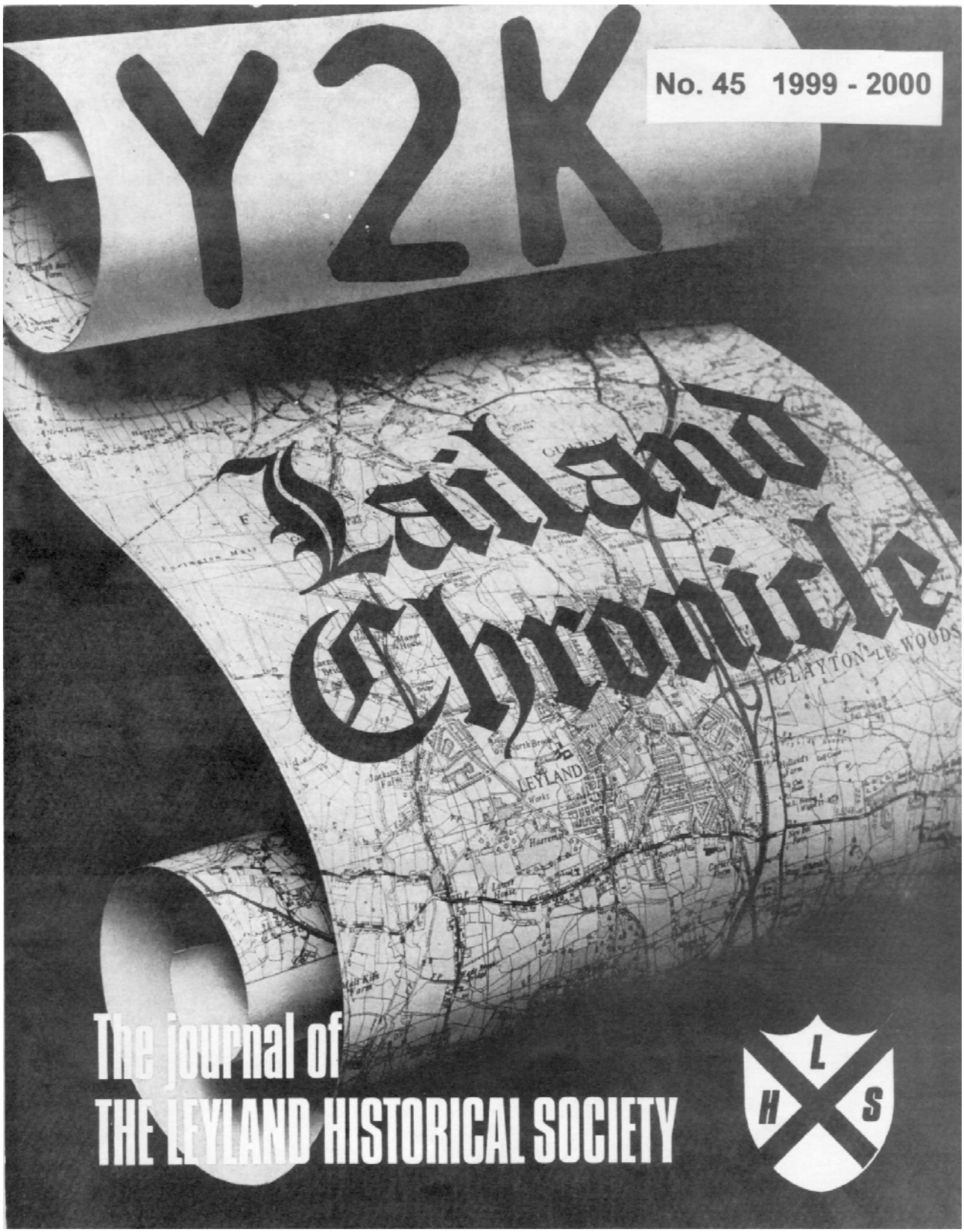
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No. 45 1999 - 2000
Leyland Chronicle
LEYLAND
CLAYTON-LE-WOODS
The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1024919

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CHAIR

Mr. P. Houghton

VICE CHAIR

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HONORARY SECRETARY

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Tel: (01772) 37258

AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month(September to July inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.
Meeting date may be amended by Statutory holidays.

AT

PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£7.00 per annum
Members	£6.00 per annum
School Members	£0.50 per annum
Casual Visitors	£1.00 per meeting

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THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE
and
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY.

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EDITORIAL

I am happy to be able to say that this year's Chronicle is bigger than ever before. There are more articles on many diverse topics and many of our regular contributors have written not one, but two, and in one case even more, articles for our members to enjoy. Perhaps this is because, whatever the purists say, most people regard the year 2000 as a very special time and have made an even greater effort to make this a special edition of the Chronicle.

But – most of these are our regular contributors and it would be even more interesting if more of our membership would write something, however small, to add to next year's edition. I am especially grateful to Bill Waring for his contribution of small articles and snippets from old newspapers, which are so useful as page-fillers and often give us an insight (sometimes quite amusing) into the way things were in times past.

Our Chairman, Peter Houghton has been particularly busy this year. As you will see, he has been researching the history of our society and as a result has produced a number of interesting articles. However, we shall hear more of his research in the next few months. He has also set up a Web-site so that anyone on the Internet can find out about our Society and about future events, meetings and visits. Well done Peter!

!999 has seen some changes in the face of Leyland. All the units on the old gasworks site, including a very well patronised McDonalds's, are up and running, the 'Palace' has gone and new residential property built on the site. The goods yard is now full of houses and southern Towngate is an even bigger eyesore than it was last year! When will we have a town centre we can be proud of?

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Chronicle. My special thanks to the members of the committee for their encouragement, advice and support, to Les for transport and Malcolm who keeps the computer up-to-date.

I hope all those who read this edition will find something to interest them and perhaps inspire them to write something of their own for next year's publication.
MARY FOWLER.

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

SOCIETY AFFAIRS 1998 – 1999

The meetings for the 1998/1999 season started in September with Neil Howlett giving the story of the common soldier under either the King or Parliament's forces during the English Civil War. This was achieved with a demonstration of the soldier's clothes and the type of weapons used during this period.

As the forty-five moves required to fire the gun did not make for any rapid fire, there were many rows of soldiers so that they could have time to reload before appearing on the first row again. James Mawdesley once again asked some searching questions of Neil. This made for an enlightening and interesting evening, looking at a familiar subject from a different angle.

Our most attended and successful evening of the year was, once again, the Mikron Theatre's visit for the October meeting when they gave a professional performance of "Imogen's War". This was the story of the land girls as they worked on the narrow boats during the Second World War and travelled along the Grand Union Canal from London to Birmingham with a load of Spam, then returning to London loaded with coal.

The cast of Richard Povall on his fifth visit to Leyland, Vashti MacLachan, Elizabeth Eves and Charley Moon gave a professional performance. Elizabeth, on her first visit to Leyland, gave a confident and true reading of the title character as she left her sheltered home life and ventured onto the Cut and the life style of the boatees, (not bargees remember). As Richard told me later, he likes Leyland for many reasons, the venue, the large and appreciative audience and the butties.

On 2nd November, we had the return of John Fletcher, whose, "Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal" and "Waterways to Castlefield", had entertained and educated us all in the past two years. This time it was "Moving Mountains", the story of the civil engineering required to put canals there in the first place. Then, following the years of neglect, the final restoration to navigation. However, when John started by quoting from the Bible, it seemed we were in for a different kind of evening. He explained the way in which many fine and sturdy bridges were buried under a mound of earth in the name of road widening, only to be unearthed again on restoration. This was well illustrated by slides taken from some very risky positions.

On 7th December, Fred Barton who told many tales of old fashioned medicines and remedies again visited us. Any illness could be cured if you knew the right thing to take, rub on, or even place in the same room. I am particularity reminded of the plate of water under the bed for curing cramp and I passed on the hint to cure gout with an onion to a colleague of mine at work. The usual tea and mince pies went down well, while the Christmas Raffle for the Farington Fund raised much needed funds for the history prize. This is presented to the best history scholar in each of the four Secondary Schools in Leyland.

On 4th January at very short notice, to replace recently bereaved Colin Dickinson, we welcomed Frank Harrison. His talk on the decline in the Cotton industry was illustrated with the use of an overhead projector lent by the staff of the Jarvis Hotel, Leyland. With the use of millworker's reminiscences and factual records, Mr Harrison built up a picture of the original fat cats and their relationships with their workers and each other.

On 1st February, we were visited by Mrs Janet Nelson who talked about the origins of shopping in north Lancashire in and around Lancaster. From its earliest days on the market place, we were told the history of Lancaster with its large catchment area from the Furness, Lune valley and the Fylde. The market place later moved under the town hall until it was established in its own market hall. She brought the story up to date with the opening of the first shops.

On 1st March the Society welcomed back Colin Dickinson with his talk on "The Great Ocean Liners". These include the sister ships of the Titanic, namely the Britannic and Oceanic, the story of steam at its height. His detailed description of the ships and their powerful engines made for an interesting and informative evening.

On Sunday 28th March, a group of members headed for Alston Hall, where, after a three-course meal, they were entertained by John Shaw with his talk on "A walk along the Settle & Carlisle Railway". This covered the buildings to be found along the route of the railway from Settle to Carlisle including the viaducts and tunnels of the former Midland Railway main line to Scotland.

The meeting on April 12th presented by nine members of Chipping Historical Society, related the story of Peter Walkden as transcribed from his diary. Their technical set-up with the readers sitting at the back of the room with the narrator and projector operator at the front was very professional. The diary gave details of this lay preacher and very part time farmer as he travelled around the Chipping area visiting many buildings that are still standing today.

Our speaker on 10th May was an old friend of the Society, Mr Astin, who first visited the Society in 1981. On this occasion, he presented the story of "The River Irwell, Past and Present", which covers the history to be found by the riverside. It began in the hills above Bacup before passing through the small villages. Mr Astin paid special attention to the churchyards and the numerous public houses along the route. The story of Agecroft Hall and its subsequent transfer across the Atlantic Ocean to the U.S.A was particularly well received. With a few pictures of the river in the centre of Manchester and the beginning of the Ship Canal, it was a good introduction to next season's talk by John Fletcher on the Manchester Ship Canal.

Thanks to the volunteers for helping with the Festival exhibition in the Craft Tent. This was on show at the back of the room at the June and July meetings. We managed to raise £33.35 for society funds. This included 61 entries for the competition, which this year asked for the date that Tudor House was built. The answer was 1710 and the winner, Mrs A Bentham with 1720, was presented with an autographed copy of the book, "Old Leyland in Pictures" compiled by Dr David Hunt and Mr Bill Waring, at the Annual General Meeting. Answers varied from 1600 to 1908, though James Mawdsley with 1730 was one of the runners up being only twenty years out. Also on sale was the new book written by Joan Langford on the History of Farington, copies of which are available, price only £4.50.

The meeting on 7th June saw Miss Kazer give a talk on the "People from Leyland". She started with members of the Farington family, continuing with the Baldwins of Leyland Parish Church and their famous explorer brother, before going on to James Sumner and more recent famous people.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 5th July, following the presentation to Mrs Bentham of the book kindly donated by Greg Smith of Great Grandfathers; Michael Park did his usual reading of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. This then lead to the treasurer's report given by Ted Almond, which showed that the society was holding its own in the income and expenditure department, (I refuse to go into any further details as it would start to feel like work).

The Chairman's Report was its usual witty trot through the years events (greatly expanded for this article) followed by the election of officers. For the first time they were elected en-bloc with no other nominations having been received. The only change was the addition of Joan Langford on to the committee. Our President, Mr George Bolton, then resumed control. He first announced the new Honorary Life Member to be Mr Bill Waring in recognition of his work for the society over a number of years and especially his long editorship of the Chronicle. George's second task was to present the Historian of the Year Shield which, when he was handed the envelope from Dr Timmins, he discovered was himself!

Mrs Margaret Taylor then gave a well-illustrated talk about the changes around the centre of Preston within the last fifty years. Many will remember the old bus station, the town hall, the shops, cafes and many of the old terraced streets which were swept away to make way for the large building programmes in the 1960s and 1970s such as the large bus station. The evening concluding with tea and biscuits.

The rail trips have continued with visits last autumn to St Helens which included two guides, and also a visit to a wet but interesting Bolton. This year we have visited Carnforth with Mrs Nelson as our guide for the third time, while the visit to Macclesfield included a tour around the Silk Museum and Paradise Mill with its weaving machines. A trip along the Settle & Carlisle Railway took place on 18th July

The local historian of the year for the his article "The Memoirs of Simeon Vickers", in the 1997/1998 Chronicle No 43 was Dr David Hunt. Our President Mr George Bolton was presented with the Historian of the Year Shield at the Annual General Meeting for his article " Old Worden-Hall and Manor" in the 1998/1999 Chronicle No 44. Our editor, Mrs Fowler has been keeping up with both the computer-literate and not-so-computer-literate members, who contribute to the Chronicles. We have continued our watching brief on the planning applications front thanks to Elizabeth making sure that the Society keeps in touch with events in and around the conservation area.

As mentioned above, this year saw the publication, by member, Mrs Joan Langford, of the Society's fifth occasional paper. Meanwhile your chairman has been working on a publication slightly closer to home. "The History of the Society" will hopefully be published in the coming six months as an additional edition of the Chronicle to mark the Millennium. This will be given free to the members when it is available. As you can probably tell from these expanded 'Society Affairs' notes, it is now my intention to ensure that none of the Societies activities fails to be recorded.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their invaluable assistance during my first six years as chairman and I hope they will continue to carry on the good work in the future.

PETER HOUGHTON

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Leyland. The New Public Hall.

"The new Public Hall which graces Towngate, Leyland, is now almost complete and it will be, when finished, one of the best equipped buildings of its character in the district and, from all accounts, the enterprise of the gentlemen responsible for its erection will be amply rewarded, for there had long been felt the need of a building of the kind for social and recreational purposes.

Throughout, the fittings are of the most up to date character, and the large concert room, which will seat 660 persons, is now almost ready for the opening concert. A splendid drop scene has been fixed up, the view on the front representing the Grand Canal at Venice, and it is a very artistic production.

All the premises at the front of the building have been let off, and upstairs there is a Masonic Hall, while a private club has been arranged which will make use of three rooms. The arrangements below stairs for tea parties are of an admirable character, and one feature in connection with the floor of the concert room is that the joists rest upon rubber pads, which will be an advantage as regards dancing. Already there have been several demands made for the use of the premises at future dates".

The above is from the 'Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser' of November 25th, 1899.

The new Public Hall was completed the following month and reports in the 'Guardian' show that it was being used by various groups and societies in the weeks leading up to the year's end - Leyland entered the 20th century with a brand new public building. Sadly, tradition counts for nought. In what our forefathers who had built the Public Hall would, no doubt, have called an act of vandalism, the 'Civic Hall' as it had become, was demolished in 1989 and nothing, as yet, has taken its place. Leyland not only goes into the 21st century but into the new millennium without a town centre worth the name!

W.E.WARING.

THE STORY OF MADAME TUSSAUD AND HER VISIT TO WORDEN HALL, LEYLAND

When the Bastille was stormed in 1789, young Marie Grosholtz, already famous in Paris for her wax portraits, was summoned to mould the likenesses of the prisoners whom the revolutionaries had released. As she descended to the dungeons, the story goes, her foot slipped, and she was saved from falling by a young man, Maxmillien Robespierre. Only a few years later, she was to hold his severed head in her lap while she created his death mask, for inclusion in her wax museum in the Boulevard du Temple, in Paris. In the same way she modelled the heads of hundreds who perished on the guillotine.

Marie Grosholtz became rich and, in1795, she married an engineer named Tussaud. But the marriage was not a success, and inn 1802 she sailed for England, taking most of her wax collection with her. She toured Britain successfully for 30 years with her portraits of royalty and famous personalities, until she opened a museum in London's Baker Street in 1834. She died in 1850 at the age of 90.

Madame Tussaud's visit to Worden Hall, Leyland, which must have happened before 1830, is as follows:

One stormy winter's evening, Mrs ffarington (my great aunt) and her two daughters, Susan and Mary Hannah, with some guests staying in the house, were sitting after their dinner in the room called the morning room, a comfortable apartment opening off the hall on the left as you enter, in the front of the house. They heard footsteps on the gravel outside and heard the bell ring and the servants go across the hall to the door. A colloquy seemed to be taking place amidst a babble of voices, which no one could understand. Mrs ffarington's curiosity was aroused and she went to the door herself, where she found the butler was being addressed in voluble French by a party of people outside. She brought them inside and found them to be a little company of foreigners who had suffered shipwreck on their way to Dublin.

The leader of the party was Madame Tussaud, a middle aged lady, who had fled from Paris during the Reign of Terror. She had been a favourite of the royal family and suspect in consequence, and had been forced by the Communists to exercise her art of wax modelling on the decapitated heads of many of their victims. She brought some of her models with her to London and started an exhibition there, afterwards touring with them about the country.

The shipwreck cast her and the survivors of her party ashore on the Lancashire coast, and all her possessions went to the bottom except one small box. This the unfortunate companions carried between them when they all started to walk to Preston, which they were told was the nearest town. Darkness fell upon them and they struggled along in rain and wind, soaked to the skin and caked with Lancashire mud. They mistook their road, and instead of arriving at Preston, they found themselves at the Lodge Gates of Worden. How they got past the lodge I don't know, but they arrived at the house as described and were taken in and housed, supper was got ready and dry clothing, and they turned out to be such charming and interesting people that their stay was prolonged for several days. The small box contained miniature models of various historical figures, and Madame Tussaud announced her intention of setting to work at once on fresh life-sized models of those that had been lost.

Mrs ffarington took her upstairs to a room where a number of old chests were kept, full of costumes which had belonged to former members of the family, and presented her with a good many of these to clothe the new figures and to help her to re-start her exhibition. In addition to this Mrs John Mathews (Mrs ffarington's step-mother) at North Shields, who also became interested in Madame Tussaud, gave her a quantity of valuable old Venetian point lace, of which I possess two or three pieces left over.

I communicated lately with Mr John Tussaud, the present owner of the Exhibition, asking him if it were possible that any of the old lace or brocade, etc., could still survive, but he thought it hardly likely. However, in searching through the exhibition I spotted a small piece of the identical lace, which may be seen on Cardinal Wolsey's sleeves. It is in a group of the original historical figures, and on some of them there are two or three pieces of genuine ancient brocade. This might well be the remains of the Worden dresses, as it is of a very superior quality to any other material used to clothe the figures.

