FROM A GALLON TO HALF-A-GILL.

EACH WAS FITTED WITH A LID WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
A THUMB TO BE SLIPPED INSIDE, SO REDUCING THE CONTENTS.

THE CURVE OF THE MEASURE MADE FOR EASY DETECTION OF DENTS
AND FAULTS WHICH WOULD LESSEN THE VESSEL'S CAPACITY.

BY THE MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY IT WAS ALSO THE
CUSTOM TO ENGRAVE LINES ROUND THE BODY OF THE MEASURE TO
SHOW UP DENTS MORE EASILY.

BEFORE 1707 NO LEGAL STANDARD OF MEASURE EXISTED FOR THE
WHOLE OF THE COUNTRY, BUT BY LAW OF USE A WINE GALLON
EQUALLED 231 CU. IN. OF LIQUOR.

THIS THE PEWTERERS TOOK AS THEIR STANDARD AND IT BECAME
STATUTORY LAW UNTIL 1824 WHEN THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM OF
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CAME INTO OPERATION.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1877 THAT EXCISE MARKS WERE STANDARDISED
FOR THE WHOLE OF BRITAIN AND BROUGHT UNDER THE AUTHORITY
OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

* * * * *

THE BALDWIN'S OF ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

Part 2

By J. N. Banister.

BALDWIN THE EXPLORER

Over the vestry door there is a memorial to the memory of another Baldwin which reads as follows:- "Sacred to the memory of a patron of this benefice, WILLIAM CHARLES BALDWIN, the writer of "AFRICAN HUNTING". The first European from the East Coast to reach the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River, August 4th 1860. Resolute, not Reckless, he was one who never turned his back but rode straight forward. Born March 3rd 1828, died Nov. 17th 1903". No man shall order me, I will be my own master. "JESU! MASTER! MERCY!."

He met Livingstone in Africa, and this is what he wrote in his journal on August 9th 1860:- "I consider myself very fortunate in meeting Dr. Livingstone and his party. I spent the evening with him, and gained much information about his recent discoveries".

W. C. Baldwin was buried in the family grave, which is in the churchyard quite close to the east window. Those who have read "African Hunting" and know of his many and varied adventures, will come to the conclusion that the epitaph on the grave stone is very appropriate:- "Like Nimroda Mighty Hunter before the Lord".

T. W. Baxter in his article, "The discovery and historical associations" writes as follows, "When Livingstone's party met Baldwin he was more or less a prisoner at large. He had called on Mashotlane, the local chief, to ferry him to the north side of the river, and when nearly across he jumped into the water and swam ashore. "If, said Mashotlane, he had been devoured by one of the crocodiles which abound there, the English would have blamed us for his death. He nearly inflicted a great injury upon us, therefore he must pay the fine. Later on Mashotlane was ordered by Skelutu to return the fine. Baldwin's version is a little different".

Baldwin returned to England. In 1864 he settled in Tarporley, Cheshire, and became well known at chase meetings.

THE VILLAGE CROSS

The Village Cross is the oldest monument in Leyland. It stands at the centre of the village, at the junction of Towngate and Church Road. A short distance away, and within easy reach of the ancient Parish Church of St. Andrew.

It was probably an old preaching station before the church was built. It stands very nearly at the centre of the Leyland Hundred. The flight of three steps, and about five feet of the stem, form the original part of the cross. The base points to the perpendicular period as the date of erection. The cross was broken during the Puritan times, when there were many religious images destroyed in and around Leyland. The village cross at Croston suffered a similar fate.

The Leyland cross was also knocked down in recent times. In 1956 it was demolished by a heavy motor vehicle. The village stocks, the well, pump, and the market place were in the vicinity of the cross. These and other relics of a bygone age have disappeared.

During the Victoria Jubilee of 1887, some hideous gas lamps on ornamental brackets were removed, and the cross itself was carefully restored.

The chief contributors were the Rev. Thomas Rigbye Baldwin and Miss S. A. Farington. The architect for the design was Charles Deacon of Liverpool. The old well and pump were done away with, and a Jubilee fountain erected, on the south side of the cross.

The customary fairs were held in Leyland on March 25th and on October 26th. Here the hundred Moot, the Folk Moot and the men-at-arms gathered around the officers of the Crown.

Thousands have rested their weary limbs upon the stone steps. Religious leaders, politicians, and reformers have preached and lectured around this ancient monument. Many and various customs and scenes have been enacted in the vicinity of the Village Cross. The scholars and congregations of many religious organisations have gathered around and sung and witnessed to their faith.

At Christmas time, and New Year, they have sung carols and hymns of praise, and eagerly awaited the chiming of the church bells to ring out the old year, and ring in the new. It has also been a place of merchandise. Trippers and excursionists in horse drawn vehicles. Here cattle, sheep, dogs and men have quenched their thirst at the well, pump, fountain and trough. Men and women have gathered to express their beliefs, and quench their thirst for knowledge.

A document dated 1868 in the Lancashire Record Office. It is from the Lancashire Quarter Sessions and reads as follows:- "During the 19th century legislation to attempt to check the spread of diseases amongst cattle. One of the most effective ways of doing this was to restrict the movement of cattle and animals in the infected areas. It became necessary to obtain a licence before a cattle sale, or market could be held. This document is the licence for a sale of cattle in Leyland. This was to be held on March 24th 1868.

The changes which the old village cross has witnessed are manifold. May it long remain as a symbol of life and work of the people of Leyland and district.

