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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

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EDITORIAL

With this issue (No 33) the Society has pleasure in presenting another "Laird Chronicle" and hopes that the scope of the articles included will ensure that most members find something to interest them.

Besides providing immediate interest we believe that it is important that these matters are recorded for the future, in a period of rapid change when so much is being lost beyond recovery. Our journal, though of a modest circulation, is now recognised as a forum for the recording of topics of local historical interest.

In this issue particularly several of the contributions are concerned with exploration of "history on the ground". Maurice Beresford quotes R H Tawney as saying " History needs not more books but more boots" and we hope to continue this theme in the future, perhaps exploring a smaller area in greater detail, hopefully recording the results in future Chronicles.

Our thanks are due to the staffs of the Lancashire Record Office, Leyland, Chorley and Preston Libraries for producing the sources used in these articles. We are very fortunate in having these excellent facilities at our disposal.

G I BOLTON

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.

HOUGH LANE IN LEYLAND

- The Origin of the Name and its Later History -

Street names and their origin is a fascinating study for the local historian. Names such as Church Road and School Lane are self explanatory in derivation, but the meanings of others are less obvious and, indeed, can be quite obscure. Hough Lane in Leyland can be said to fit into the latter category as its origin goes back some four hundred years.

Houghs tenement stood where 'The Gables' now stands. The Hough family were tenants of the Earl of Derby in the early 16th century paying, in 1542, 22^½d chief rent to the Lord of the Manor (REF.1). William Farington of Worden (1537-1610) bought the tenement from the Earl of Derby in 1563 (2,DDF 1614, DDF 985) and the rentals of the Farington family enable one to trace the property through from that time (DDF 52-81).

John Hough is noted in a lease of 1535 (DDF 2118), and, presumably, he had a son Thomas, as the 'widow of Thomas Hough' appears from 1563 to 1586. John Hough is the tenant in 1593 and the last member of the family noted is Richard Hough in 1609. By 1623 John Jackson is the occupant and in 1637 Thomas Leyland.

Rentals of Leyland in this period are far from complete but are sufficient to show that the Hough family were the occupiers of the tenement through the greater part of the 16th century and into the 17th and that it is their name that is perpetuated to this day.

Later History of Houghs Tenement

The Leyland family of Clayton held the tenancy for some hundred years and have also given a name to the locality.

Thomas Leyland has already been noted in 1637; Ralph Leyland was responsible for road maintenance in 1656 (DDF 2075) - for, it seems, what is now School Lane and Towngate - and a lease to probably another Ralph is dated 1678/9): this lease describes the holding exactly naming the fields held and their strip in the town field, the whole containing 8^½ customary acres. The last member of the family to hold the lease was Thurstan Leyland and his occupancy ended with his death in January 1721. It was this member of the family that gave his name, in later years, to both the house and a street. In the 19th century Census Returns (i) Hough House is referred to as Thurston's Farm, and Thurston Road, off Hough Lane, is believed to come from the same source (note the modern spelling THURSTON compared to the original - THURSTAN).

In 1731 Roger Mawdesley took over the tenancy (DDF 81) and in Quarter Sessions Records of 1753 (3) we find him described as 'Innkeeper'. In his will of 1765 (4) he left the bulk of his estate to his daughter Ann, wife of Richard Nickson : Richard appears to have taken over the tenancy shortly afterwards and a Leyland Court book of 1776 (5) confirms this and describes him as 'Mr Richard Nickson, Surgeon.

By 1819 (6) the property had passed out of the Farington family hands and was owned by Mr Edward Boardman, believed to be a member of the local mill-owning family, who still owned the property at the time of the Tithe Award of 1838 (7) when the occupier was John Swann. The Census Returns of 1851 and 1861 show William Swann as occupier; 1871 Jane Swann, widow; and 1881 John B Singleton.

Just as the 18th century had seen Hough House an Inn and then the home of a doctor, so in the 20th century we find 'The Gables' as the house had become, first the home of a Dr. Johnson, and then, as it is now, a public house.

Dr Walter Johnson, a Ulnes Walton man, became a doctor in Leyland in the early years of this century and apparently bought the property c.1912 pulling down the old farm and building an imposing red-brick house on the site which he called 'The Gables' : his brother Sydney Johnson was the architect.

Dr Johnson practised in Leyland for some fifty years and on his death the house was bought by the brewery Greenall Whitley and converted into a public house retaining its name - 'The Gables'.

History of the Lane itself

Early road maintenance records of the 17th century in the Farington papers make no reference to Hough Lane though many references occur to Hough House itself. The first mention of what was to become Hough Lane occurs in Leyland Court Orders of 1685 (DDF 162) : 'wheras Ralph Leyland of Clayton hath for many years had a sufficient cartway to his tenement in Leyland called Hough House by Roger Hollinhursts cottage, Roger, having encroached on the way is ordered to make the way sufficient.....' The first mention of the lane by name is in a deed (DDF 2061) headed 'an account of what acres belongs to ye repaireing of ffox Lane, Whittaker Iaine, Hugh Laine (Hough is often spelt this way in early deeds), and Park Iaine (Note 1). This deed is undated but can be shown to be between 1723 and 1727. The list contains twenty-one names with Mr Sudell, Vicar of Leyland, having the largest holding - 27 acres - and Thurston Leyland at Hough House at this time, having eight. Presumably the people concerned paid

in proportion to the acreage of land that they held adjacent to the lanes in question.

Going back to a slightly earlier period - that of the Hearth Tax, 1663-1688 - the itinerary that the compiler of these lists (ii) took seems to show that there were no dwellings on Hough Lane itself, indeed, by the time of the Tithe Award of 1838 the only houses were Hough House at the western end of the lane, and nine cottages at the eastern end which were still standing at the time of World War Two but were demolished shortly afterwards. These cottages seemed to date from the very early 19th century and evidence from the Census Returns of 1841 suggests that they were hand-loom weavers cottages.

The Census Return of 1871 shows that no domestic building had yet occurred but a commercial development had taken place that had a great impact on Leyland; this was the building of the Leyland Gas Works on the Chapel Brow/Hough Lane corner some time after 1863 (the exact date has not yet been established). The Leyland and Farington Gas Company registered in 1856 under the 'Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856' and was empowered by an Act of Parliament dated the 4th May 1863 (Bib.1). Even though the Gas Works only just intruded on Hough Lane in a physical sense, its presence through to the end of gas production in September 1956 was hard to ignore. A Fishwicks bus conductor during World War two always referred to the Gas Works bus stop as 'Leyland Perfumery'. The retort house was demolished in May/June 1964 (iii) to make way for a new road and roundabout which now forms the eastern end of Hough Lane.

By the Census of 1881 the developers had moved in and both Newsome Street and Herbert Street had been built and some thirty-three houses now stood on Hough Lane itself. The houses on the north side of the lane started - from the western end - with Spring Bank and Lily Bank; by an odd coincidence they are now Barclays Bank and the Midland Bank respectively! These houses were built by David Grant, who lived at Lily Bank and was the architect for the Congregational Church which stands on the opposite corner of Quinn Street (Bib.2). The ten houses that stood between Quinn Street and Herbert Street were of a good quality and were occupied by professional people. The occupants of these houses included John B Smith, Manager of India Rubber Works; Francis W Hurst, Estate Agent and Surveyor; and Edward Quinn, India Rubber Substitute Manufacturer. Obviously by 1881 Hough Lane was developing as a desirable residential area of Leyland but the picture was soon to change; in 1888 Mr James Iddon, a pioneer of the rubber industry, after two years in the U.S.A. and three years as Chief Engineer to the Leyland Rubber Company, founded the firm of Iddon Brothers in Leyland. The firm, still on its original site in Quin Street, is known world-wide as manufacturers of specialist machinery to the rubber and plastics industry.

