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# Leyland Chronicle

The journal of  
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month  
(September to June inclusive) at 7.30 p.m.  
excluding statutory holidays.

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£3.25 per annum
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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

AND

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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## CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society shall be the Leyland Historical Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to promote an interest in History generally, and of the Leyland area in particular.
3. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All except the President to be elected annually.
4. The Committee shall consist of the above officers and twelve elected members who will serve for two years - six of whom will retire each year, but may offer themselves for re-election. Any Committee member who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause shall be deemed to have resigned.
5. The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies which may arise during the year, but any members so appointed must offer themselves for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.
7. Sub-Committees may be formed for particular purposes. The President, Chairman and Secretary shall be 'ex-officio' members of such Sub-Committees.
8. The Annual General Meeting and elections of officers and Committee Members shall be held no later than the 15th day of July in each year.
9. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held on the written request of five members of the Society, subject to at least three weeks' notice.
10. Any change in the Constitution must be approved at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. At least two weeks' notice, in writing, must be given of proposed changes.

11. The rate of annual subscriptions will be determined at the Annual General Meeting for the ensuing year. Proposals for changes in subscriptions must be circulated to members at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions become due at the date of the Annual General Meeting. Any member who has not paid by the 31st December will be deemed to have lapsed membership.
12. The Committee may from time to time propose the election of Honorary Life Members of the Society for approval at a General Meeting. Such members will be entitled to participate fully in the activities of the Society but will not be liable to payment of Annual Subscriptions.

## News & Commentary

The new development in Leyland, both the completed section and the proposals for the remainder, continues to create considerable division of opinion among the local residents. There are those who view the whole idea with suspicion and grave doubt, remembering as they do the Leyland of yesteryear and all it meant during their childhood and maturity.

To those who have no deep attachments to Leyland, having perhaps moved into the area from further afield, and also to the younger generation born here, the 1980's mean more than the 1920's to them and in consequence modern development is a natural and necessary part of every day life. There is, of course, much to be said for both sides, and neither can fully appreciate the view of the other, so different are their backgrounds. However, there is always the way of compromise, and it is difficult to understand for instance, why the old Civic Hall in Towngate cannot be incorporated into the proposed new development of that area, thus preserving a sound and well-loved building, and at the same time providing a modern accompaniment. No-one could surely claim that the existing buildings flanking the Civic Hall are preferable to new shop premises. At least, the Planners today seem to have got beyond the "concrete-thinking" stage, and as can be seen in the completed part of the development, brick is again being used - thank goodness!

Before this magazine was printed, a meeting was held to discuss and answer questions about the Leyland New Town proposals. We trust those members of the Society who have strong feelings on the subject, attended and made known their views.

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A feature of our Lancashire villages in what is left from early industrialisation, are the stone built cottages singly or in short rows on the roads adjoining.

A big proportion of them have become almost desirable properties and are little changed outwardly except in respect of doors and windows; the windows now are multi paned (straight or bowed) and the doors which were 'T' hinged and carried a giant lock and an equally monster key are now mock Georgian or early Victorian with some fan shaped glass panels.

Inside 'every mod con' is the keynote; with bright decor, without a vestige of the drabness of former years when decorating was undertaken every 50 years.

The pleasurable thing to me is that they now provide good living conditions without external spoilation by substituting modern bungalows or houses which make for a tedious sameness. Sweeping away these sturdy dwellings means a loss of local character and we are left without the shape of a past way of living - a bit of our heritage we shouldn't easily forget.

Another pleasing thing to notice are the names our great grand parents gave to these working class dwellings such as 'Brass Row' with its obvious connotations and for another group of similar cottages, 'Nimble Nook'. Very imaginative and very apt.

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We are pleased to have in our possession a very comprehensive record of the different features comprising Leyland, which was prepared by our former President, the late Mr. Nowell Bannister. It is possible that some of these items may already have been included in past copies of the 'Lailand Chronicle', but they are so well presented and provide such a wealth of interesting information that we have decided to include one of these items in the next few issues beginning with "The Village Cross" in this copy.