ST. AMBROSE CHURCH

St. Ambrose Church was built in 1885 to meet the needs of the fast growing population of Farington and north-east Leyland. The church was built on the site of a former wayside cross, which stood at the corner of Moss Lane and Bow Lane.

The architect was Mr. Deacon of Liverpool. The style of architecture was adapted Gothic, the cost was about £5,000. A fine massive tower was added by the Vicar of Leyland as a memorial to his wife. On the inside walls of the tower there is the following inscription:- "A.M.D.G. Sit Gloria. To the fond and cherished memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth, who died on June 30th 1890. Thomas Rigbye Baldwin built this tower A.D.1891".

He was a generous doner to the church. There is a clearly marked brass plate which describes the scheme of the East window. This is to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Rigbye Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, and founder of the church.

For a church, not yet a century old it contains many features of interest. The church and tower make a fine impressive block, and can be seen for many miles around. The interior with its massive pillars, and lofty roof is plain, substantial and airy.

At one time Leyland was an extensive parish which included Euxton, Cuerden, Whittle-le-Woods, Hoghton, Withnell, Wheelton, and Heapey. The Chantry Chapels of Euxton and Heapey were re-built and endowed, during the time when Thomas Armetriding, M.A. was vicar, 1689 - 1712. Heapey Chapel was rebuilt, when Edward Shakespear, M.A. was vicar, 1733 - 1748. At this time the living was bought by Thomas Baldwin, M.A.

With the growth of population, Leyland has become the mother of six new parishes. Hoghton, 1823. Heapey, 1829. Whittle-le-Woods, 1830. Withnell, 1841. Euxton, 1892. St. James, Leyland 1855. St. Ambrose, Leyland 1898.

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Leyland Baldwin was sent to the old grammar school at the end of the churchyard. He pointed out to the Rev. E. G. Marshall, a hole made in the flag floor which was used to be a goal for the game of marbles; the Old Grammar School is an interesting old building. A tablet over the schoolhouse door reads:- "Built by the liberal contributions of the gentry and others". At this period the distinction 'and Others' is noticeable. The bottom portion has been obliterated.

The school, however, is much older than the schoolhouse. Nearby there is a gravestone with this inscription:- "In memory of Thomas Moon, gentleman who died January 4th 1776, Esq. A man of sound learning, wit and probity. An instructive companion, and a sincere friend, to whom a good conscience was more than accumulated wealth. He was for 60 years head of this school".

According to the Farington History written by Susan Maria Farington the old Grammar School's foundations date back to 1524, and the school is one of the oldest in the county. It is scheduled as an ancient monument. It is regrettable that at present it is in a state of disrepair. It should be preserved as an ancient building for future generations.

It has been used for Sunday school training classes, Shakespearean readings, these were conducted by the late squire of Worden, and many other purposes. The Leyland Literary and Scientific Society which was founded by the Rev. de Leyland Baldwin held their meetings in the school.

When Balshaw's school, in School Lane, was re-constructed, the old building was put up for sale. It was bought by the late John Stanning of Broadfield, and presented to the Parish Church.

The Baldwins of St. Andrew's Parish Church... to be continued.

PAGE 11 MISSING

PAGE 12 MISSING

Extracts from 'The Wigan Times' Friday November 12 1852

R. Lancaster,
BRAZIER, IRONMONGER, AND TIN-PLATE WORKER.

Manufacturer of Miners' Safety Lamps, &c.,
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R. L. also manufactures all ordinary Lamps used in Mines, which are made of the best material, and at reasonable cost.

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Agent.—Mr. SAMUEL ROYLE, Scholes.

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VIZ.:
ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13th,
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15th,
AND
ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th,
At Seven o'clock.

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ENCLOSED CARRIAGES. 12s. | FIRST CLASS. £1 10s.

Tickets and bills, containing every information respecting the days of returning from London, may be obtained at the Wigan Station, or of

HENRY R. MARCUS,
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Horse Cloths, Ploughing Tackle, very good—treated
Shandry, with metal springs and cushions and apron complete.
leather brass mounted complete.
of Shandry Lamps, 2/6 pair
Whips (new) 2/6 pair
Cow 1/6 pair

AN IMPROVED SAFETY LAMP.—We have seen an improved miner's safety lamp, recently registered by Mr. Robert Lancaster, tinplate worker, of Bolton. It is well known that the principal cause of coal-pit explosions is the use of naked candles by the miners, instead of a safety lamp. They are quite aware of the increased danger, but they prefer the extra risk in order to obtain the extra light. All attempts to induce the uniform use of the present "dark lantern" prove fruitless, and great loss of life is the constant result. Any improvement, therefore, which will be equally safe, yet give a great increase of light, must be regarded as exceedingly valuable. Actual experiment has proved that the lamp in question is six times as safe as the ordinary candle lamp.

It is said that six times as much light is obtained with the same size of a lamp as possessed of these qualities. It is said that six times as much light is obtained with the same size of a lamp as possessed of these qualities. It is said that six times as much light is obtained with the same size of a lamp as possessed of these qualities.

455 Dozens of GLOVES, of various
324 Pieces of Good COBURG, at
63 Pieces of ALPACAS, at 3/6
8 Pieces of Gala PLAIDS, at 6/6
60 Pieces of Real Ditto, at 10/6
40 Pieces of Real Hungarian
95 Pieces of White CALICO, at
200 Pieces of Derry GINGHAMS
800 BLANKETS, from 3s. 6d. per
600 Pairs of COTTON SHEETS
200 QUILTS, from 1s. 6d.
600 Pieces of PRINTED MUSLINS
400 Swiss CURTAINS, from 2s.
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London Residence
and 29, Duke
Liverpool Ditto, 92,
Preston Ditto,
Wigan Ditto,
Market-place.

