

No 29 OCTOBER 82

Leyland Chronicle

The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

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AIMS

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

MEETINGS

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

AT PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£4.50 per annum
Adult Members	£3.50 per annum
School Members	£0.20 per annum
Casual Visitors	£0.50 per meeting

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

AND

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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Editorial

Another Society year has gone by, and we can look back on some very interesting meetings. As we have come to expect, the Speakers maintained a high standard, giving us very informative, and in some cases intriguing talks. We look forward to another season of meetings, and anticipate the customary enthusiastic support from members.

We must express grateful thanks to all those who have served in an official capacity, giving particular mention to the work put in by Mrs. R.B. Kelly in her position as Chairman.

Welcome and best wishes are extended to all those taking office for the coming year, and in this connection I must make personal mention of Mr. G. Bolton who is taking over Editorship of this Magazine. May I also say "thank you" to those who have contributed articles to the Lailand Chronicle over the past year, and express the hope that your full support will be given to Mr. Bolton thus helping successfully to sustain our Magazine.

Finally, we would extend to Mr. Morris, our President, very best wishes for a speedy recovery from the illness from which he has suffered since the early part of the year.

Roy Woodward
Editor

Mr. Edgar Mason

It was with considerable sadness that we learned of the death of Edgar Mason just before last Christmas. The unexpectedness of such a happening only served to increase the shock everybody felt, but, at least, Edgar did not experience prolonged suffering.

Edgar Mason was a founder member of the Leyland Historical Society, and during the ensuing years, served the Society loyally and well in a variety of posts. He carried out his duties sincerely and conscientiously, and was always most helpful and courteous towards all with whom he came into contact.

My personal association with Edgar was primarily in connection with the editing of this magazine, and since his death, it has come home forcibly to me, just how much work Edgar did in this regard.

His smiling face and pleasant manner are sadly missed at our Meetings, but I am sure he would wish to be remembered for his ready contribution to the success of the Leyland Historical Society, which was always forthcoming.

A.R. Woodward
Editor

St. Andrew's Parish Church

The Parish Church of Leyland is one of the oldest and largest in the north. It is dedicated to St. Andrew. In a stained glass window in the chancel there is a small pane which shows the Patron Saint of the church.

St. Andrew was one of the Apostles and a brother of Simon Peter. His career after the crucifixion is unknown. Tradition tells us that after preaching the gospel in Scythia, Northern Greece, and Epiras he suffered martyrdom on the cross at Patracra in Achaia (A.D. 62 or 70). His festival is observed on November 30.

About A.D. 740, St. Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland. He was held in great veneration in Russia as the Apostle who again according to tradition first preached the gospel in that country.

At one time Leyland was a most extensive parish, which included Euxton, Cuerden, Clayton-le-Woods, Whittle-le-Woods, Hoghton, Withnell, Wheelton and Heapey. Leyland stands almost at the centre of the Leyland Hundred. The view from the top of the tower affords a fine view of the surrounding country.

Fought at Waterloo

The chancel and tower are the oldest portions of the building. The records of the vicars go back to 1220. When some alterations were made at the south-east corner in 1852, fragments of an earlier church were found. Documentary evidence shows that a priest was appointed to Leyland, at a date before the building of the present edifice.

Leyland Church was rebuilt and much enlarged in 1817. It was in the Gothic style of the time. The foundations were left below the new building, and the width of the nave was increased by nine feet on each side.

The work was carried out by a Mr. Longworth. It has been stated that he was celebrated as a combatant at Waterloo more than as a skilful and competent architect. One wonders what this critic would say about the structure of the present roof, both exterior and interior.

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It will be noticed that on the north side the gallery stops short of the wall. This was done when the organ chamber was erected by the north-east wall.

The Chancel is of the 14th century. Here the roof was restored in 1956. While the work was in progress the services were held in the Parish Hall.

