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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.

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£1.50 per annum
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A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

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"LAILAND CHRONICLE"

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LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE FOURTH QUARTER

by F. CUMPSTEY

As is usual it is my privilege to write the foreward to the first issue of the Lailand Chronicle in the New Year and although by the time this gets into print, the New Year will be well advanced, I would like to wish everyone a most happy and prosperous year ahead.

I think that we should realise that we have not only begun a new year, but we have also entered into the last quarter of the twentieth century and one wonders what the next 25 years have to offer. Certainly the last 25 have been momentous, when we consider space travel, visits to the moon, supersonic flight, etc. etc.

But as historians we would be expected to look back to the past, not forward to the future, and we thought that it would be appropriate to adopt the theme for this edition as 1876 - one hundred years ago.

What then was happening a century ago? - Queen Victoria was on the throne having already reigned for over 38 years and had been a widow for 15 years. It was during 1876 that legislation was introduced to create her Empress of India and the Prince of Wales made an extended tour of that Continent during the latter months of 1875 and early part of 1876.

In the political arena, Benjamin Disraeli was Prime Minister for the second time, having defeated Mr. Gladstone in 1874. About this time, we had just completed the purchase of a large block of Suez Canal Shares from the Khedir of Egypt which gave us a controlling interest and secured our sea routes with our colonies and possessions in the Far East.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Ulysses Grant was the President of the United States of America (which at that time consisted of only 37 states of which Colorado was the latest to be admitted to statehood). 1876 was an important year there as it was the Centenary of the Declaration of Independence and preparations for celebrations were going ahead including a special Exhibition.

But so much for the National and International field - what was happening nearer home? Well for one thing, Blakpool received its Charter of Incorporation in 1876 - whilst in Leyland itself amongst other things, the United Reform Church Foundation Stone was laid and Turpin Green Methodist Church was opened and other contributors will enlarge on these events for you.

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CHURCH UNION IN 1876

On 13th June, 1876, the Presbyterian Church of England was formed by the union of the Presbyterian Church in England with the English Synod of the United Presbyterian Church (which was otherwise Scottish) at the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool.

This was an important step forward in the revival of the Presbyterian tradition in England. It had declined after the schism with Independency at the time of Cromwell's Commonwealth. Many of its congregations were sustained by association with Scottish Churches with a similar tradition, notably in the Northern parts of the country and in London. One of these was at Tunley or Mossy Lea Chapel in Wrightington, which became known as Tunley Presbyterian Church after the union and is now Tunley United Reformed Church. Elsewhere, the congregations persisted in semi-isolation but with sufficient strength to emerge as a corporate body for re-unification with the others in 1876.

That was not the end of the story. There had been associations with Congregational Churches both before and after that union and, in 1933, a Committee was formed to consider closer co-operation with them. A Joint Committee, appointed in 1945, presented a plan for union. This was not found agreeable but led to ever closer co-operation. This resulted in a further plan which was consummated with the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972, ending a division which had lasted for more than 300 years.

W. G. Mackay.

SOCIETY EVENTS

COCKER SANDS ABBEY

For the first Meeting of 1976 our Speaker was our old friend Mr. Sherdley of Preesall who took as his subject "Cocker Sands Abbey", illustrating his lecture with slides showing the remaining ruins of the Abbey.

There is no doubt that the Monks (or Canons, as Mr. Sherdley prefers to call them) led a very spartan existence judging by the exposed position of the Abbey, open to the fury of all the winds from Morecambe Bay. Whether this had an adverse effect on their tempers we do not know, but they were apparently not always as peace-loving as we would expect, judging by reports of murders and affrays in Lancaster.

The talk was very interesting indeed and it was unfortunate that there was no time for a discussion period.

The Ladies had prepared special refreshments and afterwards we had arranged for the Folk Singers "The Greensleeves" to come along and entertain us, which they did, with a very wide repertoire of Folk Music.

LEYLAND - ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

by Miss D. Kazer

Local History Librarian
South Ribble Libraries

To get a picture of the Leyland of 1876 it is best to look at the area from several points:

- a) GENERAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICS (including such matters as population, size, communications, administration, public officials, local landowners).
- b) CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS
- c) TRADES, INDUSTRIES AND PROFESSIONS
- d) THE LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS
- e) EVENTS OF 1876
- f) ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL IN 1876 (from the school log book).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population:

The latest figure given is that for 1871, - 3,839. This is the figure from the census return for that year.

Size:

The town of Leyland covered 3,450 acres.

Communications:

Two railway lines served the town. Midge Hall Station was on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway line, the clerk in charge then was William Duckworth. Leyland Station served the North Union Railway and the station master was William King.

There was no 'Bus service in Leyland.

For items to be transported from Leyland to Preston there were two carriers: Thomas Holmes and Thomas Glover. They operated each Tuesday and Thursday. For items to be carried from Preston to Leyland, the service ran from the New Cock Inn and the Roebuck each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Administration:

Leyland was administered by the Local Board which was the forerunner of the Urban District Council. In 1876 the members of the Board were:

Mr. Morrell (who was the manager of the Littlewood Fire Brick & Tile Co., of Ulnes Walton), Mr. Dobson; Mr. Jackson; Mr. Stanninæ; Mr. Forrester; Mr. Quin and Mr. Moulding.

Their meetings were held monthly. Accounts of meetings in 1876 will be given in a later section.

Medical Officer:

Mr. John Berry.