Notice
OBSERVE.—The Messrs. external diameter at the bottom of the glass, have been increased. Other DISTIN
hitherto unobtainable to the top, at which point the diameter has been increased. Other DISTIN
Mosely continuing to v side, being protected by four wire gauze, have been increased. Other DISTIN
Wednesday, without the safety lamps, partly composed of glass, have been increased. Other DISTIN
without any extra charge, at different sections are provided with brass hoops, have been increased. Other DISTIN
30, Berner street, Oxford-st. lately brought into use, but the glass has, we believe, DISTIN
3, Fishergate-hill.—Daily Alite been circular, and only about half the length of the DISTIN
Liverpool, and every Friday glass in this instance, and their construction has been DISTIN
Fishergate-hill, Preston. Mr. Lancaster's lamp has been used for ten days, at the DISTIN
Great Lever Colliery, belonging to that colliery—a man named under DISTIN
and, we are informed, it has answered admirably. One of the DISTIN
of the fromen employed at that colliery, it has answered admirably. One of the DISTIN
Crosdon—states that the lamp gives a better light than under DISTIN
a naked candle, and shines all around, and that it is as up DISTIN
safe as the ordinary safety lamp, while it will detect a off DISTIN
this lamp to the test of sulphur to the extent of twenty DISTIN
yards, for three successive mornings, which he consi DISTIN
dore sufficient test for any lamp, and that a man DISTIN
part of 'til 11 for seven days, and was well satisfied DISTIN

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SURGEON DENTIST

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Messrs. Mosely offer advantage
obtainable at Wigan, all the mechanical
executed at their London Residences, w
provement is adopted for the benefit of
Messrs. M.'s Teeth are of their own manu
ranted never to change colour, and assim
to nature, as to challenge the strictest scr
patients have the advantage of being attended in London
or Preston, without any extra charge. Messrs. M.'s
Teeth are so constructed as may be worn over the most
tender gums, no operation required—all stumps are
allowed to remain. Messrs. M.'s charges will be found
to be strictly moderate, and as cheap as any other Dentist
consistent with the workmanship and material given.
No payment expected until the patient feels comforta
ble. Children's teeth attended to. Loose Teeth filled
with gold and Messrs. M.'s own Cement, which never
turns black, and will be found the seller of the teeth.
N.B.—Vacancy for a Pupil, who will have advantage
that are not to be obtained at any other Dental
Establishment.

	Premium Branch.		
	£	s.	d.
21	1	11	8
25	1	14	10
26	1	15	9
27	1	16	7
28	1	17	7
29	1	18	6
30	1	19	7
31	2	0	7

OFFICES,—15
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WYCOLLER HALL

By Mr. C. W. Holmes

Many words have been written extolling the beauties of Wycoller, beloved haunt of the Bronte sisters, and visitors are attracted the year round to this romantic dene with its gentle stream and bridges, "as many as there were cottages in the hamlet". The double arched packhorse bridge known as "Sallie's Brig" dates back to the 18th century and upstream another bridge, by repute, is some 300 years older. In 1948 a society was established the "Friends of Wycoller" who have kept a friendly eye on Wycoller. Recently restoration work was put in hand and homesteads long deserted, it is hoped, will once again be occupied, putting to good purpose some of the picturesque ruins of a once flourishing community of some three to four hundred hand loom weavers.

An air of mystery and romance, a hint of magic permeates ones mind as in the stillness you travel into a bygone age bringing to the fore thoughts of ancient families who owned and occupied the area, the Emmotts who, way back in 1311, owned Laneshaw Bridge, the village through which we approached. The Hartleys (responsible for building Wycoller Hall in the reign of Mary Tudor), whose early ancestor Piers Hartley lived at Wycoller long before the Hall was ever thought of. The Cunliffes who acquired the Hall by marriage into the Hartley family, who also in Anglo-Saxon times held lands on Cunliffe Moor on the heights beyond Whalley. The Cunliffes suffered greatly under the Norman conquerors and later during the struggle betwixt Lancaster and York. They settled at Hollins a few miles away and came to Wycoller when the Hall was but half a century old. Their coat of arms denotes the sporting characters of the Cunliffe men - Sabel, three conies current, argent - three silver rabbits running across a black field. A 17th century John Cunliffe who lived to be 93, married first a Hartley and secondly Mary, niece of Humphrey Chetham of Manchester and Turton Tower. His friend was General Lambert second in command to Oliver Cromwell and the doors of Wycoller were always open to him. When the two leaders fell out, Cromwell seized both Wycoller and Hollins and things looked black for the Cunliffes. After the Restoration they were pardoned by Charles the second. In Colne parish church there is a brass tablet which commemorates the passing of the last Cunliffe in 1819. He was Squire Henry Owen Cunliffe who died, it was said, propped up in bed to watch a cockfight laid on in his room. Highly esteemed

but impoverished he was 66 years of age and throughout his life had been known as a generous, hospitable, sporting spendthrift, devoted to the cockfight. His waning fortunes coincided with effects the Industrial Revolution was having upon the hamlet, cotton was taking over from wool and machines were ousting hand looms. It was during this period that people drifted away and left Wycoller to fall into decay. The Hall fell into a state of neglect and rapidly became a complete ruin, although the house had not long been deserted when in the 1840's it served as the inspiration for Ferndean Manor in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre.