Stone Gargoyles

The east window shows a change in the style of architecture. It has pointed lights side by side under one arch. The two mullions cross each other at the head of the window. The pattern of the stonework of this window is called Gothic tracery. Architecturally, both inside and out the Chancel is by far the most striking and beautiful feature of the building.

The Tower is late 15th or 16th century. The entrance by the west door is most impressive. The ascent by the steps from the floor of the tower to the nave gives it a bearing of stateliness. There are stone gargoyles on three sides of the tower, except the east, where there is only one.

On the west side of the tower there is a curious carving of a bird with a four leaf clover. The bird is said to be a woodcock, to denote the building of the tower by Seth Woodcock, vicar 1494-1516. It is a crude carving, and hard to distinguish from the ground.

From birth to death

The church and the churchyard reveals much of the history of Leyland, which could fill volumes. This short survey may spur you to greater and closer investigation.

Throughout the ages, the church has meant more to the people of Leyland than any other monument. It has been associated with their lives from birth to death. Servicemen on foreign soil, sailors on the seven seas, men and women who have left the place to seek their livelihoods in other parts of the world, all like to recall the place of their abode or birth, the church where they have been baptised, worshipped and married.

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It has been associated not only with their spiritual health, but also with their social activities. To thousands throughout the ages it has been to them a monument of memories. When absent from their native abode, they imagine they hear the chiming of the church clock, or the pealing of the bells calling them to worship.

Nowell Bannister

Extract From
"The Great Civil War in Lancashire"
by E. Broxap.

After Lord Strange had failed to take Manchester on September 1642, it was feared that he would soon make another attempt. There was a false alarm that the King and the Earl of Derby were to attack Manchester. Fortunately this rumour proved false.

Parliament had realised the importance of retaining Manchester, and already during the siege had issued a commission to raise 1000 dragoons under Sir John Seaton. Unfortunately it was easier to issue commissions than carry them out. Therefore the whole county (Lancashire) was organised for military purposes by the Parliament, companies being raised and Colonels appointed for each Hundred, viz: Assheton and Holland in Salford Hundred, Shuttleworth and Nicholas Starkie in Blackburn, Rigby for Amounderness and Leyland, Moore and Peter Egerton in West Derby, and Mr. Dodding for Lonsdale Hundred.

For the Royalists, collections were appointed for every Hundred to raise the sum of £8,700 to be employed for the payment of 2000 footmen and 400 horsemen and for the provision of a magazine. The collections were Girlington and Roger Kirkby for the Lonsdale Hundred; Adam Mort, Mayor of Preston, and Alexander Rigby of the Burgh of Amounderness; Farington and John Fleetwood for Leyland; Henry Ogle, John Bretherton and Robert Mercer for West Derby; Robert Holt and Francis Sherington for Salford; and Sir John Talbot and Radcliffe Assheton for Blackburn.

Actual hostilities in the Preston and Blackburn areas began about the end of November 1642. The climax of the campaign, which on the whole went greatly in favour of the Parliamentarians, was the capture of Preston in February 1642-43.

A number of skirmishes occurred about the same time in the Blackburn Hundred. There had been a general meeting of royalists at Preston on November 7th and a week or two later Sir Gilbert Hoghton fired his beacon as a signal to the Fylde. With the troops raised, he disarmed Whalley and occupied Blackburn. Colonels

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Shuttleworth and Starkie hearing of this hastily raised 8000 men and attacked the royalists at night. A victory was achieved by the Parliamentarian forces, after two hours fighting. Blackburn was re-taken and the royalists fled in such a hurry that they left their own arms and all that they had seized in Whalley.