Editors: Roy Woodward  
Edgar Mason

### The Village Cross

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

It was probably an old preaching station before the church was built. It stands very nearly at the centre of the Hundred of Leyland. A symbol of faith upon which our civilisation is supposed to have been built.

The flight of three steps, and about five feet of the stem form the original part of the cross. The base points to the perpendicular period as the date of erection. The cross was probably broken in Puritan times, when there were many religious images destroyed in and around Leyland. The village cross at Croston suffered a similar fate.

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

### Fairs and Markets

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

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

Two customary fairs were held in Leyland on March 24 and 25, and on October 26. Around the cross markets have been held. Here the Hundred Moot, the Folk Moot, and men-at-arms gathered around the officers of the Crown.

Thousands have rested their weary limbs upon the stone steps. Religious leaders, politicians and reformers have preached and lectured around this ancient monument. Many



and various customs and scenes have been enacted in the vicinity of the Village Cross. The scholars and congregations of many religious organisations have gathered around and witnessed to their faith.

#### Symbol of Life

At Christmas time, and New Year, they have sung carols and hymns of praise, and eagerly awaited the chiming of the church bells to ring out the old year and ring in the new.

It has also been a place of merchandise. Trippers and excursionists have come in horse drawn vehicles. Here cattle, sheep, dogs and men have quenched their thirst at the well, pump, drinking fountain and trough. Men and women have gathered around to express their beliefs, and quench their thirst for knowledge.

#### Leyland Document

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

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

Nowell Bannister

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have been very much interested in reading the accounts of the excavation at Ulnes Walton, as I feel sure your members will have been.

Many old Leylanders can remember the pleasant walk we used to be able to take through Lostock meadows to Eccles' orchard which led out into Ulnes Walton Lane. One could see the old barns, and the house used for forcing rhubarb now in ruins.

The farmhouse in the adjoining field was occupied and known as Fold's farm, but that too has now disappeared.

The area around the barns, that was covered with fruit trees before the recent development is being excavated.

The possibility has suggested itself to me that this excavated dwelling will prove to be the original home of the Sumner family, referred to in successive generations as "Sumner of the Folds". They were stewards to the ffaringtons.

Some references of interest that I found were the following.

About the fourteenth century there was mention of "John of Faldeworthyng". Then there was mention of a house and road to it for William Sumner of Ulnes Walton, given by the ffaringtons.

In 1605 Sir William ffarington (of Old Worden) received a letter from his steward John Sumner, on business for him in London, about Johnston and his plot, and its fortunate discovery followed by the lighting of bonfires in the city.

In 1636 "William Sommer" was steward of Worden.

Sumner of Lostock was fined £805 by the Commonwealth for supporting Charles 1.

I hope these notes will be of interest.

Yours faithfully,

N. Markland

Ash House Farm, Ulnes Walton

This is an interesting letter and will be particularly appreciated by those who remember the area discussed, as it used to be.

If anyone has any comment to make about Leyland, or about articles and opinions expressed in the Lalland Chronicle, please send them to me or Mr. Mason for inclusion in the "Letters to the Editor" section.

Ed.

## The Building of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

### Members Meeting

Mr. Bricknall began his talk by giving a brief history of how the cathedral came to be built in Liverpool. Originally Chester and Liverpool were included in the Lichfield diocese. Chester split in 1542 and Liverpool in 1880. A meeting of cotton magnates in 1880, chaired by Lord Derby, met to consider sites. Five years after the diocese was formed Parliament authorised the erection of a cathedral on the west side of St. George's Hall and plans were provisionally approved. Difficulties arose and a subsequent proposal to build at the fork of London Road and Pembroke Place was also discarded.

St. James's Mount, Liverpool's earliest public pleasure ground, then became the choice. Until 1725 this had been the site of a quarry. In 1780 Liverpool business men had the site cleared and it became known as Mount Zion. It was a cemetery during the Napoleonic wars.