There is a ghostly legend connected with the ruined Hall of an annual visit by a spectral horseman who gallops up to Wycoller Hall, dismounts and enters through the portal where once stood a fine porch. Rushing up the decayed staircase to an upstairs room (long since vanished) to commit some terrible deed, for the night air is filled with a woman's screams which die away to a sobbing and eventually are silenced. The horseman re-appears and mounts his wild looking steed and gallops off like the wind. His garb is said to be of the Stuart period and tradition has it that one of the Cunliffe wives predicted the extinction of the family and that she was murdered by her husband. The prophecy came true (about two hundred years later) with the passing of the last Cunliffe and the murderer seems destined to re-visit, every year, the scene of his crime.

* * * * *

CONGREGATIONALISM IN LEYLAND

by Mr. F. Cumpstey

When Dr. John Lea of the Edge Hill College visited us to speak at our February meeting on the subject "The Diary of the Rev. D. T. Carson", I asked him to let me have extracts of the diary relating to Leyland thinking that they might be suitable for re-production in the "Lairland Chronicle".

I have in fact received these extracts but after reading them, I do not think that they are suitable to reproduce verbatim as they make rather dull reading. Whilst Rev. Carson appeared to be a good factual recorder, he does not bring much human interest into his writing. However, some interesting facts can be obtained from the record.

Two visits are recorded, i.e. December 1847 and September 1848 and at that time the population of Leyland was about 4,000 and the principal occupation was agricultural unlike the neighbouring township of Farington where a large cotton works had been established.

At that time there were five places of worship, i.e

Parish Church

Primitive Methodist Chapel

Roman Catholic Chapel

Wesleyan Chapel

Independent (Congregational) Chapel

/over

And a number of Schools, i.e.

an Infant School

an Endowed Grammar School in which
30 children were taught to read only

another Endowed School called the Golden Hill
School 'where education, books and stationery
etc., are provided gratuitously for 110 boys
and 70 girls, on the national system'

another School at Moss-side 'whose character
was not ascertained'

and a Roman Catholic School lately commenced

The Congregational Chapel, which was in Towngate, was
opened in 1844 and must have been a reasonable sized
building as there were "sittings in it for about 250 people"
and attendances were said to have been about 80 for Sunday
morning services and 140 for the evening services. The
Sunday School which was held in a room beneath the chapel
seems to have been thriving also with attendances of about
140.

The Chapel appears to have been very active with
prayer meetings etc., on most nights of the week.

One aspect of the diary struck me as rather strange as,
although the first visit occurred on the 25th and 26th of
December 1848, no mention is made of the fact that it was
Christmas - was this an accidental omission or was Christmas
not such an important festival in those days?

* * * * *

TEAM BRAIN QUIZ

Mrs. M. D. Deacon

Have we any Masterminds in our midst?

The team entered in our local Team Brain Quiz by the Historical Society put up quite a praiseworthy performance by reaching the semi-finals before being eliminated by Leyland Rotary Club. Some of the questions presented were as follows:-

- 1 Who was the author of 'Utopia'?
- 2 How far was travel by candlelight?
- 3 How many pints of blood are there in the body?
- 4 Who made the punishment fit the crime?
- 5 Which saint went up in smoke?
- 6 Who invented the revolver?

Answers: See page 27.

The trophy was finally carried off by a team from Leyland Methodist Church; very worthy winners!

* * * * *

BRASSES, TABLETS, MEMORIALS AND STAINED GLASS
IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, LEYLAND. - PART 2

CHANCEL SOUTH WALL

by J. N. Banister.

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Gardner Baldwin, M.A., youngest son of William Baldwin of Leyland, Esq., and Francis his wife who died the 24th of October in the 61st year of her age. For 28 years the Vicar of this Parish, he faithfully discharged the duties of his trust looking forward to the day of God, humble reliance on the merits of his Redeemer. Just and upright in public life, kind and generous in private. An affectionate husband, an indulgent parent. He was deeply and deservedly regretted.

Also of Elizabeth, relict of the above and daughter of Thomas Orton, Esq., of Tatten Hall, who died December 17th 1873. Aged 73 years.

- - - - -

Sacred to the memory of Thomas James Baldwin, Esq., Major in the 22nd Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, eldest son of the late William Baldwin, Esq., of Leyland, and Francis his wife died at Leyland Grove January 28th 1839. Aged 51 years.

Simple in manners, impretending in character, most kind in heart, an excellent son, an affectionate brother, he was respected by his household and tenderly regarded by his family.

This tablet to his memory is erected by his affectionate sister Francis Henrietta Baldwin.

To the memory of Samuel Crook, late of Leyland. Gentleman. Gratefully to be respected for his extensive and well directed charities, yearly distributed within this Parish, and that of Clayton. He died 10th February 1776. Aged 82 years.

- - - - -

Near this place lieth the body of Henry Gilbert, late of Locko in the county of Derby, Esq., who died May 1732.

FFARINGTON CHAPEL

Sacred to the memory of Wilkinson Mathews, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Counsel, and a bencher of Lincolns Inn. He died in London 12th May 1866, aged 82 years, and by his own desire was buried in the Church, near the remains of his much loved sister Hannah the wife of William Farington, Esq., of high attainments and of the strictest integrity, truthfulness and honour. The modesty and geniality of his disposition, endeared him to his feiends, and obtained him the esteem of all.