A.W. Seguss

Meeting of Leyland Historical Society
held December 7th 1981

Our talk this evening was given by Mr. Ian Brodie and entitled, "How the Lake District was Formed". Mr. Brodie began by stating that understanding how the landscape was formed will help people to appreciate more deeply the grandeur and beauty they see. In the North and West we find some of the oldest rocks in Europe. They are volcanic rocks. In the South Lake District we find silurian rock with Eskdale having pink volcanic intrusion. To the East of the Lake District are found limestone. Slate is the most widely known Lake District rock. The underlying rock formation influences the scenery, so the Lake District has a rich and varied landscape.

Weathering has also exerted an influence over the area, particularly the action of ice and water. The Ice Age 'carved' the Lake District forming the shape of the hills and valleys and the types of lakes found there. The action of ice and water continues to this very day. Each year their action changes the scenery.

Mr. Brodie then continued by mentioning the trees and plants growing in the area. Geographical influence here is evident in the types of plant life found and where they grow. Trees such as juniper, hazel, elm, and oak and various conifers, many types of grasses, flowers and shrubs were mentioned. Plant life in the Lake District is varied and interesting, enriching the landscape.

Dependent on the plant life are the insects, birds and mammals which are found in the area. Mr. Brodie mentioned red deer, adder, slow worm, catterpillar butterflies and bird life of water and land. Some of these are in danger of disappearing.

Man unfortunately is exercising a destructive influence on the landscape. Mr. Brodie then gave an account of man's activity in the Lake District showing slides of Castlerig Stone Circle, evidence of Roman Sites and roads, the first Christian impact through the Celtic remains, and he talked about Norse influence. The latter being evident in the farmlands of the district, and the legacy of names e.g. thwaites, tarns, becks and dales.

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In the Furness area, the Monastic influence is to be seen in the development of smelting and the woollen trade. After Norman times agriculture became more prosperous.

Mans building has also exerted an influence on the area by his use of the types of rocks. The stone walls and farm buildings vary in the colour of stones used in them in different areas. They enrich the view one sees in the Lake District.

The type of farm we see today is the result of the Enclosure Acts of the 16th and 17th centuries.

As a result of affluence, towns and markets grew and also industry. Mining of lead and copper and slate quarrying also resulted. These activities were limited to the indigenous population.

The activities of the present day local people are linked with the past and the terrain in which they live. Examples of this are the sports in which they indulge, running sports, wrestling and hunting.

After 1850 the railway arrived in the Lake District opening up the area to tourists. Since 1850 people have been visiting the area in ever increasing numbers. Many famous visitors before 1850 and since came seeking inspiration and serenity from the beauty of the area, and from them producing their poetry, novels and painting. These include Wordsworth, Gray, Ruskin, Walpole, Arthur Ransome and Beatrix Potter.

Modern tourists are somewhat different. Some come to see the beauty of the Lake District and to visit places made famous by the Lake District writers and painters, but many come to indulge in various activities including fell walking, rock climbing, fishing and sailing, and studying the wild life. The landscape is changing to accommodate all these visitors. Land has to be cleared to park cars and make caravan and camping sites. More hotels have been erected to provide facilities for visitors; and services such as Rescue have been developed.

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In 1951 the area was declared a National Park in an effort to protect and enhance life in the area, for local people, visitors and future generations.

Whether visitors like it or not, they will have to accept certain restrictions on their activities or else risk destroying much of the beauty which attracts them to the area. A great deal of damage is done unintentionally such as wearing paths up hillsides and mountainsides, upon which running water has a further effect. Visitors also damage the stone walls which are such a feature of the area, and they leave litter around.

Mr. Brodie then outlined the difficulties and problems of modern Lake District life. They included too many tourists, the effect modern industry has had, and is having on the area, such as taking the water from the lakes to provide water for industry and city people.

He then concluded his excellently illustrated talk with slides showing different aspects of Lake District life.

Mrs. Mather gave the vote of thanks.

Canal Boat Art

Castles and Roses

Early canal workers, in an effort to enhance their rather cramped living quarters, endeavoured to add interest and colour, and maybe a false illusion of space, by painting scenes of castles and roses on the cupboard doors and other pieces of furniture.