The land was purchased from Liverpool Corporation. In 1903 the architects R. Norman Shaw and G.F. Bodley were appointed assessors for a competition. They recommended that Giles Gilbert Scott, aged 21, a Roman Catholic, should be the architect because his design had "the power combined with beauty which makes a great and noble building". William Morrison & Sons got the contract to build the cathedral and they also had the rights to quarry stone at Woolton. This quarry, where the stone was 3 to 4 hundred million years old was a gift to the diocese from the Earl of Salisbury.

The foundation stone was laid by Edward VII in 1904. The Lady Chapel was consecrated in 1910. No stone was laid unless it was paid for and the £1 million given by Lord Vestey helped considerably.

"And if you want a Cathedral we've got one to spare" so says the song by Pete McGovern - but substitute stone mason for cathedral and this was the case in 1930 when one of the main occupations in Liverpool was stone masonry. There were 30 firms in the area pre 1939. Between 1934 - 1939, 200 masons alone worked on the tower (347 ft. tall).

The conditions in which men worked were appalling. Indoor work was only allowed if the rain became very heavy. One can well imagine all the dust in the atmosphere and many suffered from silicosis and sometimes died 'on the job'. There was no compensation or holidays with pay. Foremen had favourites and there was, always a replacement at hand if a man didn't keep in line or if he made a mistake. Banker marks - known as Mason's marks were secret signs used by itinerant masons and devised for the mutual recognition of each other as experts in the art and not mere imposters. Old masons who couldn't read or write used devices like arrows and crosses, (they now use initials). All these marks were in a type of register so that they could be traced easily.

Until 1950 the only machinery used was a frame saw. The workmen were given templates and told to get on with the job. By 1950 the number of masons was down to 20 as there was more money in the car factories. Plane machines were then used. Mullions for the Great West Door 7' 6" were done by planing machines but all arch stones had to be chisled over.

The original building should have been much larger, thus the reason that Scott appears to have been buried outside. The largest block of stone used in the cathedral weighed 5 tons.

Mr. Bricknall said that he was told by his father "Never start a job unless you can see it finished" and this has been his secret of success. Each type of stone needs different tools - these are sometimes handed down in families and the speaker had one such mallet which was 150 years old.

Building continued during the war. All windows in the Lady Chapel were shattered by bomb blasts in September 1940. Early in 1941 a high explosive bomb penetrated the roof of the south east transept of the main building but miraculously ricocheted off a traverse arch above the vaulting and fell into the street. The organ is one of the largest in the world. The cathedral is the largest begun in Europe since the Reformation and took 76 years to build.

### A Clayton Will of Local and Numismatic Interest

The Lancashire Record Office contains many thousand wills of people who lived and died in Lancashire from the middle of the sixteenth century onwards.

One recently examined proved to have an interest over and above its local history content. It was that of Christopher Tootell, Gentleman, baptised at Chorley on 21 June 1562 and who died at Clayton in 1623.

Christopher was a member of the well known Roman Catholic family of Tootells of Whittle-le-Woods and Healey, who were obviously quite well-to-do with an agricultural background and with interests in the millstone quarry at Whittle.

His only real connection with Clayton, which is the author's main pre-occupation so far as local history is concerned, is that he was resident there at the time of his death at the age of sixty one. There is no evidence that he had any children or even that he ever married and he appears to have gone to Clayton at some point to live with one of his married sisters.

The family with whom he latterly resided played an important part in local Roman Catholic history but that is another story.

It is hoped in the notes which follow to bring out some of the points of local historical interest from the will and also to relate it to the monetary system in use in this country at the time it was drawn up.

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The will was written the sixteenth day of April 1623 and after the customary devout preamble he desires his "boddye to comitt to Christian Buriall in the Church yearde att Chorley, to be layde neare to the place where my father and mother weare buried".

Concerning his "temperall goodds" he asks that a "tooe penny dole" be given "unto poore folke the day of my buriall".

He then bequeathes "unto the Right Worshipfull Richard Townley my master and to my mistress his wyfe eyther (i.e. each) Twenty tooe shillings in Gould to be Converted into Rings for a smole remembrance of my love towards them" (see note 1) "and to everie one of theire fyve Children a leaven shillings in Gould" (see note 2).