Inspector of Nuisances:

Mr. F. F. Hutchinson. (He received £15 a year for this).

Registrar of Marriages:

Mr. John Goulding.

Police Inspector:

Mr. William Barker.

Parish Clerk:

Mr. Henry Barrow.

Post Master:

Mr. Quarton Houlden, 1 Union Street.

Postal Arrangements:

Letters were received daily (via Preston) at 6.45 a.m. 4.10 p.m.
Sundays: 9.10 a.m. They were despatched daily at 10.10 a.m. 3.20 p.m.
8.10 p.m. Sundays at 8.00 p.m.

Also obtainable there were money orders and the office was a telegraph office and savings bank.

Stamp Office:

Sub Distributor: Mr. F. Hackforth.

Leyland and Farington Co-operative Society was established in 1875.

Leyland Gas Works (established 1863). Secretary: Mr. Thomas Dawber.

Local Landowners:

In the issues of 1876, the 'Preston Herald' published a list of the principal landowners in the Preston area. They called it a 'modern Domesday book' and it contained the names of those people who featured in a list of the principal landowners in the country. Among Leyland people who were included were:-

Edmund Berry, of Sandy Lane.
Miss Farington, of Worden.
Mr. John Goulding, of Starkie House.
Mr. George Hargreaves, of Wellington House.
Mr. John Morrell of Beach House, Church Road.

Nobility and Gentry:

In the directory for 1876 are:-

Mrs. Dorothy Bond.
Mr. Henry Bretherton, Sandy Lane.
Miss Ann Burdon, The Grove.
Misses Susan and Mary Farington, Worden Hall.
Miss Catherine Isherwood, 5 Victoria Terrace.
Mr. John Jackson, Leyland Lane.
Mr. Robert Kellett, 3 Victoria Terrace.
Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Sandy Lane.
Mr. Joseph Quin, Golden Hill House.
Miss Ann Leigh Ryley, The Laurels.
Miss Harriet and Jane Yates, Leyland Lodge.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

a) Churches

St. Andrews Church (The Parish Church) Vicar: Rev. T. Rigbye Baldwin, M.A.

St. James Church, Moss Side. Vicar: Rev. T. Watts Wilkinson.

Wesleyan Chapel, Golden Hill Lane. Minister: Rev. J. Newsholme.

Wesleyan Chapel, Turvin Green, was opened September 1876.

Methodist Chapel, Midge Hall.

Roman Catholic Church, Towngate Priest: Rev. James Proctor, O.S.B.

b) Schools

Free Grammar School, the school master was John Westley.

Balshaw's Charity (Endowed) School. The school master was
John de Pennington and the
school mistress Miss Esther Hibbert.

Leyland Infants (National Mixed) School, Union Street.

School Mistresses:

Miss Margaret Norris

Miss Martha Naylor.

Roman Catholic School, Towngate. School Mistress, Alice Turner.

St. James School, Moss Side. School Master Mr. Levi Jackson.

There was also a school at Heald House, which was a boarding school,
run by J. & M. B. Newton.

* * * * *

LEYLAND'S FIRST LOCAL HISTORIAN

By G. L. Bolton

In the No. 11 issue of the 'Leyland Chronicle', May 1974, our worthy President Mr. J. N. Banister, published an article with the above title, claiming the honour for the former Leyland curate, the Rev. F. G. Marshall.

With some trepidation I would like to put forward another and earlier candidate whom I feel could properly be described as a historian of the County, the Hundred and the Township.

On page 2 of the published volume of the Leyland Parish Registers (Lancashire & Cheshire Record Society Volume XXI, 1890) the following extract from the Transcripts at Chester for the year 1622 appears "Richard Jacksonne, fil Gylberti, baptized the 7th Day of March".

A footnote by the Rev. W. S. White, Curate of Leyland reads "Is this not the baptism of the celebrated Dr. Kuerden? In the pedigree which he entered in 1664 he gave his father's name as Gilbert and his own age as 41 years. The family appears to have been called Jackson alias Kuerden. There is a tombstone in Leyland Churchyard to the memory of Gilbert Jackson alias Kuerden".

A further entry for October 18th 1662 records the burial of Gilbert Jackson of Curden.

From various sources it appears that Richard Kuerden (or Jackson if indeed they were one and the same) was educated at Leyland and St. Mary Hall, Oxford. Removing to Cambridge, he graduated from Emanuel College in 1646. Oxford having then surrendered to Parliament he returned thither and took his M.A. in 1647. He studied medicine but deferred taking his degree until the Restoration, not taking some of the political tests applied. His interest in local history resulted in his association with one Christopher Towneley and he had use of the latter's collections.

He planned to write a history of the county, but it was not until after 20 years of labour that he even issued his proposals for the publication of "Brigantia Lancastriensis Restaurata" to be issued in five folio volumes.

Nothing came of it and Dr. Kuerden died somewhere between 1695 and 1702. The work was never completed or published and lies in manuscript form in the Manchester Chetham Library, the Heralds College in London and one volume in the British Museum.

Various portions of Dr. Kuerden's work have been transcribed by Baines and Earwater in the past but my own special interest is in the manuscript which lies in the British Museum in London. Some time ago I examined this in the B.M. reading room and arranged for it to be micro-filmed for study at leisure.