I blame my great grandmother for depriving her posterity of the lace, which would be a unique and valuable possession now.

Apart from her fortuitous arrival at Worden Hall, Madame Tussaud visited Preston twice, in February 1822 and in November 1828. On both occasions she used the Theatre for her exhibitions.

The Visit to Worden Hall was taken from the "Annals of Our Ancestors" published in 1924 by Rosa Falkner.
The first part of the story is an extract from a Readers Digest book, dated 1976.
R.O.WILLIAMS.

JEREMIAH HORROCKS
1619 – 1641

Jeremiah Horrocks, the 'Father of Modern Astronomy', was born in the year 1619 at the village of Toxteth, near Liverpool. He studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, before taking up the curacy of Hoole Parish Church during the late 1930s.

During this curacy he took up residence at Carr House, Bretherton, a fairly substantial early 17th century house, now a Grade 2* listed building. It was in the top room of the porch that, on November 24th, 1639, the twenty-year-old curate became the first person to witness and record the transit of the planet Venus.

After this event, Jeremiah returned to Toxteth, where he recorded what he saw in his book, "Venus sub Sole Visa". He had barely finished writing this book when unfortunately, he died, aged twenty-one years

JAMES MAWDESLEY.

MEMORIES OF LEYLAND -- PART TWO

TOWNGATE

The artery of Leyland. Along with Hough Lane and Chapel Brow, Towngate was the lifeblood of Leyland. There were shops, houses, banks, industry, public houses, the administrative centre and a cinema. At either end there were churches - St Andrew's and St Mary's at the Cross-, the Methodist's just up Turpin Green and in the middle of Hough Lane was the Congregational Church (now United Reformed). At one end of this stretch was a railway station and there were regular bus services along the route.

Towngate seemed to have pride of place; at least it did to me, which is not surprising since I spent my first 27 years living there. In my childhood Towngate was important. It was my home and it supplied many needs. It also held many memories.

Within a few yards of where I lived you could purchase most of your weekly provisions. At the corner of Forge Street (now occupied by a Charity shop) was Sharp's bakery. I loved going to Sharp's shop even though it was usually crowded. I didn't complain when asked to collect the regular order of bread. The smell of newly baked bread filled the air and this has always appealed to me - but not as much as the taste of newly baked bread, especially the crust. The loaves were carried in a wicker basket and on my way home I would pick at the crust. Just a small piece at first, then another to balance or disguise what I had previously eaten. It usually ended up with my taking largish chunks. I prefer to eat crusty bread even now. I was repeatedly, told as a youngster, that the crusts would make my teeth and hair curl. I still have my own teeth and a full head of hair including curls!

On the other side of Forge Street was Thornley's. The shop had its own distinctive smell and the floor was covered in sawdust. I spent many hours queuing there for sausage rolls, meat pies, sausages and bacon. Across the road, next to Damp's, was Frank Preston's cobblers shop. This too had its own smell and on the walls hung the wooden clog soles and seemingly hundreds of clog irons hanging on lengths of string. I regularly had my shoes repaired there. I have a vague recollection of wearing clogs and how the stiff leather uppers used to bite into my thin feet.

Further along, on the same side, on the corner of Malden Street was Rawcliffe's fish and chip shop. This was one of two, in Towngate, the other being Wheeler's which faced Westgate. The former has gone, the premises being incorporated into the expanding Booth's. Wheeler's, under different management, is still operating. The layout has changed and has provided more space for customers. It now goes under the name of the 'Owd Chippy'

Living halfway between the two shops I was fortunate, that if a quick meal was needed, there always seemed to be one open. The choice at either wasn't extensive – fish, chips or peas – but it was sufficient for me.

The northern end of Towngate was known as the Regent. This was because of the cinema. Long after it ceased to be a cinema many people still referred to this area as the 'Regent'. I used to book to the 'Regent' when travelling by bus from Preston, and there were times when the bus conductors would look at me questioningly.

It may be that the disastrous fire, which occurred at the Regent, heralded the decline of the cinema industry. There were two picture places in Leyland at this time – the Regent and the Palace in East Street. After the fire the Regent never reopened.

On the morning of the fire I was walking to school (St. Mary's All age), the firemen were still damping down and that side of Towngate was blocked. I tried to get through without having to cross the road and then having to cross Hough Lane. Staying on the same side I had only one road to cross further along School Lane. Anyhow a policeman noticed me walking very slowly whilst watching what was going on and he said, quite curtly, "Move along Jolly's boy".

Years later the site was converted into a Woolworth's store but it did not prosper. It became another store – Kwik Save. The frontage was altered considerably before demolition in 1993 and the rebuilding of a new and larger store.

The Palace, too, ceased to be a cinema and finally, in April and May this year, (1999) it was demolished.

Opposite the Regent was Dr. Johnson's house and surgery. I remember him as being old with a small moustache and a funny voice. He had tubes inserted in his throat to help him to speak. The sound came out with a wheeze. At this time he shared the practice with Dr. Strachan. The waiting room was small and as there was no appointment system in operation, it was a matter of first come first served. It could be very crowded and on many occasions it was standing room only. As a child you could not sit down if adults were standing; you gave up your seat to your elders. How different from many of today's younger generation.

Dr. Strachan, apparently, had saved my life as a baby. I had a convulsion and was in a bad condition but due to his efforts and treatment I pulled through, much to everyone's surprise.

There were two shops from which we regularly purchased food. Fred Haydock had the butcher's shop at the corner of Broad Street and Towngate. It was an unusual shaped shop – like a lop sided V shape. Fred didn't live at the shop but at number 107, which was next door to where I lived at 109 with my grandparents, aunt and uncle.

Next door to 107 was Billy Holmes' greengrocer. This had a soily smell about it, due no doubt to a large table rack, which held large quantities of potatoes. Next to the shop was a passage, which led to the backs. From there you could pass through an entrance between privet hedges and go into Holmes' yard. Here were several outbuildings which you passed before coming to a gate which gave access to the old bowling green behind the Seven Stars and Ship Inns. I never knew it was a bowling green. It was overgrown and for several years had been used as a dumping ground.

My brother, Leonard, and I used to play there but it wasn't really safe. There were bricks and broken glass lying around. I think we stopped using it when we lost our arrows. Because it was out of the way and used infrequently, we would use it to practise our archery skills by pretending to be Robin Hood or Burt Lancaster in the film "The Flame and the Arrow". Leonard had a suit of Lincoln green, which he had worn for the Preston Guild of 1952.

His bow was home made but the arrows had been purchased for the occasion. They were of good quality and we were proud of them so it was very disappointing when we either lost them or broke them on the overgrown rubble strewn site.

Another favourite place was the County Library. It was on the corner of William Street opposite the George IV public house. The building had once served Leyland as a police station until 1882 when a new station was opened at the corner of Chapel Brow and Golden Hill Lane. When the new library was opened in Lancastergate the former use of the old library was displayed for all to see. The library sign was removed to reveal 'Constabulary Station'. What a coincidence that the new police station is also situated in Lancastergate!

One summer holiday my brother and I decided to have a competition to see who could read the most books in one day. We standardised the test by agreeing to read only the Biggles books by Captain W.E.Johns. We were outside the library before opening time. Then followed a quick selection of books before we dashed back home to read. When we returned to the library for the third time the librarian refused to let us have any more. Obviously she must have thought we were playing games or worse.

Sunday afternoon walks were made much pleasanter by a call at Knight's for home made ice cream. The shop was in a row of terraced houses opposite the houses that lay between Spring Gardens and the Public Hall. These houses used to have coal hole covers and there was one in particular, which was bigger than the others. It was boarded over like a trap door and used to shake and give way when you walked over it. Every time we did walk on it we hoped and prayed it wouldn't cave in and send us plunging into the dark depths below.

My stage appearances have been limited to three, and two of these were at the Public Hall. The first was when I was an infant and the school was presenting a Christmas Variety Show. The infants were singing and during one evening's performance, a younger child than I couldn't wait to visit the toilet. By the side of me I could hear a whimpering sound and then a pool began to form at his feet and gradually spread across the stage.

Four years later my class had the privilege of doing the Tableau scene at the end of the concert. It was a nativity scene and we had to stand still whilst the senior boys and girls were singing carols. I was St. Joseph and Hazel Bretherton took the part of Mary. Even though I was last on I had to be early at the Public Hall to be made up.

The process was unpleasant. It was necessary to have a beard, which was applied by the use of spirit gum. It smelled awful and was painful to remove. Butter had to be rubbed on my face to get rid of the more stubborn marks. We were made up under the stage and we had to be as quiet as possible whilst the other children were performing.

To my small eyes the stage was huge and I was most impressed with the fire curtain and its wonderful scene of what I thought was Venice. A backcloth, I liked, was, if I remember correctly, of a garden scene with latticework against the walls.

Facing the Public Hall was a variety of shops but the one I frequented most of all was Booth Mosses hairdressing salon. As a young boy I was too small for the chair so Mr Moss would place a piece of wood through the chair handles to raise me up. Our hair was closely cropped as the fashion of the times – short back and sides it was called.

To finish off he usually sprayed our hair. Sitting in the chair one faced a mirror, which reflected the mirror on the opposite wall. I was fascinated by the mirror in the mirror in the mirror. Even though I tried many times, I was unable to count the number of images as they merged into infinity.

After the war people celebrated with street parties and Towngate was no exception. Tables and trestles were set out in the middle of the road facing Spring Gardens and local children were treated to whatever goodies were available allowing for rationing. Unfortunately I cannot remember what we had but no doubt butties, jelly and lemonade were the order of the day.

The Americans were in Leyland during the war period and immediately after. Children, myself included, would pester them for chewing gum of which they seemed to have an unending supply.

Being one of the main roads in Leyland, Towngate was always busy but there were times when it was too busy. Ask anyone who wanted to cross from one side to the other in the early hours of the morning or in the early evening whilst Leyland Motors workers were going to and from work in the hey days. The bend at Broad Street was, and still is, particularly bad. In my early teens I used to help my Granddad cross the road at this point on his visits to the Trades Hall at the junction of Broad Street and Eden Street. He required help because of his disability. He was on crutches, having lost his right leg in a motor accident.

The bottom of Broad Street was one of the rallying points for the Salvation Army. Their Citadel was in Eden Street opposite Tomlinson's wood yard and next to 2nd Leyland Scout Group hut. They seemed to have a large following and as we played in Eden Street we regularly saw members moving in and out of their headquarters. On Sunday evenings the band would strike up and the 'Sally Army' as we called them, were on the march. Down Eden Street into Broad Street where they formed a circle at the juncture with Towngate. From where I lived I had a good view without venturing outside. The service followed a regular pattern – hymn, talk or reading, another hymn, another talk. After twenty minutes or so they would march back to Eden Street. They seemed to alternate their services between Broad Street and the top of Westgate. Again, from the front window I could see them as they stood outside the Ship Inn.

It was useful having a good view of the top of Towngate towards the Cross-especially when I was required to use the 'bus service. From 1952 this was a regular occurrence as I joined my brother in attending Preston Catholic College. As soon as we saw the 'bus approaching we would rush outside to the 'bus stop outside Leyland Garage. There were times when we miscalculated, then we would try to beat the 'bus to the next stop in Hough Lane. We were both quite fast runners but it was touch and go on a number of occasions. We always hoped there were plenty of passengers waiting at the 'bus stop.

There were other times when Leonard and I would try to race the 'buses between the Cross and Westgate. This occurred when we were returning from a visit to the park or from one of the services at St. Mary's Church in Worden Lane. Sometimes we would compete against each other as we were on our way home from Sunday morning Mass at St. Mary's It would be a question of me trying to steal a march over my brother as he was certainly the fastest of the two of us.

More often than not we walked home from our regular attendance at 8 o'clock Mass. I didn't like the journey however, as we used to meet fellow parishioners on their way to the 9.15 Mass. Like most boys at that time I wore a hat which politeness demanded I raised to all and sundry who were greeted either by my Grandma Jolly or Auntie Winnie. I detested wearing hats so much that I can't abide wearing hats at all now.

E. ALMOND.

THE MILLENNIUM

As we enter the third millennium, I wonder are we going to notice the past around us?

The thought of this article came to me when I visited the Bishop's Old Palace at Lincoln, the home of the medieval Bishops of Lincoln. It is now owned by English Heritage and is mainly a ruin, though parts of it have survived intact. When I say 'ruin' I do not mean that there is hardly anything left, but what is ruined is remarkably well preserved so that with a little imagination you can see it in the days of the medieval Bishops of Lincoln.

The point of this article is that there is a lot of history in Leyland and the surrounding area, which we do not notice. Buildings like Runshaw House, positioned at the corner of Runshaw Lane and Runshaw Hall Lane in Euxton, which was built in 1648, and Tudor House at the Cross-, built in 1710.

But there are some buildings many of us have not seen in our lifetimes. Buildings like old Worden Hall, built C1500 by the ffarington family, and Buckshaw Hall, during the Civil War era by Major Edward Robinson, a leading parliamentarian during the Civil War. If these two buildings are going to survive, they will both need urgent restoration. I have found a reference to Buckshaw Hall in one of my books at home and it is described as being in poor condition and swathed in plastic sheeting. This is not good for a Grade 2* listed building. The Department of the Environment says, *"Though now in poor condition, propped up in some places and with a large hole in the rear wall, the building is probably the finest of its kind in the present county of Lancashire"*.

But we do have our fair share of demolished historic buildings, including Clayton Hall, a seventeenth century moated manor house, demolished in 1976, and the cruck Estate Barn, destroyed by fire in 1979. Clayton Hall and the Estate Barn were two historic buildings lost. Now we must try to take precautions so that we do not lose any more.

But before the article ends, I am going to consider the buildings the 20th Century has created, so I will look at St. Mary's RC Church on Broadfield Drive. Though only built in the years between 1959 and 1964, it is now old enough to become a listed building. (A building needs to be thirty years old before it can be considered for listed building status). So, though it is only thirty-five years old, we must see that it is preserved as the heritage of the future.

JAMES MAWDESLEY

THE FARINGTON ARMS - A SIGN OF THE TIMES

PART 1 : LEYLAND

Introduction

The inns, ale- or beer-houses, taverns, public houses or hotels in nineteenth century Leyland are generally well known and records of them have appeared in the Leyland Chronicle and elsewhere, although there is no comprehensive single source account of them. It now appears that there was one premises where alcoholic beverages were dispensed, for consumption on or off the premises, which seems not to have been noted in the general historical record. This essay is intended to bring this matter to light and promote further investigation.

The nature of licensed premises covered by the various categories has changed over the centuries, but it may be useful to describe them briefly. The term " inn" may more properly refer to premises where lodging, as well as food and drink (hence the term victualler for the innkeeper) were provided for the traveller. An "ale-house" or "beer-house" (synonymous terms) did not usually provide accommodation, and the beverages were limited to ale and beer, i.e., not wines or spirits. A "tavern" originally dispensed wine, but later the term was widened to include other drinks and became synonymous with "public house", which might sell ale, beer, wines and spirits, but did not provide accommodation. Finally a "hotel" provided accommodation but not necessarily alcoholic drinks, though it quite usually did.

From 1552 to the present day the State has issued legislation, by means of licences, to control the supply of alcoholic refreshment to the population. The licences were issued to the person in charge of the premises, rather than the premises themselves, although the premises were normally named or described in the licenses. This legislation was complex and prolific, and only two aspects of it, concerning beerselling will be mentioned. Between 1828 and 1840 a series of Acts on the subject make it clear that the authorities wished to encourage the consumption of beer rather than spirits, largely cheap gin, which was responsible for the excesses so well depicted in the previous century by the artist Hogarth. These beerhouse licences were relatively easy to obtain, but in 1869 the nature and control of the licences was tightened up. This 1869 Act is so germane to the present story that it will be dealt with in the proper place in the account that follows.

Narrative

All the events described in this account took place in the nineteenth century and although they are given in chronological order, this does not mean that they were researched in that order.

1838 - In this year the Tithe Award Map and accompanying schedule for Leyland was prepared and a copy is deposited in the Lancashire Record Office (a duplicate and more readily accessible record, prepared in 1844, has been used in the present study). Armed with the useful tool of hindsight, a detailed search was made of the entries for a specific area of lower Leyland, the East Side of Leyland Lane, north of Mill Lane and opposite the entrance to Dunkirk Lane. At this point, nothing was found to confirm the presence of an alehouse in this area in 1838.

1841 - the year of the first significant national Census of the population of the country, carried out by enumerators on foot visiting all properties and recording the names and other details of every resident there. The enumeration was carried out in a systematic manner and whilst not every house had a street number it is possible to determine its location with some certainty. These enumerators returns are still available, and examination of those for the area of lower Leyland defined above yielded an entry of the greatest significance for the present research, as follows: "Farington's Arms" - John Langton aged 30, his wife Alice aged 25 and their four children are shown as residing there

.**1848** - publication of the first large-scale map, [6 inches to the mile or 1:10560], of the Leyland area. It was actually surveyed in 1844 to 1846 by the Royal Engineers, which effectively dates any features shown. An enlarged (X2) copy of the relevant area is attached. Exact reconciliation between this map and that of the 1844 copy of the Tithe Award at the relevant point is difficult. However, it is felt that the location of the building referred to as the "Farington's Arms" in 1841 can, with the help of later larger scale maps, be exactly defined.

1851 - the census return for this year, at the relevant position, has an entry. John Langton, brewer, now aged 40 with his wife and six children as residents. There is, however, no mention of the property having a name, although the 1851 census is in general more detailed than that of 1841.

1851 - Mannex town Directory for Preston gives John Longton (sic), beerhouse, Leyland Lane, Leyland.

1854 - Mannex Directory gives an identical entry to the previous.

1861 - Census return for the identified location shows a change of occupier, namely: - James Robinson, aged 38, Beerseller. This entry appears immediately after the entry for Alma Cottages, going south, which helps to identify the exact location of the property, which the evidence strongly suggests occupied the site of the property now known as "The Leyland Shoe Company".

1865 -Mannex Directory does not give anything which can be construed directly as referring to the property, but amongst the list of more prominent citizens in Leyland there occurs: - Mr. John Langton, implying that he had moved up in the world.

1865 - Gillett Directory gives Henry Jackson, Beerhouse, with no address given. Also Mr. John Langton.