In 1896 the Lancashire Steam Motor Company moved from its old site on Water Street to its new works on Herbert Street; this, of course, was the beginnings of Leyland Motors. In November 1902 the company bought 3 acres of land on Hough Lane from the Vicar of Leyland - this was just the start of what eventually became the North and South Works of Leyland Motors which was to dominate Hough Lane for the next seventy to eighty years (Bib.3).

It is hard to over emphasise the influence of Leyland Motors on Leyland in general and Hough Lane in particular. The daily influx of an increasing number of workers, many coming into Leyland by train, was soon exploited commercially by dwelling houses being converted into shops a process that started well before World War One and has continued ever since. In fact, there are now only two private dwellings on the whole of Hough Lane but the streets off (Note 2) still retain their residential origins.

Others landmarks in the commercial development of the area were the building of the New General Post Office on its present site in 1929, and Moulds Printers moving from their Towngate premises to a site next to the G.P.O. in the early 1930's. The last site to be built on - between what had been Moulds Printers and Bolans shop - had for many years been hidden by advertising hoardings; in the early 1960's these were replaced by five modern shop units and Leylands first supermarket - Victor Value ; the development of Hough Lane was complete.

Postscript

Within twenty years, however, the picture had changed yet again. In the changing economic climate of the late 1970's and early 80's British Leyland, as the 'Motors' had become, closed the North and South Works retaining only the canteen on Thurston Road as the offices of Leyland Bus. With BTR Industries (Note 3) also vacating their old site between Golden Hill Lane and Hough Lane this released a large amount of land for redevelopment the first of which was a block of luxury flats for the elderly - Greenwood Court - built between Newsome Street and Herbert Street. The Court, named after Councillor Norman Greenwood, was officially opened by him on Monday the 18th May 1981.

The development of the rest of the sites north and south of Hough Lane is still, largely, in the planning stage. A new road running parallel to Hough Lane on its south side from Turpin Green to Towngate is already built in part and, when completed, a section of Hough Lane may be pedestrianised ; the rest of the old South Works site will be largely residential.

In November 1986 the Commission for New Towns announced plans for the former North Works site : a residential development of eighty eight houses, an office block (the old 'Motors' offices on Northcote Street, to be refurbished), a doctors surgery on Balfour Street, a pharmacy, and a restaurant or bistro. The residential development, however, will have no

access from Hough Lane but will be by a new road off School Lane by the old Motors Garage.

When these plans come to fruition the future of Hough Lane as a thriving shopping and business area seems assured. It now boasts a mixture of Shops, Building Societies, Estate Agents, Banks, Solicitors, Post office, Dentists, Betting Shop, Public house, and Church - all a far cry from some three hundred years ago when it was just Ralph Leylands 'Sufficient Cartway to his tenement in Leyland'!

W E WARING

- Note 1 - Fox Lane and Hough Lane are still so called. 'Whittaker Laine' on this deed includes what is now School Lane, Towngate and Worden Lane. 'Park Laine' has not, as yet, been identified but there is a possibility that it is what is now called Yewlands Drive.
- Note 2 - The streets off Hough Lane are, first, on the north side from the junction with School Lane and Towngate - Balfour Street, Northcote Street (the entrance to the old Leyland Motors H/Q), Quin Street, Newsome Street, Herbert Street and Ruskin Avenue. The street that joined Newsome Street and Herbert Street, John Street, had no houses on it and the name seems to be no longer used. Secondly, on the south side from the same junction - Sumner Street, Thurston Road, Meadow Street, Alice Avenue and Dorothy Avenue.
- Note 3 - The name BTR Industries, came about in 1957 when the old B.T.R (British Tyre and Rubber Company) ceased production of tyres and felt that the old name was inappropriate : they moved to their new factory on Centurion Way, Farington, in the same year.

REFERENCES

1. DD/102/69 Huddleston Papers at Lancashire Record Office (I.R.O) Bow Lane, Preston.
2. DDF Various. All DDF references are from the Farington of Worden muniments in I.R.O.
3. QSB/3/50 Quarter Sessions Alehouse Recognizances, I.R.O.
4. WCA Wills at Chester, I.R.O.
5. DDH 508 Houghton, Craden & Co, Solicitors, Preston, Collection at I.R.O.

6. PR2797 Survey and Valuation of Leyland in 1819, L.R.O.
7. DRB 1/125 Tithe Award and Plan of Leyland, L.R.O.
Or, more conveniently, see Ref iv. below.

- i Census Returns 1841-1881 on Microfilm at Leyland Library
- ii MF 27, 28 and 29. Hearth Tax returns on Microfilm at L.R.O.
- iii A3400 S01 Leyland Guardian article October 1969. In Cuttings File A. at Leyland Library.
- iv Tithe Award of 1838. Reduced size plan and Rent Charge Book at Leyland Library.

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- 1 Acts of Parliament Vol 1, 1863 - pp53-63. At L.R.O.
2. 'Memories of Old Leyland', B Morris, 1979, Leyland Library
3. 'The First Fifty Years', Pub. Leyland Motors Limited, 1948 at Leyland Library.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the staffs of the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, and the Leyland Library for their courtesy and kind assistance. Also to Mr and Mrs Newton Iddon for their reminiscences of Hough Lane, and Mr D S Heane of Iddon Brothers Limited for historical details.

PENWORTHAM WORKHOUSE 1796-1868

When in August of last year the Historical Society was helping to mount a map-exhibition at the Museum here in Leyland, it was suggested that some photographs might provide a fitting accompaniment to a large map we had prepared that illustrated land held south of the Ribble in the 18th century by the Ffarington family. It was for this reason that I found myself in lower Penwortham one rather showery afternoon, looking for old property to photograph. Middleforth Green was not an area I knew well but Manor Cottages on Greenbank Road looked suitably 18th century. I therefore called at one of them and, in the course of conversation, the owner mentioned that the cottages had originally been a Workhouse and drew my attention to a large flagstone that had recently been discovered beneath the plaster of an inside wall belonging to the end cottage. The inscription on the stone read as follows:

"This workhouse was erected at the expense and for the use of the Township of Penwortham by permission of William Ffarington Esq (1) Lord of the Manor, in the year 1796".

Now such unexpected "finds" can be heady stuff to someone interested in local history, as readers of the Chronicle will understand, and there was no way the matter could be allowed to rest there. What now follows therefore is as much as I have since been able to discover about the history of Penwortham Workhouse from 1796 until it closed in 1868.

A word first of all however, about that Ffarington connection. We Leylanders have come to associate the Ffaringtons so closely with the history of our own township that it comes as a surprise to see the family described as "Lords of the Manor or Penwortham". Nevertheless, it is true that they held almost the whole of Penwortham throughout the 18th century, though their dominance in the area waned rapidly after that. Whether they took any further interest in the Workhouse, either practicable or charitable, following their original land grant is not known. There is no reference to the Workhouse in the Ffarington papers and only a passing allusion to the family in the Minutes of the Preston Guardians. This occurs in 1840 when there was a possibility of the property being sold in which case James Nowell Ffarington's signature would have been required on the Conveyance.