The manuscript, MS Harley 7386 (1036 Car.Harl.Vol III), is most intriguing and sheds much light on Dr. Kuerden's widespread interests which I fear led him to attempt so much and achieve so little. It is catalogued as "Collections Historical, Heraldical and Judicial principally relating to Lancashire, but some also relating to other parts of England and some even to Roman History as to the table of Consuls".

The manuscript volume consists of some 33 papers in Kuerden's hand, some in English, some in Latin, some fairly readable and some so crabbed as would tax an experienced archivist, let alone myself. There is an account of Caesar's invasion of Britain, a list of British tribal names, a dissertation on the origin of hundreds and wapentakes in general, followed by his transcript of the Domesday Book entry for Lancashire "inter Ripam et Marsham".

Struggling through his manuscript, the feeling which impresses me most is his anxiety to have done with generalities and to get down to the work of describing his beloved Hundred of Leyland. I cannot do better than transcribe verbatim a paragraph which he sets a little apart from the previous one which illustrates my point:

"Next I shall declare what may concerne
The Wapentak of Leylandshire or Hundred
And then proceed to the Village: the Parish
with the general Townships with the same
contained
How described obtained and possessed by
the several Lords and owners of the same"

R.K.

It may be of interest to outline the sections in which he describes the topography and history of the Leyland Hundred.

1. The boundaries of the Leyland Hundred.
2. The Wapentake of Leyland and the Lords thereof.
3. The division of the hundred into the 8 parishes of Leyland, Brindle, Penwortham, Hole (Hoole), Croston, Chorley, Eccleston and Standish.
4. Individual descriptions and histories of Hoghton, Heapey, Clayton, Whittle, Cuerden, Euxton, Leyland, Brindle and Chorley.

Although the manuscript volume is of such a fragmented nature, it is an example of the type of scholarly historical and topographical descriptions written by the amateur historian of the 17th century. I believe that it would be worth publication as a whole, and whilst its value as an authoritative work is questionable, there is still much of interest. As a small contribution I have transcribed in Appendix A Dr. Kuerden's description of the parish of Leyland.

The later course of Dr. Kuerden's life seems to be somewhat of a mystery. He was, however, known to have been a Governor of Leyland Grammar School in 1674. There is so much more one would have liked to have known about this energetic and eccentric doctor. Where was his "new built house on the side of Cuerden Green" and what was his involvement in the preparation of the series of manuscript road maps and town plans made about 1684 bearing his name and initials in various places (Lancashire Record Office DDX 194) and many other questions spring to mind.

I hope that I have been able to make out a case for considering Dr. Richard Kuerden (alias Jackson) as "Leyland's First Local Historian".

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APPENDIX A

Leyland Hundred: Com. Lanc: Leyland

Hath Whittle upon the east and Euxton upon the South, Ulmes Walton upon the west and by the Moss Boundary from Bretherton Hole and Longton on the north hath Farington passing eastward to Earnsay Bridge and Lostoc water ascending that into Brocsbanc runs up southward to Worden Broc leaving an Antient fabric belonging to family of Worden of the sand hole (?) on the north following that till upon the east then cald Browning Broc crosseth the London post road passing up eastward betwixt the demain of Worden and Clayton almost to the Old Croke lately as hath been said to the Clayton of the Crok now to the heirs of W. Crok late purchaser of the same.

The east syde of this Lordship lyeth somewhat elongated from its neighbouring townships and a pleasant habitation Worden the Mannor house is fayrly sited at the end of a pleasant wood and upon the East part of London Road within a Hamlet cald Worden.

The church as to the view from Ormschurch and neighbouring towns seemed to be sited upon high elongated ground, the sayd Church Town and School placed upon very dry and sandy ground very healthfull to the inhabitants.

The west part beyond Leyland Lane a great high Road leading from Preston towards Eccleston is called the Hamlet of Honkington and lyeth adjacent to the west part of this Lordship called Leyland Moss a Spacious Turbury and good fuel where are found in digging turfs for fuel for underground great trees of firr oak and such like of a vast length which are imagined by the country people to have lyne overthrown most one way lying since Noah's flood and the moss that covereth them to be the scum and Rubbish hanging on the trees and so at the fall of that great inundation did obstruct the flowing of the water from the Higher Hills and by the force of the violent wind might break off the trees from their remaining roots and lay their tops most one way the firr trees by their Gum and Oyl much more preserved their other tymber many of them in size 20 yards and upward in length only that boughs and leaves lying below the moss were unto the Clay or Whit sand.

Leyland hath many fayr built houses of brick within the Lordship one modish house lately built in the road from Preston to the Church of Leyland by a worthy Gentleman Mr. Ric Fleetwood, Cosen and heir apparent to that great Estate belonging to Fleetwood of Rossel and nere unto it another Antient Hal lately the inheritance of Mr. Rob Chernoc a secular priest and a superintendant over many others who dying gave his estate from his own sisters living to his beloved Housekeeper Mrs. Grace Bold and her heirs who not performing some secret promises in disposing of part of the Revenues belonging to the same but settling it upon one Mr. Cross a Son to her brother in law Mr. Cross of Derwent the gift was contested and at Lancaster Assizes lately recovered from the (?) and (?) to the King as mortmane.

A little distant from the Church southwards standeth a fayr built house belonging to the Ingenious Gentleman Mr. George Farington brother to Major Henry Farington Lord of Worden and the Manor of Leyland. The house is called Shaw Hall in the aforesaid house of Rob Charnoc dwelleth at present Mr. Will Farington son and heir to the aforesaid Major Henry Farington.