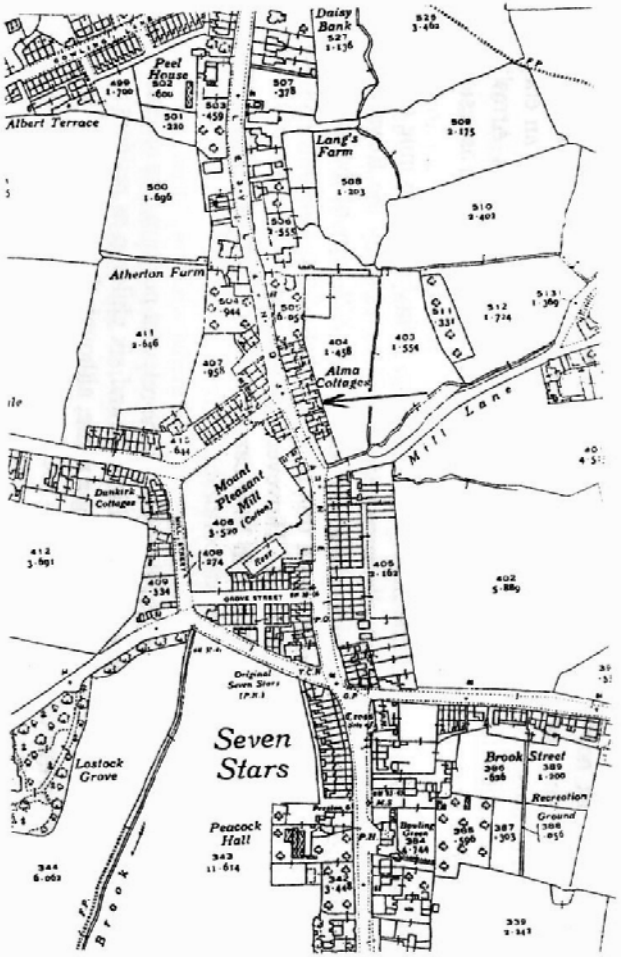
1866 - Mannex. Identical entry to Mannex of 1865.

1868 - Mannex. Identical entry to that of 1866.

1869 -A highly significant reference to the property. In the Lancashire Record Office there is a series of records covering the activities of the Lancashire Quarter Sessions meeting at various sites throughout the year.

The records of these meetings come under Class QSR and later QSO/2. In addition there is a series of Petitions to the Sessions about a wide variety of topics, recorded under Class QSP. One of these latter, (LRO QSP 3830/55) was copied and examined in great detail, with highly interesting results.

1848 O.S. Map 6" to mile
Enlarged X 2



1938 O.S. Map 25" to mile
Reduced ÷ 2

QSP 3830/55 is dated the seventh of September 1869 and takes the form of a petition to twenty two [of the great and good - my comment] named persons (including the Reverend Thomas Rigbye Baldwin), being Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County Palatine of Lancaster. It was submitted on behalf of a Henry Jackson (signed by mark) presumably by a solicitor. This was an appeal against a decision stated to have been made at the annual Licensing Meeting held at Chorley on the 21st August last and an adjournment on the 6th September in the same Sessions Room at Chorley. Note that no time was lost (one day) in appealing against the decision.

The decision was to refuse an application for a licence made by Henry Jackson, of Leyland, beerseller. This was "for a certificate under the 'Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869' for the sale of beer and cider by retail to be drunk and or consumed in the House or premises situate in Leyland Lane in Leyland and called or known by the name or sign of (Query, was this a standard form of words?) 'The Farrington Arms', which I occupy as tenant to John Langton of Leyland aforesaid, Bricksetter".

The grounds for Jackson's appeal are given in detail, but may be summarised as statements on his character and past conduct and the suitability of the premises. I have examined the Act in detail *(Statutes at Large 32&33 Victoria, 1869, Chap. 27)* and his appeal is a paraphrase of the contents of the Act. The act is dated 12th July 1869 and the Justices refusal begins on the 31st August, only seven weeks later!

1869 -In the Quarter Sessions Order Books for late 1869 (QSO/2) it has, regrettably, not been possible to trace the results of Jackson's appeal.

1871 -In this Census at the relevant location we find the name of William Miller. aged 29. Innkeeper (sic).

PART 2 : PENWORTHAM

The evidence for premises known as the Farington Arms in Penwortham is well attested, though of course no such property has existed in the twentieth century. It is appropriate to say here that documentary evidence shows varying spelling for the name of the property, after all Susan Maria Farington long ago wrote (The History of the ffaringtons of Farington and Worden) "As to the spelling of the name - that was various enough." Every effort has been made to reproduce exactly the spelling given in the individual entries. All the documentary and map evidence shows that the inn, for such it was, was located south of the Liverpool- Preston turnpike road, (1771, - now the A59), near to the junction with Cop Lane, and rather surprisingly close to the Fleece Inn, which still exists.

The first reference found was in 1825 *(Baines Lancashire Directory, Volume 2.)* although it may well have been in existence sometime before then. For the purpose of the present enquiry, the many references found are summarised in the table below, which incidentally highlights the spelling variants mentioned above.

1825	Farrington Arms	Richard Platt	Baines Lancashire
1834	Farrington Arms	Ellen Taylor	Pigott.
1839	Farringon Arms	Richard Breakell	Tithe Award
1841		Richard Breakell	Census returns
1847	Farington's Arms Inn	6 inch O.S. map	
1851	ffarington's Arms Inn	William Harrison	Census returns
1854	Farington Arms	Hugh Breakell	Mannex
1861		Hugh Breakell	Census returns
1865	ffarington Arms	Henry Bradshaw	Mannex
1866	Farington Arms	Henry Bradshaw	Mannex
1869	ffarington Arms	Henry Bradshaw	Gillett

No later documentary references have been found and it is probable that the property ceased to exist as an inn. Indeed Alan Crosby (*Penwortham in the Past 1988, page 11*) mentions that the opening of competing railways had deprived the turnpike of its most lucrative coaching trade (the Trust was dissolved in 1873) and this fact was one of the reasons for closure of the Farington (*sic*) Arms in the 1860's, the others being the competition from the Fleece Inn and the widening of Cop Lane, which was then partially obstructed by the Farington Arms.

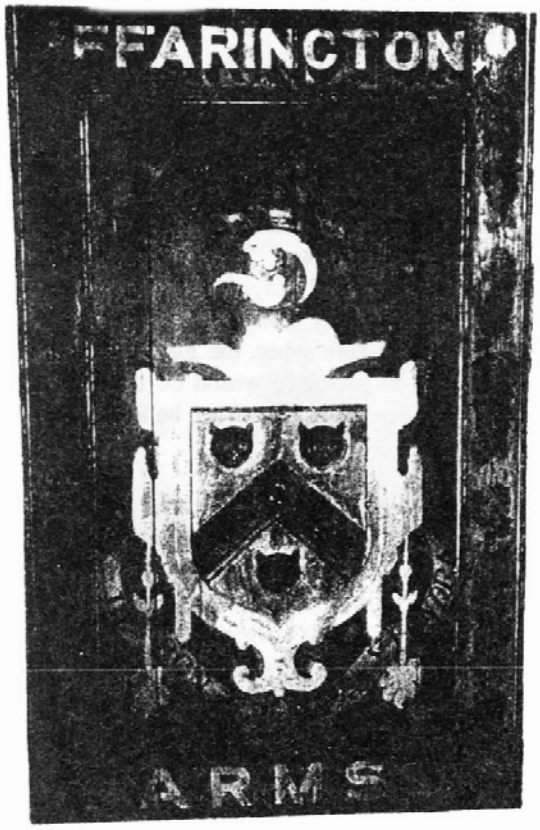
PART 3: THE SIGNBOARD

In the Farington Room in the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre in Leyland, hangs a substantial (5 feet by 3 feet) painted wooden sign, which obviously has great relevance to the present essay. It was found C.1983 in an outhouse of Worden Hall, Leyland, and I have assumed that it did not arrive at Worden later than the nineteenth century. It was in rather poor condition due to the passage of time and obvious misuse, and in 1987 the sign was structurally restored and cleaned, within the limitations of avoidance of damage to the painted surface.

The sign had been made from four 8 to 10 inch wide vertical boards. The design was framed by two thin mouldings with a floral decoration on the two vertical edges and consists of the arms, i.e., shield, helmet, mantling, torse and crest, with some similarities to those of the local family of Farington of Worden. It is interesting that the shield is shown in its early form, that is, before it was quartered with the three cinquefoil charges, the full significance of this is not yet clear. A motto also appears but this will be discussed separately. The accompanying print cannot show the colours of the design, but it is clear that the following heraldic blazon was intended:-

Shield	Argent (silver)
Charges	A chevron gules (red) between three leopards faces sable (black)
Crest	A dragon tail nowed (knotted) on a torse sable and or (black and gold).

The name was shown as **FFARINGTON, ARMS**. in upper-case lettering, which betrays a confusion. The Farington family for a long period wrote their name as ffarington the initial ff being the heavy "black letter" form of the standard upper case F, followed by the remainder of the name in lower-case characters. FF therefore is quite illogical.



PART 4: DISCUSSION

a) Leyland:-

The research confirms the existence of a licensed property on Leyland Lane, Leyland sometimes known as "Far(r)ington('s) Arms", and its location has been determined with some certainty. Documentary evidence of the name occurs only twice, in 1841 and 1869, and the name never appears in the town or trade directories of the period 1851 to 1882. The premises were quite definitely operated as a beerhouse, there is no evidence to indicate that it was ever regarded as an inn, and its existence has been proved only for the period 1841 to 1871. The authenticity of the name of the premises seems uncertain, and it raises the question of it possibly being "unofficial". It is interesting, and may perhaps be relevant, to note that on the opposite side and some two hundred yards to the south on Leyland Lane there stood (and is clearly marked on the map) the building known as " Farington's Alms Houses".

b) Penwortham

The existence of an inn, "Farrington Arms", (see text for variants) on Liverpool Road, Penwortham, is well attested and this research has added some details. It was quite definitely an inn and documentary evidence for it covers the period 1825 to 1869.

c) The Signboard

This signboard, now in Leyland museum, whilst at first sight appearing to refer to the arms of the Faringtons of Worden, presents many difficulties in interpretation, not assisted by lack of knowledge of its date of construction or the date it was deposited in the outbuildings at Worden Hall. The shield is of the un-quartered form, the quartered form having been used by the Worden family since C.1376. The motto on the arms is very puzzling, "*Le Bon Temps Viendra*" (Good times will come), which, whilst not the motto of the contemporary Faringtons of Worden, is that of another Farrington family, probably the Devon (now Somerset) branch. The pre- 1560 motto of the Leyland family was, "*Labor Vincit Omnia*" (Work Conquers All Things), which was changed in 1560 to "*Domat Omnia Virtue*", (Virtue Overcomes All?)

CONCLUSIONS

If the Leyland premises had not existed, it would be easy to justify the view that the sign might have come from Penwortham. There was certainly an authenticated inn of that name there from at least as early as 1825, on land, which was formerly owned by the Faringtons of Worden, but later privately owned. This fact makes it difficult to see how the sign could have got to Worden Hall when the inn was demolished in C.1869. More importantly, any inn sign on those premises would be likely to represent accurately, the contemporary Farington of Worden arms. I do not believe that the sign now in Leyland Museum came from Penwortham.

It is probable, therefore that the signboard came from the Leyland Lane premises, even though it is more suited to an inn, rather than a beerhouse. It seems unlikely that the contemporary early nineteenth century Faringtons would have given permission for a sign bearing their arms, however inaccurately, to be erected on a mere beerhouse virtually on their own doorstep, and if erected without their permission, probably would have ensured that it was removed forthwith. **Perhaps they did! And perhaps that is how it came to be found at Worden Hall.**

The discrepancies in the heraldry on the signboard are now difficult to explain. I consider that the person who commissioned the painting had access to some contemporary book of heraldic family designs and, whilst the shield, the crest and the motto are all relevant to some Farington, Farrington or Ffarington family, in the conjunction shown they do not represent the local family. **One is tempted to ask if this fact was accidental or deliberate.**

Map and documentary evidence suggests that the premises could have been built between 1838 and 1841. Could the builder have been John Langton, the first recorded occupier in 1841? He is later recorded as a "bricksetter" and believed to have been a builder. Brief external examination of the present property, whilst obscured by side rendering and a known brick replacement of the frontage, indicates that the original building was of small undressed stone construction.

I feel that the close proximity of the beerhouse premises to the Farington Alms Houses (note the similarity of sound), might have played a part, c.1841, in the choice of an (unauthorised) name, in this way attempting to increase the status of the beerhouse and its owner (?)/occupier.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am greatly indebted to (all in their own way) W.E. (Bill) Waring, David Hunt and Elizabeth Shorrock for assistance and comment.
G. L. BOLTON.

FARINGTON NEW SCHOOL

Farington New School c 1900

One of the many benevolent acts carried out in Farington by William Bashall and William Boardman was, in 1843, the building of a large school, which was declared free to the children of the village. The existing (endowed) school was at Far Farington and was both too far away and too small for the growing numbers of children now living in Near Farington, whose parents were working at the Mill. Messrs. Boardman and Bashall set to work without waiting for subscriptions or any outside help, and built the new school.

Barrett's Preston Directory for 1885 reports that *"a commodious school was erected in 1843 by Messrs. Bashall & Boardman for 300 children, and an infant's school was added recently: 400 children can now be accommodated. The school is large and well ventilated. Is for both sexes, and is well attended"*. In 1854 the Company paid £80 to the schoolmaster and mistress for their year's salaries, and the Mill ledgers show the amount paid in salaries for the month of December 1903 totalled £46. 6s. 0d.

"No parish could possibly be better off with regard to schools. Every child in the parish is able to get its education absolutely free, and not a single half-penny is needed or asked for from the parents or from ratepayers for the maintenance of the buildings or for teachers, or any other expenses incidental to schools. We ought to be grateful to the owners of Farington Mill for their generosity – past and present", wrote The Reverend Mr. Townson in 1895.

For many years, as the minute book of Farington Church shows, the vestry meetings of the parish were held in the New School, and the Sunday School scholars used to march in procession on Sunday mornings from the village to St. Paul's Church in Far Farington. The new school was also fitted with a reading desk and pulpit, so that it might be used as a chapel-of-ease to Near Farington.

Farington New School, due to its very close connections with the Mill, was a school rigidly disciplined by the "half-time" system of education and work, but in spite of this enormous disadvantage, the educational achievements were considered to be high compared with the rest of Lancashire.

In the school log of September 1876 the Headmaster, Mr. Paine recorded,

"Instead of the ordinary time-table recreation, and as a reward for special industry, I took the whole school for a walk this afternoon".

Mr. Paine also had the interests of his staff at heart, and was in the habit of giving his Pupil-Teachers much extra coaching, and over and above the one-and-a-half hours compulsory from 1846, often beginning at 7 o'clock in the morning.

A report in the log book for 1885 states that,

"This large school is in an excellent state of discipline, and considering the numbers of half-timers, and that no exceptions were made, has passed a highly creditable examination"

206 children were presented for examination
201 passed in Reading;
185 passed in Writing;
197 passed in Arithmetic
175 passed in all subjects.

An account in the Mill ledgers for the years 1900-03 lists school fund payments for salaries, cleaning, coke, milk and drilling the children (this was introduced in 1881 and took place in the school yard, with a local Army Sergeant as instructor). LRO DDX 819/29.

Mr Paine was unfortunately killed in a climbing accident in the Lake District in the summer of 1890, and was succeeded as Headmaster by Mr. John Renwick (who remained at this post until 1924). Mr Renwick was joined by Miss Emily Singleton in 1907, and it was reported that, in 1907, *'the school had a library of 400 volumes and a museum suitable for class teaching'* to assist them. (The daily average attendance in 1907 was 260 children).

There are many accounts in the old records of this period of the school being crowded on certain days – due to the *'stoppage at the mill'* and all the children attending full-time. The log book entry of 21st March, 1889 states, *'Received Form 17A(1) V.S. intimating grant of £65 under the Voluntary Schools Act, for the purpose of increasing the number of staff and providing additional material for varied occupations'* showing that, towards the turn of the century, the school was continuing to grow and that there was increasing influence of state control.

There were records too of days when the school had to be closed because of the bad weather and it being too cold for the children in school; and of other times when so many children were ill with measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and influenza. And the many sad records of children dying – measles being one of the main causes.

Farington New School Group 4 c.1908 with Headmaster, Mr Renwick (left) and Mistress, Miss Singleton (right.)

There is also evidence of the interest taken in the school by the ffaringtons of Worden Hall – 13th March 1912 *'Miss ffarington called this afternoon with plants for the children and the bun and orange she had kept for them'.*

Originally only children of parents working in Farington Mill were allowed to attend the New School, and the school logbooks show instances of the transference of children to other schools, owing to the parents changing jobs and finding employment elsewhere. Farington school developed over the years as a self contained unit, strictly disciplined by the cotton factory, and completely unaffected by children constantly changing schools. The standard of (the free) education was always very high, and an inspector's report of 1923 states that, *"the school is unusually successful in preparing children for scholarship to places of further education"*

Mildred Gregson grew up living in 4 Ashley Terrace on Spring Gardens (now Stanifield Lane) and, before she died in May 1998, recorded some memories of her childhood in Farington: -

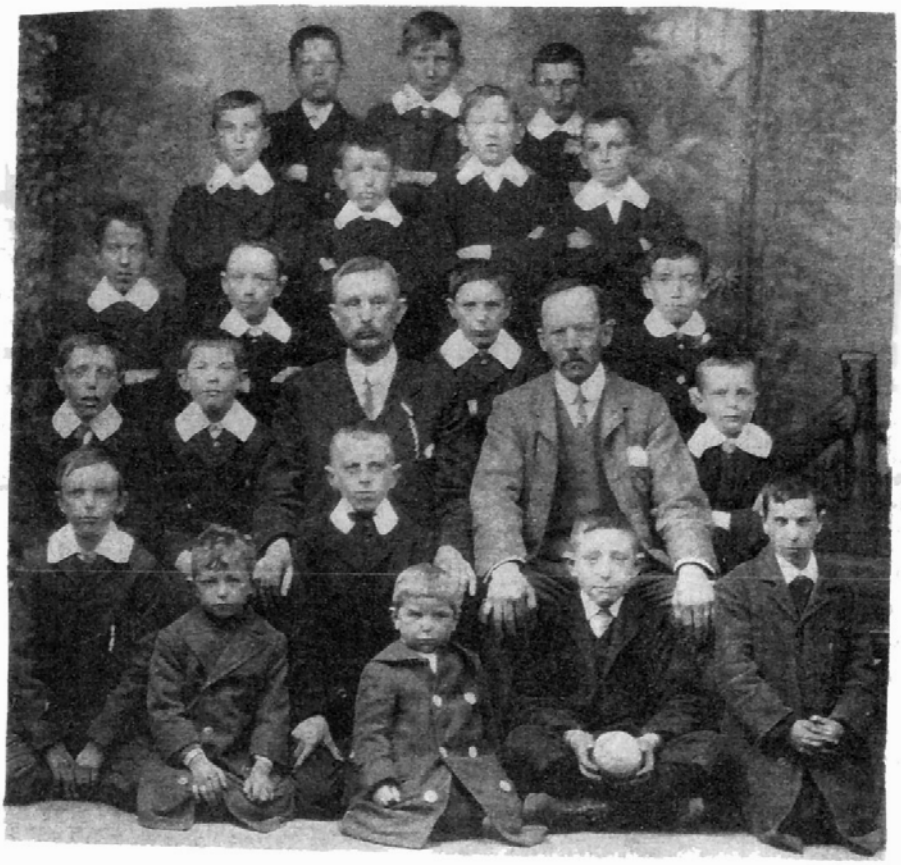
"I went across the road to the New School when I was three (In 1910) and was taught letters by Miss Singleton, who would write the letters of the alphabet on the blackboard and we children would recite out loud and copy it onto our slate, which was covered with sand, using our fingers. Numbers were taught in the same manner.