With so little documentary evidence, one can only assume that the Penwortham Workhouse, once built, was run on the lines of the majority of northern workhouses under the Old Poor Law system. The latter had changed very little from the time of Elizabeth I in that each Parish was responsible for its poor. Householders were expected to pay poor-rates each according to his social standing and/or affluence, so they varied from several pounds to a few pence. Originally only the aged and infirm were taken into the poorhouse. Although the system was not altogether efficient and was run by an administration that was neither paid nor professional, it had a certain adaptability and humanity being based on close relationships

within the Township. Gradually however as pressure on the system grew, the workhouses became general mixed institutions containing all types of the destitute - the criminal and lunatic as well as the sick and aged with consequent horrors arising from such a situation. We do not know how well or how badly Penwortham Workhouse was run at this time but it is quite possible that, like many workhouses, it was used to lodge a number of young children, aged seven and upwards, who worked at Penwortham Factory. (2) nearby. John Watson, the first owner of the Mill, obtained children from the Foundling Hospital in London, when he was unable to recruit sufficient labour locally, and records state they were "housed in a building at Penwortham". Watson was a hard employer and the children often worked twelve hours at a stretch, day and night. They were said to be in wretched physical condition with crooked legs caused by the practice of operating the machines with their knees. They were known locally at 'Wat Apprentices' and wore brown coats with yellow collars and cuffs, a distinctive uniform which made it easy to recover those who tried to abscond.

Workhouse resources were sufficiently strained for Penwortham to be enlarged in 1824. Then, ten years later, everything changed. By means of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the reforming Whig government took the responsibility for the welfare of the poor away from the parish for ever. The Poor Law was now to be administered by local boards of annually elected Guardians, supervised by three Poor Law Commissioners in London, to administer Unions of parishes. The Preston Union, it should be explained, was made up of five districts and included the townships of Farington, Little Hoole, Much Hoole, Howick, Hutton, Longton and Penwortham. Reaction to the New Poor Law varied considerably; the pro-Poor Law group, sensing a possible reduction in the Rates, welcomed it whereas the progressive party, headed by Joseph Livesey, the temperance reformer, condemned the new system. Amidst all the resulting hullabaloo only those who would be most affected, namely the poor, remained silent.

The Board of Guardians of the Preston Union met for the first time in April 1838. In the Longton area, they proceeded, almost immediately to close down the Workhouse at Hutton and that in the village of Longton. Penwortham was also closed for a short time, between 1839 and 1841, and its inmates removed to Preston. Like the majority of workhouses in the Preston Union, Penwortham was a mixed institution at that time. This did not meet with the approval of the three London-based Commissioners who believed that each Union should have a large single workhouse with separate departments for each type of pauper. As a first step towards this goal, they insisted that the existing Workhouse should be classified according to age and sex. Consequently when the Guardians asked permission to reopen Penwortham, because of overcrowding elsewhere, they were requested and then commanded to use it only for the aged and infirm. Women and children, the sick and able-bodied men were to be housed separately in other institutions within the Union.

On May 31st 1842, the Guardians appointed Joseph Townshend and his wife as Master and Matron of the Penwortham Workhouse. Townshend was already Assistant Overseer of the Longton district, a position of great responsibility as it meant he collected the poor-rate paid by each township within the district when it became due and made sure it went into the Union funds. He was allowed to retain this office following his new appointment and his salary was fixed at £60 per annum. Townshend proved to be an unfortunate choice as Master. It was not just that he ran his Workhouse in a somewhat slipshod manner but he seems to have had a drink problem. In June 1845 he was severely reprimanded by the Guardians because he had been observed "passing through Preston market-place in a state of intoxication" at a time when he should have been appearing before the Board. Then six months later, Townshend absconded altogether having embezzled £60 out of the Farington poor-rates and £50 from Longton. At first it was thought he would head for Liverpool en route for America, but within a few days a letter came for Mrs Townshend from her husband in London. Immediately, Inspector Rigby of the County Constabulary, travelled to the Capital by train, (4) apprehended Townshend and brought him back to Preston, where he was sent to the House of Correction. At his trial it was stated that parishioners got Townshend drunk at a local inn, waylaid him on the way home and robbed him. He then tried to make good the deficit out of Union funds. He was heavily fined and sentenced to six months hard labour.

Life in the Penwortham Workhouse was very grim in the early 1840's but it only mirrored the attitude of the wealthy towards the poor which was strangely harsh and unbending. Thomas Batty Addison, who was the Recorder of Preston and perhaps the most influential of the Preston Guardians, echoed generally-held opinion when he said that "many paupers were the slaves of debased habits, clothed with rags - whose filthy habits drove them to beer and gin shops and the pernicious habit of tobacco". The Workhouse was offered to all who were destitute but, because poverty was regarded as a crime, it was made as unpleasant and prison-like as possible. Husbands and wives were separated and children removed from the "corrupting influence" of their parents. The regime fell with particular severity on the very young and, as at Penwortham, on the very old. Hence the workhouse was frequently overcrowded, the sanitation inadequate and the diet sparse. In May 1847, for instance, the Guardians gladly accepted the suggestion that a saving of up to one third could be made if a percentage of wheaten flour was replaced by hominy (course ground maize kernels) in bread production for the workhouse. It can also be said that medical facilities were insufficient even primitive so that able-bodied paupers had to help care for their sick companions. This is why we read that a Penwortham, old Lawrence Dewhurst, aged 75, remained constantly on duty in the sick ward and never went outside.

There were occasional gleams of sunshine however, amidst all the gloom such as "The Buttermilk Trip for the Poor",

reported in the Preston Guardian on Monday August 4th 1845. On this occasion the old people from Fenwortham were amongst other aged and infirm who enjoyed a charity trip to Fleetwood by train and we are told that "a clear sky and warm sun favoured the sons and daughters of poverty". The Temperance Band kept everyone entertained and one coach carried hampers of buns and churns of buttermilk as it was feared the elderly might otherwise be tempted to look for stronger refreshment! The chief enjoyments of the day were bathing and sailing (round the lighthouse cost 2d) and promenading round the resort that Sir Hesketh Fleetwood had "raised out of a rabbit-warren". Treats such as this, though they were very few and far between, must have provided talking points for weeks afterwards.

Following the dismissal of Joseph Townshend, a Mr and Mrs Staning were appointed as Master and Matron of the Workhouse. Within a few months, an article appeared in the Preston Guardian complaining that, since the new governor had been appointed, a system of extraordinary restraint had been imposed. The article claimed that 80 or so old people of both sexes, including some who were sick and several described as "idiots", were forced to sit during the day in two or three small rooms, which became foetid from overcrowding. They were not allowed to walk abroad in fine weather and their only exercise was within the confines of a small back yard.

The Guardians were not slow to reply. They explained that Mr Staning was acting under their orders because there had been too much indiscipline when Mr Townshend was governor. Inmates had become accustomed to staying out all day and only returning (sometimes intoxicated) in the evening. The gates had been left open and friends of the paupers had come in and been caught filling their pockets with bread (with permission from Kitty the Cook). Worst of all, the old paupers had been taking work as weavers and not bringing back their earnings. The situation was investigated by one of the Poor Law Commissioners and Mr Staning and the Guardians largely exonerated but the matter continued to rumble on for some months in the press (5).

Eventually the old people residing at Fenwortham were moved elsewhere and, after a short spell when it was used for convalescent cases, the Workhouse was adapted to become a home for young girls. Initially some parents complained at being separated from their children. The Guardians had stipulated that none would be removed under five or six years old, but it is obvious from the Census Returns that some were indeed taken at an earlier age. The Returns make sad reading. There were 55 girls at Fenwortham in 1851, the eldest being sixteen, the majority under ten. Whole families are included like the four little Slater girls, Alice, Elizabeth, Mary-Anne and Martha aged 8, 6, 5 and 3 respectively and, as so often, their place of birth is unknown. By this time Mr Staning had died but the elderly Mrs Staning stayed on in sole command until her place was eventually taken by her assistant, Ann Kirkby. Two schoolmasters came and went. They concentrated on teaching the girls the "three Rs" but met with mixed results. Poor Law Inspectors examined both pupils and teachers but their

reports were usually gloomy. They complained that the children were "very poor at reading and arithmetic" and although they were orderly, they tended to be "dull and inanimate". They "seemed unable to think for themselves".