Nere Worden Hall is a wind Corn miln another Water Miln in the west part cald Mosse Miln and nere unto it a fayr arched Ston bridge called Earnsa Bridg Near unto which Bridge ther stands a fair built Almshouse by W. Farington Esq., grandfather to Major Hen. Farington for Habitation and releif of poor men and women within the township John Osbaldeston Esqr. gave to K. Charles the first and like of the Backstayrs to K. Charles 2nd at his death £600 towards maintaining the poor within the township of Leyland being the place native birth to be layd out upon land and interest the rest to be distributed to the maintenance of the poore.

In Leyland Lane the road leading from Preston to Ormschurch are many fayr built houses of brick John Sumners upon the side of Lostoc Water Mr. Prestons Mr. Crokes and Elias Sumners in the road.

Leyland Church hath within it 3 spacious chappals or chantries within the same one belonging to the House of Worden the 2nd to Clayton and the 3rd cald Jesus Chappel built by the Lords of Kuerden.

Nere unto the church is a Vicarage house with necessary buildings and grounds containing 1/2 acres worth £6 per an. the great tythes belonging to the vicar a laborious and good preacher Mr. Thomas Hermitriding worth £5 per an. The tyth coin of Leyland worth £80 per an. the inheritance of that worthy Esqr. Edw. Fleetwood of Penwortham the patron of this parish.

In the side of the church yarde of Leyland standeth a new reedified School House fayrly built with brick and hansomly adorned with many wyndows. The Scholmaster hath a stypend yearly out of the Dutchy Revenues granted first by Q. Elizabeth ther is many other gifts bestowed upon it.

£100 by Peter Bursic (?) £100 by Mr. Andrew Dandy of London deceased £50 by James Sherdley £30 by Sir Rich. Hoghton and old Major Willm. Farington £10 by Mr. Raf Farworth and £20 per an by Mr. George Farington of Barno (?) for his life which last goeth towards maintaining of an usher. The present Schoolmaster is Mr. Wade who receiveth the proffits given towards the school and performeth his duty seriously.

* * * * *

Transcriber's notes

- (1) I have omitted Kuerden's description of the Appropriation of Leyland to the Abbey of Evesham and the Assigantion of the Vicarage of Leyland, the list of school feofees and certain details of the descent of the Lordship of Leyland.
- (2) Mention of Vicar Hermitriding (Armetriding) dates the work as not earlier than 1689.
- (3) The Hamlet of Honkington or Honkevnton appears in documents as early as 1316 and it is most interesting that Kuerden has identified it as being that part of Leyland west of Leyland Lane. The former existence of a hamlet of this name does not seem to be known locally.

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METHODIST ORIGINS IN LEYLAND

By Edgar Mason

Methodism - a name tag given to John and Charles Wesley and their friends at Oxford - can be said to have been established in Leyland through Roger Crane and Thomas Bradshaw a hand loom weaver from Penwortham who came to live in one of the old stone cottages in Turpin Green Lane between Goulding Avenue and Goulding Terrace.

Meetings were held at the cottage but were unable to continue by reason of hostility and prejudice of neighbours and moved to a house in Towngate where a little more tolerance prevailed.

The movement continued to grow in numbers and a chapel was built on Golden Hill in 1814. It was later converted into three cottages then demolished and a bank built on the site. Now the bank has been demolished and further development is now taking place.

Hewitson, the Preston Historian described it as 'a small strong building like a respectable barn and full of windows (20 of them). In front of the building there are some iron railings and beyond them two doors.

The masonry is plain and conspicuously pointed and towards the top there is a tablet bearing the date of the original edifice.

The Chapel held 450 people and congregations are 150 upwards; in fact auxilliary chapels were built at Midge Hall and Leyland Lane to cope with the increased attendance at Golden Hill chapel.

Hewitson also mentions 'a fine new School some 200 yards from the Chapel costing £1,000

Commodious and comfortable; there being established a night-school, a Savings Bank, a lending library, a 'Band of Hope' etc.'

He finishes his description and the account of his visit in 1872 by saying something a little prophetic - 'and if something very excellent does not come out of the land of Leyland we shall be rather surprised'.

About 1841 though, the premises were extended at front and side and a gallery constructed.

During the alterations services were held in the barn of Hole House farm; the farmer at that time being Thomas Ainsworth and later occupied by Miss Hough, a well known Methodist.

When the religious census was taken in 1851 it showed that of 330 'free sittings' and 170 'other sittings' plus 'free space' and standing room for 100 were available.

The general congregation was:- morning 241; evening 110; and the average attendance over 12 months was 300 and in Sunday School 170 scholars.

The report was signed by William Swann and William Jackson.

THE SCHOOL

Population growth and attendance at Sunday School when children were taught to read and write in addition to religious teaching prompted action towards building larger accommodation and a plot of land was secured in Turpin Green Lane called Stackey Croft from Mr. John Goulding who lived at Starkie House nearby and still a pleasant looking building.

The corner stone of the School was laid on Whit Monday by Mr. J. L. Wall of Manchester (a partner in Messrs. Read & Wall, Cotton Manufacturers at Brook Mill, later Berry's Mill, later Cyril Lord and later Leyland Paints).

There was, of course, a procession, tea and the usual sports field later tea being in Mr. Quinn's India Rubber and Hose-pipe Works on Golden Hill and until fairly recently the Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Co., otherwise "th'owd rubber".