After two years I moved up into the 'big' school, Standard 1. We could read, write and knew our tables. Miss Singleton took us for walks, crocodile fashion, through the fields to Kershaw Farm and then to Wigan Road, when we would look for wild flowers. (In those days, without cars, it was quite safe). My red-letter day was getting a prize – 2 monkey nuts – for spotting a tiny Bugle, which no one else had noticed.

Mr Renwick was the Headteacher and was properly trained. Other teachers were not certified, as the majority of teachers at the time, but they knew how to teach and control classes. Miss Hasledon took Standard 1 class for everything. Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught every day. We also had sewing lessons, PE in the schoolyard (weather permitting) and for the last half-hour on Friday afternoons she would read out loud to us, or ask one of the pupils to read out loud. Every day began and ended with a hymn and a prayer.

Playtimes were looked forward to. The boys had their own playground at one side of the school, away from the girls' playground. Skipping ropes were very popular, also hopscotch and hide and seek.

Mr.Renwick was the organist and choirmaster at St. Ambrose Church, and the choirboys were in school. Every week we learned the Collect for the next Sunday as well as practising the psalms lessons and hymns.



Farington New School boys c. 1908. Choir at the school and at St. Ambrose Church with (left) Sunday School Superintendent Mr. Ralph Seed and (right) Headmaster/Organist/Choirmaster, Mr. John Renwick

For those children who were going to work at the Mill, life changed when they were ten years old. One week they attended school only in the mornings and the next week in the afternoons only, working the other half days at the Mill. One afternoon each week a wagonette would collect some of the girls and take them to a school kitchen in Lostock Hall for cookery and domestic science lessons. I left the New School in 1918 (aged 11 years) to go to Park School in Preston. I could not go to Balshaw's Grammar School in Leyland because it was not girls only. I had to leave there when I was 14 because my brother John was then going to Preston Grammar School and Dad could not afford to pay for both of us"

The school continued to provide education for the children of Near Farington until 1940. The last entry in the logbook of Farington New School was made on 26th September, 1940 and reads, *"All stock is out of this school. As headmaster, closed what has been an elementary school since 1834, informing the children to assemble on 1st October in the boys' yard, for further instructions"*. Farington New School ceased to function as a school in September 1940 when, in spite of the war, Lancashire County Council opened a new, modern Junior School a few yards away across Stanifield Lane, built on what had once been the sports ground for the village.

Externally the New School building has changed little since 1834, except that the two chimneys have been removed. When the school closed in 1940 the building was sold to Messrs. Iddon Bros. who used it for storage purposes, and in the 1960s it was sold again, this time to Tomlinson's Builders. Unfortunately, Tomlinsons ceased trading in the summer of 1998, and in January 1999 new signs went up indicating that it now houses Comack, Upholstery and Furniture Manufacturers. I wonder what the new millennium will have in store for Bashall & Boardman's venerable old school building?

JOAN LANGFORD

WOOD – MILNE ADVERTISMENTS.

Wood-Milne Ltd., of Golden Hill Lane, Leyland who went through several metamorphoses before becoming BTR Industries Ltd. In 1957, were well know to the shoemaking trade for their use of rubber in the manufacture of soles and heels. The staff of the publicity department in 1917 must have had a humorist amongst them as the following advertisement appeared in the Lancashire Daily Post of July 2nd in that year:-

The Mermaid.

"While other folks are glad and gay This mermaid sobs the lifelong day
Her lack of feet she keenly feels Because she can't wear Wood-Milne heels"

"Wood-Milne make walking a delight, giving buoyancy to the step, lessening all friction and fatigue. Made from the best and most resilient rubber in many sizes, shapes and Qualities. Wood-Milne Rubber Heels and Tips"

The above was complete with a drawing of a mermaid! And was followed on August 20th by a drawing of Henry VIII and the following verse:-

"King Henry was a monarch bluff, Of wives he never had enough
His temper would have been more sweet If he had worn upon his feet
Some Wood-Milne Rubber Heels and Tips"

W.E.WARING

THE HISTORY OF OUR HOMES II

Following the article in the "Lailand Chronicle" No 43 concerning researching the history of your home and the example of my own property, we were left with more questions than answers.

Whilst I have been unable to find out any details about Richard Heslam the builder or Ellen Heyes, the first tenant of the property from 1877 to 1898, I have made a few discoveries with the help of Mrs Eva Marland. She now lives in Starkie House and is the daughter in law of Caleb Marland. It was she who pointed out that the whereabouts of Rainford House were staring me in the face all the time.

The property which now comprises two shops between Starkie House and the first row of stone cottages, has on the beam over the door a painted over plaque that reads "Rainford House."

When she moved into the former family home, she had hoped to discover something of its history from the deeds considering its size and adjacent servant's accommodation now an adjoining but separate property. Unfortunately, the title deeds were constructed using the same epitome of title as my own property.

However, she had researched the history of the occupants of her property through the Lancashire Record Office and her findings, with additional information including the tithe records, are detailed below. The main question this has enabled me, partly at least, to answer is:

Who was John Goulding and how did he amass his property and wealth?

We first discover John Goulding in the 1841 census as a fifteen year old, living with his parents Joseph Goulding, a farmer and Alice Goulding both aged 45 at their farm on Stoney Lane, Cuerden.

Then the inhabitants of Starkie House were Alice Goulding, the widow of John Goulding, aged 70 and of independent means, her daughter Sarah aged 35 and another John Goulding aged 3. Unfortunately this family liked to use the same Christian names through the different generations.

The house at this time was known as "Old Hall Gates", referring to the gate across the entry to Sandy Lane and Charnock Hall. ¶

By the time of the 1851 Census, the family had left the farm and had moved into Old Hall Gates as the previous occupants had departed for destinations unknown. Thus it was now Joseph Goulding aged 57, described as a widower and landed proprietor, together with his son John Goulding aged 25, still single and also described as a landed proprietor, who resided in the house looked after by Elizabeth Bennett aged 31, a servant.

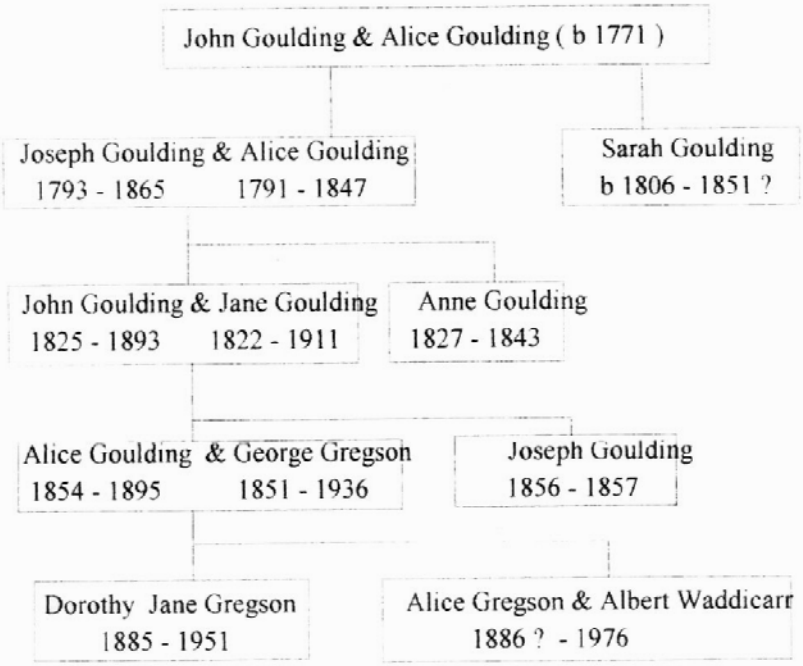
The name of the occupier of Starkie (Starkey) House appears with the 1861 census as John Goulding aged 35, now married, occupation denoted as the Deputy Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths. He lived here with his wife Jane Goulding aged 38, a former resident of Goosnargh.

His father Joseph Goulding aged 67, described as widower and retired farmer was still in evidence and the next generation, namely Alice Goulding then aged 6, described as a scholar and born in Leyland, had appeared on the scene. The whole family was still being looked after by Elizabeth Bennett now aged 40, who lived in the servants wing of the property.

With the next census in 1871, the senior member of the family, namely Joseph, had died leaving the three Gouldings being looked after by the servant.

The last available 1881 census finds the whole family still at Starkie House with John Goulding now aged 55, his wife Jane Goulding now aged 58, and his daughter Alice Goulding now aged 26 and still single. Elizabeth Bennett now aged 59, was still taking care of the home. It is therefore possible with additional research conducted in the graveyard to construct a simple family tree.

Goulding Family Tree.



1837 Tithe Map

According to the tithe map, John Goulding's estate stretched from the line of East Street up Turpin Green Lane to the line of Starkie Street. From here it ran back along the line of Goulding Avenue and included the land covered by the Methodist Church, together with other plots of land which were held by Richard Blackburn as tenant. The five cottages in a group of two and three were sub-tenanted to five further individuals.

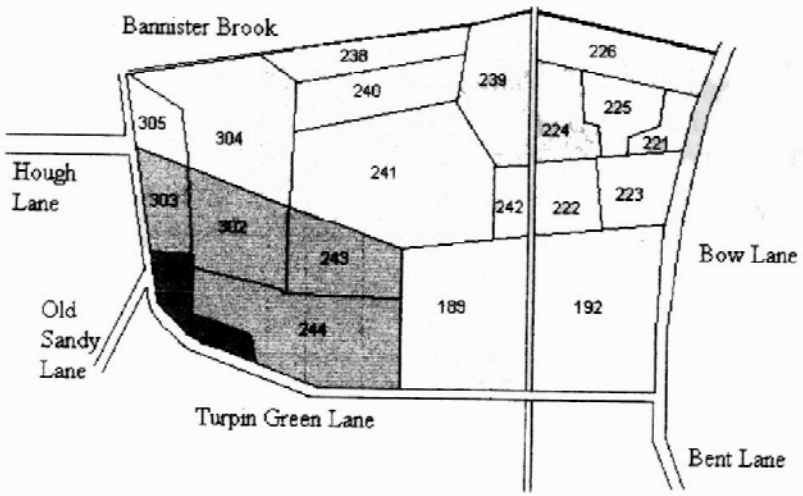
John Goulding

299 House & Gardens
243 Stacky Meadow
244 Stacky Pasture
303 Stacky Croft
302 Stacky Croft"

Tenant - Richard Blackburn

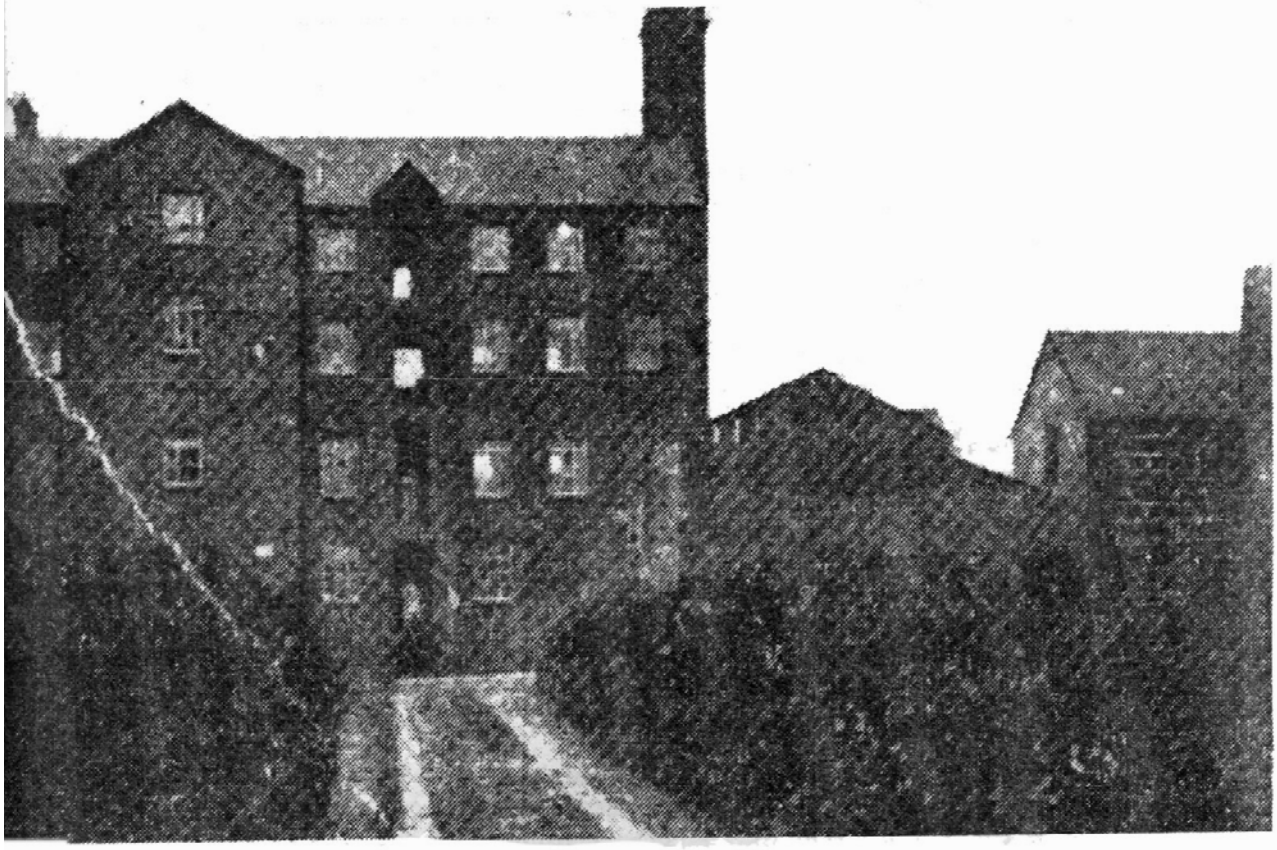
221 House, Outbuildings & Gardens
224 Further Brow Field
239 Long Meadow
300 Two Cottages & Gardens - John Bradshaw & Jonathan Wilman
301 Three Cottages & Gardens -
Hugh Pemberton, William Lang & Margaret Carey

The Goulding Estate.



PETER HOUGHTON

MARSDEN'S MILL OR FARINGTON MILL, AND THE MARSDEN FAMILY WHO LIVED THERE



Farington Mill lay to the west of Lower Farington Hall, in Mill Lane, off Croston Road, Farington. It was built on the site of an earlier mill, which had stood for generations, and had a wooden water wheel. The new mill, built in 1877, by Mr. George Hargreaves, of Wellington House, became known as Marsden's Mill, a name it received from the only family who were millers there.

By November 1934, Marsden's Mill was being broken up for bricks and scrap iron. The huge steam engine, with its seven-foot flywheel, which once helped to drive the six millstones, had been pounded to a heap of scrap.

Although the mill could not be called historical, many Leylanders no doubt regretted its passing, possibly more than that of a much older building. Standing for nearly seventy years, the four-storey building was a familiar landmark on the flatland by the River Lostock, and to Leylanders something else as well.

In the days when there were no cinemas or motor cars, let alone televisions or computer games, it was a favourite haunt of the village boys. They went to see the horses, business demanding that the miller kept as many as fifteen. But best of all, they went to watch the hoist swinging the sacks of corn from the farmer's carts to the floors of the mill, four floors high. Some of the more adventurous jumped on the sacks and rode to the top, usually graduating to this mighty feat from shorter rides between the lower floors.

The first tenant, my great grandfather, was William Marsden, a miller. He was born in Leyland, on 23rd January 1835, and was baptised at St. Andrew's Church, Leyland, on 22nd February 1835, the illegitimate son of Ann Marsden, of Leyland Lane, Leyland. He served his apprenticeship in a windmill, at Eccleston, called Anderton's Mill, where his natural father, Thomas Blackburn, was a miller.

William appears in the 1851 Census for Anderton's Mill, at Mawdesley, Eccleston, aged 16, as a miller, working with his father, Thomas, a corn miller, aged 36. Ten years before this, in the 1841 Census, this Thomas Blackburn was living at Anderton's Mill with his father, Henry Blackburn, who was also a miller.

On 28th August 1861, William Marsden married Ann Martland, of Wrightington, at Eccleston Church, St. Mary the Virgin. Between 1862 and 1877, they had ten children, namely six sons and four daughters

William Marsden was for a time in charge of the old mill at Farington, and while the new one was being built, he carried on the business from a shop in Leyland Lane. This is confirmed by the Census return of 1871. That business was considerable is evident from the fact that the new mill, then one of the latest of its kind, was often working during the six months grinding season with both steam engine and water turbine going, though as a rule the power was supplied by the Lostock..

The only mill of its kind for miles around, it served the farmers of Leyland, the Moss, Longton, Lostock Hall and Cuerden. They brought their oats mostly, to be ground into meal, some of which in the early days they stored in a large bin, where the bacon was also kept after it had been cured dry.

The grain was dried in a kiln, on a perforated tile floor heated by a furnace underneath. Afterwards it passed from a chute from the top floor to the millstone then back again by a conveyor belt, where special brushes automatically returned the insufficiently ground grain to the stones. To each millstone a bell was attached, which rang loudly as soon as the flow of grain stopped.