The main problem was that few of the children stayed in school long enough for it to be of any benefit to them because, as soon as possible, they were found employment. Elizabeth Kirkham, aged 13, for instance was sent to a farm at Goosnargh as a servant. There is no mention of her being paid but the farmer agrees to provide her with meat, clothing and lodging in exchange for her services. Six months later, she is transferred, quite summarily, to the household of another farmer at Whittingham. Anne Battersby whose mother was dead and her father an inmate of Ribchester Asylum was sent, aged 12, to a farmer in Hoghton.

Workhouse conditions were improving however. The hated Commissioners had long since been replaced by a Poor Law Board and over the years the regime at Fenwortham had become both more humane and more efficient. In 1851 Mrs Staning had managed, with the aid of an assistant, the schoolmistress, and a few male paupers to do the heavy work. In 1861 however the Matron and Mrs Innerdale, (the schoolmistress) had a staff of twelve including porter, gardener, cook, needle-woman, kitchmaid, general servant, 2 laundresses, 2 chamber-maids and a nurse. Mrs Innerdale's was a particularly fortunate appointment. She was the widow of a School Master Sergeant of the 17th Regiment, had two young children and came to the Workhouse in 1855 on a salary of £30 per annum, board and lodging free. She was to remain there until the Workhouse closed some fifteen years later and, in the final years, acted as both schoolmistress and matron. In Mrs Innerdale's hands the childrens' educational standard at long last received the commendation of the Poor Law Inspectorate. She and Ann Kirkby made a good team. Mr Corless the Medical Officer, praised their conduct of the workhouse and the prompt way they dealt with the frequent cases of scald-head and scrofulus (6) sent from Preston, thus preventing the spread of disease amongst the children. They also earned the commendation of Mr Rawstone, the Vicar of St Mary's, who gave the girls religious instruction. Stung by some unfair criticism of Fenwortham in the Press, he promptly wrote to the *Guardian* to bear witness that the children were brought up "in a sensible and homely way, received kind treatment and always appeared cheerful and happy". As Mr Rawstone was a particularly liberal minded man (who had the temerity on an earlier occasion to suggest that all engaged in administering the Poor Law should be made to read *Oliver Twist*) (7) one feels he was undoubtedly telling the truth. Incidentally, in his Fenwortham Parish Magazine, there is an interesting account of a fire at Middleforth Green when three thatched cottages near the Workhouse were badly damaged and an elderly man seriously burned. It happened in the middle of the day when most of the men-folk were away at work but the little girls from the Workhouse helped to carry water to quench the flames and won praise for their efforts.

All this time there had been mounting pressure from London for the replacement of so many separate establishments by one central workhouse. For years the majority of the Preston Guardians were fiercely opposed to such a notion but eventually they were persuaded it made economic sense. Work began in 1865 on a site in Sharoe Green Lane. The New Union Workhouse was officially opened in 1868 and all the rest, excepting Ribchester Asylum, were closed. Penwortham finished in July 1869. The Workhouse was sold in February 1870 for £1,225 to Frederick Ernschaw Marshall who lived at Penwortham Hall and whose father had been a conscientious member of the Board of Guardians for many years (8).

The building was subsequently converted into a number of terraced cottages. These have, of course, been extensively altered and improved since that time and it would take a full survey to try and establish the original pattern of rooms. Nevertheless the shape of the building remains exactly the same as on the 1870 plan that accompanies this article. The backyard is still there but the grounds belonging to the workhouse, where vegetables were grown and pigs kept, were sold to the Trustees of St. Leonard's Church Institute for recreational purposes in 1913.

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My grateful thanks to Mr and Mrs Wignall, Mr and Mrs Insley, and the owner of No 20 Manor Cottages for their kindness and help in the writing of this article. Also to Mrs Birtle, Mr Chadwick of Vernon Carus, Dr Cottier and to Dr Hunt who told me of Wat's Apprentices.

E. SHORROCK

NOTES

1. William Ffarington father of James Nowell, Susan Maria and Mary Hannah Ffarington.
2. Now Vernon-Carus Limited.
3. The Workhouse at Hutton has been beautifully restored in recent years by Dr and Mrs Cottier. It seems strange that the Guardians choice to close it down in preference to Penwortham as, built in 1825 on land given by Lawrence Rawstorne, it was comparatively new. Perhaps its position was somewhat isolated at the time.
4. Travel by train was new and exciting. Much is made in the newspaper report of the fact that Inspector Rigby went to London and returned all within 24 hours.
5. Wilcockson, Editor of the Preston Chronicle and Joseph Livesey of the Preston Guardian were leaders of the Anti-Poor Law Party and championed the cause of the Poor in their papers.

NOTES Contd

6. Scald-head - Scurf on the head
Scrofulus - Tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands
7. Oliver Twist (published 1837) was intended to focus the attention of the public on the injustices of the new Poor-law system.
8. Hence the name Marshall's Brow.

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Penwortham Workhouse in 1869



CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN LEYLAND

The decision by the Governors of St. Marys Roman Catholic Junior School to amalgamate with the Infants School on the Haig Avenue Site is hardly good news for Leyland's environment. Almost certainly the historic green oasis that comprises the original Balshaw's Grammar School, a Grade II listed building, and its playing fields will ultimately disappear under bricks and mortar, a fate which will no doubt dismay many.

However, these events have prompted a summary of the history of Catholic education in Leyland over the last century or more. For most of the research and many personal recollections of this period we must thank the late Very Rev. Fr. Anselm Parker O.S.B., Rector of St. Mary's for 18 years from 1930 - older people will no doubt remember Fr. Parker as a gentle and saintly priest, but in addition he was exceptionally erudite and an astute and tough negotiator with it. He spent much of his free time from his priestly duties at Leyland after relinquishing his rectorship, in writing his memoirs entitled "Missionary Memories". These exist only in manuscript and typescript form and were deposited with St. Mary's Priory. A substantial part covers his time at St. Mary's and details the trials, tribulations and frustrations of ensuring adequate education for the children of the Parish and negotiations with the County Education Authority which were "a bugbear, arduous and even distasteful".

St. Mary's was founded from Browndge in 1845 and eventually a school opened under such great difficulties that for a period it was closed. A room in a small cottage attached to the Presbytery (long since demolished to make room for the Church) accommodated the handful of children taught by volunteer women. The children brought a penny a week called "fire money". The last survivor of these children died in 1950. Although no governmental support was forthcoming the school was submitted to official inspection and one report says "This school has excellent morale, but it is difficult to teach geography without maps or books; Slates and pencils do not suffice".

In the 1870's Fr. Proctor, helped by the benefaction of William McMinnies, bought a disused Independent Chapel in Towngate wherein the infants were taught in a gallery. A cottage and small pieces of land were added, until in 1897 a new quite pretentious school building (for that time) was erected for the sum of £1000, this caused considerable financial difficulty until paid off in 1904. This building is still to be seen albeit much altered as Leyland Garage Co's car showroom. The boys entrance was on the left the girls to the right both leading to a long corridor which served as a cloakroom. At the far ends were doors leading to the segregated playgrounds. To the right of the boys, a door led to the main hall divided into three classrooms by sliding/folding partitions. At the far end was a stage also with a similar partition, and approached by a short flight of stairs in the passage which led to the small rear classroom inhabited by the Infants and

the girls entrance. The girls entrance can still be identified although built up. Note the original cross on the apex of the gable over what was the stage area.

In the 1890's the local Catholic population of Leyland was about 500 but the expansion of the village after 1918 meant that by 1930 the school had 220 children, 87 of whom were taught by two teachers in one room 33ft by 25ft. The school was incapable of economic expansion, but at this time Balshaws Grammar School moved to their new premises on Church Road and the old school in School Lane was put up for sale. Besides the school buildings and playgrounds - again segregated - the whole site was about 4 acres including an old farm, barn and orchard demolished in the 50's to make way for further expansion.