The School was opened on Thursday October 29th 1868 and although built for both secular and religious education, it was not until January 16th 1871 that the School was opened as a day school, this being due to a 'tardy procedure by the education authorities'.

Mr. Evans was the first Schoolmaster and there were 63 scholars arrived on that cold January day. His log book entry for February 6th reads 'admitted 10 new scholars today' - it is still growing.

Only six Head Teachers have served in school since 1871. They are as follows:

Mr. W. Evans ...	1874
Mr. N. G. Fish ..	1878
Mr. W. Moore ...	1919
Mr. W. Savire ...	1937
Mr. F. M. Salisbury	1955
Mr. N. Greenwood..	Present Head Teacher.

THE NEW CHURCH AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The erection of the new Church adjacent to the new School began with the usual stone laying ceremony on September 18th 1875 by J. G. McMinnies, M.P. of Farington and cost £3,000.

It is a typical Methodist Church building of no particular architectural merit and will hold 700 - there are hundreds like it, with pinewood pews, a gallery, a fine organ, choir stalls and ornate wood pulpit.

The decor is pleasant and much improved on the original sombre colours.

We should remember, however, that £3,000 required a deal of scraping together in 1875 from a mainly working class community. The old Golden Hill Chapel was sold and converted to cottages in one of which lived Mr. William Swann who was Sunday School superintendent for 40 years, treasurer for 50 and a manager of the day school until his death in 1910.

Changes have been made over the years; for instance a new organ was installed in 1881 the first organist being a Mr. Henry Moss. In 1895 a serious flaw was discovered in the upper walls which had begun to bulge endangering the roof. Strengthening the walls and boarding the ceiling cost £206.

In 1910 a wooden building situate at a house in Moss Lane was bought for £50 and moved bodily over soft fields to the road and thence to Turpin Green on rollers with the assistance of a steam tractor and erected by the Church, serving as an auxiliary building for many years until the demolition of the old wooden school and erection of the fine new Youth and Community Centre.

The Y and C Centre is a modern structure, well appointed with coffee bar, games room, spacious upper floor with hall and foyer and a stage with full accommodation for plays.

At the rear is a low lounge used for meetings or as dressing rooms when panto's or plays are in production. Activities in the church life include the Boys' Brigade (1908) 1st troop of Girl Guides (1918) Brownies, Youth Club (with its attendant activities) Drama group, Thursday fellowship, Wives group, hospital visiting and Luncheon Club.

The present Minister is the Rev. G. Stanger and the Deaconess is Miss Olive Garnett who is kept busy with Youth Club work.

Centenary celebrations are taking place throughout the year with special features culminating in Centenary Week, September 18th to 25th.

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HUNDRED YEARS AGO 1876

By J. N. Banister

There is a memorial tablet on the South wall of the Chancel
in Leyland Parish Church which reads as follows:-

"To the memory of Samuel Crook late of Leyland,
Gentleman. Gratefully to be respected for his
extensive and well directed charities yearly
distributed within this Parish and that of
Clayton. He died 10th February 1876 aged 82 years"

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SHEPHERD STREET MISSION

By Dorothy Mather

In 1876 Joshua Williamson, a Preston business man, began what was to be for him, a lifetime's work, and for the destitute of Preston, a home, where food, shelter, and spiritual guidance could be found.

He began his work by conducting gospel meetings in a cottage in Rose Street.

Three years later he obtained premises in Shepherd Street. What was formerly a handloom weaving shop was used as a shelter to accommodate 100 people. This was enlarged in 1880 so that 50 more could be provided for.

Joshua now had another business flourishing, but the profits were not shown in pounds, shillings and pence, but in those to whom the Mission had been another chance; the start of a new life. From local churches, businesses and local societies, money came to support the work.

A committee met regularly to administrate the running of the mission, to plan for the extending of the work, and to run appeals.

In 1889 the committee bought four houses and a shop, premises which had formed part of Dr. Shepherd's library. Part of these premises collapsed, but undaunted, the committee used the land to build the present mission which could give accommodation to 250 people.

During the next two years, three cottages were rented in Laurel Street. These were eventually bought and one was used as a shelter for men, the second as a boys' home, the third became the home of the Superintendent.

More and more of Preston's needy came to Shepherd Street, the men and boys were housed, but the women and girls were passed on to other societies who were doing similar work.

Two more houses were rented in Berry Street to accommodate boys who had been rescued "from an evil and harmful environment".

The three cottages in Laurel Street were pulled down in 1898 and a mens' shelter was erected on the site. This new property had a large cellar which was used for chopping wood, so that men could earn the price of their food and lodging.

The work of saving children was growing more and more pressing, so, in 1900 the committee bought Crow Hill House in Oxford Street. Mr. Williamson gave up his business, and began a full-time mission, looking after children of both sexes in this new home. There were 25 children to begin with, but as before, the work grew with the need and in 1906 this home too was extended.

The war which began in 1914 curtailed some of the activities, but in 1926 the children's home was again extended.

By now the home, and its work, were quite famous and churches began to hold special services for the Mission, and at Christmas, toys and money were collected not only for the Home but for the many children who came to the Home for their Christmas morning breakfast. Guides and Scouts from Leyland would meet and walk into Preston to serve at this meal, and distribute gifts.