On the beam above were rings, by means of which a small block could be used to lift the stones for 'picking'. This was the name given to deepening grooves in a stone, which had worn through use. It was perforated with a special tool, and was considered one of the tests of a miller. William Marsden and two of his sons were expert at this work, in which they naturally took a special pride.

Mr. Marsden was also one of a few flour millers in the country. He had two rollers installed for grinding wheat. Maize and other fodder were also produced and a somewhat curious sideline was the grinding of castor sugar for local confectioners.

The trade of the mill also necessitated a good deal of travelling about and it was partly through this that Mr. Marsden died on the 16th September 1886, aged 51. He was returning from Preston Corn Exchange when he fell asleep on the train, and was carried on to London. As a result of the exposure, he developed pneumonia, from which he died. He left a family on four sons and four daughters.

His widow, Mrs. Ann Marsden, helped by her sons, William, Richard and Henry, carried on the business very successfully. William became a member of Leyland Council, and one of his sisters, Elizabeth, who later married and emigrated to Australia, was the first Leyland May Queen in 1889. She was thirteen years old and living at Farington Corn Mill at the time. An article in the 'Lailand Chronicle' states that her father also took part in the procession as Buffalo Bill. This is incorrect as William Marsden, her father, died in 1886. Perhaps it should refer to her brother William, who would have been 22 years old at the time.

In 1915 fate dealt a dreadful blow to this milling business. Firstly, on the 18th of January 1915, William Marsden's widow, old Mrs Ann Marsden, died, at 80 years of age. On 9th April of the same year, her son William died, and his son William, who had also helped in the mill, was killed in action in the war, on August 10th, aged 19. Henry Marsden, another of the three sons, who mainly did all the carting, died on the 18th April.

Only son Richard was left and so, in that year, the mill ceased to be used for milling.

The first suggestion of its being used for another purpose was put forward in 1916 by a party who, attracted by the cheap water power, believed the place could be used for making electric light bulbs. The project was never carried out however, and the mill, instead of providing Leyland with a new industry, served as a storehouse and farm for existing ones.

Its isolated position in a country lane, and the quantity of woodwork that had to be painted, and the high roof which made repairs difficult, were only a few of the reasons for its being allowed to fall into disrepair, which ended in the breaking up.

Only the water supply was utilised, and that, instead of turning the mill turbine, was pumped to the lodge at Leyland Motors Steel Works. Thus the mill, with its five brick thick foundations, its five feet by six feet lower slates, its eighteen inch thick beams, its beautiful joinery and machinery, all meant to last for ever, was pulled down within the lifetime of at least one old Leylander who saw it built, and the Marsdens, who had been millers for several generations in the neighbourhood, ceased milling.

An oil painting of Farington Mill, artist unknown, was deposited at the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre, Church Road, Leyland, in 1996. It was donated by Mrs. Kathleen Mary Nelson, formerly Miss Kathleen Mary Marsden, who is a great-grandchild of William and Ann Marsden, who were the millers there since 1877, and referred to in this article. Although not a great artistic work, it shows Farington Mill, as it must have been in the days when it was working to serve Leyland and the surrounding area.

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Census Return for Anderton's Mill Eccleston, 1841, HO 107/525/12

Census Return for Anderton's Mill, Eccleston, 1851, HO 107/2263/51

Census Return for Leyland Lane, Leyland,, 1871, RG 10//4194/34

Census Return for Farington Corn Mill, Farington, 1881, RG 11/4224/91

Census Return for Farington Corn Mill, 1891, RG 12/3428/42

Copy of Marriage Certificate of William Marsden and Ann Martland, August 28th 1861

Original Parish Registers of Leyland, St. Andrew's Church, held at the Lancashire County Record Office, Preston.

The Marsden Family Bible.

WILLIAM AND ANN MARSDEN, LEYLAND 1867.

THE FAMILY REGISTER OF WILLIAM AND ANN MARSDEN OF EARNSHAW BRIDGE AND FARINGTON CORN MILL

William Marsden	born Jan. 23rd. 1835 at Leyland. Married Aug. 1861. Died Sept. 16th 1886 at Eccleston	
Ann Marsden	born June 21st 1835 at Wrightington. Died Jan. 18th 1915	

Richard Marsden	born April 15th 1862 at Leyland.	Died Jan 30th 1863
Richard Marsden	born Nov. 20th 1863 at Leyland	
Thomas Marsden	born Aug. 5th 1865 at Leyland.	Died Feb. 5th 1905
William Marsden	born April 19th 1867 at Leyland.	Died April 9th 1915
Henry Marsden	born Jan. 31st 1869 at Leyland.	Died April 18th 1915
Alice Ann Marsden	born May 10th 1870 at Leyland.	
John Marsden	born Oct. 6th 1871.	Died Oct. 20th 1874
Mary Ellen Marsden	born Jan. 5th 1873 at Farington Mill.	
Elizabeth Marsden	born July 2nd 1875 at Leyland.	
Sarah Grace Marsden	born July 10th 1877 at Leyland.	

SHIRLEY ROBSON. (formerly SHIRLEY MARSDEN)

THE PRESTON PLEASURE GARDENS Co Ltd.

The years around the middle of the nineteenth century witnessed a remarkable growth of leisure pastimes of all kinds. A real rise in general disposable incomes was mirrored by a gradual shortening of the working week. Sports organisations flourished, and by the 1870s Preston had become a natural base for clubs of all kinds. These were at pains to emphasise their respectable aspect, indicated in contemporary newspaper accounts by the reports of 'ladies' attending their events. All this was in marked contrast to the older rougher sports, such as the 'disgraceful nude male racing' reported at Bamber Bridge. From the 'Athletic Sports' long organised on Preston Marsh, the town developed clubs for athletics and gymnastics, rowing, ice skating, roller-skating, and swimming. In the 1860s the district developed a cricket craze, in the 1970s a rugby craze, and in the 1880s a craze for Association Football.

During the cotton famine (1862-5) the remnant of Preston Moor was enclosed, and Moor Park became the fashionable sporting venue. In 1875 one of the cricketing sides, calling themselves the 'North End (Preston)', and said to include 'Christian young men well versed in the scriptures', obtained a lease on the Old Hey Field on Deepdale Road. Yet less than a mile away, at the Blackburn end of Ribbleton Lane, a rival and perhaps even worthier attraction was to be developed.

In 1875 the Preston Pleasure Gardens Company took over the 43 acres of a nursery run by James Huddart. The site was developed, miles of walkways laid out, and a 'picturesque feature' known as the 'Dingle' was opened to the public. An entrance lodge was built, numerous plant houses and a large conservatory some 120′ by 30′ was opened. The grounds were opened to the public in 1877, but did not prove a financial success. The site had a number of advantages however - it was adjacent to the cemetery (a fashionable place to promenade and be seen, and frequently thronged with visitors), and it was on the Preston horse tramway circuit from outside the Town Hall. The concern went into liquidation in 1879, but in 1882 a new company was established. The three partners were James Robinson, W. Moore and T.M.Shuttleworth. Edward Clarkson was secretary, at offices at 9 Chapel Street, and beneath him were Head Keepers of the Zoological and Horticultural departments. More general entertainments seem to have been organised by Mr. Moore.

In addition to the original attractions, a bar and tea room, a large 'dancing platform', and a hall were built. By the mid-1880s the Gardens had developed into a genuinely popular attraction, where families could spend a whole day. Records survive in the Lancashire Records Office for the years 1884-5, and provide a colourful picture of the enterprise (LRO: DDCm). Exotic plants of all kinds were grown in the plant houses, including peaches, cucumbers and vines. In July 1884 the Head Gardener could report that the 'House of Melons' was coming on, and the Kitchen Garden was progressing satisfactorily. Crops were being sold in bulk to the local markets, and plans were afoot to expand production. Every effort was made to encourage visitors to purchase produce to feed the company's stock with. The Keeper had a ready solution to the problem of vandals, *'You would find that punishing as well as catching of trespassers (of which I believe many visit the Conservatory) might be effected by digging a pitfall (a la South Africa) about two feet deep, half filled with cow dung'. Flower* shows were very popular among Victorian gardeners, and quite large prize money was put up for the various competitions.

Enormous attention was given to the development of an animal collection, with monkeys, baboons, and an aviary, a fishpond, and a seal pond. Mr. Pattison produced weekly accounts of the stock. In hot weather the animals suffered from the heat under glass, and in winter from draughts. The staff, though enthusiastic, often does not seem to have had any real idea how to look after the exotic animals, which arrived from a dealer in Liverpool. Monkeys were very popular and individuals had their fans, the star was one 'Peter the Baboon'. The aviary contained a fine collection of owls, but '*defective wiring*' over the pond allowed the herons to escape in July 1884. August saw the arrival of a new stock of monkeys, but deaths were common and greatly lamented. Two quickly developed colds and a sick armadillo had to be sent back to the dealer. In September disaster struck when 'Bully' a savage calatrix monkey died of abscesses. The following month the seals were ill, and said to have been *'dying by inches for weeks'*. It was decided to sell them, invest in deer and canaries, and build a tank for the flamingos.

In addition to these attractions, a full programme of popular events was organised all year round. Music and band competitions were very popular, but in July 1884, the secretary lamented that the musicians no longer preferred instruments as prizes, but demanded money. In 1885 in was reported that, *'The gardens have entered on a new departure hoping to add to their efficiency and popularity. During the winter recess several additional improvements have been made, including a New Dancing Pavilion with hot water, making it a comfortable room at all times'*. Dancing was a great success, and boosted the bar takings. Athletics festivals brought sportsmen from a wide area, and the events began to rival the profitable Preston Sports held from 1876 at the Deepdale enclosure.

A running or cycling track was constructed, and football games were well attended, to the great concern of the North End club. Ultimately the Gardens had their own team, the Preston Zingari, which, like North End, imported its own Scottish professionals. Extreme alarm was evinced at Deepdale when the Blackburn and Darwen teams appeared in events, as advertised in the Preston Chronicle in May 1882:

PRESTON PLEASURE GARDENS

TODAY! TODAY!

Mr. Suter's Team (F.Suter, J.Brown, J.Douglas, G.Avery, and H.McIntyre) of the ***BLACKBURN ROVERS,***

Will positively compete in

HARRY HEMFREY'S FOOTBALL CONTEST

The Accrington Ramblers and the Darwen team have also entered

Dancing Admission 6d'

During these years weekly visitor numbers could reach 3000, with over 4500 visitors during holiday week, and a high wire performer, 'Zephyr', brought in over 2000 watchers all doubtlessly hoping to see him fall off. Among the patrons a block booking seems to have been enjoyed by the Preston Powerloom Weavers union.

Efforts were made to advertise events locally, and in September 1884 it was decided to produce some *'gay'* posters, *'to be put in public houses etc, such places where gossip is rife'*. Although the display of a Pyrotechnic Artist, Mr. J.Fellows, subsequently raised the company's balance to £2931-18-7d, the concern struggled along for some years. Critically, it found it difficult to make a realistic return on its real estate investment, reckoned to be worth about £10,000, and in November 1887 the assets of the company were sold off,

'Sale of plants, Live Stock and Effects.

The contents of 14 large houses....200 Birds and Animals
(Vultures, Emus, Monkeys, Jackal, Wolf, Birds etc..)'

Although elements of the enterprise survived well into the present century, most notably a speedway track, the great endeavour to establish a privately owned pleasure ground had failed. The pleasant walks, fine trees, and exotic animals and birds must have brought much enjoyment to many dull working lives. The sporting, musical and dancing events added a balanced package of amusements. Indeed, but for the efforts of William Sudell and the 'Executive' of the North End club, the Preston Zingari might have gone on to add the franchise of League soccer to the attractions of the Gardens. Then the cries of the baboons and vultures could have mingled with those of Preston's football going public, in the pleasantly wooded groves adjacent to Preston cemetery.

D. HUNT.

FOOTBALLERS ENTERTAINED

"On Saturday eve the players and officials of the Leyland F.C. were entertained to dinner at the Eagle and Child Hotel by 'Max Erard', musical entertainer, in recognition of the team winning the West Lancashire Championship. Mr E.Jackson presided and the following contributed to an interesting programme:- Messrs T.Morris, T.Joyce, R.Gore, R.Glover, W.Cooper, A.Bennett, T.Kirby and Max Erard. Mr. Bert Dawber was the accompanist. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the host who, in reply, said it gave him great pleasure to entertain them and he hoped to meet them again on similar occasions"

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser December 24th, 1915

Does any member have information, photographs or memorabilia on the old Leyland Football Club, which is believed to have been disbanded in the late 1920s?

W.E.WARING

LOOKING BACK IN THE CHRONICLE

Whilst researching the history of the Society, I came across these two articles in Chronicle No 19. In this edition was reprinted the article from Chronicle No 18 by Mr Woodward called "Searching for History" which it would seem was written to encourage debate and response from the members. What it actually achieved was an in-depth article on the same lines by Mr Cumpstey called "Looking for – and finding – History", printed for the first time in Chronicle No 19. **PETER HOUGHTON.**

SEARCHING FOR HISTORY by Mr. A. R. Woodward

I must admit, I felt terribly guilty! You see I had attended a very enjoyable evening at the opening meeting of the Leyland Historical Society for the 1976/77 season. The speaker was Dr. Marshall of Lancaster University and we had heard a very interesting and informative talk about the development of Local government at County level. And then it came! Our Chairman, Mr. Ray Williams, put on his best smile and asked the members if they would PLEASE made a contribution to the Society magazine, the Lailand Chronicle, as articles were in rather short supply. Having heard similar requests from our previous Chairman, Mr. Cumpstey, over the last couple of years, it suddenly dawned on me that such comments were not just another aspect of the Chairman' s work but were made in all good faith and with the hope that some kindly souls would respond in a positive manner. As I have said, I felt terribly guilty.

I, therefore, decided to see if I could do something about it. History will not come to you, I reasoned, so you had better go and find history! I set off on my search, deciding to make my way to Leyland, using the car to get there and then taking Shank's Pony around the town. On the way I noticed the signposts at Heald House Lane but reflected, somewhat ruefully, that they hardly looked historical. Travelling towards Leyland, I soon came to Bent Bridge and decided that the only bit of history in that connection was in the name! Keeping half an eye open for any other inspiring sights (the other half was kept firmly fixed on the road), Balshaw's High School came into view. My heart leaped! Surely from this ancient Seat of Learning I would derive some inspiration - but no, I was doomed to disappointment; except, that is, if you exclude the rather antique looking character coming out of the gates (one of the staff, no doubt!).

On towards the car park I drove, glancing at the rows of modern houses as I went. Not much chance there, I thought, for at least another 200 years, presuming that they will still be standing at that time, (0h dear, these present-day buildings). But stay, what is this? A Hall no less! My heart sank again. I doubt if Lord Stokes would consider himself of historical interest as yet. On to the car park where I locked the car from possible intruders and duly set off, convinced that the only way to achieve my goal was by sheer footslogging. My first port of call was The Cross. The Cross? All that remained was one of the ruins that some one knocked "abaht abit". Press on regardless you seeker of history!

I suddenly remembered that somewhere near at hand was the Masonic Hall. Now I knew that the Masonic movement went as far back as the Old Testament Egyptians, so it seemed reasonable, to presume that there must be something of an historical nature there. What a hope! Apart from the odd "banger" reposing in the car park, nothing archaic was to be seen.

Forward down Lancastergate to Broadfield I strode with youthful gait. Soon into view I espied an imposing looking building which straightaway I realised was different... it was round instead of the usual square. Leyland St. Paul's, I thought. How wrong can one be? Of course, it was St. Mary's Catholic Church, which can certainly claim originality in regard to its shape, but historic? Hardly. By now my feet, as well as my spirits, were beginning to fail me. Back to Westgate and on to Towngate I dragged my wearying limbs, recalling as I staggered past that I must put some more petrol in the car at the old Congregational Church ... forgive me, I mean Leyland Garage. At least they both give spirit to the needy, so I wasn't too far out.

Talk about the last mile home being the longest! That is how the distance from Westgate to the car park felt to me. Thank-goodness the car was still there! As I drove away on my homeward journey, I realised how much easier it is to make history than to find it. After all, the accepted places of historic interest have already been noted and it would be unlikely that any new interest would be found in them (in an old sense you appreciate). Anyway, the next time our honourable Chairman puts on one of those ingratiating smiles and again mentions the Lailand Chronicle, I will look him straight in the face and give him a knowing wink. I may even be tempted to display my stockinged feet to him! By the way, do you believe in fairies?

Editorial comment (from Chronicle No 18)

We print the above article without comment but would express the hope that members of the Society will respond with their own comment, or, better still - comments!

LOOKING FOR – AND FINDING – HISTORY by F. Cumpstey

.... Which have eyes to see and see not ... (Ezekiel 12:2)

Approaching Leyland from the A49, one's interest is immediately aroused by the name - "Heald House Road" - and one wonders about the original "Heald House". This soon comes into sight, on the right hand side of the road just over the motorway bridge, as a pleasantly mellowed house partly covered with creepers. It was probably built about 150 years ago for a daughter of the vicar of Euxton, was later occupied by the Gregson family and then was used as a girl's boarding school about a century ago, at the time when stage coaches used to call at the Rose Whittle Inn just a short walk across the fields. Continuing towards Leyland, one sees on the left-hand side of the road, Balshaw's High School, in itself a relatively modern building but reminiscent of the original institution in School Lane dating back to 1794.

Not very far away, on the other side of Church Road at the corner of Winsor Avenue, is an unusual building of rounded design, which was originally the lodge house and gardener's cottage of Wellington House. At a few yards away you will see the name stone for Wellington House, obviously not contemporary with the modern detached residence at the end of the drive. It is a reminder of the former Wellington House, which was only recently demolished to make way for Stokes Hall. Originally built at the beginning of the nineteenth century (perhaps on the site of an earlier residence) it was occupied by a Mr R.P. German and later by Mr George Hargreaves. At one time it as used as a boarding school for boys and of course eventually was used to house the Leyland Motors Engineer Apprentices (premiums!).

Just a few yards further is the sign for Beechfield House with the small attractive lodge close to the road and the house itself sitting gracefully in its own grounds, but of course this is a relatively modern property with little history attached to it.

Walking along Church Road, the Eagle and Child Inn comes into view, obviously not a modern structure (in fact it appears on the 1844 Tithe map). An unusual feature is a circular window at the front and also the rather low display window by the door filled with a variety of bottles etc., which looks so attractive in the evening.