One example was a drop leaf table hinged to the wall. When not in use it folded upwards to reveal the underside, so providing a picture to brighten the surroundings. The stools and all the wooden surfaces would be decorated, also the lid of the coal bunker; this was usually placed near the doorway leading on to the deck of the barge, and served the dual purpose of providing a step up on deck.

The idea that canal people originated from gypsies is rather debateable, one reason is that barges were in existence long before the gypsy caravan. There is a distinct similarity however between the interior decor of the two types of living quarters of the travellers.

Quite a number of household utensils used in the living quarters were also painted in very bright colours, usually with the roses part of the decoration. One utensil was the hand bowl, made from light weight metal and resembling a shallow bucket with a pan like handle.

Roses were introduced to the small blank wall spaces and these took on a wreath or garland form, in most cases on a pale background.

The three primary colours were usually used, red, yellow and blue, with the addition of black and white, for example, red and yellow - orange, yellow and blue - green, and red and blue - mauve, these could be made darker by adding black and lighter by the addition of white. Mauve was not a colour usually used.

The barge painter was kept just as busy on the exterior of the barge, the pair of narrow double doors complete with polished brass knobs would be grained light oak, the top two square panels containing castle scenes. These panels had no surrounding moulding or beading, they stood proud of the two sides of the doors. The two long vertical bottom panels were painted a bright green and portrayed a long garland of white, yellow and red roses, usually one large rose in the

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centre and the others diminishing in size to the top and bottom of the panels. They would be framed by a band of bright red.

The roses and castles theme was carried out to full advantage on the tin plate can, invariably kept on the roof of the barge. This was of a semi-conical shape with a flat lid, spout and carrying handles and was used for the drinking water.

The barge pole and water scoop with their long handles, and even the mop and sweeping brush handles were decorated in colourful stripes like a barbers pole.

All the paintings, both interior and exterior, were great works of art and were almost heraldic in appearance.

Heraldry was a means of identifying one person from another when wearing armour, by the use of colour and natural and geometrical designs. Similarly with barge painting, it helped with identification for people who could not read. The owners name, base and number was painted on each side and the name of the boat on the stern.

Frank Whitney

The National Trust and its Aims

This talk was given by Mr. H. Sweet on Monday, 4th January, who is an active member of the trust. The speaker also has over 5000 slides on the different objectives of the National Trust activities. The Trust relies upon its members fees and public donations and some government aid is also given. There is a membership of over 1,000,000 and new members are always welcomed, as are volunteers for working for the N.T.

The National Trust was started in 1884 to prevent the industrialists enclosing land for their own uses. It was feared if some attempt was not made to halt the enclosure of the land, people would not be able to enjoy their leisure time, as most of the land was only used for a small minority of the population to enjoy. Fortunately some notable personages were also interested in the preservation of the countryside, e.g. Duke of Westminster, John Ruskin, Octavia Hill and Thackeray the novelist. A meeting was held in Birmingham in 1885 by Sir Robert Hunter, and from this meeting the National Trust movement began.

One of the first National Trust properties was in the Lake District in the area of Keswick to Barrowdale to prevent the construction of a railway line. Buildings are also purchased and maintained showing the visitors how the owners lived in the past. Once a property is owned by the National Trust, an act of Parliament is required to purchase the property from the Trust.

Scotland has its own National Trust but the visiting of National Trust properties in Scotland is free if one is a member of the National Trust in England.

After this introductory talk, Mr. Sweet then showed his slides of National Trust property, assisted by Mrs. Tennant.

The slides started at Cornwall showing areas of the coastline protected by the National Trust. Inland the residence of Bess of Hardwick was shown. Bess was reputed to be the second richest woman in her time after Elizabeth 1. Her wealth was amassed by Bess marrying four times. In Lancashire Rufford Hall was shown, both the exterior and interior. Scenes of the Lake District, Tarn, Hows and the Langdale Pikes were shown, both summer and winter slides. Beatrix Potter's house at Sawrey was also shown.