His brother William Tootell of Healley was indebted to him, and from this debt William was to pay twenty pounds to the children of Alice Farington their sister, (two pounds to her son William and six pounds each to her three daughters). Then five pounds to his sister-in-law, William Tootell's wife, five pounds to William's son Oliver and five pounds between the rest of William's children. He then forgave him the rest of his debt. He also bequeathed to William "a Spurr Ryall and my blacked cloake" (see note 3).

His brother Hugh Tootell of Healley also owed him money and from this he was to pay their sister Jane Walles ten pounds, five pounds to Hugh's wife and ten pounds between their children. He then forgave Hugh the rest of his debt. In addition he bequeathed him "my seacond Cloake with a paire of Bases (?) and a Spurr Ryall".

His brother-in-law Ralph Chrichlowe of Clayton was similarly in debt to him and was to pay twenty pounds to be divided between the children of Jane Walles (already mentioned) and twenty shillings to Alice Farington (ditto).

His sister Alice (Farington) owed him nine pounds "of lente money I forgive it hir".

He then reverts to Ralph Chrichlowe who is also to pay twenty pounds to Alice Chrichlowe his daughter and five pounds to Ralph his son and ten pounds each to Oliver and Richard (other sons?).

His cousin William Chrichlowe was forgiven of ten pounds similarly owing.

Minor bequests of twenty shillings went to Alice Hilton his cousin, ten shillings to Evan her husband, ten shillings each to their two children, ten shillings to his cousin John Abbott of Ollerton and to "my aunte Jane his mother ten shillings, five shillings to Richard Abbott my Cosyn hir sonne and ten shillings to James Chrichlowe brother to Ralph my brother-in-lawe".

Apart from his relatives he left "twentie shillings to the poore of Clayton and twentie shillings to poor prisoners in Lancaster (gaol)", five shillings each to the servants in his brother-in-law's house and to Cicely Chrichlowe five shillings.

Then "to Richard Ryley and Richard Bretherton too Free masons who undertooke to builde the house at Tonley (Townely?) by my meanes eyther (i.e. each) twentie fyve shillings a peece for I think their bargaine wilbee harde enowghe".

Each servant in the houses of his brothers William and Hugh and his sisters Jane and Alice was to receive "twelve pence a peece".

The rest and residue after the discharge of his expenses was to go "unto my Brother (in law) Raphe Chrichlawe and Katherine his wyfe my sister". He named as executors these two and Evan Hilton his cousin of the Marsh Lane in Brindle.

After the usual revoking of former wills he concludes "I have written this with myne owne hande and subscribed my name and sett to my Seale engraven with the letters that stande for my owne name the day and yeare first above written".

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All in all, a charmingly written will, composed by the testator himself and remarkable, especially considering its early date, for its clarity, the amount of genealogical information contained and the large number of individual monetary bequests contained in it. To anyone studying the seventeenth century families of yeoman status in Clayton and Whittle-le-Woods, the genealogical information is invaluable.

Although in April when Christopher wrote his will he declared himself to be "in good healthe of boddie and perfect mynde and memorie" he did not live very long after that. Although our early local parish registers are somewhat bare of detail, his burial entry is an exception for the period. The relevant Chorley Parish Church register for 12 August 1623 reads "Christopher Tootell of Whittle att Wood End", confirming the supposition that though of Whittle origin, at the time of his death he was living with his sister Katherine and her husband Ralph at Wood End.



The Wood End referred to is of course Lower Wood End farm on the South side of Back Lane in Clayton (not Higher Wood End on the North side which has now been converted into the Ley Inn). Lower Wood End is of much more historical significance and was the traditional home of the Crichlowes (Crichlawe or Crichley) a well-known family in Roman Catholic history.

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Apart from the general local interest of the will, and it is from such sources that local history is built up, its numismatic interest lies in the number and variety of sums of money mentioned in the bequests made by Christopher.