After long and anxious delays, the school was purchased for £6,800 with the aid of a loan and in 1932 the whole school went in procession from Towngate to take up residence at School Lane. Balshaws had been long vacant and much maintenance was needed along with replacement of old fashioned fittings, including the gas lighting, all costs of which were borne by the parishioners.

The old Towngate school had a chequered career after being vacated. It was leased as a Labour Exchange until the new one was built on Golden Hill Lane on the corner of Northgate. Dances, Socials, plays and similar functions were held there until it was requisitioned by the National Fire Service during the war. During this period it suffered considerable damage and maintenance was neglected. Eventually in the 1950's it was sold to Leyland Garage Co who altered and extended the buildings to form a car showroom and garage workshops more or less as it is today.

The continuing increase in the population of Leyland meant that even before the war plans were in hand for a new Senior school. The war prevented this and it was not until 1959 after many vicissitudes that the new Senior School was opened in Royal Avenue, which has been almost continually extended. A new Infants School was built in Haig Avenue in about 1963 and St. Anne's near Seven Stars not long after.

With the current fall in school numbers a reversal of this expansion process would appear to have started.

P. F. BARROW

EXPLORING THE MIDGE HALL AREA

2nd September 1986

I had arranged to take members of the Historical Society on a local walk around Midge Hall. The area consists of flat arable land on Leyland Moss.

The day had been fine, but as evening approached, the weather took a turn for the worse. The meeting place was the car park of the Railway Hotel in Midge Hall at 6.30 p.m. It was going dark prematurely due to the rain, but I was pleasantly surprised by the number of people that turned out in this weather, twelve in all.

Before setting off, the building adjacent to the level crossing and on the opposite side of the road was studied, originally this had been Midge Hall Railway Station, now a Haulage Depot.

We set off along the road back towards Leyland and at the second bend, we left the road by going to the left and following a hedge on the right. The way lay back towards the old Railway Station, but just before the top fence, a wooden footbridge indicated the way across a ditch on the right. However this structure was covered in slime, and over the years had slipped, and was now lying at an awkward angle. This proved a problem when crossing but the majority of the group managed to cross with caution. The remainder retraced their steps and came up the opposite side of the ditch, permission being given by the owner of the land.

From the footbridge we went left passing through a gap in the hedge then turned right to a walk along the hedge. There was no obvious way through the hedge in the corner but after a search, a tunnel was finally found. We continued along the right hand hedge in the next field, to eventually reach Jane Lane at a corner, with the recently renovated "Gate House Farm". A large barn had been converted into a spacious dwelling.

The walk continued left. From this corner the lane changed to Sod Hall Meanygate. The rain was now driving across the flat, open fields. We crossed the railway with "Gate House" adjacent and were now walking on a rough, overgrown track which was rising gradually towards "Heath House Farm" on the left.

Just beyond the farm buildings, the ruin of the famous "Round House" could be seen hiding behind a tall privet hedge. This timbered thatched cottage was damaged by a storm in October 1983 and the lifetime occupier had to be re-housed.

Just beyond the next bend lay the site of "Sod Hall".

Nothing remained but a patch of overgrown weeds and brambles. This section of the track lay on the boundaries of Leyland and Longton. This area lies on the highest point of the moss.

We retraced our steps to Jane Lane, eventually passing White Gate Farm on the left.

It was dark when we reached Longmeanygate and turned right here. A bungalow on the opposite side of the road lay on the route of another possible meanygate known as "Doll Lane". The driveway down to the garage was the exact route of the meanygate. The majority of Doll Lane is now no more, due to the building of the Test Track belonging to British Leyland. The opposite end of the land is still intact, running alongside an allotment. The Longmeanygate end of the lane has been diverted around the test track perimeter, the start can be seen just up the road from the bungalow.

We continued along the road back into Midge Hall, passing a row of terraced cottages on the right. This is "Cock Robin Row". Upto very recently one of the cottages had been a tiny Sub Post Office. We passed the tiny Chapel on the left just before the road junction.

We all retired into the Railway Hotel. An old fashioned coal fire gave it a cosy atmosphere and helped to dry out our damp clothes.

The historical aspects of the walk can be found in Leyland Chronicle No. 31 - page 8 - entitled "Leyland Moss Lands".

G. THOMAS

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN SOUTH RIBBLE
PART TWO - TEXTILES

Textiles appear to have been an important element in the local economy of Preston and district since at least Tudor times, and the industry may have overtaken agriculture in economic importance by the early eighteenth century. The list of burials at St. Leonard's Walton-le-Dale in 1704, for instance, records the names of 11 linnen weavers and 3 whitsters. Walton and Bamber Bridge emerged as early centres, and the water resources at Higher Walton - MANYBROOKS' - seem to have been exploited from an early date. The cottage industry was also very important in the west of the borough and was probably extensive in the Longton area by the first half of the seventeenth century.

The complexity and sophistication of the cottage handloom trade is well illustrated by one of the houses, formerly a barn, on Walton Green, which seems to have served as a distribution and collection centre for the local weavers. Factors brought thread from the Manchester area, supplied it to local weavers, who in turn brought their woven pieces to the barn. The cloth was then sent to Manchester. There seems to have been at least two similar centres in Bamber Bridge. The scale of these enterprises could be very great. Livesey, Hargreaves and Co who employed large numbers of domestic workers went bankrupt in 1788 with debts of £112,000, they had 'factories' at MOSNEY and BANNISTER HALL in Walton, bleaching grounds at Hoghton Tower, a coalpit at Standish, a mill in Clitheroe, and a house, offices, warehouse and factory in Manchester, besides a London warehouse. They were "the means of giving bread to near 20,000 persons" mostly in the Preston and South Ribble area.

During the late eighteenth century large colonies of handloom weavers grew up, production was unmechanised and weavers 'worked up' the cloth in their own homes. By the 1790's over 180,000 people were employed in this way, rising to 300,000 by the 1830's. Their houses were specially designed to allow a maximum of light in the workrooms and wide windows and large cellars remain a distinctive characteristic of surviving houses. The need to finance the building of these colonies was frequently met by the early development of building societies or "clubs". Most notable are the Longridge Club Street, Bamber Bridge's Club Street and possibly Leyland's "Union Street". The early nineteenth century was thus the golden age of the handloom trade, and few local working class households would not have had a member employed on at least a part-time or seasonal basis. This life was very hard and the colonies soon developed traditions of sturdy political and economic independence. The working day was very long "keeping time with hand and feet/from five at morn till eight at Neet". Conditions in Walton-le-Dale and Bamber Bridge have been considered in an earlier "Laird Chronicle".

NOTE :-

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WAS MISSING FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

to burn down the premises.

These changes in society are documented in the Walton Parish Register, and in the early nineteenth century a range of 'new' occupations emerge:

1809	THOMAS BRIERLEY RALPH BRINDLE	BLOCK CUTTER MUSLIN MANUFACTURER
1810	JOHN MAUDSLEY WILLIAM ENTWISTLE	SIZER CUTTER
1811	RICHARD BROMLEY JOHN DITCHFIELD	MACANICK ENGENMAN
1812	THOMAS STEPHENSON MICHAEL DEACON RALPH HEALD THOMAS HINDIE	CALICO PRINTER MULE SPINNER COTTON SPINNER WAPER

The scale of the early factories is well attested by the sale of the Clayton bleachworks at Bamber Bridge in 1836, which included "All those valuable bleachworks, buildings, and premises, lately occupied by Mr Ralph Clayton, deceased, and situate at Clayton, in the County of Lancaster, 4m from Preston, 6 from Chorley, and only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the line of the North Union Railway, comprising an excellent steam engine of 50 h.p. water wheels, reservoirs, drying cylinders, hydraulic presses, beetles, callenders, cisterns, mangles and other machinery suitable for carrying on the business of a bleacher and dyer on an extensive scale, together with 14' fall upon the River Lostock, 3 cottages, stable, garden and orchard and 23ac.3r.12p of land. The reservoirs are capacious, and capable of supplying abundance of pure and clear water". Similar adverts appear at this time in the "Preston Pilot" for the SHRUGGS works at Leyland.