The Lancashire Evening Post have done a sterling service over the years always bringing the activities of the Mission to the public's notice and running appeals to help with the cost of extending and modernising the Home, giving parties and outings to the poor children of Preston and district, but above all, giving spiritual guidance to the many youngsters from broken homes and families.

In 1950, on advice from the Home Office, further extensions and modernisation took place, and the accommodation limited to 16 boys and 16 girls.

In 1962 the Home was divided into three separate family groups, each with their own housemother. In 1970, a further improvement came when the dormitories were converted into separate bedrooms.

In 1971, a new recreation room was opened by Ald. T. Dewhurst, and three years later, new staff quarters were built over the recreation building.

1976 has seen 100 years of loving and caring. The work continues, not only that, it constantly changes with the changing times. No-one is ever turned away, the Home boasts an ever open door, and children are taken and cared for until they are mature, or cared for on a temporary basis until their own homes can support them.

A new venture last year was a camping holiday at Carnforth and this was so successful that the committee hope to obtain a permanent site so that, as is their policy, not only the children in the home but any needy children in the district can be given a holiday of a lifetime, or some overburdened mother a break, knowing her children will be well cared for, and come back to her happy and healthy.

Joshua Williamson's work has outlived him but has never outlived its usefulness.



BIRD I' TH HAND

Talking of signs, some are very humdrum and ordinary, but others can be very spectacular. Some weeks ago, in the Northern News on I.T.V., I saw an item showing some excellent 'pub signs' painted by a Rochdale artist. But think what could happen if the artist had an off-beat sense of humour.

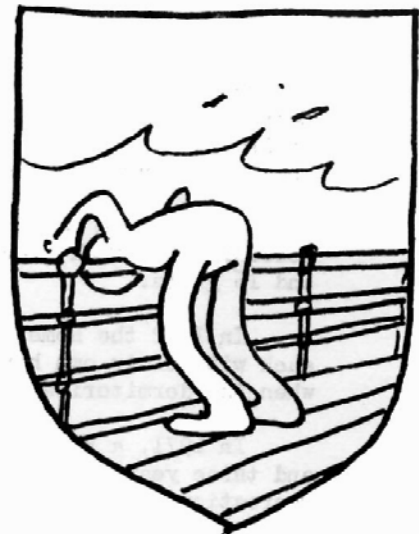


THE BOOT AND SHOE

Have you ever stopped to consider how our Hotels & Inns got their names? Many are, of course, fairly obvious & mundane - such as the Station Hotel, Cemetery Inn, Royal Oak, Kings Arms, etc. etc. - but occasionally you see something out of the ordinary.

For instance, have you ever come across the "Clog & Billycock" in the Pleasington Area - I wonder how such unlikely partners came to be associated.

Or what about the "Sign I' th Cellar Inn" - how on earth did the sign come to be in the cellar and what useful purpose did it serve there?



THE GREEN MAN

Imagine a caricature of the local magistrate on the signboard of "The Poacher Inn"..... or "The Hand & Heart" depicted quite literally with a disembodied hand holding a heart dripping with blood.

I mentioned this subject to an artistic friend of mine with rather a peculiar sense of humour and he came up with some unusual suggestions which I have used to illustrate this article.

There is certainly considerable scope for artists to use their imagination & more colourful & exciting pub signs would brighten up the environment.

THE CRAFT OF KNITTING

By D. M. Barnes

The word knitting is from the Old English *cnyttan* "to knot", *cnotta* "a knot" an ancient method of making a textile fabric by forming a series of loops upon one needle and looping a further series through these on a second.

The exact origin of the craft of knitting is unknown, unlike pottery or metalwork, the material produced does not usually survive. There is a child's sock in the Victoria and Albert Museum said to date from Coptic Egypt which could have been made by a knitting technique. Biblical references are another possible source of information. One authority suggests that Joseph's coat of many colours was knitted, possibly along the lines of Fair Isle knitting, which is an intricate blending of several colours of yarn to form a design; and it is widely held that lots were cast for Christ's seamless garment because it was knitted and could not be divided by cutting lest the pieces unravelled. All this is only conjecture. Historians date the origin of the craft at around AD.200 in Arabia, sailors carrying it to other countries, which would imply that the earliest exponents were men.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the formation of Knitting and Hosiery Guilds in Europe brought high standards of craftsmanship and design. In order to become a Master Knitter the apprentice was obliged to serve for six years, three spent learning and three spent travelling, before spending thirteen weeks producing his "Masterpieces". These were:-

- (a) A carpet 4 ells square (the English ell is about 45 inches, Flemish and Dutch ells 27 inches).
- (b) A Cap.
- (c) A woollen shirt.
- (d) A pair of hose with ornate clocks (a pattern up each side)

Before embarking on these projects the applicant was expected to submit charts of his designs in colour, vowing according to his religion that the design was authentic, unaided work. After receiving approval he went to the appointed workshop where he created the pieces. When the time limit expired, the work was submitted and if the standard was approved the knitter was received into the Guild as a Master Knitter. The Guild members were men, though the widow of a master member was recognised.

Hand knitting flourished in France and by the 13th century knitted silk hose was one of the staple industries of the country. Mrs. Montague, a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth I copied a pair of French lace stockings and presented them to the Queen. These stockings can be seen at Hadfield House.

The first knitting school was founded in York in the 16th Century while the frame knitting hosiery trade established itself in Leicester and Nottingham about the same period. During the 16th and 17th centuries the Yorkshire Dales became the centre of hand knitting in England, various records proving that the knitting of hosiery was a thriving industry during this period.