Almost the last twenty years of his life lay within the reign of King James I (1604-1625) who was of course also James VI of Scotland and this latter fact had an influence on the coinage of England. England has had a continuous coinage from about 100 BC and up to the present day there have been upwards of four thousand different types and face values of coins.

Numismatically coins in perfect condition, that is in "mint" state, are the most desirable but the author feels that historically even well-worn specimens are more representative of what the citizens of the period have used in their everyday transactions.

The coinage of James I has many interesting aspects as certain denominations issued in his reign were only current during that reign. It should be remembered that in 1623 the only coins available were made from either silver or gold and their purchasing power was represented by the amount of those metals in them, that is the face value was also the intrinsic value. One slight snag to this desirable idea was that the values of gold and silver relative to each other could change. This in fact happened in the period concerned and was corrected by either altering the nominal face value or altering the weight of pure metal in the coins.

Although the coinage remained as before, based on the gold pound and the silver shilling, during his reign many other denominations with exotic names were in use. The principal issues of his reign fell into three periods 1603-1604, 1604-1619 and 1619-1625 and one wonders how quickly the new denominations and altered face values filtered through to a remote area like Clayton.

This certainly seems reflected in Christopher's will which definitely refers to denominations from the last two periods mentioned above and an attempt will be made below to identify the actual types of coin which his executors would employ in carrying out the testator's wishes.

Note 1:- From the context it is obvious that single gold coins of value twenty two shillings each would be needed to make the rings for the Townleys. Only one coin meets the requirements, a Unite. This had been issued in 1604, to replace the older Sovereign (Pound) of Elizabeth's day. The name Unite symbolises the union of England and Scotland and the legend on the reverse reads FACIAM EOS IN GENTEM UNAM, a quotation from Ezekiel XXXVII.22. "I will make them one nation.... and one king shall be king to them all....". In 1612 to stop the exportation of British gold bullion to the Continent, the face value of the unite was increased from the equivalent of twenty shillings (one pound) to twenty two shillings and the author believes this was the reason for Christopher using the apparently odd figure of twenty two shillings in his bequest. The unite was a handsome coin, 37 mm in diameter and weighed 10 grams of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  carat gold. One wonders where the operation of making them into rings was carried out.

Note 2:- "a leaven (i.e. eleven) shillings in gould". Here again a single coin is probably intended, in this case it was a Double Crown. It will be recalled that pre-decimal crowns are equivalent to five shillings and thus a double crown was ten shillings or half a unite. In the same way that the unite was uprated by ten per cent in 1612, the double crown was uprated to eleven shillings, thus accounting for Christopher's bequest. The double crown was 29 mm in diameter and contained 5 grams of gold, half as much as a unite.

The use of these two coins by Christopher suggests that, not only were they legal tender, but represented denominations still in current use in Clayton at that time.

Note 3:- "A Spurr Ryall and my blacke cloake". This is a very interesting reference never previously seen by the author in a conemporary source. A Spur Ryal to give it its correct name was a coin introduced by James I and never used in any other reign. It was, however, used in very slightly different forms in both the second and third coinage periods of the reign. Based on the earlier evidence it has

been assumed that the period 1604-1619 was the relevant one. The Spur Ryal derives from the Rose Ryal, a corruption of Rose Royal, the rose appearing on the reverse of that coin, which was issued at thirty shillings value. The Spur Ryal, so called because the rays of the sun depicted on its reverse resembled the rowel of a spur, was issued at half the face value of the rose ryal, that is fifteen shillings. Once again with the ten percent uprating in 1612 it became sixteen shillings and six pence. It was 32 mm across and weighed 6.3 grams of gold.

With the remainder of the many bequests which are quoted in multiples of pounds, shillings or pence, it is impossible to be specific as to which coins would be used. It is probable that the pounds would be in gold, either unites or laurels. The sums of ten shillings and five shillings could be in gold or silver (half-laurels, quarter laurels, angels or crowns). The twelve pence to the servants would almost certainly be silver shillings, stamped XII to show their relation to the silver penny and the "twoe penny dole to poore folke at my buriall" would be the silver half-groats stamped II. It perhaps seems strange to us that gold and silver coins could be used interchangeably because the amount of precious metal in each was exactly equivalent to their purchasing power.