By 1850 entirely new social and demographic configurations had emerged, a now familiar picture of mills with associated lines of brick terraced houses had grown up. Never before had industrial production been so concentrated. In South Ribble the development of improved communications, canals and railways is central to this development as detailed analysis of factory location reveals. For the first time the economic position of the Hoghtons and the Ffaringtons were undermined - by a rising class of mill-owners. By the 1880's Walton Village was virtually a 1 man 'town' with Richard Calvert owning many houses in addition to the mill, and employing nearly all the population. George Dewhurst enjoyed a similar position in Higher Walton and Cuerden, and John Stanning was the largest employer in Leyland, well able to spend £5000 on Broadfield House. The millowners position was always vulnerable however, and bankruptcies were frequent. In 1849 the owner of Withy Trees Mill, Bamber Bridge was declared bankrupt and the mill put up for sale. The sale notice illustrates the extent of

mill interests. In addition to a "capital, newly erected Mansion House", was offered for sale "All that substantially built cotton mill.... with the Engine-house and Boiler House, mechanics shop, sour house and warehouse adjoining to the said mill, together with the steam engine of 50 horse power, 4 boilers and the mill gearing therein... and also the watchhouse, counting house, gas-house, and cotton warehouse, and 24 cottages near to the said mill. And also those several closes of land... with the farmhouse, garden, out-buildings and field belonging thereto... The two large reservoirs are in the close formerly called workhouse field".

By the 1880's most of the mill communities south of the Ribble were already mature. The productive capacity and workforce employed in textiles was vast (see Table 1). Both the Calvert and Dewhurst enterprises matched that of the world-famous Horrockses, Miller and Co. which had 150,000 spindles, 3,100 looms and 3000 employees in Freston.

D.A. HUNT

LOCAL MANUFACTURERS 1882/3

<u>TABLE 1</u>	<u>SPIN. LES</u>	<u>LOOMS</u>	<u>WOMENERS</u>
RICHARD ASPHEN AND SONS BAMBER BRIDGE	-	240	102
Wm BASHALL AND CO FARINGTON	50,088	708	750
J & W BOURNE AND CO FARINGTON	30,000	330	276
WM CALVERT AND SONS PRESTON AND WALTON	151,146	2,544	2,218
J COCKSHUTT WALTON	25,000	-	70
CREWDSON AND GRIERSON WALMER BRIDGE	-	500	280
G & R DEWHURST HIGHER WALTON AND CUERDEN	145,488	2,185	2,030
WM ECCLES AND SONS BAMBER BRIDGE	30,000	476	413
LOSTOCK HALL SPINNING CO LOSTOCK HALL	55,000	-	160
J AND A.S. ORR BAMBER BRIDGE	3,400	579	359
FILKINGTON AND BERRY MOUNT PLEASANT MILL AND EARNSHAW BRIDGE MILL, LEYLAND	6,600	676	425
READE AND WALL BROOK MILLS LEYLAND	-	600	500
SIMPSON AND JACKSON GREGSON LANE HIGHER WALTON	31,000	216	230
WOODS, HAMISON AND CO CROSTON	-	460	300

A LANCASHIRE ASTRONOMER

The name of Jeremiah Horrocks in the development of astronomy is honoured and respected throughout the astronomical world. We in Lancashire should be proud of this fact, born in 1618 he died before he attained the age of 23, but in that short time his contribution to astronomy was of the utmost importance.

He was born in Toxteth Park near Liverpool, his father was quoted as being a farmer, but recent evidence suggested he was a watchmaker. Little is known about his early education but it is assumed he had an elementary education at Toxteth. In 1632 he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, this is confirmed by an entry in the college admission book, he was entered as a "sizer" this was a person whose fee or size was paid by the college in exchange for help in the college kitchen and other additional duties. He remained at Cambridge for three years going down in 1635 without taking his degree, in the 16th and 17th centuries this was not an unusual practice. When Horrocks was at Cambridge there was no professor of Mathematics, to overcome this problem he would make use of astronomical books, as before he went to Cambridge Horrocks was very interested in astronomy, as can be appreciated astronomy entails a great knowledge of mathematics.

On his return to Toxteth he continued his astronomy alone, fortunately he met William Crabtree, a clothier of Manchester, who was a keen astronomer and assisted Horrocks in his astronomical calculations and confirmed his observations.

Horrocks' ideas about planetary motion were those proposed by Copernicus (1543) and this theory was not yet a hundred years old and still had to be proved. His flair for accurate observing led him to improve on the value for solar parallax, this is the measure of apparent displacement of a distant object against its background as observed from two different viewpoints. The importance of this measurement was, until this figure was accurately obtained, the actual distance of the sun could not be determined, or the dimensions of the solar system.

Horrocks is best remembered for his correct prediction of the transit of Venus across the face of the sun in 1639. This occurred on the 24th December. As Horrocks had to officiate at a church service (he was a curate at the chapel-of-ease at Hoole at this date) he observed the transit in the afternoon at a quarter past three, he then observed, plotted and measured for the next half hour until sunset.

The observation of the transit of Venus was the last of any note that Horrocks made. On 1640/1641 January 13th he suddenly died (the double date signifies both old style and new style calendars).

Horrocks tragedy was that he died so young, he was not yet 23, and mostly self taught, had he lived we might have seen a growth of astronomy far richer than Halley and Newton managed to produce. For us in this area the Jeremiah Horrocks observatory in Moor Park, Preston is a constant reminder of his greatness.

The biographical details given above were taken from the article "Jeremiah Horrocks and Astronomy in his time" by Colin A. Roman, J. Brit. Astr.Ass. Vol.86 No.5, August 1976.

A. W. SEGUSS

CUERDEN

The locality of Cuerden just north of Farington has managed to fight off the creeping sprawl of suburbia and still retains its open field. There are a number of footpaths which enable the visitor to cross this region and examine the local history at close quarters. One such walk listed below is circular and approximately three miles long. As some field walking is involved, the appropriate footwear must be worn in wet weather.

This area was once the home of Doctor Kuerden and many of the buildings that will be seen on the walk are mentioned in his writings of the area in 1690.

The walk begins and ends at the junction of Leyland Road, (known locally as Bashalls Straight), and Stoney Lane. Mr Bashall was a well known local man in the past century and was co-owner of Bashalls and Boardmans, Cotton and Spinning factory in Farington.

Walk up Stoney Lane, then left down School Lane. The 1845 Ordnance Survey map shows that this section of the lane was known as Lower Green, and the section up to the old school was merely a rough track. After passing several buildings, the last one on the right, was once the free school. It has now a modern rendered frontage, but there is a plaque on the front wall showing the founder and his family, Andrew Dandy, his wife Margaret, and sons William, Andrew and Daniel. Anno Domini 1690. The school was founded in 1673 by Andrew Dandy who endowed it with a plot of land.. It was later further endowed by his wife and three sons. In 1701 65 boys and 70 girls attended the school.

Andrew Dandy lived at the Iostock Hall, this building is now St. Batherine's Hospice. The Hall, situated alongside the River Iostock, had its own Cotton Mill.