The slides shown were of an excellent quality, and a very enjoyable evening was had by everybody.

Extract From
"The Story of Leyland"
by Norman R. Rogers

Leyland Baldwins

The family name of Baldwin is one associated with the parish from the time of the Norman Conquest. One Baldwin de Exeter accompanied the Archiepiscopal choir at Canterbury from 1185 - 1190.

Another member of the family wielded considerable power as Archbishop of Treres. A monument in the Abbey Church of Shropshire has upon it a crest and coat of arms, a Cockatrice chained with the motto "Je Noubliera Pas" which was the crest of the Leyland Baldwins.

The family Baldwins provided Vicars of Leyland from the years 1748 until 1912 without a break. 1748 began with a Thomas Baldwin until 1912 which ended with Octarius de Leyland Baldwin.

The most distinguished member of the Baldwin family was undoubtedly William Charles Baldwin F.R.G.S., who was the brother of Thomas Rigbye Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland from 1852 - 1891. William took notes of his African adventures and later wrote a book on his experiences in Africa entitled "African Hunting Adventure From Natal to the Zambesi including Lake Ngame. The Kalahari Desert from 1852 to 1860". On his journey through Africa William Baldwin met David Livingstone. He was the first European to reach Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River from the East on August 4th 1860. After Livingstone he was the second European who had reached the falls. He cut his initials on a tree just below Livingstones.

Extract From
"The Story of Leyland"
by Norman R. Rogers

Record of Leyland in Domesday Book
(AD 1080) Translation

King Edward held Lailand. There (are) 1 hide and 2 corucates of land. Woodland 2 leagues long and 1 league brodd and a eyrie of hawks.

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To this manor belong 12 carucates of land which 12 freemen held for as many manors. In there (are) 6 hides and 8 carucates of land. There is woodland there 6 leagues long and 3 leagues and 1 furlong broad.

The men of this manor and of Salford used not to work by custom at the King's Hall nor to reap in August; they only make one enclosure in the wood and have the forfeiture of bloodshed and of an outrage woman. In the other customs they went with the other above (mentioned) manors.

The whole manner of Lalland with the hundred used to pay in farm to the King 19 pounds and 18 shillings and 2 pence.

Of the land of the manor, Gerard holds $1\frac{1}{2}$ hide, Robert 3 carucates of land, Ralph 2 carucates of land, Roger 2 carucates of land, Walter 1 carucates of land. There are 4 radmans, a priest and 14 villeins and 6 borders and 2 oxherds. Between (them) all they have 8 ploughs. (There is) wood (land) 3 leagues long and 2 leagues in width and there (are) 4 eyries of hawks. The whole is worth 50 shillings. In part it is waste.

A.W. Seguss

Edwardian Preston

At our February meeting, Mr. Sartin of the Harris Museum, Preston gave us a wonderful insight into the history of Preston just after the beginning of the century. His collection of slides was excellent and these were accompanied by a running commentary in Mr. Sartin's most enthusiastic easy style of talking which is so typical of him.

It was interesting to see the streets and buildings of old Preston and to realise what changes have occurred (not always for the better) in the past 70 or 80 years. The photographs of the old tram-cars, both horse-drawn and electrically operated reminded one how much part of life they used to be and now they are a rarity seen only in one or two places in the country, notably Blackpool in our part of the world.

Although most of the slides were of places and buildings, it was still possible to gain an impression of the elegance of the era, particularly in the ladies' dresses which were so formal yet so essentially feminine.

One particularly interesting slide was a photograph of an old character who used to frequent Orchard Street and the vicinity, and was known as "Flycatcher Joe". He was a peddler selling flypapers and he would demonstrate the effectiveness of his wares by wrapping flypapers around his tall hat and catching flies as he walked about.