Accompanying the will, but indexed under the year 1624 in the records for some unknown reason is an inventory of his goods and chattels taken on 1 September 21 James (1623) by James Merton (Martin), Edward Croke, Richard Shorroock and William Adlington. Recent research has shown that these were four near neighbours of the Crichlowes and indeed it is known where they all lived in Clayton. To supplement the will, the inventory is reproduced below as it was quite short.

Money	£14-0-0
Horse, saddle + bridle	£ 4-5-0
3 Cows	£ 5-10-0
3 Calves	£ 4-0-0
Bedding	£ 2-0-0
Chests	£ 1-18-0
Linen cloths + other linen	£ 3-6-8
2 Trunks, 1 pair of tables	£ 0-11-0
Books	£ 3-6-8
'Dyolls' (dials, i.e. clocks)	£ 1-0-0
Axes, wymbles, chisels and other work looms	£ 3-6-8
Instruments for measuring of lands	£ 0-10-0

Debts by bills and bonds	£110-0-0
His apparell	£ 14-0-0
Summa totalis	£167-14-0

Comparisons with modern monetary values are difficult because of changed values and priorities but it may be taken that his estate would be equivalent to the better part of £20,000 today.

Specimens of the various coins mentioned in the will can still be purchased and reference to a current catalogue shows that one would need almost the £20,000 to possess these today, an indication of how collectable items have kept pace with inflation. As an instance a Spur Ryall of James I would today realise over £4,000 for the one coin.

Although Christopher Tootell had written the will "with myne owne hand" the copy available is in fact the probate copy and was therefore written by some unknown but contemporary person but who no doubt faithfully followed the distinctive style and spelling of the original. One would like to have seen the signature as he was obviously an educated person and the "seale engraven with the letters that stand for my owne name".

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In conclusion I would like to thank Mr. W. Waring for calling my attention to this particular will and the Lancashire Record Office for permission to publish extracts from it.

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Reference

1. Will and inventory of Christopher Tootell of Clayton, Gentleman, 1623 and 1624, Wills at Chester, WCW, Lancashire Record Office.

G.L. Bolton

### The Bells of Leyland Parish Church

The first reference to bells in the Church at Leyland is found in one of the Worden deeds dated 1524, in which directions are given for the ringing of all the bells at the said Church.

In the year 1552, in the inventory of Church goods, mention is made of "Faure greetē bells", also one lytle bell called a Sacherynge bell.

This was in connection with a service to be held in Leyland Church once each year between Easter and Pentecost.

Nothing more seems to be recorded concerning the bells until the year 1722, when three of the four bells, then in the tower, were re-cast by the firm of Abram Rudhall of Gloucester. These bells had a fleur-de-lis pattern round the lips of the bells, also the Abram Rudhall trade mark which was a bell between the letters A.R.

In 1895 the Rev. W. Stewart-White (then Curate at Leyland) made an examination of the bells, the following is his account of that examination.

Dated January 1896

Almost the whole space of the bell chamber is occupied by a massive oak cradle, or framework, upon which the six bells are fixed. Upon the Southern side the names of a former vicar and his Churchwardens are cut deeply into the horizontal beam of the cradle. These presumably indicate the period on which some important re-hanging of the existing bells took place.

THOMAS ARMSTRIDING	JAMES BRISCOE	JOHN CROSTON	) Church- wardens
VICAR	JOHN HODSON	OLIVER MARTIN	

Were in office only in the year 1707, so that we may be sure of the date Vicar Armstriding lived until 1719, so that the credit of re-casting which took place shortly after his death, must in all probability be ascribed to him. Three of the \*six bells (and probably all of them) were re-cast in 1722 by Abram Rudhall of Gloucester.

\*The Rev. Stewart White was in error when he stated that six bells were in the tower in 1722, as only four bells were in the tower at that time.