Further along School Lane there was once a Pinfold House and pinfold. From the school continue along the lane to a stile in the right hand hedge and cross the field to a footbridge. The map shows that the footpath twists and turns through the next large field. This dates from when there were many smaller fields here, and the path followed the gates in the many boundaries. Now a large field lies between the footbridge and Nook Farm. Make for this farm then look for a stile just past the rear of the farm in the top left hand corner of the field. Follow an overgrown, enclosed path to the left, emerging onto Nook Lane. You are now in Higher Green. Walk down Nook Lane to the right and Banastres at Bank Farm is passed on the right. This strange name according to Doctor Kuerden is derived from a Mr Christopher Bannaster de Banc, the Banastres were a well known old family in this area. A Mr Banastre Parker built up the older parts of the present Cuerden Hall. Bank Farm has recently been modernised, and the only points of interest are the two out buildings.

Continue down the lane to the main A49 and turn right. Ponder a while at the 18th century Friars House on the opposite side of the road. Both gable ends have curiously shaped windows. The front upper windows have a lot of room above to roofline. This is evidence of attic rooms possibly servants quarters. Park Cottage at the rear seems to be of a similar period.

Cross the road to follow an old wall that starts from Friars House. Look for an old white mile post standing against the wall. This indicates that Preston is 4 miles and Wigan 13 miles.

Continue along to a slight bend in the road with Cuerden Gates Farm on the right. A gate in the wall opposite this farm was once the access to the Parkers Arms, named after Townley Parker who lived at Cuerden Hall but nothing remains of the building. Continue along the wall a few yards, to a corner where a narrow break in the wall is the access to a path that led across towards Cuerden Hall known as the cinder path. This has now been cut in two by the M6.

Continue along the road until the M6 crosses. Here look across to the left to a pair of stone gate posts, or chain lodges as they were once known. Examine the curious domed cavities behind those hollow posts.

These gates were the entrance to Stony Lane, which travels down to Bashalls Straight at the junction from which the walk started.

Follow the rough overgrown track into the wood. The kerbstones can still be seen in places. The line of the lane hugs the edge of the wood and eventually becomes too water logged to continue. Retrace steps to gates, then look for gate and stile just to right. Follow track into field and walk down the right hand boundary to a stile. Right turn to eventually find a stile in the middle of the hedge. Follow right hand hedge around and down through two fields, eventually emerging onto a rough track, this is Stony Lane at a point where it emerges from the wood. Follow the lane down to the left, passing Stony Lane farm. Notice some interesting stone posts with chains, and an old wall consisting of hand made bricks.

Continue down lane to School Lane and end of walk.

G. THOMAS

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WALTON-LE-DALE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTION

A NOTE

The late Frank Coupe wrote of the building, "Near the foot of Church Brow stands the Working Men's Institute. Erected in 1881, at a cost of about £1,400; Mr Richard Calvert J.P., of Messrs. Calvert and Sons, Cotton Manufacturers, was the benefactor. Extensions to the building were made in 1908. The library, consisting of over 1000 volumes was also a gift of Mr Calvert some ten years after the building's erection" (1954).

Research by the Extra Mural department of Liverpool University suggests that in the 1880's Walton was very much a one mill town, with R Calvert employing most of the population. The £1,400 cost of the building would be @£200,000 today.

The rule book of the 'Walton-le-Dale Working Men's Association' states however that it was established in October 1858, 23 years before the present building was erected. The institution had a very formal constitution and rule 11 states that "No room shall be let for Lectures or Discussions on Religious or Political questions", Membership was not cheap. In 1930 subscriptions were 10/- per year equal to £30 in today's money. However "Any member who shall be guilty of wilfully breaking any of the rules or bye-laws of the Institution, or of bringing intoxicating liquors into the Institution, or of gambling, swearing, or behaving in any way calculated to annoy and disturb the members in the rooms shall be censured by a resolution of the Committee.

Catalogues of books in the library were obtainable price 2d. Of the many books included were, "Wealth of Nations (Adam Smith) 'Labour and Life of the People of East London' (Booth), many of Charles Dickens and Sir Walter Scott's novels, many of Disraeli's novels and his biography, many books on an industrial theme especially textiles, and a good selection on 'Sanitary and Hygienic' topics.

Thus unto World War 2 (when it was used as a base for the Local Home Guard) the Institute formed an important element of Local life.

D. A HUNT

EDITOR'S NOTE

See 'Walton-le-Dale "A History of the Village" by Frank Coupe, Guardian Press, Preston 1954.

This building is now (December 1986) in process of demolition.

WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT ON IN LEYLAND

- Further Light on Leyland Cross -

Following Mr G I Bolton's factual article on Leyland Cross in the last issue of Laidland Chronicle (No.32), and in view of the fortunes of the old Cross presently being at its lowest ebb, perhaps the following notes are worth recording.

The evening of Saturday the 29th December 1849 must have been a time of great excitement in the village of Leyland. During 1849 a gas works had been set up behind the Ship Inn and its neighbour the Seven Stars (demolished in 1986) under the management of a Mr Thomas Morris. Little is known about this enterprise apart from the information given in the Preston Guardian of Saturday the 5th January 1850 which reported the event as follows:

"LEYLAND. The Oddfellows' Society of Leyland having some surplus money on hand, which was not required for the working of the Society, have invested it in a gas works to light the village. The gas making apparatus and the pipes have been made and fixed up by Messrs. John Ogle, Son and Co., engineers of Preston. The village was lighted up for the first time on Saturday evening last. The members of the lodge sat down to a good substantial dinner to celebrate the event, on New Years Day, at Mr Gilchrist's, the Roe Buck Inn, Leyland".

Despite the wonderment at such innovation, the incongruity of two large gas lamps on top of the ancient cross was not lost on the more aesthetic members of the community: the lamps lasted a mere seventeen years. In 1887, to coincide with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the cross was restored with the cost, reportedly, shared largely by the Vicar of Leyland - the Rev. T Rigby Baldwin - and Miss Susan Maria Farington. At the same time the old pump and trough were replaced by a modern drinking fountain and a new horse trough.

Before many years had passed, however, the Cross was under threat once again. As Mr E G Marshall, Curate of Leyland, in his book 'The Reverend Leyland Baldwin' put it:

'In the year 1901 an enterprising member of the Urban District Council proposed to remove the village cross. Never did the Vicar's indignation show itself more than at the mere proposal of such a piece of vandalism.

He (the Rev. Leyland Baldwin) wrote as follows in the (Parish) magazine:

"It was told to me in sober earnest, by a man in authority, that as Leyland was a coming place, an improvement of which it stood in need, was the removal of the Village Cross, and the erection of an

incandescent lamp in its stead, flanked on either side by a public urinal! I feel bound to let the light of publicity shine upon the proposal, that it may be seen in all its hideous utilitarian vandalism, that others may fear to do the like. Leyland has done some strange things in its day. Centuries ago the bigots of the iron time, broke the head from our ancient cross, the earliest witness to christianity.

In 1817, our grandfathers demolished their graceful 13th century church. Nearly 50 years ago a few more feet were taken off from the shaft of the cross, and the people thought they were doing grand things when they placed a gas-lamp on its summit; but it has been left to the 20th century to suggest that a public urinal, in place of the cross, would be a distinct advantage to the neighbourhood. This is utilitarianism run mad, and tilting at our every religious, artistic and historical feeling. Our Village Cross is a daily lesson book, history that may be seen; it well-worn steps taking us back in thought, to those who won our liberties for us, to many a Whitsun Monday of more recent date, when our Sunday Scholars sang their glad hymns of praise around those steps. Its fracture tells us of the turbulence of the 16th and 17th centuries. Its restoration of more peaceful times. Even the groove up the shaft tells of a gross material age, when a finger pointing heavenwards, was supposed to be of no other use than to bear a garish gas-lamp.

Our Village Cross is hallowed in the eyes of every Leylander, and to defile the graves of a man's ancestors has ever been considered the extremity of insult. What then can be said of those who would remove the cross and defile its site? It can only be a hateful dream. Think of hundreds of bright, happy, well-dressed Sunday Scholars, singing Christian hymns on Whitsun Monday, round a public urinal!"