A Brass in the Chapel.

In loving memory of Hannah daughter of John Mathews, Esq., and the second wife of William Farington Esq., of Shawe Hall, endowed with the most affectionate, kind and charitable disposition. She was also remarkable for fulfilling each of the many duties of her station, as one who, having the word of God constantly in mind, simply and fearlessly observed it, with an uprighteous perseverance, and consistency, which the constant aid of the Holy Spirit could alone have imparted. She departed this life in tranquil reliance on the merits of her Saviour May 31st 1853. Aged 55 years.

This monument, erected by her daughters, is intended not more as a mark of affection and gratitude to the parent, than with a view to record the memory of the sincere and humble Christian.

"We bless thy Holy name Oh! Lord, for this thy servant, departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow her good example that with her, we may be partaken of thy heavenly Kingdom".

In praise of God and to the dear memory of Richard Atherton Farington son of Henry Farington of Wigan, the first squire of Worden and Lord of the Manor of Leyland, of the youngest branch of the family of Farington of Worden and Shawe Hall, who succeeded to the estate February 28th 1909, and passed to his rest October 15th 1910, "O tarry thou the Lord's leisure, be strong and he shall comfort thine heart. and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

(Brass in Farington chapel).

Over the doorway a brass.

I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

- - - - -

To the memory of Susan Maria and Mary Hannah last surviving children of William and Hannah Farington of Shawe Hall and last representatives of the families of Bradshaw of Pennington, Nowell of Altham, and the elder branch of Farington of Worden "Even so Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight".

Susan Maria died January 10th 1894 aged 85 years, Mary Hannah, died October 29th 1888 aged 75 years.

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ".

(Brass over doorway to Chapel).

- - - - -

Sacred to the memory of James Nowell Farington, Esq., of Worden, the last surviving son and heir of William Farington of Shawe Hall, Born June 10th 1813, Married October 28th 1847. Sarah Esther eldest daughter and coheir of John Fonchet, Esq., of Broom House in this county, Died June 6th 1848. Trained in the nature and admonition of the Lord, he grew up to fulfil the duties and relationships of life, with Christian steadfastness and unfeigned humility, ever mindful that "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required". He lived honored, valued and beloved, and died deeply mourned in the 35th year of his age.

This monument was erected by his widow, in devout gratitude to Almighty God for the privilege of having been united to him on earth, and in humble hope through the Redeemer's merits of reunion in that world where "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain".

Blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching".

St. Luke. XII. VI.

Sarah Esther, widow of James Nowell Farington, Esq., died August 16th 1863. Aged 45 years. "Pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated full of mercy and good fruits".

Near this place lies the body of George Farington, Esq., of Worden in this parish, who died May 9th 1742 in the 46th year of his age. He married Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of John Bradshaw of Pennington in this county.

By her he had twelve children viz: William, Elizabeth-Margaretta, Bradshaw, Margaret, Elizabeth, Richard, Henry, George, Barbara, James, Isabella and Mary. Ten of whom are now living, Elizabetha-Margaretta, and George died young. This monument was erected to perpetuate his memory at the expense of Margaret his widow as a testimony of her conjugal love and affection.

Also she the said Margaret departed this life the 8th day of March 1771 in the 70th year of her age.

A tribute of respect to the memory of Deborah Henzall, Grace Dixon and James Ashworth, faithful, attached and deservedly valued domestics in the family of William and Hannah Farington of Shawe Hall, for the respective periods of 30, 25 and 45 years. Deborah Henzall died January 31st 1849 aged 75 years. Grace Dixon died November 9th 1855 aged 95 years. James Ashworth died December 7th 1862 aged 83 years.

"I call you not servants, but I have called you friends".

John 15 15.

(Brass in Farington Chapel).

An ancient right to this Chapel by ye name of ffarington chapel and ye vaults therein was confirmed by William Chadertan, Bishop of Chester and others unto William ffarington, of Worden Esq., and his heirs for ever.

A.D. 1591

SOUTH GALLERY

Sacred to the memory of Peter Priestley, of Glead Hill, Euxton, who departed this life January 22nd 1854, in his 44th year also of Charlotte Priestley wife of the above who died September 25th 1882, in her 69th year. Also of Ellen, daughter of the above who died December 21st 1849 aged 3 years and 10 months, also of Emily Ann, second daughter of the above who died September 9th 1867 aged 20 years. Also Peter son of the above who died February 27th 1919 aged 70 years, and Ellen his wife who died May 25th 1931. Aged 75 years.

SOUTH GALLERY EAST WALL

Sir William Farington departed this life, the 14th day of January in the year of our Lord 1781. With a truly thankful heart he received, the Blessings of this life ever trusting, through the merits of his dear Redeemer. He should enjoy a happy Immortality.

Anno Ætatis 61

In loving Memory of my Darling Husband William Edmund ffarington who died 28th February 1909 aged 22 years. "O'er moor and Fen, O'er Crag and torrent, till the night is gone: And with the morn those Angel faces smile which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

In loving Memory of Marguerite Phyllis widow of the late William Edmund ffarington, Born 19th June 1883. Died 26th July 1910 Lord of our Life, And God of our Salvation. "I am the Resurrection and the Life".

SOUTH WALL

This Church was re-seated, made free and open. A new organ chamber and vestry built A.D. 1876.

Thomas Rigbye Baldwin M.A. Vicar. William Bretherton } Church
John Staining } Wardens.