The older bells have an ornamental border of fleur-de-lis pattern running around the lower part, and the well known trade-mark of a bell between the capital letters A and R is found in the midst of it.

In one of the Worden deeds (dated April 9th 1524) directions are given for the "ringing of all ye bells at ye saide Church", thus implying the existence of several bells at that date.

In the "Inventory of church goods" taken in 1552, mention is made of "Faure Greet Bells".

On the opening page of the earliest extant parish register, there is an entry of an agreement made between the then Vicar and Churchwardens as to fees payable "For ringing on Sundaies and at other times". The date of this agreement is November 4th 1664, and it is signed by six ringers.

Certain regulations were made in vestry meeting (March 28th 1749) respecting the time for the ringing of the sixth bell on each evening of the week, this was stated to be 9 o'clock, from March 25th to September 29th and 8 o'clock for the rest of the year. The vestry minutes indicate that the use was established, but that a new arrangement was made for the payment of the ringer, whose duties are thus accurately defined. The extreme tenacity of the inhabitants in keeping to old customs, and the present immemorial practice of ringing the morning bell at 5.55 a.m. and the evening bell at 8 p.m. (or 9 p.m.) makes it not altogether unlikely that the ancient anelus of the pre-reformation era has been kept up.

The inscription on the four bells until 1835 were as follows:-

2nd Bell "LET GOD BE FEARED" 1722 CHR.SUDELL (VICAR)  
3rd Bell "THE CHURCH PROSPER" A O R" 1722  
5th Bell "QUATUOR NOS. ANTE FUIMUS" 1722  
7th Bell "MAGIS QUITIDIE DILECTABIMUS"

In 1835 two more bells were added by John Stevenson, Canal Foundry, Preston. These were numbered four and six at that time. The order in which the bells are numbered has since been changed.

These six bells continued until 1897 when the fourth bell was found to be badly cracked, this was removed and re-cast by John Taylor of Loughborough. Also at this time two new bells were added by the same firm.

The tenor was presented by John Stanning Esq., of Broadfield, Leyland, and the treble by Miss Margaret Kellett of Victoria Terrace, Leyland. The tenor at this time weighed 21 cwts and the treble 6 cwts. The tenor bell was inscribed with the following words:-

MORNING EVENING NOON AND NIGHT PRAISE GOD  
The gift of John Stanning 1897  
"FAITH"

#### The Treble

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED  
The gift of Margaret Kellett 1897  
"UNITY"

These bells were dedicated on Thursday June 17th 1897.

Thursday June 17th 1897 proved to be a very wet night, yet in spite of this more than 300 people were present, and joined heartily in the service, which was held under the tower at which the treble and tenor, and in its absence the 5th (the curfew bell) were solemnly dedicated. The formal ceremony of opening the new Jubilee bells, generously given by Mr. Stanning and Miss Kellett, took place on Saturday afternoon July 10th.

In addition to our own ringers, there were representatives from the Parish Churches of Preston, Blackburn, Chorley, Penwortham, Blackrod, and St. James's, Leyland, altogether about forty. The Leyland Parish ringers were the first to ascend the belfry, and they rang a few rounds. The Preston ringers were the next to ascend the ancient tower, and they rang a date touch of 1897 in one hour and ten minutes. The ringers were stationed as follows:-

1st	J. Crossley	2nd	T. Strickland
3rd	R. Saunderson	4th	J. Bateman
5th	W. Norris	6th	W. Heald
7th	R. Fisher	8th	W. Strickland

May 1928

The next major work on the bells took place in 1929, following a report of the church council meeting for the year ending Easter 1928. We refer to the subject of our church tower and bells. Expert advice has been obtained and it is found that the ancient beams supporting the bell frame are in a serious state of decay. The frame itself is divided into two sections, the bells being hung in a position most injurious to the tower, and unless the matter be attended to in the immediate future the tower itself may be damaged to the extent of some thousands of pounds. To remedy this evil a sum of £750 is required towards which £60 is already in hand, leaving a total of £690 to be still collected. That this may be done in the nearest future possible, we earnestly hope, and so many of us, as you may desire to have represent you on the council for the ensuing year, we shall do our utmost to bring about.