Almost next door to the Inn is a very old building in the process of renovation, which is of course the Old Grammar School, which has been featured in articles in the local Press over the past few years. A tablet over the schoolhouse door reads "Built by the Liberal Contributions of the Gentry and Others – 1790". But in fact the foundations go back much further than that dating from 1524 - the school is one of the oldest in the country. The old Grammar School is situated in a corner of the churchyard of Leyland Parish Church dedicated to Saint Andrew. Parts of the church date back to the thirteenth century and would provide historical interest for many, many, visits.

And so ... on to Leyland Cross which has been a meeting place and focal point for the village for untold years, admittedly a little worn and battered but still a link with mediaeval times. Close by the Cross are two Inns which also appear on the 1844 Tithe Map, the Bay Horse and Roe Buck. Have you stopped to notice the rounded passageway going through to the back of the Roe Buck Inn which is so typical of Inns of the period as access to the stables at the rear of the hostelry? Thus, within a distance of about a mile and taking only about half an hour or so, what a wealth of historical interest can be found if one is prepared to look for it.

Should one wish to continue from the Cross-, there is a choice of many alternatives. Along Worden Lane, past the Parish Hall on the left, the old building on the corner, which is now a doctor's surgery but which used to be a chemist's shop and post office years ago, past the Roman Catholic Presbytery built about 1770 (notice the rather uncommon semi-circular window on the gable end) with the old Saint Mary's Church behind, and on to Worden Park and the ruins of Worden Hall. Or round the corner by the Bay Horse into Fox Lane (or Union Street as it was), past the step houses which are a reminder of the industrial history of Lancashire in the days of the hand loom weavers.

Or along Towngate itself as, although development has gone on, one can still find places with histories as, for instance, the old Congregational Church (now converted as a garage showroom), the old Constabulary House (which was the old Library) and so on. There is even history in the names such as Spring Gardens, Wellfield, etc., etc ... and what about Forge Street? From such small beginnings the vast Leyland Motors organisation has grown. In fact, wherever one goes, history is there to be found if one is prepared to look for it.

Articles found in Chronicles Nos. 18 and 19 by Peter Houghton.

With the benefit of hindsight it is easy to spot the changes that have occurred since the two articles were written though the jokey comment about Stokes Hall not yet being ancient enough to be mentioned in the history books now seems to have a hollow ring. This, together with the disappearance of the Leyland Garage name, has to be measured against the saving of Beechfield House from the developers and the opening of the South Ribble Museum in the Old Grammar School. The only other comment being that St Mary's round church is now a modern day proposed listed building.

PETER HOUGHTON

A DOUBLE TRAGEDY

The coming of the railway through central Lancashire in 1838 brought with it a hazard that the people of Leyland had probably never envisaged. With the pace of life more attuned to the horse and cart, the speed and noise of the railway engine, belching smoke and sparks, must have presented a frightening spectacle to the inhabitants trying to negotiate the three unmanned crossings of the line that existed initially between Bent Bridge and Leyland Station. (REF: 1). The danger to life and limb was lessened somewhat by the building of the Turpin Green Bridge in 1879 (REF: 2), but Bamber's Crossing and the Forty Steps continued well into the present century and many members will no doubt recall the care that was needed when crossing the line at these two points.

The years after World War Two saw the end of both crossings in Leyland. Forty Steps was done away with. It had always seemed unusual being so close to Bent Bridge, but it was on the line of an ancient footpath and therefore a right of way. Bamber's Crossing was replaced by what is now known as the 'Blue Bridge'. At long last, over a hundred years after the building of the railway, crossing the line in Leyland was a much safer procedure.

Of the many accidents to pedestrians that have occurred on the line in and around Leyland over the years, perhaps the most shocking was the death of two young men in the space of three days in May 1880. The first an accident – the second, apparently, a suicide. Since the first occurred on a Sunday and the second on the following Tuesday, both were reported in the same issue of the 'Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser' of Saturday May 22nd, 1880:-

-Sad Death on the Railway-

"On Sunday (May 16th), a sad accident occurred on the line of railway between Preston and Farington under the circumstances detailed below.

A man named William Ruane, a painter, of Leyland, came to Preston on business on Saturday. While in the town he became intoxicated, and at half past one on Sunday morning he went down to the station for the purpose of returning home. There being no train the man set off down the line with the intention of walking. He was seen next about half an hour afterwards by a brakesman named Price, who was standing on Skew Bridge, Penwortham.

The deceased was lying in the four-foot, with both legs broken in several places and the right leg severed from the body, the right arm broken in two places and many other injuries. It is supposed that Ruane was run over by a bank engine coming towards Preston about 1.42 am, and was run over by the Scotch limited mail about nine minutes afterwards. The body was conveyed to the Pear Tree Inn Penwortham and Mr Gilbertson (coroner) held an inquest on it on Tuesday when a verdict in accordance with the facts was returned".

Whilst the inquest was being held, the second victim was lying, fatally injured, in the Infirmary at Preston.

-Sad Fatality Near Leyland Station-

"On Tuesday morning, about 3 am, Mr Miles the railway Stationmaster, received a communication stating that a young man was lying in a ditch near the Leyland Railway Station, suffering from injuries received on the line.

An engine and wagon were at once despatched to the spot and the man was brought to the Preston Station about an hour later and laid in the porter's room where he was seen by two medical gentlemen who said he could not live long and ordered his removal to the Infirmary.

He was accordingly removed to the hospital where it was ascertained that his name was Charles Knott and that he was a tailor, residing in Union Street, Leyland, and that he was the bed-fellow of the young man Ruane, who was cut to pieces on the same line on Sunday morning. He had received a severe fracture on the left side of his skull from which his brains were protruding. He was totally unconscious and remained so up to his death which took place at 7 o'clock on Tuesday night".

One wonders what possessed William Ruane to try to walk to Leyland down the line; possibly, with his mind befuddled by drink, he never really considered the danger. Certainly, his horrific death near Skew Bridge must have turned the mind of his fellow lodger Charles Knott, but whilst the inquest on the former was mentioned in the report of his death, no report has been found of the inquest of the latter.

This double tragedy must have been talked about for many years in Leyland.

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W.E.WARING

THE MANCHESTER TO BLACKPOOL WALK.

June 26th, 1999, saw the 70th edition of this famous walk passing through Leyland as several long distance walkers battled against fatigue and heat along the A49 between Bay Horse, Euxton and Lydiate Lane. The leader at the checkpoint, Railway Tavern, was previous winner Don Turner of Yorkshire Walking Club, in a time of 4hrs.13min. he was closely followed by Steve Hollier, Martin Fisher and another former winner Richard Brown. Four hours and eight minutes later Fisher had triumphed by three minutes from Hollier. The last to finish was just over the eleven hour time limit and 2hrs 43mins behind the winner.

The course, through Leyland, was only introduced in the 1990s, to avoid the major road works along the traditional route from Chorley to Bamber Bridge and the half way point at Half-way House, Clayton Green. At the same time the distance was reduced to fifty miles. In fact there have been numerous changes to the distance walked since the first race in 1908. The shortest being 48¼ at its inception and 52½ in 1910. Most of the time, however, the distance had been set at 51¾ miles. Although the race started in 1908 it was not the first time the walk between Manchester and Blackpool had been completed. Jack Butler of Polytechnic Harriers had established a time of 8hrs 19mins 50secs in 1903 over a distance of 51 ½ miles in what appeared to be an attack on a series of point to point time trials. This record was set on July 4th. In August Butler set the record for walking between Bolton and Southport.

Why would anyone want to walk from Manchester to Blackpool or any other long distance? At the turn of the century people were used to walking. Most walked to work, many walked to the nearest town or village store to do their shopping and for evening recreation many would take a stroll. However this was not fast walking or race walking. To walk from one town to another as fast as possible was a challenge, over thirty miles was another challenge.

During the nineteenth century there had been many walking races which involved betting. There were single attempts to complete a set distance within a set time or races between two individuals. One of the most famous was Captain Barclay whose best known feat was to walk 1000 miles in 1000 consecutive hour, a mile to be completed every hour! It was a tremendous feat of endurance. Later others accomplished the same challenge and even walked 1000 miles in 1000 consecutive half-hours with a mile every half-hour.

Later, with the advent of organised Athletics and the founding of the Amateur Athletics Association, an interest was aroused in track walking and then road walking over longer distances.

The London to Brighton Walk was held in 1886 and repeated in 1897, 1903 and 1906 before becoming an annual event in 1919. The Bradford walk originally held on Whit-Monday, started in 1903 and is the oldest road event being regularly held. It has been held every year since, even during two world wars.

The Lancashire Walking Club was formed in 1907 and the club wanted a show piece road walk in the north which would rival the London to Brighton. Manchester to Blackpool seemed an obvious choice in view of the record set by Butler who also held the record for London to Brighton.

The first race was held in July 1908 and attracted an entry of 14 the winner being Tommy Payne of South Shields Harriers in a time of 8hrs 20mins 19secs for the 48¼ course. Payne is described *'as plucky an athlete as ever trod the cinders. His style is laborious but "he gets there all the same".'*

The following year there were 22 entries and Payne won again in the much faster time of 7hrs 43mins 53secs. In fact he repeated his victories in the next two editions. After his third victory he kept the Challenge Trophy.

During the war there were no races and when the event returned in 1919 there was a much bigger entry – 43. Payne again triumphed. A repeat victor in 1920 enabled him to win the trophy outright for a second time. The 1912 and 1913 races were won by F.E.Roberts of London.

The first Lancashire winner was Ralph Wallwork in 1921 when the entry was 84. Shortly afterwards Wallwork emigrated to Australia. He returned to England as a guest for the 1953 walk. Second to Wallwork was Billy Hoole who was a veteran of fifty. He was chief judge in 1953.

One competitor, Alf Scorer, described the route towards Freckleton as *'the roughest road imaginable'*. He estimated there were 18 miles of kidney shaped stones. Along this stretch was a tollgate and *'you jolly well had to look where you put your feet'*. This was in 1921.

The first foreign victory was in 1922 on October 7th when the Italians dominated the race. Donato Paveri taking first place with his compatriots being third and fourth. For the first time there was an entry over 100. Paveri must have been a walking machine. On September 23rd he was placed third in the London to Brighton and then a week after his success in the Manchester to Blackpool he won the Birmingham 20 miles

A Bradford policeman, F.Holt, won in 1924 and another foreigner P.Granville of Canada was successful the following year. Granville was the first and so far the only black winner.

Competitors in the 20s were treated to a *'lovely salt water bath'* and afterwards had a *'splendid dinner at the Trocadero'*.

With the race being held in October one would expect the weather to play a significant part in the proceedings. The 1926 event proved to be one of the worst walking days in history. It was terribly cold with a 60 m.p.h. gale facing the walkers. In addition there was torrential rain. Less than half of those who started finished the course. The winner in these horrendous conditions was Joe Hopkins of the promoting Lancashire Walking Club. He had previously finished 2nd in 1924 when competing for North Manchester Harriers.

1929 saw the emergence of one of the greatest long distance walkers – Tommy Green of Belgrave Harriers. His sixth successive win in 1934 was indirectly responsible for the race being discontinued. One commentator wrote, *"Annexing two 50 guinea trophies in six years was doubtless too much for Blackpool Corporation who withdrew their financial support".*

The 1932 race saw one current and one future Olympic champion battling it out on the Blackpool Road. Green had won the 50Km walk in Los Angeles in 1932 two months previously and he beat Harold Whitlock of the Metropolitan Walking Club by over 4 minutes, four years later Whitlock triumphed over 50Km in the Berlin Olympics.

It is interesting to note that Green and Whitlock were so popular that they were represented on more cigarette cards than any other British athlete except for Lord Burghley (winner of the 1928 Olympics 400m. hurdles).

As a result of the Blackpool Corporation's non-involvement the Lancashire Walking Club organised a new race over a shorter distance. The Manchester to Liverpool walk was held between 1935-39 and 1946-49. The race was never popular and plans to resurrect the Manchester to Blackpool were begun. The reasons given were, *"because we believe the course is better and more interesting from the competitors' angle"* and, *"in response to many athletes who, during the past several years, have asked, 'when are you going to have a walk to Blackpool?'*

The first revived race took place in 1950 for the Daily Dispatch Trophy which, strangely enough, had been won outright by Harold Whitlock for his treble wins in the Manchester to Liverpool walk. There were several changes. The distance was set at 51¾ miles and the date to June with the starting point in Albert Square and the time 6.15 am (at the first stroke of the Town Hall Clock). The starter was non other than the champion of the last six races – Tommy Green.

This race started the involvement of walkers from Leyland. It was also the beginning of a remarkable trio of victories by Percy Reading of Polytechnic Harriers. He was the unlikeliest of walkers. Born in 1910 he suffered from typhoid followed by Bright's disease at the age of 19. To strengthen his body he took up walking. Then, in 1939, *'he suffered an acute attack of appendicitis which developed into pneumonia and peritonitis'*. He was in hospital for about a year and underwent seven operations and was told he would never walk competitively again. But such was his determination and mental resolve that in 1946 he set a new world record for 24 hours non-stop walking – covering over 129 miles! In addition he suffered from varicose veins.

Let us consider the Leyland link. Leyland Motors Athletic Club had folded up around 1950 and several members continued their athletic career with other clubs. George Lamb had worked at the Motor Works but left to work elsewhere. Because the Athletic Club was a closed one (only employees could be members) George could no longer compete for them. Having been a runner he turned to walking and joined Lancashire Walking Club. In 1950 he entered the Manchester to Blackpool. He was a novice and wasn't included in the club's field team. He had done nothing previously to give warning of his talent.

On the morning of June 24th, 1950, 63 competitors started the long trek to Blackpool. Nine hours later George Lamb had finished sixth, was the novice champion and was the first Lancashire Walking Club member to finish!

By 1951 George had been promoted to the first team but was only the third counter. He finished 5th but behind George Birchall (3rd) and his son (2nd). Needless to say Lancashire Walking Club won the team race.

On June 28th, 1952, there were sixty-six starters and George was well up with the leaders at the start. At Lytham he took the lead and held it until three miles from the finish when exhaustion took its toll. He lost 8 minutes to the fast finishing Reading. He *'literally forced himself on by sheer courage to receive a kiss from his somewhat anxious wife.'* Lancashire W.C. again won the team race Dick Ditchfield, an employee of Leyland Motors, but also a member of Preston Harriers and Lancashire W.C. finished 12th and won the Novice race.

The Coronation walk of 1953 was held earlier on June 6th with 77 competitors. On this occasion all who finished within 12 hours would receive a special plaque in addition to any other prize. An interesting point about walking races is that competitors may only take one prize other than team awards. If you were a novice and won the open race you would not be awarded the Novice prize.

Approaching Chorley on the way to Horwich and Adlington, George hit a bad patch and lost valuable ground. However he recovered well enough to walk the final 26 miles faster than anyone else but was unable to catch the winner, Vic Stone, of Polytechnic Harriers. He did though beat Percy Reading who was third on this occasion. Once again Lancashire W.C. won the team race with Lamb and Ditchfield members of the scoring team. Keeping up the Leyland connection.

Two other Leyland walkers took part – Maurice Dean and Calvin Woodhouse. Maurice walked for Lancashire W.C. and Calvin for Preston Harriers. Also walking was Teddy Sharp of Chorley who worked at Leyland Motors.

Light drizzle greeted the start of the 1954 race with 68 competitors. After 1½ hours they met heavy rain and jolly cold weather. Lamb finished fifth to continue his run of high placings. Finishing in 30th position was Joe Billington who had attended school in Leyland and worked at the Motor Works but was representing Preston AC he won the Novice race to continue a remarkable run of walks with Leyland connections being successful.

In the autumn of 1955 Leyland Motors AC was revived largely due to the efforts of John Burns (later president of the Northern Area Walking Association). The club became affiliated to the N.A.R.W.A. and started a walking section. George Lamb, Dick Ditchfield and Joe Billington resigned from their previous affiliations. There were still restrictions on membership and all members had to be Leyland Motors employees.

At the 1956 walk George Lamb took third place in a race that was recorded for showing on T.V. There was apparently good coverage of George 'walking on his own'. Leyland Motors finished a team for the first time and six members completed the course four of whom had previously been successful. They were George Lamb, Dick Ditchfield, John Burns, Teddy Sharp, Joe Derrick and John Prescott. The following year the team finished 6th with Joe Derrick winning the Novice race.

The team improved rapidly in 1958 and almost pulled off a sensational victory for such a young walking club. Coventry Godiva won the team race by 1 point. Ditchfield was 5th, Lamb 9th, Derrick 12th, Burns 32nd and John Robinson in 48th won the Novice race.

By 1960 Leyland Motors A.C. had relaxed their rules regarding membership and associate members were allowed to compete for the club. Fortunately for the club the leading walker in the '60s was Brian Howarth of Chorley who was not employed at the Motor Works.

There were further successes in 1961 and 1962 for associate members. Kenny Clark, an apprentice at Iddon Brothers, who had an Egyptian mother and was born with a hole in his heart, joined the club as a runner. As a junior he had run a mile in 4 min 30 sec despite his medical condition. In 1961 still under 20 and assisted by fellow apprentice, Dave Adams, Kenny won the Novice race. Dave wore out the clutch on his motor bike during the course of the race. It must have whetted his appetite for he competed in the race next year. However, because he had won a race at Bradford, he was not eligible for the Novice award. That went to another 20 year old – Rodney Flanagan – his father, Matt, had a fish stall on Leyland market and later a shop in Towngate. That year Leyland Motors won the third team prize. The winner of the race was world 24hr record holder Hughie Nielson, of Woodford Green, who won the new Sunday Mirror Challenge Cup which replaced the News Chronicle Dispatch Challenge Trophy.

For the next two years (1963 and '64) Leyland Motors finished fourth in the team race. Interest began to wane and by 1969 the club had folded up. However all was not lost because Ivor Percival formerly of Preston Harriers and Lancashire Walking Club had left the police force and was working at Leyland Motors. He revived the walking section and encouraged former members to return but more importantly he motivated a number of juniors and novices to try their hand at walking. He was successful.

In 1970 there was the largest ever number of starters (11) from Leyland Motors A.C. Five entrants were novices. Unfortunately bad weather started just after an hour and the competitors were soon soaked to the skin. This badly affected five of the team who were forced to retire from blisters or bad backs. Of the six who did complete the course, four were new to the race and one was taking part in his first walking race ever. What a baptism! John Ashton won the Novice race to continue the success of Leyland walkers.