The Victorian age, following the Industrial Revolution slowly undermined the hand knitting industry, and whilst the fishermen of the Shetlands and the East Coast fishing ports still carried on the craft, it became mainly a drawing room hobby practised by the genteel daughters of the middle class.

The spinning of hand knitting wools by reputable firms and the production of knitting leaflets, giving simple instructions on how to produce knitted garments at home, have contributed largely to the development of knitting today.

When I started to compile this article I intended to apologise to our male members and ask them to bear with me, but as I discovered, men were the originators of hand knitting - who knows they may decide to take it up again!!

* * * * *

THE SIGN OF THE BIRD

By Francis Knight

DISCOVER THE ORIGINS OF INN SIGNS AND YOU WILL UNCOVER SOME LOCAL HISTORY

AT first sight many of our gaily painted Inn signs appear too fantastic to be taken seriously, but a little investigation will soon reveal some interesting information.

THE Inn sign is a relic of the days when the majority of people were unable to read so pictorial signs were used as a means of informing them.

ANIMAL signs on Inns are fairly common, but it has been estimated that only about 1,200 Inns in BRITAIN bear bird signs and these depict over 60 species from Woodpeckers, Blackbirds, Bullfinches, right down to to the familiar Blue-tit.

Many bird signs go back to the days of Heraldry - the Falcon appeared on the crest of ELIZABETH I, the Swan was the emblem of HENRY IV, and the Raven the emblem of MARY I. IN NORTH WALES the Eagle is a common Inn sign, being the symbol of strength, the King of the Birds, and because it appeared on the heraldic coat of arms of a local magnate, SIR JOHN WYNNE of GWYDIR CASTLE AT LLANRWST.

IN SHROPSHIRE there are many Inn signs bearing the Raven, such as the wrought iron sign outside the RAVEN INN at MUCH WENLOCK. SHREWSBURY also has its Raven Inn.

These signs go back to the Heraldic arms of a family of the local gentry called the CORBETS.

Another old Inn sign is that of the Peacock - Inns displaying such signs can be found at MIDDLE TYSOE in WARWICKSHIRE, and not far from Clerkenwell, London.

The Peacock's flesh was thought to be incorruptible and thus the bird was looked upon as a symbol of the resurrection.

One frequently comes across Inns bearing the sign of the OWL - there is one in EDMONDTON, LONDON, another in CALVERLEY near LEEDS and at SHAFTSBURY there is the 'BLINKING OWL'. The Owl has always been looked upon as a bird of wisdom and intelligence, and in Yorkshire the custom of giving owl broth as a cure for whooping cough is still practised. And at St. Helens the odd sign of the OWL'S NEST, can be found on a Pub.

Inn signs bearing the name 'COCK' are numerous and ubiquitous, the reason being that the bird was looked upon as a symbol of fertility in ancient times - the cock was ceremoniously killed at harvest time and buried in a field to ensure the next years' crop would be plentiful. At least one Inn bearing a bird sign has played a part in all our lives by supplying us with a well-known jingle. This is the EAGLE TAVERN in London which was once a favourite with sailors.

One of the tools they used was a weasel and their frequent visits to this tavern obliged many of them to visit the local pawnshop before pay day to "pop" their weasel. So hence the rhyme -

"UP AND DOWN THE CITY ROAD
IN AND OUT THE EAGLE
THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES
POP GOES THE WEASEL"

BIRD IN THE HAND Inns are also quite common, going back to the days when Falcons were used by man to catch food.

KINGS were very partial to this sport and it is said that WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR made falconry popular in England.

Almost every locality can sport a Magpie sign. Some fine and pictorial signs can be seen at THE MAGPIE HOTEL in Woburn and at the THREE MAGPIES in Gloucestershire.

These strikingly beautiful birds were very popular and would often be kept in cages outside Inns as a customer attraction. Other bird signs can be found all over BRITAIN and include those bearing Robins, Rooks, Herons, Cuckoos, Swallows and Wrens.

So keep an eye open for these when travelling through different parts of the country. They are interesting, pictorial and informative.

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

Part 4

By J. N. Banister

THE CHURCH BELLS

In the year 1554, in one of the Farington Deeds directions are given for: "Ye ringing of ye bells at ye said church" which proves the existence of a number of bells at that time.

In 1552 in the inventory of church goods mention is made of "four greete bells". In 1772 Abram Radhall, of Gloucester, re-cast the six bells in the tower and five of these still "ring clear and sweet". In the early part of the present century, Leyland was one of the few places where the curfew was rung at 8.00 p.m. from Michaelmas to Lady Day, and 9.00 p.m. from Lady Day to Michaelmas.

The following are the inscriptions on the Leyland bells:

- 1st Bell "May Jesus Christ be praised"
The gift of Margaret Kellet, 1897
John Taylor, Founder, Loughborough.
- 2nd Bell "Let God be feared"
1722 Chr. Sudell. Vicar.
- 3rd Bell "The Church prosper" 1722
Thos. Blackleach.
Wm. Oakenshaw.
Robt. Sibbarin.
John Morris. Ch. Wardens 183535
- 4th Bell John Stephenson, Canal Foundry, Preston.
S.M. H.B. J.M. Ch. Wardens 1835
- 5th Bell "Muatnornos ante fuimus" 1722
Re-cast 1885
- 7th Bell "Magis Quotidie dilectabimus"
- 8th Bell "Morning, evening, noon and night, praise God"
The gift of John Stanning
1897 John Taylor, Founder, Loughborough.