ORGAN

This organ was presented by John Monell and his son James Conyers Monell A.D. 1876.

Largely due to the munificent gift of the late Mrs. Stringfellow this organ was rebuilt 1933.

G. H. Ensor, M.A. Vicar.

Messrs. R. Spurden, Rutt and Co. Ltd., Organ Builders, London.

CHANCEL WALL OVER ORGAN

Barrastre Parker of Cuerden, who died without issue 7th February 1788. aged 29. Anne his wife the daughter of William Hulton of Hulton Park died December 24th 1830. Aged 71.

To the memory of Banastre Parker of Cuerden, Born 3rd March 1696. Died 3rd February 1738. He was son and heir of Robert Parker of Entwistle Esq., and Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Christ Banastre of Bank, Esq., by his wife Anne daughter and one of the Coheirs of William Clayton of Liverpool, Esq., he left issue four sons and four daughters viz: Robert, William, Banastre, Nicholas, Jane, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah.

SOUTH WALL

Joanies Threlfall Silvester Obit XXIII December
MDCCCLIII Æ TATIS LII.

Hoc Monumentum Patri Carrissimo. Natis Mæ rentibus Postum.

Leyland Church was rebuilt and much enlarged ANNO DOM. 1817
Nic Rigbye Baldwin A.M. Vicar.

Edward Boardman.	}	Church Wardens.
Hugh Holden		
James Garstang.		
George Berry.		

COMMUNION TABLE

This TABLE WAS SUBSCRIBED FOR AND DEDICATED TO THE loving memory of George Herbert Ensor M.A. who died October 3rd 1933. Vicar of this parish September 1924 to October 1933.

TABLET VESTRY

In this vestry lie the remains of Sarah wife of the Rev. Thomas Baldwin Vicar of Leyland who died 1st September 1782. Lamented by her husband and six children. Aged 68 years.

Also of Mary the beloved wife of the Rev. Thomas Baldwin A.M. of Whalley who died November 7th 1798.

Also of the Rev. Thomas Baldwin A.M. the much respected Vicar of this Parish for 52 years who died 6th May 1802. Aged 87 years.

Also of the Rev. Thomas Baldwin L.L.B. vicar of Leyland and Whalley who died January 10th 1809. Aged 63 years.

CROOK BRASS IN CHANCEL

Eleanor wife of Lieutenant and Colonel Gould Weston and only child of John Crook Freeman Esquire of Crook Hall in this Parish. Born November 26th 1834 died at Therapia on the Bosphorus June 20th 1862. Chamberlaine infant son of the said Gould and Eleanor Weston, prematurely born on 16th and died on 17th June 1862 at Therapia.

To the glory of God and in their memory the east window of this church was erected by the husband and father A.D. 1862.

The Chancel Roof was restored in 1956 A.D.

L. C. Peto Vicar.

C. R. Cunliffe. }
J. Parr. } Church Wardens.

* * * * *

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Members' Night, 3rd March 1975

This was a monthly meeting with a difference, which was enjoyed by an appreciative audience of 80 - 90 members and friends.

The proceedings commenced with a show of slides by Bert Morris of some early Festival Queens of Leyland, dating back to about 1890, which proved to be very interesting. Mr. Morris has gone to a lot of trouble to have old glass slides, as used in the old-fashioned type of cinematograph, made into modern 35 mm slides and our thanks go to him for the work he has put in.

The next item on the programme was a recording by Anne Wilson, the young daughter of our Hon. Treasurer, of a prize-winning entry in a competition relating to the preservation of old buildings. Anne had taken as her subject, Charnock Hall on Balcarres Road and had made an exceedingly good job of it. We hope to re-produce her essay in the Chronicle soon, so that it is on permanent record.

After the interval, the Chairman had a very pleasant duty of presenting the "Historian of the Year Award". This year the winner was, deservedly, Mr. W. G. Mackay, for his article on "Restoring a Flag Slate Roof" and the runner up Mr. G. Bolton (last year's winner) for his article "Who was Rose Whittle".

We are at the moment looking into the possibility of having some sort of trophy or replica of the shield which can be given to the winners each year as a permanent memento of their success and, as soon as this is finalised, we will arrange presentations to the past two winners. It is our hope that these awards will encourage other members to contribute to the "Lairland Chronicle".

The remainder of the evening was devoted to Folk Music by a group of three young people who go by the name of "The Greensleeves". Their performance was delightful and was very much enjoyed by all present, not least by the performers themselves, who were pleased to have such an appreciative audience. This musical interlude was quite different from our usual activities and its success encourages us to repeat the idea during our next year's programme.

Society Activities

Visit to Astley Hall, Chorley.

On Tuesday evening, the 18th March, 1975, a party of approximately 50 members and friends visited Astley Hall in Astley Park, Chorley.

On arrival we were met by Mr. George Birtill of the Chorley Guardian, who had very kindly volunteered his services as a guide. Mr. Birtill gave us a most interesting talk on the history of the Hall and introduced us to special features of the various rooms and afterwards we had the opportunity to browse around to look at things in greater detail.

Originally the Hall was built in the 16th century as a half timbered dwelling of two storeys and stone slated roof, so typical of the period, but since then it has been added to, altered and restored at various times resulting in the present building of very pleasing aspect.

Special features of the building are the Great Hall with its ornately decorated ceilings and wood panel portraits; the Drawing Room with a ceiling which even surpasses that of the Hall in ornamentation and wonderful tapestries depicting "The Quest of the Golden Fleece" and the Long Gallery with the 23½ feet long 'shovel-board table', (for the uninitiated like myself, shovel-board seems to have been a very much enlarged form of 'shove-ha-penny').