This race saw the start of Eric Crompton's career as one of the best walkers in the country during the early '70s. Apart from excelling at long distances he had good track speed over 3000 m. His only fault, if it can be described as such, was his appetite for racing.

The 1971 race was a personal triumph for Joe Derrick who finished in 9hrs 54 min to win the Veteran Prize. For two years previously he had been suffering from thyroid trouble, which caused co-ordination problems. The Leyland Guardian of July 4th headlined: ***"THE COURAGE OF ROAD WALKER JOE"***

1972 saw Leyland Motors enjoy their best ever Manchester to Blackpool. The team finished first with 24 points ahead of Sheffield United Harriers with 43 points. Eric Crompton was third, Brian Howarth 6th,Ivor Percival 7th and John Ashton 13th. The race saw the return of George Lamb who finished 15th.

In 1974 Eric Crompton made a valiant attempt to win the race. He was ahead at halfway and led up to 35 miles. However the effort had been too much and he was forced to retire at 37 miles.

By 1976 former Leyland Motors walkers were competing for Lancashire Walking Club. The club was finished and there was to be no further resurrection.

The race still continued and Ken Harding of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Club won four successive walks between 1974 and 1977 and was again triumphant in 1979. John Paddick of Leicester Walking Club won in 1981 and repeated his win in 1996. The 1978 winner was John Lees of Brighton who held the record for walking across America. In fact this time bettered that achieved by Bruce Tulloh who was running!

In the 1980s ladies were allowed to compete and amongst the first was Sandra Brown of Surrey Walking Club who in 1983 had already walked 100 miles in under 24 hours. By contrast the only other lady competitor was Miss S. Porter who was a novice and did not belong to any club. Sandra's brother, Richard won the race in 1986, 1989 and 1993.

Sandra's greatest performance was in the 1991 event when she became the first winner of the Maxwell Trophy for the first lady to finish. She almost won the open race finishing second to Andy Trigg of Trowbridge a mere 4 min 34 sec behind. Surely this has to be the most outstanding performance ever in Ladies walking.

Sadly interest in long distance walking is on the decline and the 1998 race was cancelled due to insufficient entries. Of the thirty who did enter this year, 18 were veterans (over 40). There were 10 out of 67 in 1970 and 16 out of 80 in 1957.

The race is no longer from the Town Hall but starts from the Y-Club, Liverpool road, Manchester. The finish is not the Town Hall in Blackpool but the Sand Castle Centre on the Promenade. The distance is 50 miles. The competitors and officials were entertained to tea in the Renaissance Restaurant, Winter Gardens.

Significantly two of Leyland Motors greatest walkers, George Lamb and Eric Crompton, were involved in the 1999 edition. George as Competitors Steward and Eric as Luggage Steward.

Other walkers from Leyland or Leyland Motors to have completed the race are Alan Dawber, Joe Tully, Alan Hudson, Eddie Almond, Michael Fishwick, Eric Bretherton, David Lamb, Michael Moore, Alan Hudson Snr, John Airey, Bill Maxwell and Terry Edmondson who later turned to running and set English records for 24 hours.

I wonder if any other school can claim to have had as many former pupils completing the walk as St. Mary's Leyland does? They were J. Billington, J. Burns, J. Robinson, E. Bretherton, E. Almond, R. Flanagan, J. Tully and M. Fishwick.

The elation of finishing does not prevent many from saying "never again". The stiffness is only temporary and the urge to do better lures one onto the road one more time. Some competitors have completed over 20 Manchester to Blackpools.

Perhaps the final accolade can be attributed to Jock Higginson, former Olympic athlete, former holder of the English record for the triple jump, who at one time worked at Leyland Motors. Writing an athletics column in the Lancashire Evening Post, in 1963 he commented,

"In the midst of preparation for last Saturday's Manchester to Blackpool annual walk, some of the Motors team who competed in the 51¾ miles heel and toe event took time off and assisted Leyland Motors A.C. only a week previously in the running and field events at Morecambe, and when I saw a Motors athlete go to receive his award, at the reception, following the finish of the walk at Blackpool, last Saturday, it seemed that I had seen everything in the athletic world."

Jock would have been even more surprised had he known that the same athlete had competed in an inter-club track meeting at Southport on the previous Monday. He had also finished second in the 440 yds Hurdles and third in the 4x110yd Relay at the Lancashire County Championships at Blackpool in May.

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EDWARD ALMOND.

Local walkers hit success

Last Saturday Leyland Motors walkers were the hosts of the N.A.R.W. in a winter league fixture over seven miles.

The overall winner was John Warhuis, the English International and Sheffield walker who walked the seven-mile course from School Lane to Cockers Bar Bridge and back in 51.04.

Leyland Motors had an excellent result when, as well as finishing second in the team event, they had two walkers winning their seven-mile badges. These were B.Howarth (56.19) and T.Edmondson (56.51).

This was just reward for the hard training the walkers have put in over the last few months.

Other times were: E.Crompton 55.37, G.Lamb 59.46, D.Lamb 60.30, J.Ashton 63.18, W.Maxwell 64.04, C.Lamb 66.44, A.Chadwick 71.34, and D.Charnock 73.01.

In the boys race Leyland won with P.Percival 1st, S.Maxwell 2nd and D.Groves 5th. This Saturday the walkers step up to ten miles at Coppull.

On Sunday January 16th Balshaw Grammar boy, 13 year old Philip Percival travelled to Bradford for a Race Walking Association six miles in the hour award race, organised by Yorkshire Walking Club, and won comfortably in a time of 54 minutes.

Members of Leyland Motors Athletic section who were training on Saturday for the open 20 kilos walk at Morecambe on September 12. L to R John Ashton, George Lamb, Joseph Derrick, Ivor Percival. R.380.

Easy.

Philip easily gained his award, which is for anyone who can walk the six miles in the hour. The following Saturday he again won his race at Leyland, against opposition from Lancashire W.C., Sheffield, Bradford, Wakefield and Spendborough in a Northern Counties winter league event.

During the next few weeks Philip has a hard programme of events at Preston, Manchester, Sheffield, Bradford and the Midlands.

He is hoping to compete in the National Championships later in the year. But Philip's main ambition is to beat his father, Ivor Percival, who on Saturday started his comeback after a three-month lay-off.

Ivor competed in the seven-mile event on Saturday completing the course in 61.41. Ivor's ambition is to beat 19 hours for the 100-mile walk between Leicester and Skegness, in which he was the third British walker to finish last time, when he recorded 19.24.27.

Report in local paper.

HOW WE KEPT THE LORD'S DAY.

A backward look at a Sunday in Leyland long ago.

Sunday was a day of special significance to us at the old schoolhouse. Since we lived under the aegis of a benign ecclesiasticism we felt it behoved us to be sedulous in our attendance at church.

Picture me then in my best clothes and adorned by a spotless white collar. At ten o'clock in the forenoon, as the bells awoke to life, I followed the path across the churchyard and entered the church by the west door. Sometimes, if age and infirmity would permit, my grandfather would accompany me.

Usually, as we entered, the Vicar's warden, white-haired and stately, would be standing by the font, awaiting the appearance of leading parishioners. Me and my grandfather he ignored. Having erstwhile been in service as a butler in a gentleman's house, he was a champion of the existing order, a fawner on nobility, obsequious in the presence of rank and wealth. Humble worshippers such as we he deemed unworthy of his attention.

Watching the members of the congregation appear and take their seats whiled away the time of waiting till the service began. It interested me to note their mannerisms and peculiar traits. For example, an old gentleman in front of me would invariably, on rising from his knees, pull out a big silk handkerchief and blow his nose violently like a trumpet. He would then regale himself with a pinch of snuff.

Mrs Roffe, the wealthy widow, in rustling black satin and bejewelled like an empress, would presently appear and genuflect before entering her pew.

Then that handsome man, Mr. T., after seating himself, would take the ends of his waxed moustache between his fingers and thumb and twirl it fiercely for a moment. I thought what a fine looking hussar he would make, resplendent in uniform and seated on a charger, belted and spurred with a silver-hilted sword at his side!

At last the bells would cease and the minister's bell begin to toll. Sweetly on my ear would fall the first tentative notes of the voluntary, which Mr. Lockett extemporised, on the organ only a few feet in front of where I sat.

Then, when the bell stopped, it pleased me to see the choir boys appear in surplices white as snow, followed by the dignified, surpliced men, with the Vicar and Curate in their wake and also the sexton who, in the role of parish clerk, issued last from the vestry in a flowing black gown and proceeded down the north aisle to his seat at the back of church.

I recall how I would lift my eyes from my prayer book to watch the preacher ascend the pulpit steps. If it was the Vicar, by his elevated position his Jovian aspect was enhanced and I thought how terrible it would be if he should notice me and denounce me for my sins before the whole congregation. His black skullcap and bushy grey beard heightened the formidableness of his appearance.

As a preacher however, he was uninspired. It was the silvery tongue of his curate hat drew large congregations. He read his own sermons, hence they lacked warmth and spontaneity. Nevertheless they were good honest homespun, the kind my grandfather liked to hear.

I however, listened absently. Sometimes, if the discourse was unduly long. My thoughts would revert to kite flying, butterfly hunting, or some absorbing romance I had not yet finished reading. By the time it came to an end I was beginning to feel hungry and fell to wondering what there'd be for dinner.

It was after this meal had been cleared away that observance of the Sabbath at home would begin. My grandmother would cover the table with her best cloth; spectacles were sought and found; and the old couple would sit, open their Bibles and religiously read therein. During this devout session I would covertly peruse a tale or, from my vantagepoint by the window, look musingly out across the churchyard. Sometimes, however, the Sabbath quietude was broken by the repeated swinging of the gate in front of the house.

Now, to my grandparents, there was nothing more annoying than the wanton swinging of this gate. It was without a latch, and its stout wooden frame was eminently suitable for swinging on. There were children that, having once seen it swing, but were seized by an impulse to fling themselves upon it and swing to their hearts' content. This they usually did, unaware at first of the eyes that were watching them through the window. Unaware for how brief a while!

"Knock!" Commanded my grandfather.

My grandmother arose from her chair and rapped loudly with her knuckles on the pane.

The effect was immediate. The swinging ceased and the culprit, a strapping youth who ought to have known better, looked sheepish as my grandmother gazed at him reprovingly. Crestfallen, he descended the brow to join the Young Men's Class, which I could hear assembling in the schoolroom.

Presently the church clock struck two, whereupon the harmonium began to play. There followed the sound of men singing; it filled the whole building and surged voluminously into the room wherein we sat.

> We are soldiers of Christ who is mighty to save,
> And His banner, the Cross, is unfurl'd;
> We are pledged to be faithful and steadfast and brave
> Against Satan, the flesh and the world

How clearly that lost cadence comes back to me across the years! I also recall the reedy and mellow tones of the harmonium and I think that surely never since has an instrument sounded sweeter anywhere else on earth or in the courts of Heaven itself. I have also a treasured memory of my grandfather dozing in his chair, of my grandmother wide awake in hers, with her Bible resting in her lap and her head slightly inclined as she listened to the hearty singing of some two score masculine voices.

In her company I go to Evensong. There is a large congregation. Mr Marshall is to preach and people have come to hear him from miles around.

The Vicar intones; the service begins. Sometimes, during the singing of the psalms, my eyes stray from my prayer book and if it happens that a schoolfellow turns his head and our glances meet, nods, winks and surreptitious grins are exchanged. If by any chance my grandmother notices, she checks me with a nudge and a reproachful look. Whereupon I desist and behave.

I am attentive while the lesson is being read. From where I sit I can see the beautiful profile of Mrs.T. and beyond her, in a reserved pew, the wrinkled visage of the Vicar's wife staring at her with a grim and hostile stare. Then, as we kneel, I see Mrs. Roffe press her fingers devoutly before her face. My gaze is fascinated by the stones in her rings, which scintillate flashes of emerald and crimson fire.

As we close the second hymn the curate ascends the pulpit. He is tall and slender, grey-haired, with a thin, ascetic face, aquiline nose and animated eye. I think he is the cleverest man in the parish. He sits up late of night watching the stars. But he never lets his interest in the stellar universe interfere with his clerical duties. He is a wakeful shepherd of souls, a zealous worker in the vineyard on the Lord's behalf.

This evening he takes his text from the Gospel according to St. Luke, Eighteenth chapter, thirty-seventh verse: *"And they told, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."*

The congregation is now tensely expectant. All eyes are fixed on Mr. Marshall, Mine note with interest every move he makes, every shade of expression that passes across his face. For Mr. Marshall, besides being good to hear is also a preacher to watch. He speaks in a voice that sounds like the tongues of angels and at appropriate moments he makes gestures that are as eloquent as the phrases that fall from his lips. He holds every eve, he captivates every ear.

We listen rapt as he discourses, stirring our imaginations and playing on our heartstrings in his own inimitable way. The he perorates movingly:

"The main buttress of a Christian life is faith. Many of us have health, position, power and riches, but have we the simple faith of that blind beggar by the wayside? Who amongst us. hearing the multitude pass by would have enough courage to proclaim his faith in Jesus of Nazareth, who made the blind to see? Not many I think, to our shame be it said. Then let us hearken to the voice of the Spirit, let us come nigh unto Jericho and cry unto the Son of David to have mercy on us. If we have sinned grievously, let us cry to Him the more, For make no mistake, if only we beseech Him in the voice of faith, He will listen and vouchsafe us something in return. Not even the most abandoned sinner shall appeal to Him in vain.

Let us therefore go forth from this house of God, with His peace in our hearts and the glow of sunset on our faces; let us follow the multitude in the streets, our minds set, not on worldliness, but on Him. Resolved to be diligent in the doing of those things that shall bring His kingdom nearer and bear witness to our faith when they tell us that Jesus of Nazareth passes by".

Back at the schoolhouse, my grandmother recapitulates the pith of the sermon to my grandfather and they both enthuse over it till bedtime. She reminds me that as a youth Mr. Marshall followed the humble vocation of a gardener and exhorts me to do my best to emulate such a shining example.

Since that Sunday of long ago many vicissitudes have befallen me. I have trodden devious paths. But never have I let sink the flame kindled within me by the clerical exemplar of my boyhood days. He imparted something that lives in me yet; and no ministry has been in vain that has inspired one eager soul at least to lift his eyes to the starry hosts of heaven.

P.N.SUMNER

Footnote.

This article was first published in February 1964, as an entry to a competition in a newspaper, and a copy was deposited in the Lancashire Record Office (ref.; DDX 978/1/27).

My thanks to the Community Council of Lancashire, (who own the copyright), for allowing us to print the article in the Chronicle. I am particularly grateful to County Archivist Bruce Jackson of the Record Office for his help in obtaining this permission.

SHIRLEY ROBSON.

THE DECLINE OF THE HIGH STREET

While the following article (borrowed from the Observer) may not be about the Leyland shopping experience, the recent loss of both shoe shops on Towngate and the lack of any hardware shops like Bolans could show the way Leyland has followed the trends. As the article notes, it's better to make use of builders merchants like C & W Berry's rather than run the risk of losing them.

"Two decades ago you could walk along Stoke Newington Church Street in north London and take advantage of an A to Z of retailing. To be absolutely precise, there was an A to X - from Ibrahim Adem's furniture shop to Xtra Hair Ltd, toupee maker. Along the alphabetical way, they took in Dave's Discount, the hardware shop, and Music Box, which described itself as a gramophone record dealer. Within a 10-minute walk there were small grocers, a sweet shop, the Meyer Bargain Shop boot and shoe retail, a couple of butchers, a bakery, a bookies, Claire Fashions (ladies' outfitters) and a branch of that most traditional of traditional menswear shops, G.A. Dunn & Co.

There were a couple of fish and chip shops, two cafes, two pubs, a kebab outfit and three Indian restaurants. But Church Street was in essence a shopping street. It was somewhere to go to buy things. Twenty years later, a Halifax branch has replaced Dunn & Co. Indeed, the whole of the Dunn empire - founded in 1886 by a progressive Quaker hat-maker, George Arthur Dunn, who went on to open a vegetarian hotel and boasted ownership of Britain's first combine harvester, went bust in 1996. Claire Fashions has gone. So has Dave's Discount. People wanting new boots or shoes seek the Meyer Bargain Shop in vain.

But restaurants? Oh there are restaurants aplenty. Exactly that same stretch of Church Street which was once home to Morris Blakey the wallpaper shop and Dandi the tailor, now has no fewer than 33 places where punters can sup and feed. Bye-bye Treasure Chest, purveyor of bric-a-brac; greetings, Tequilla Willie's Gold Rush restaurant. Cheerio, Xtra Hair, welcome, Noodle Heaven. Church Street is not the typical British high street, if there were such a thing. Stoke Newington, on the western edge of the London borough of Hackney, sits proud and defiant at the elbow of the more fashionable Islington. When Robbie Richards, secretary of the Church Street Business Association, started his wine bar in the early Eighties, there were half a dozen derelict shops nearby. Now vacant property is snapped up - very often to be turned into yet another restaurant.

Yet Church Street is illustrative of one of the most profound changes taking place on shopping streets throughout Britain. Consumers are spending more, but retailers shops selling everything from clothing and cod fillets to toasters and trainers, as opposed to takeaway sushi and frothy coffee in paper cups, seem to be having a hard time. Marks & Spencer will not go the same way as Dunn & Co. But even the revered M&S, once undisputed queen of the clothing business, admitted last week that sales this spring have been well down. Mothercare, which for years was synonymous with shops specifically for the under fives, said it was to close up to 68outlets. At the pinnacle of its retailing might, Sears, through outlets such as Dolcis, Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxone, sold one pair of shoes in every four bought in Britain. Yet it has suffered the indignity of being taken over and broken up.

The conclusion is clear. It is not simply the Meyer Bargain Shops and the Dave's Discounts of the retailing jungle that have felt the wounds of competition. Bigger corporate animals have suffered, too.

Four factors have wrought the changes in the face of the British high street.

First, and most obviously, some retailers have been smarter than others in anticipating changes in consumer tastes. M&S has not merely been the victim of sluggish demand. By the company's own admission, its share of the UK clothing market has fallen from 15.1 per cent to 14.3 per cent in the past year. Tesco has overtaken Sainsbury, which for years was top dog in food retailing.