St. James's Church was built, like St. Ambrose, during the time of the Rev. Thomas Rigbye Baldwin. The parish of St. James's was created in 1855.

A fine church was built there by the late Mrs. Farington whose recumbent statue, the work of Noble, the well known sculptor, is erected in the chancel of the church, and endowed by the two Misses Faringtons, who at that time were the co-heiresses of Worden.

The building affords accommodation for 500 worshippers. Its graceful tall spire is a landmark for miles around. Its pretty lych-gate forms a suitable entrance.

During the twenty eight years that the Rev. Gardner Baldwin was vicar the following work was accomplished:-

	£	s	d
1824 Trinity Church Houghton built	2,000		
1825 Houghton churchyard walls and gate erected	391	18	0
1825 Augmentation of Houghton living	1,000	0	0
1825 Heapey Churchyard consecrated	12	0	0
1826 Houghton Parsonage house built	700	0	0
1826 Heapey National School built	335	0	0
1827 Walls, Gateway and gate to Leyland Churchyard built	340	0	0
1829 Heapey Church enlarged	520	0	0
1830 St. John's Church, Whittle-le-Woods built	2,500	0	0
(1831) Whittle-le-Woods Churchyard, (1830) walls, gates and palisades	496	0	0
1832 Whittle-le-Woods Parsonage House built	640	0	0
Purchase of small field adjoining	160	0	0

... to be continued

THE NATIONAL TRUST

By C. W. Holmes

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty was founded in 1895 by Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon H. D. Rawnsley. Each had realised that the growth of population, the spread of industrialization and a lack of planning were rapidly spoiling much of the beauty of England. To halt this uncontrolled destruction, to educate public opinion and to give people access to the countryside they agreed to set up a body of responsible private citizens who would act as trustees for the nation in the acquisition and ownership of land and buildings worthy of permanent preservation. For over three-quarters of a century 'The National Trust' has done much to realize their aim.

The public can now enjoy about 377,000 acres of Trust land and some 200 houses of outstanding architectural or historic importance, all this in the ownership of the 'National Trust'. It has also accepted covenants, which protect against development, a further 61,000 acres and many other buildings. The variety of its properties today might surprise its early supporters. These include mountains and moorland, coastland and woods, commons and pastures, lakes, waterfalls, bridges and canals. Its buildings include prehistoric and Roman antiquities, mediaeval chapels and castles, villages, cottages, mills, inns, barns, and dovecotes. Its parks and gardens illustrate many different types and periods. Its country houses large and small contain important collections of pictures, tapestry, books, sculpture, silver, china and musical instruments.

In 1907 Parliament conferred upon the Trust the unique power to declare its land inalienable. This means that they can never be sold or mortgaged, nor can they be compulsorily acquired without the special will of Parliament.

The Trust is controlled by a Council, partly appointed by various public bodies and societies and partly elected by members of the Trust. The Council delegates its main responsibilities to the Executive Committee. The Trust is national in name and function, but is completely independent of the state. Its main sources of income are members' subscriptions, donations, legacies and endowments and the rents from its properties. Because it does not receive any regular grant from the state the Trust is most anxious to increase its membership which now stands at about 350,000. Not only does it need extra income from membership subscriptions but it needs the support of all who value the unspoilt countryside and Historic houses of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and who are willing to give practical help to preserve them and make them known to the public.

Properties have been given to the Trust by their former owners often supported by a substantial financial gift which endows the property for its future upkeep. Many houses retain their original contents of fine furniture, pictures and other treasures accumulated over the generations. To the Trust this confirms the public faith in its ability to protect and maintain its properties for this and for future generations. The Trust's policy is wherever possible to present its historic houses not as empty museums but as homes. Many of the great houses retain close associations with the families which made them famous. Often the donor himself continues to live in part of the house as a tenant. The walking-sticks in the hall, the flowers, silver-framed photographs, and papers in the rooms are signs that the house is still loved and lived in and that visitors are welcomed as private individuals just as much as tourists.

Extract from National Trust Official Publication.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Levland there are three hotels named "Seven Stars". One in Towngate, a second at the corner of Fox Lane and Leyland Lane and a third in Slater Lane known as the original Seven Stars, dated 1830.

This area is known as Seven Stars.

The number 7 is associated with many events. Seven days of the week. Seven Churches of Asia. Seven Wonders of the World. Seven is also associated with Heraldry. Seven Ages of Man. The oldest meaning comes from the Greek Myths. Atlas was supposed to have seven daughters all named, who were transformed into a group of Stars.

There are no signs outside the Seven Stars in Levland. There was a sign over the Seven Stars on the

The favourite design of the Seven Stars sign is six stars arranged in a circle with the seventh star in the centre, as in the one at Coppull.

On Runshaw there is The Plough. This is used in agricultural districts. The stellar Plough consists of Seven Stars.

J. N. Banister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Leyland 100 years ago the foundation stone of the United Reformed Church of Leyland was laid by a Mr. J.G. McMinnies, of Farrington Lodge, who at that time was a Mill owner.

The stone was laid on the 27th May, 1876. The architect for the church premises was a Mr. Grant.

Mr. McMinnies represented Warrington in Parliament and he secured a 999 Lease for the Church. At that time there were 150 scholars and nine teachers.

R. O. Williams.