September 1928

It was resolved by our church council that an appeal be made at once to our whole congregation to guarantee the sum of £500 now required, in shares of 5s., 10s., and £1, payable within the next twelve months. Also that a faculty be immediately applied for, and the work commenced directly the faculty is obtained, if the congregation in the meantime has guaranteed to subscribe the £500 required.

Our church council unanimously resolved to seize the opportunity of a life time, and whilst the work was being undertaken and the new frame made, we should insert an ellacombe apparatus whereby hymn tunes can be played, and during the holiday season the whole peal can be chimed by one ringer single handed.

In January 1929 the eight bells were removed from the tower and sent to the foundry of Gillett and Johnston at Croydon, to be recast and two new trebles added.

A generous donation to the bell fund was received from the oldest surviving godson of the late Queen Victoria, the Hon. and Rev. E.V.R. Powys, M.A. who, at that time, had just attained his 90th birthday.



1929 The following inscription is also added to the Tenor Bell:-

"This peal of bells were recast and rehung with two trebles added in 1929 at the expense of the congregation, by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon.

G.H. Ensor M.A. Vicar  
W. Dawber )  
R. Stopford) Churchwardens"

The eight re-cast and the two new bells were dedicated by Bishop Hubert of Blackburn on Saturday May 11th 1929. When the church was crowded, many people were unable to find even standing room. After the dedication prayer by the Bishop as he stood on the chancel step, one of the bandsmen blew a call on his cornet and someone in the tower was heard to say "Treble going" and the music of the new Leyland bells was heard for the first time ringing out over the old village. These same bells are still in good condition fifty years on, and are frequently rung by visiting teams from a wide area, as the bells of Leyland are considered to be amongst the finest in the County.

July 1929 - Cost of Work

Erecting new iron frame with all subsidiary girders, thereby adding enormous strength to the tower. Recasting all old bells, adding two new bells, adding £40 worth of new bell metal to the old eight bells. Fitting a new Ellacombe apparatus of latest pattern to the ten bells, supplying a clapper control, the latest invention to the tenor bell, inserting 373 letters of old and new inscriptions to the bells at 6d a letter, erecting a new floor of wood of 2 inch tongued and grooved boards, re-wiring the clock, estimate to include all cartage, carriage and masonry.

Total Cost £1,101. 6s. 6d.

B. Morris

THE PEAL TILL 1929

	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
No. 1 Treble	6	0	8
No. 2 "	6	0	2
No. 3 "	6	2	4
No. 4 "	7	0	21
No. 5 "	8	3	20
No. 6 "	9	1	26
No. 7 "	13	1	26
No. 8 Tenor	22	0	22

THE PEAL FROM 1929

	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	NAME
No. 1	5	0	0	PRAYER
No. 2	5	1	0	OBEDIENCE
No. 3	5	2	14	UNITY
No. 4	5	3	0	HOPE
No. 5	6	1	14	TRUTH
No. 6	8	0	7	LOYALTY
No. 7	10	2	7	LOVE
No. 8	12	0	14	PEACE
No. 9	16	2	0	JOY
No. 10 Tenor	22	3	0	FAITH

### LIFE IN ROMAN TIMES

The speaker at the first meeting of the season in September was Mrs. J. Beedon B.A., A.L.C.M., whose subject was "Life in Roman Times". After informing us that she was not going to discuss Roman emperors or the Roman army she showed us some excellent colour slides of various subjects found in Roman Britain which illustrated the social domestic and religious life of the ordinary people of the first four centuries after the Roman invasion.

After making the valid point that there were perhaps more traces of Roman civilisation in the North of England than previously thought, she encouraged us to seek these traces in our own locality.

For this meeting the Society's recently purchased amplifier was in use for the first time and whilst a little adverse comment was received, the general opinion especially from the rear of the hall, was that it would prove a most useful acquisition.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. G.L. Bolton.

G.L. Bolton