Why? Because companies like Gap have offered something more alluring. Others like Next, have clawed their way back from the brink of bankruptcy by offering uncluttered, well defined ranges. In food retailing, Tesco learnt the best lessons from its one-time bigger brother (the importance of imaginative and innovative own-label foods), avoided its worst mistakes (ponderous decision making) and outshone in its marketing (most notably the pioneering introduction of a loyalty card). Retailing is like every other industry; no company can claim a perpetual monopoly on success.

Second, high street spending may rise over time. But it rises more quickly for some brands than for others. Sales of food, drink and tobacco were lower last month than a year earlier. No up-to-date figures for mobile phone sales are available, but assume that they have grown enormously. In the final three months of 1998, the number of mobiles sold was a three-and-a-half times the total for a year earlier. Two decades ago, there were no mobile phone shops. Now they are everywhere.

Third, the Eighties and early Nineties saw a profound shift away from town centres. Huge temples to Mammon such as the Metro Centre at Gateshead and Meadowhall near Sheffield sprang up. More generally, food retailers such as Sainsbury Tesco, Asda, Safeway and Morrisons were given permission to build a superstore on virtually every ring road. High street specialists such as greengrocers and butchers went out of business.

As council houses were sold off in the early Eighties, first time homeowners rushed out to buy a new front door or paving slabs for a patio. They did so at large DIY centres on windswept retail parks. Sales through so-called DIY sheds as opposed to conventional builder's merchants grew tenfold in seven years. Even now, the trend continues, if at a slower rate. Each time B&Q opens a new l00,000 sq. ft warehouse, it sucks in annual takings of perhaps £30 million. That's £30 million denied other builder's merchants, ironmongers and paint shops.

Fourth, and most intriguingly, the comfortably-off in society - and they, after all, are the ones of interest to companies trying to attract consumers' cash - appear to be approaching the point where they no longer want to spend on things. Instead their earning power will go on leisure services, such as eating out, visiting a health centre or sport. Those with a regular job are almost certainly better off than a decade ago. Where does that extra money go? Look at your mobile phone bill. Ask how many times you ate out last month. In broad terms, it is reckoned that the amount spent on eating out will have risen by 50 per cent over the Nineties - far outstripping growth in overall spending.

By all means mourn the loss of Fine Fare. It was eventually absorbed into what became Somerfield. Recall the cheery atmosphere of William Low. It was taken over by Tesco. Remember fondly the counter in Woolies where you could buy corned beef. Now Woolworth concentrates mainly on toys, sweets, music, videos and children's clothes. Grumble about the hassle of buying a kitchen cabinet from Ikea. And when will you do this? As you sit over a £3 glass of decent claret in a wine bar that was once a ladies outfitters.

Whatever happened to the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker?

Down at heel. In 1966 there were 14,360 shoe shops in Britain, Now there are 10,000 at most.

Pulped. In 1987 there were 10,678 greengrocers but only 7,800 by 1998.

Kippered. Ten years ago there were an estimated l550 independent fishmongers. Now there are well under l000.

Butchered. In 1988 there were nearly 18,000 high street butchers, the number is predicted to fall to 8,100 by 2001.

Sliced. Bakers proved more resilient. There are an estimated 7,780 now, compared with 9,500 in 1987 Sales grew from £1.44bn in 1987 to £1.87bn today.

Battered. The number of fish-and chip shops fell from around 15,000 at the end of the Seventies to 8,500, 10 years ago. Since then the fall has almost been halted.

Second-hand. There are reckoned to be some 6,500-charity shops in Britain. There are 850 Oxfam shops - twice the number of Sainsbury's, and up from 575, 10 years ago.

Bankers. Britain's largest banking groups have consistently closed branches across the country. Between 1987 and 1997, Barclays closed nearly three branches in every 10.

In tune. The last 10 years have seen the emergence of previously unknown types of retailer: there are 180 outlets of Carphone Warehouse, 240 Vodafone shops and 170 branches of The Link, devoted to communications on the move.

Burgered. McDonald's, now with a branch on almost every high street, was unknown in Britain 25 years ago. The company opened its first UK branch in October 1974.".

PETER HOUGHTON.

JOHN THRELFALL 1822 – 1899

When Messrs. Bashall and Boardman opened their cotton mill in Farington they appointed as their cashier a very young man, named John Threlfall. John's ability together with his caring nature and concern for others, must quickly have become apparent because he was still only eighteen years old when, in 1840, William Boardman and William Bashall decided to ask (some say instructed) John to open a night school in his cottage at 17 Spring Gardens (on the corner of Spring Gardens and East Street), to improve the educational standards of some of the boys and young men working at the Mill.

Imagine – having finished a hard days work at the Mill, in the evening going to John's cottage, settling down in the small room dimly lit by oil lamps or candles, to have 'school' lessons, with slates, sand and 'chalks'.

John must have shown his students endless patience and encouragement, as well as being an excellent teacher – he ran his night school with such success that many of the lads and young men he taught were able to leave the mill to get better positions elsewhere.

On 10th August 1850, when John married his sweetheart Elizabeth Baron (daughter of well known Leyland clog maker John Baron, of 33 Union Street) they set up home in the cottage at 17 Spring Gardens, and here they brought up their family of 5 sons an d 2 daughters (one of their first set of twin boys died very young).

John was employed at Bashall & Boardman's Mill for all his working life, usually describing himself as either cashier or book-keeper. However, in the 1891 census, when he was 69 years old, he described himself as 'Cashier and Secretary in the Cotton Mill'. Having received their formal education at Farington New School his sons and daughters all worked at the Mill also, the boys as warehousemen and the girls as a weaver and a cotton worker. This shows all too clearly how totally dependant the majority of the families in Farington were on Bashall & Boardman's enterprise in the village.

In the 1871 census return his eldest son, also John then aged 19, is shown as an unemployed warehouseman. However, by 1881 he was established as a stationer and bookseller. In 1880 John jnr. had married Ellen Harrison (a weaver at the Cotton Mill) and their married home was at 12 Mill Street, where they raised their family of 5 sons and 3 daughters.

The stationers and booksellers business was set up at father John's cottage in Spring Gardens, the front parlour being altered to become a shop. There is no record of when the alterations were made but the picture below was taken by John jnr. in 1871. Father John is the gentleman with a beard on the extreme left of the group in the photograph.

This shop, formerly a cottage, was used as a night school.

Elizabeth died in 1889, but John continued to live at 17 Spring Gardens, the 1891 census showing that with him in the cottage then were his two youngest sons and daughter Elizabeth (now a widow) – who was keeping house for him, together with Elizabeth's three young children.

What a squash it must have been for the family in the tiny cottage over the years, and especially when the front parlour became the shop. (The back living room measured 12 feet x 11 feet, and the kitchen 8 feet x 8 feet. Upstairs there were three bedrooms, measuring 11 feet x 10 feet, 11 feet x 9 feet and 8 feet x 8 feet) but they were a close and happy family.

Father John continued to be an active member of the village community all his life, helping people in many ways. In 1885, when the Sunday School scholars walked in procession from the New School (where they had been meeting) to their new church of St. Ambrose in Moss Lane, they were led by the Sunday School Superintendent – none other than the now 63 years old John. He was generally acknowledged as having 'brought Farington to St. Ambrose' and for that reason a stained glass window was installed in his memory – and which can still be seen in the church today.

By 1889 John jnr. (who in 1871 had been the only unemployed member of the family) had well and truly turned his fortunes around – he was happily married with a growing family, and had a flourishing stationers and booksellers business. He was now describing himself as *'an assistant overseer and tax collector'* as well as *'bookseller and stationer, printer, bookbinder and newsagent. Tobacconist and tea dealer'!* (1889 Mannex Directory Preston & Districts). Was it any wonder that the time had come for him to move from his father's 17 Spring Gardens cottage to bigger premises? In 1891 he moved his family and the business to Caxton House on Towngate.

Father John died on 28th October 1899, (aged 78). So many of the villagers of Farington had reason to be grateful to him, and so great was their respect for him, that for his funeral almost everyone in the village followed the sad procession to St. Andrew's Church. John was laid to rest alongside his wife Elizabeth (who had died 10 years earlier), in a quiet corner of the graveyard of the church where 49 years earlier, they had been married and where all their children had been baptised.

100 years after his death, his name is still widely known and respected. His cottage at 17 Spring Gardens has changed little, except that the stationers shop is now a Cellar 5 off-licence. The family stationers and booksellers business on Towngate flourished for a number of years but unfortunately has now ceased trading. Many of the great grandchildren of John Threlfall continue to live in the district and I am grateful to two of them – sisters Prudence and Maud, - who have helped me with some of the details for this article.

JOAN LANGFORD.

RAIL TRIPS

5. The West Lancashire Line to Ormskirk

(L) Left or (R) Right hand side of carriage in Ormskirk direction.

Following our departure from Leyland station, we travel north along the West Coast Main Line to Preston, the line between London Euston and Glasgow. This was built and opened by the North Union Railway on 31st October 1838 from Wigan to Preston, being a continuation of the Wigan Branch Railway from the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. As the previous edition of the Lailand Chronicle No 41 covers the route from Leyland to Preston, the description begins at Preston.

The train from Platform 2 on Preston Station is on the Cinderella service of First North Western, now being an almost forgotten addition to the Liverpool to Preston timetable where previously it was included within the main body of the timctable.

The line has declined since this was the express line from Liverpool to Preston. The present service now consists of one multiple unit making its way between Preston and Ormskirk. It runs at frequent intervals during the day from the first train from Preston at 6.38 am until the last train returns to Preston at 23.01 p.m. on six days a week. On Sundays the line is closed.

The line was, until recent years, double tracked to the level crossing at Midge Hall, where the first single line section was "token controlled" to Rufford. Here the second manned level crossing and signal box adjacent to Rufford Station facilitated the change of tokens for the final single line stretch to Ormskirk.

The single track now, however, stretches from Farington Curve Junction to Rufford Station, then Rufford to Ormskirk, With the present service though the token system, may be still in operation, it will only be required for safety reasons and the occasional special train. The signalmen at Midge Hall and Rufford now have the level crossings as their main concern.

The History of the Line.

The Act for the Liverpool, Ormskirk & Preston Railway received the Royal Assent on 16th August 1846, despite being opposed by the Liverpool & Manchester Railway and the North Union Railway. Looking through the prospectus for the railway, one local name is denoted as a promoter, namely James Nowell ffarington of Worden Hall.

However, prior to work commencing in March 1847, the company had been taken over by the East Lancashire Railway. This was the company who completed the line from Liverpool to Lostock Hall Junction and opened the railway on 2nd April 1849, before it was itself taken over by the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway.

The Journey

The train departs, multiple unit permitting, on the Ormskirk service, and heads south following the main line under Skew Bridge. The train then branches right at Farington Curve Junction, then right again onto the single line of the Ormskirk route. This drops away and bends off to the right, while the Blackburn line slowly rises to the left onto the Farington Curve lines.

The part of the route between Farington Curve Junction and Moss Lane Junction was one of the last lines built in the area, opening on 1st July 1891. As the line bears sharply to the right and under Coote Lane Bridge it meets the Liverpool to Blackburn direct line. This was closed between Moss Lane Junction and Lostock Hall Engine Shed Junction on 1st May 1972.

The train now heads west on an embankment and over a new bridge, built when the Leyland to Penwortham "primary route" went through in 1987. The embankment continues over Farington Moss and bends on a long curve to take the railway due south-west over Leyland Moss. To the left, can be seen the churches and remaining factory buildings of Leyland. As the train approaches the outskirts of Midge Hall, we pass Ward's level crossing and Sod Hall level crossing. These are the first two of eighteen unmanned and gated level crossings, which the train will pass in the next five miles.

The Second Possible Station in South Ribble

As the train slows for the Midge Hall level crossing, we pass the overgrown platforms and station building (R) of Midge Hall Station, which was closed on 2nd October 1961. However, there has been a campaign to reopen the station following the building of the vast housing estates on Moss Side. Here as already mentioned, the train may still pick up the token for the single-track line from the signal box adjacent to the level crossing at Midge Hall Lane or Station Road, depending which way you are travelling.

On the right, after passing the signal box, can be seen Midge Hall itself together with the mill that dominates the surrounding flat area. Between the next bridge to Moss Farm, and Cocker Bar Bridge, there is the site of a station opened in the early 1850's at Cocker Bar, but this was closed in October 1859 when Midge Hall was opened.

After the bridge, an unadopted road runs alongside the railway on the left. This used to lead to a wartime Royal Ordnance factory and ammunition dump. This was disused for many years until the Government decided to use the land for a growth industry as first Wymott Prison, named after a tribiliary of the River Lostock, and then Garth Prison were constructed. Adjacent to the railway still on the left, the remains of Stanning's Folly can be seen in the trees, as the train passes Brook House and the nearby abandoned works. Passing over the River Lostock, the train slows down as it approaches Croston Station.

The platform on the left is now detached from the station house, which is privately owned. The Ormskirk - Preston Travellers Association, cares for these platforms. As we leave the station, the former brickwork's site is on the right, while on the left, extensive modern housing, which has revived the village, covers former farmland.

The train now crosses the River Yarrow as it heads for its confluence with the River Lostock and then the River Douglas within the next mile. Following Meadow Lane bridge which takes the main Chorley to Rufford road (A581) over the railway with prominent railings curving gracefully over the track, we pass over Croston Moss. Here piles had to be used to enable the railway to pass over the treacherous ground. As we cross the many track-ways and drains across the moss, the mainly straight line of the canalised River Douglas approaches from the right. This is of course, not to be confused with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal (Rufford Branch) from Burscough to Tarleton, which replaced the River Douglas as the navigation channel.

Across the river to the right, the trees hide Rufford Old Hall for much of the year. The hall was built by the Hesketh family in the fifteenth century and given to the National Trust in 1936. The railway now crosses over the River Douglas and the level crossing into Rufford Station, the village of Rufford being situated on the main A59 road to the right,

Here in the station, there remains the only two-track section of line between the main line and Ormskirk; and the token system probably will still be in operation. As we leave the station, over to the right, the canal makes its first appearance with Rufford Lock, whilst across the water, the church of St Mary's Rufford can be seen. The canal continues to accompany the railway south towards Burscough, crossing under the railway as the A59 joins from the right. South of Rufford, the construction of the embankment in the marshy valley of the River Douglas caused endless trouble, the material simply disappearing into the moss. The line had to be carried on a timber frame on piles driven to 40 feet for four hundred yards.

As the train approaches the outskirts of Burscough, the line of the former connection to the Wigan - Southport line leaves on the right. This line passes underneath our train going east – west, with the station of Burscough Bridge to be seen to the right. The former southern connection to the Wigan - Southport line comes in from the right, to join our line as the train passes over the main line of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on its way from Liverpool to Wigan. As we enter Burscough Junction Station, we can see the former Ministry of Defence buildings to the left, with Ainscough's mill premises on the right.

The name of this station with its one remaining long platform is now obsolete, the connection to the Southport line being closed in March 1962. As we leave the station and come out of the cutting, we see the two stone pillars on the left, which belonged to Burscough Priory. At Henry VIII dissolution of the monasteries, its bells were taken to Ormskirk and hung in the parish church tower. The quaint squat building in the middle of the field on our left is a folly called Bath Lodge. This was built as a shooting lodge on the Lathom estate probably in the middle of the eighteenth century.

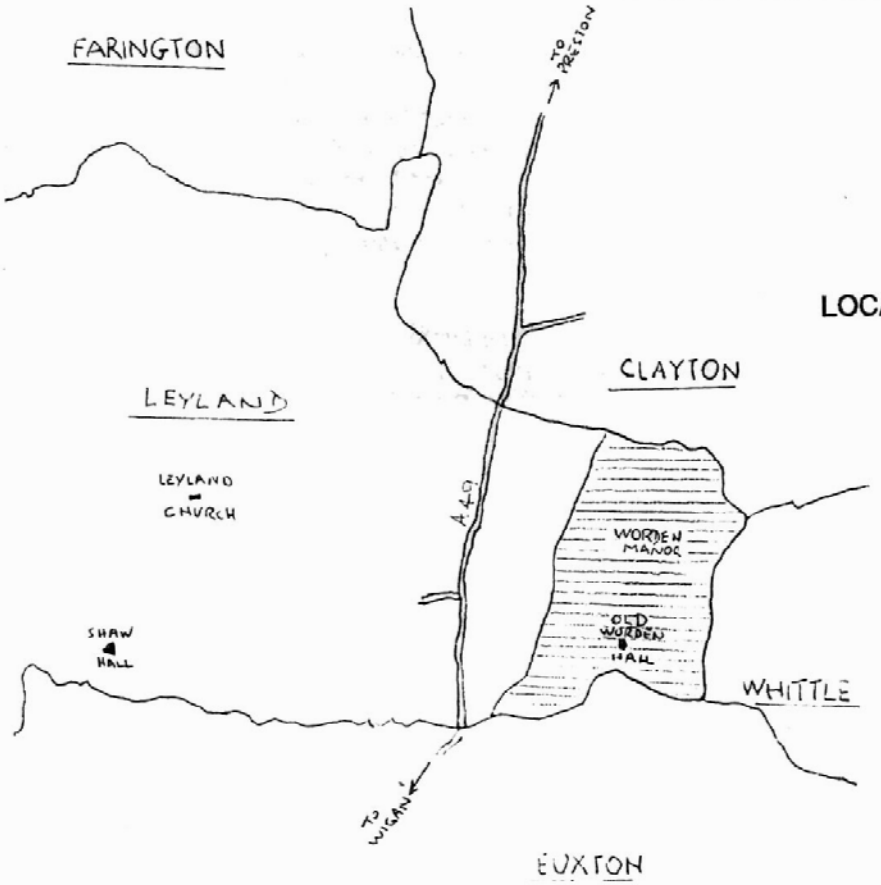
As we enter Ormskirk, we pass the site of the carriage sidings and engine shed. The car park on the left, used to be the branch terminal platform for the Ormskirk - Skelmersdale - Rainford Junction line. As we pull into the station, the only working platform has two buffer stops in the middle of the line, as there is not any direct connection between the Preston to Ormskirk line and the electrified Ormskirk to Liverpool Central line, since an emergency connection was taken out of use.

PETER HOUGHTON

OLD WORDEN – HALL AND MANOR

Apologies to Mr. Bolton for omitting these illustrations from his article in the Chronicle No. 44. Fortunately it did not stop him winning the Historian of the Year Award. **EDITOR.**

ENHANCED REPRODUCTION OF PHOTOGRAPH



LOCATION OF OLD WORDEN