Also of interest was the 'Cromwell Room' and the 'Cromwell Bed' (a very fine specimen of a four-poster) which Oliver Cromwell is said to have slept in during the Civil War - although how this came about, considering that Robert Charnock, the owner of the Hall at that time was a Roman Catholic and an avowed Royalist, is rather difficult to understand.

All things being considered, it was a very interesting outing and an evening well spent.

APRIL, 1975 MEETING

The Speaker for this meeting was to have been Mr. P. P. Hall on the subject "John Wilkinson - Iron Master", but unfortunately he had to back out at the last minute due to a mix up of dates and a prior engagement.

However, we were able to arrange for Mr. Leo Hall, the senior English master from Wellfield High School, to step into the breach at short notice and we were entertained by a fascinating talk on the subject of "The Roots of our Dialect". All those present (80 - 90 members and friends) were held spellbound as Mr. Hall talked about the derivation of languages and dialects from thousands of years ago up to the present day.

During his talk Mr. Hall made reference to a number of books and these are listed below for the guidance of members who are desirous of going into the subject more deeply.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| "Old English" | Teach Yourself Series. |
| "Comparative Linguistics" | Teach Yourself Series. |
| "Our Language" | by Simeon Potter in the
Pelican Series. |
| "Guide to English Literature" | Pelican Series. |
| "Sir Gawain & the Green Knight" | Penguin Series. |

The vote of thanks was proposed most ably by Mr. Peter Barrow, who took the opportunity to make an impassioned plea for support for the campaign to save Clayton Hall from demolition.

During the evening, an interesting model of a cotton mill which had been restored and improved by Mr. Jones of Cocker Lane, Leyland, was on display. It is probable that this will in the near future be installed in the Harris Museum, Preston.

May 1975 Meeting

The Speaker on this occasion was Mrs. M. Schofield, B.A., who gave a very interesting talk on the subject "The Medical Care of the Working Class in 1900".

At that time the costs of medical attention were very high and reserved only for dire emergencies. Instead there was a lot of dependence on the old fashioned remedies such as brimstone and treacle etc., etc., which could be made up in the home. Herbalists were very much in evidence and some of the concoctions sounded (and probably were!) most revolting.

In fact, listening to Mrs. Schofield giving details of some of the recipes reminded one of "witches brews". Of course, the borderline between witches and wise women using herbal remedies must have been very difficult to define.

After the talk, Mr. Rigby gave us some very amusing anecdotes on the subject of doctors and medicines at the beginning of the century.

The vote of thanks was proposed most sincerely by Miss E. M. Horsfield.

Coming Events:

Visit to Lady Lever Museum definitely fixed for Sunday 29 June 1975, commencing at 1.00 p.m. from Fishwicks and picking up at the usual places. Cost approximately 50p plus Admission charges (if any).

A full day trip is being planned for a Saturday in late August to Tewkesbury and district. Further details later.

* * * * *

Answers to Team Brain Quiz (page 17)

1. St. Thomas More.
2. 70 miles (3 score and 10).
3. Approximately 10 pints.
4. The Mikado.
5. St. Bruno.
6. Samuel Colt.

LEYLAND'S FIRST MAY FESTIVAL

by Mr. H. Morris

The first Leyland May Festival was held in the year 1889. Before this date it had been the custom for many years, to hold what is known as Club Day, or the Club Walking. This was held on or near the 29th of May (Royal Oak Day), this was also the villagers annual holiday.

Club Day was the occasion when the lodges of the Friendly Societies would march through the streets dressed in their regalia to a service which was held in the Parish Church, and were accompanied by the tradesmen of the village. The Royal Oak Day celebrations also included the Friendly Societies annual dinner and gala.

By the year of 1889 almost all interest in those proceedings had been lost and there was little to occupy or entertain the many visitors who continued to gather in the village on this day. Someone suggested that a May-Pole should be erected around which the young people might dance and so plait the coloured ribbons held in their hands.

Although this suggestion was made in 1888, it was not until the spring of 1889 that a group of teachers from the Day and Sunday Schools decided to hold a Children's Fete, which could be added to the Club Day proceedings, but such a great interest was shown in this suggestion and so many people offered to help, that the idea of a Children's Fete was set aside in favour of a Village Revel similar to those which were so well known at Knutsford and Worsley.

About this time a committee was formed from the teachers and others connected with the Day and Sunday Schools, and the minute book tells us that they held this first meeting in the Reading Room on the 2nd of April (the Reading Room was underneath the Top school or Union Hall). Four more meetings were held before the day of the Festival and these were held in the Reading Room on the 11th April, when the Rev. B. Davies was in the chair. On the 23rd of April again with the Rev. B. Davies in the chair. On the 8th of May in the Boys' School with Mr. Henry Bretherton in the chair and on the 24th of May with the Rev. Stuart White in the chair in the infants school.

The minute book does not give the names of all the committee members but the following are known to have served on the first committee which met in the Reading Room on the 2nd April 1889:-

Mr. Archer, Mr. John Sumner, Mr. Whalley and Mr. Wm. Dawber.

The Chairman of this meeting was the Rev. Benjamin Davies, one of the Curates at that time.