All in all, Mr. Sartin's talk proved a great success and certainly kept the audience enthralled for nearly two hours and I am sure a return visit in the near future would be welcomed by all.

Dying and Finishing

(A look at Epitaphs and Burial Customs)

The evening of 5th October had to be somewhat interesting, for, after all, how many other people go round photographing gravestones?

We were all "dying" to meet Mr. Astin, a teacher, who is now serving as Senior Housemaster at a large Manchester comprehensive school. His hobbies and interests include Local History and Photography.

Our speaker was about half an hour late and, while some of us wondered whether or not Mr. Astin would turn up, others amongst the group remembered how he had lost his way once before. After some anxious moments Mr. Astin finally arrived, apologising for being late but blamed the fact that "Prospect House" is not sign-posted anywhere in Leyland. Our Chairman, Mrs. Kelley, accepted Mr. Astin's apologies and agreed that there was a definite lack of signposts.

Mr. Astin is a most friendly, cheerful person, who is able to speak in a strong, clear voice (a quality acquired from his thirty years teaching experience?). The fact that the interval was put off until the end of the session was proof of how interesting the subject was.

We looked at Epitaphs, Burial Customs and other related matters, - some sad, some humorous, others pathetic, and including some folk humour and beliefs, plus a touch of the macabre. The talk included a short history of burial practices, graveyard symbols, the design of tombstones, Mason's mistakes, national and local disasters such as the Great Plague, and grave robbing, as well as numerous epitaphs.

I personally, was delighted by the session and I speak with very little doubt when I say that the rest of the audience shared my views. Mr. Astin showed us many slides of top quality and interesting variety.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Deacon and the audience burst into rapturous applause.

I am sure that we all look forward to welcoming Mr. Astin again some time in the future.

Mr. Bobby Willis

Alston Hall

On Sunday, 27th June, a visit to Alston Hall was arranged for a lecture on Thomas Hardy.

The coach party arrived at the hall, and after a look around the grounds, the party had dinner before the lecture was given.

The talk was given by Mrs. Lightfoot and was on the theme of Hardy's novels, and poetry, also the location of his stories and poetry.

In general the portrayal of the vicars of the church given by Hardy is not very flattering, they are usually portrayed as sanctimonious, humbugs and lacking the true spirit of Christianity. In a typical story, two sons who are ministers are going to meet their father who has just been released from prison, and as they are walking along the towpath by the canal, the father who is drunk falls into the water and is drowning, but they do nothing to save him. And in his novels there is always a hint of impending disaster, as though whatever his characters in the novels are doing, all will be in vain, as this malevolent influence will bring disaster to all. In the Mayor of Carterbridge, disaster overtakes the Mayor, Ters of the D'ubervilles has a tragic end, and Jude the Obscure has so many disasters that for all his attempts to improve his station in life, he is doomed to failure.

His poetry also has a theme of impending doom, as though Hardy is saying that whatever a person tries to achieve, this malevolent spirit will appear and all the effort will be in vain. The speaker illustrated this theme by readings from some of Hardy's poetry.

As the speaker explained, this theme does not detract from Hardy his ability as a novelist and a poet, but it can leave the reader with a feeling of depression after reading his works.

A brief outline of Thomas Hardy's life was then given; he was born in 1840 and died in 1928. He was born at Higher Bockhampton, Stinsford, near Dorchester, was trained as an architect, wrote prose and poetry, abandoned architecture 1873 to begin his literary career writing novels professionally.

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He ceased novel writing after *Jude the Obscure* in 1894, and began to write poetry until the end of his life. He was never very contented with his life in London, he always preferred the place of his birth and the surrounding countryside.

The lecture concluded with a slide of the cottage where Thomas Hardy lived, Max Gate at Dorchester, and where he also died.

The lecture was most interesting and gave a good insight into Hardy's philosophy of life, and was appreciated by all the audience.

A.W. Seguss