The 20th century has been one of literal ups and downs for the cross; knocked down four times to the Author's knowledge and damaged on other occasions by motor vehicles, the most recent and serious demolition occurred on the late evening of Friday the 13th (!) of June 1986. A group of youths pushed the cross over shattering the head and breaking the greater part of the shaft into several pieces; that they were able to push it over at all casts grave doubts on the efficiency of the repair done after the last accident in January 1976.

At the time of writing - Jan. 1987 - the cross has still not been repaired, and with the pedestrianisation of Southern Towngate and the imminent redevelopment between the Cross and the Civic Hall, the future of the old landmark is threatened once again. The breakage this time is so bad and some of the fragments so small that it is not just a question of sticking it together again; a new head appears to be necessary

and possibly part of the shaft. This does not matter: the broken cross was only one hundred years old this year and, as Mr Bolton has pointed out, only the base, steps and lower part of the shaft are of any antiquity. What matters most of all is what the Cross stands for even though its origin is unclear. Preaching Station or market cross, whatever its true age, it stands as a link with the past and a symbol of Christianity in proximity to the old Parish Church of Leyland - it must be re-built.

Authors Note

BY chance, I photographed the Cross on Wednesday the 11th of June, little did I think I would be photographing it again less than a week later with only some three feet of the shaft remaining.

Perhaps when the Cross is re-built some thought might be given as to the orientation of the head. The previous head was facing north and south, but, I feel that the original cross was facing east and west as this was the custom although not always so. However, when the cross is to the west of the church and in reasonable proximity - as they often are and as in the case in Leyland - the head is, almost invariably, facing east and west.

Finally, a request. If any member has any knowledge of the old Towngate gas works, also, the date of the building of the later gas works on Chapel Brow, I would be grateful for any information.

W. E WARING

CROSS-WORDS

The nineteenth century saw the advent of a number of minor, local publications with the stated objective of informing the general public, perhaps even sometimes against its own inclinations, on matters of local, historical, topographical and biographical interest.

One such issue was published from No. 2 Trafford Street, Moor Park, Preston at monthly intervals over the period 1896-1910 under the title "Cross Fleury's Journal" with the sub-title "for youth and age, for town and country". The price was one penny per copy and considering the fact that it was well-produced and printed and possibly had a limited circulation, it cannot have been a very profitable enterprise.

The title is interesting. A cross fleury (or more properly flory) is a heraldic device consisting of a normal cross with all four ends trifurcated giving the appearance of a fleur-de-lis, hence the name. Pursuing this further, the ordinary of arms (heraldic catalogue) showed that locally it was part of the arms of Rigbye of Harrock Hall, the full blazon being "Argent on a cross flory azure five mullets or quartering Baldwin viz. argent a saltire sable". These details are only quoted here to show the connection with the Baldwin family.

It was no surprise therefore to learn eventually that Cross Fleury was the pseudonym of Robert Edward Bellet Rigbye, the author of at least one book on local historical matters. The present writer did not pursue his actual connection with the Harrock Hall family.

The journal itself, even today, makes interesting reading being a splendid mix of historical and topographical matters, biographies of persons with even slight local connections, short stories and a very readable dialect account of the adventures of "Owd Bunnock", all interspersed with the odd anecdote and joke. Many of these matters appear in serial form over several issues.

He also goes in for a bit of moralizing, complaining about the habit of the general public in preferring sensational fiction to "elevating" works. He gets very annoyed and does not hesitate to say so, with Messrs W H Smith and Son of 136 Strand London, who stated they "were unable to afford the necessary space upon the bookstalls" when he requested display of his journal at certain railway stations. He claims to pursue a neutral path in religion and politics, but this seems a little questionable.

Dealing with the historical content of the journal there are series on people and places in Lancaster and Preston and at first sight rather surprisingly, several series on Leyland. When it is recalled that from 1748 to the journals period of issue the Vicars of Leyland all had the surname Baldwin,

including Nicholas Rigbye Baldwin and Thomas Rigbye Baldwin the reason for the interest in Leyland should not be difficult to trace.

In an editorial it is stated that the journal was delivered to the principal libraries, clubs, hospitals, convalescent homes and hotels in Preston, Southport, Blackpool, Blackburn, Wigan etc. In what now seems perhaps a quaint testimonial, the Matron of the Southport Convalescent Home voluntarily stated that the journal was much appreciated by the patients in the home.

It is evident that the journal was not "much appreciated" by the citizens of Leyland, or if it was, they kept their appreciation to themselves. In the later issues a long series of articles about Leyland appeared under the title "Free Foot Rambles Round Leyland" by a contributor with the pseudonym "Reindeer". The title and the pseudonym are intriguing and one can only guess at the identity of the contributor. The reaction of Leylanders, or rather lack of reaction, finally exasperated the editor and the following note appeared:

"Although we have still in hand a large amount of matter appertaining to Leyland Parish, to its old time folk, its houses, farmeries, lore, curious customs etc., so little interest is being evinced in the articles that have appeared, by the Leyland people, we have decided to discontinue these 'Free foot rambles round Leyland' at the end of the year. Editor Cross Fleury's Journal"

This by any standards was a pretty severe censure and may have resulted in a loss of valuable source material for modern research. We shall never know.

The limited availability of extant copies of the journal is unfortunate but fuller examination could be rewarding, especially where Cross Fleury is reporting the result of his own or his contributors personal investigation. His frequent re-working of extracts from standard sources must be treated with great caution because of errors and omissions. Once again we must remember that this journal was produced at a time before the invaluable Victoria County History of Lancashire was available.

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr W E Waring, who having in his possession a single issue of the journal, suggested that the publication might have useful potential as a further source.

G. L. BOLTON

MODERN HISTORY

A few days ago we came across an old copy of the Lancashire Evening Post dated March 1 1967, at the bottom of a bedding box - less than 20 years old but making very interesting reading - how things have changed.

At that time, of course, the Labour Party was in power and Harold Wilson was Prime Minister.

There were then four cinemas still advertising in Preston i.e. the Ritz, Palladium, Odeon and A.B.C. The Beatles were at the top of the charts with "Fenny Lane".

Ribble Motors were advertising return trips to London at 44/- (£2 20) and year old cars could be bought for under £1000.

New 3-bedroom semis were on offer at under £4,000 and T.V. rentals from 8s.6d (42kp) per week.

There were lots of job vacancies of offer but the wages were rather different with shop assistants at £9.00 per week and shorthand typists at about £500 p.a.

Oh! What changes have occurred even so recently - I wonder what the next twenty years will bring.

F. CUMFSTEY

SOCIETY ACTIVITY

In August of 1986 the Society collaborated with the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre in staging a display of maps and map-making techniques. The main display was provided by a Science Museum travelling exhibition which demonstrated the high technological content of modern map making processes.

Our Society's exhibit consisted of a display of local maps and plans, mainly 17th and 18th century examples. The principal feature was based on a modern street map of Leyland and Penwortham on which had been superimposed coloured areas representing the land owned by the Farington family in 1725, based on plans of that year drawn up for George Farington. Photocopies of these plans, now deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, were strategically deposited round the exhibit together with some excellent photographs of buildings which existed in 1725 and are still standing.

Additional displays of plans of the local road system in 1684 and 1786 were also shown together with a detailed description of one particular holding, that of Fleetwood Hall in Leyland.

The displays were well received by visitors to the joint exhibition and the contributions of Mrs Shorrock, Mr Waring, Mr Bolton and Miss Buckley in preparing the exhibits and Mrs Peacon and Mrs Wilson in assisting with staging the display are hereby acknowledged.

EDITOR