At these early meetings many more people were appointed to this Committee in order to carry out the rather ambitious programme which had now been agreed upon. This was to consist of a procession through the streets followed by the crowning of the May Queen, the plaiting of the May-Pole and various dances performed by the children.

The procession is said to have been about a quarter of a mile long, and started from the schools in Union Street, and proceeded by the way of Towngate, Hough Lane, Chapel Brow, as far as the Railway Station returning by the same route to the Show Field, which seems to have been near the junction of Sandy Lane and Church Road.

From a programme of this first May Festival which carries the title

PROGRAMME

of the

LEYLAND MAY FESTIVITIES

Wednesday May 29th 1889

we are given the following order of procession:-

Children with Garlands, Zulus, Representatives of Trades, Farrington Subscription Brass Band, Flower Girls, Niggers on Lurry, Months and Seasons, Sailors, Bear, Lancashire Witches, Pesant Girls, Milk Maids, Farmer and his wife, Robinson Crusoe and Friday. Cinderella and the Haughty Sisters, Charity Girls. Wolf, Red Riding Hood and Mother Hubbard. Gypsies on Lurry; Jack the Giant Killer and Blue Beard; Mistress Mary and Dolly Varden; Blondin, Donkey and Clown; Robin Hood and his men; Betty Eccles; Tom Thumb and his wife; Gladstone and Churchill, Barrister and Masher; Jack and Jill and Bo-peep; Italian and Spanish Girls, Wales, Ireland and Scotland; Britannia and John Bull; Jester and Punch; Fairies; May-Pole dancers in Carriage (these were flanked on one side by Buffalo Bill and on the other side by Dick Turpin); Sceptre Bearer; Herald; Crown Bearer; Carriages containing Queen and her Maids of Honour; Guard of Honour; Little Children on Decorated Luries.

The Queen on this occasion was Miss Elizabeth Marsden, aged 13 years who lived at the Farington Corn Mill, in Mill Lane, which runs between Croston Road and Hall Lane (her father also took part in the procession as Buffalo Bill). The Crown Bearer was Miss Alice Berry of Boundary Street. The Dresses for the May Queen and Maids of Honour were provided by Mrs. Stanning and the May-Pole Dancers were trained by Miss Cliffe, who was the mistress at the Infant School.

The committee was assisted by the Rev. Jas. Badnell, vicar of Endon, who visited Leyland on at least two occasions to explain a number of ideas for the festivities.

It was at first intended to hold the Festival on Club Day only, with a repeat performance of the May-Pole Dancing in the evening, but because of the unfavourable weather this evening performance was postponed, and at a hastily arranged meeting of the committee it was decided to repeat the full programme on the Saturday following. This proved to be such a success that for many years, the LEYLAND May Festival was held on Thursday and repeated on the following Saturday.

A full report of this first May Festival was given by the vicar the Rev. T. R. Baldwin in the Parish Magazine for July 1889 and which reads as follows:-

"The 29th of May proved to be a day of storm and sunshine, of rain and fears. The weather was so uncertain with gusts of wind, and rain that until the time appointed for the procession to start there seemed little probability of the festivities being carried out. Every preparation having been made, the long line of children dressed in every variety of character, took its way through the village and returned without experiencing any very great amount of inconvenience, although one heavy shower served to damp the joyous spirits, as well as the festal finery of the processionists. A large number of people had gathered on the field, and the programme was gone through with as much

care as possible under the circumstances. The plaiting of the May-Pole and other dances were admirably executed, and from remarks of the company present it was easy to gather that the efforts of the children were appreciated and that due credit was given to those who had taken such pains with their training.

The crowning of the Queen was entrusted to Miss Master of Beechfield, who most graciously acceded to the request of the committee, and performed the office with true courtesy and kindness. Placing the crown of flowers upon the head of the Queen (Elizabeth Marsden) Miss Master said:-

"With fair flowers I crown thee Queen of May. Let their beauty and fragrance be emblems of thy future, so that kindly actions and gentle words may crown a life of sweet unselfishness. Thus will Leyland rejoice in the career of its first May Queen"

The representatives of Scotland, Ireland and Wales, with John Bull and Britannia then approached the throne to make their bow, while their advance was accompanied on each occasion by some National Melody. The uncertainty of the weather and the risk of the children taking cold, rendered it necessary to slightly curtail the performance and to postpone the repetition of the plaiting etc., which had been announced for the evening to the afternoon of the Saturday following. The young people were afterwards supplied with coffee and cake in the Union Street Schools. Saturday June the 1st, turned out to be a brilliant day and consequently everyone was in good spirits, and the anxieties of the 29th were forgotten. Many improvements were visible in the arrangements which had been suggested by the experience of the previous occasion.

The result was a success financially as well as in other respects. The proceeds amounted to £142-6s-5d, but the expenses were heavy, amounting to no less than £65-10s-0d. The balance after certain liabilities of the Sunday Schools had been met amounted to £35-2s-2d. This sum was handed over to the Managers of the Day and Sunday Schools with an understanding as to the terms on which it is held"

So ended Leyland's first May Festival which proved to be such a great improvement over the old Club Day proceedings that it was held each year (with the exception of 1901, 1902 and 1904) until 1914, after which it was discontinued during the war years.

In 1901 it was not possible to hold the May Festival because of a Scarlet Fever epidemic.

In 1902 there was no May Festival because of the Coronation Pageant being held in the village to celebrate the Coronation of King Edward VII.

In 1904, it was at first agreed to hold the May Festival on one day only, but it was later abandoned because of the death of Mr. John Stanning.

* * * * *