

No. 50 2004 - 2005

# Widening Horizons

The journal of  
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

(Founded 1968)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1024919

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**AIMS**

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

**MEETINGS**

Held on the first Monday of each month (September to July inclusive)  
at 7.30 p.m.

**AT**

**PROSPECT HOUSE, SANDY LANE, LEYLAND.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Vice Presidents	£7.00 per annum
Members	£6.00 per annum
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Casual Visitors	£2.00 per meeting

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to what I am told is the fiftieth edition of this publication.

I suppose that over the years the task of editor has become easier, especially in recent years with the rapid expansion of modern technology. It is now possible to insert articles from disc or e-mail without having to type out every word and Tipex and re-type all the mistakes! All that is required is to set out the submissions in a uniform manner, make sure photographs, maps and charts fit on the page with their relevant information and, of course, try to correct any spelling or grammatical mistakes that may occur. Easy isn't it?

Well, it does take considerable time and concentration and, of course, the most important thing is getting the articles in the first place, preferably earlier rather than later. Without these there would be no Chronicle and I am very grateful to all the contributors for making it possible, especially those who gave them to me in good time.. I am still delighted when I put in a disc and, hey presto – an article appears.

I must thank every one of our contributors this year for the very professional way the articles have been presented, although there were some very late arrivals, which made things extremely hectic during the last few days. If we want to get the Chronicle out for the December meeting it really means being print ready by the end of October. Of course the majority of contributors submit their articles in good time and I am very grateful to them for that.

Over the past ten years there have been many changes, not always for the better, in Leyland. Smaller supermarkets have come and gone and we now have Tesco and plans for even more such shopping centres. Looking back over previous issues, there is an article in edition 48 by Edward Almond, "Lost Buildings of Leyland" which shows how much Leyland has changed and I fear more buildings have gone since that article was written.

The articles this year are, once again, very interesting and varied and up to the very high standard we are coming to expect from our regular contributors. It is splendid also to have an article from our Canadian correspondent.

Congratulations to Derek Wilkins for being chosen as Historian of the Year for his article "Hutton Marsh – Calls and Calling" in Last year's Chronicle. I am delighted to say that Derek has written two more extremely interesting articles for us this year.

Can I, once again, ask (beg, plead) other members of the Society to come forward with their reminiscences of times past or their opinions on the Leyland of today. Just talking to people makes me realise that there is a wealth of memories and information out there so please put them on paper (or Disc) in good time for next year's Chronicle. Something to do in the dark days after all the festivities are over. But by the end of August please.

**MARY FOWLER – Editor**

**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.

Permission has been granted by the Ordnance Survey for the map scroll used on the cover.

### SOCIETY AFFAIRS 2003 – 2004

To start the 36<sup>th</sup> season on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> **September** we again got a great turnout as Dr David Hunt gave us a talk called "A Display of Leyland", which showed a new slant on the subject of Leyland. Taking various themes as a guide, he went through the industrial history, the village history, and the Farington family history, followed by Leyland's early history, sort of history in reverse. With the slide projector and the overhead projector, David was in his element. We are promised more of the same in his November lecture.

For our **October 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting we were again entertained by David Brazendale whose talk was entitled "Witchcraft in Lancashire". This was a concise trawl through the Lancashire archives in search of the trials of witches and those accused of witchcraft. Rather than concentrate on the famous Pendle Witches, David found the more obscure court cases that may have been overlooked previously. A fitting talk before Halloween.

After a short break on **3<sup>rd</sup> November** we welcomed back Dr David Hunt, whose talk entitled, "Fresh Light on Old Preston", did just that with many of the photographs that can now be found in his new book on Preston. It gave an interesting insight to previously unknown sights and areas of Preston, especially the pictures taken on the roof of the Harris Museum.

To end the year with a flourish, on **1<sup>st</sup> December** we called on the services of Andrew Gill who, with the able assistance of his entertaining sidekick, gave the members, "Lantern Magic". This was a special presentation of a magic lantern show with some slides being up to 150 years old. There were a variety of slides; short but uplifting stories, views of famous sights (including building the Forth Bridge) and animated slides with moving parts, many of them being hand coloured. The stories especially, brought out the Christmas spirit of the pantomime amongst the members, (oh not it didn't), oh yes it did, which went down well with the tea and mince pies at the interval.

To begin the New Year, on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**, we saw the welcome return of Stephen Sartin, whose talk was entitled "**Lancashire Paintings**". However, as is Stephen's style, what started with a painting of cockle pickers off the shore at Sunderland Point, a description of the area, the activity (currently much in the news), the artist finally progressed to the Lancashire County Council's chances of purchasing the painting from its present owners. Following this, Stephen showed us two paintings that were easily staged scenes, not actually drawn from life.

However, we were then taken on a mysterious trip through a series of photographs, which most of the members had not been seen before. These were photos of many famous or infamous Victorians, from Michael Faraday, Robert Stephenson, Florence Nightingale, Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a very interesting Viceroy of India and others too numerous to mention. As advertised, it was an interesting night in Stephen's usual unique style.

For the meeting on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**, I gave Colin Dickinson, an old friend of the Society, his head, and let him loose on the history of "**Railways around Preston**". Starting on Preston Station he soon had the members all over the local railway system. The lost lines to Southport, Longridge and especially Knott End were appreciated by the rail enthusiasts in the audience (note not train spotters). With a trip into the hills we were told about the "Little" North Western, which climbed the Pennines on the way to Clapham, Ingleton and Tebay (I notice a bad trend here). It was a very interesting evening for the casual as well as the committed rail fan.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> **March**, Barry Shaw entertained the members with “**Blackpool’s Hidden Heritage**”, the story of the town from its beginnings as a poor man’s health spa, to the town that has entertained generations with its bright, flashy and cheap forms of fun since the railways brought the masses from the mill towns. From the various forms of entertainment to the landlady of the postcards, every avenue was covered.

On **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April**, twenty-eight of the members made our annual visit to Alston Hall near Longridge for a three-course meal followed by a talk. (Why dear reader, does this event not appeal to more of the members I have yet to fathom. It is a great meal followed by a very good speaker each year – all for £12. Those who go always want to go again). Roger Mitchell’s talk on “**Buildings of Delight**” was not only the story of the folly but also interesting buildings that the gentry built in their large estates to show their wealth and standing in the community.

This was followed the on next day, **5<sup>th</sup> April**, by our regular meeting, at which we welcomed back by popular demand, Peter Watson, who told us about the origin of surnames last time but this time focused on “**North Country Folklore**”. He covered the subject in his interesting way by quoting various old remedies and old wives tales and questioning whether the members would dare to contradict them. An interesting talk given by a captivating speaker, covering the diverse spectrum of folklore and superstition.

On Bank Holiday Monday, **3<sup>rd</sup> May**, the members were entertained by Bill Waring who, with the assistance of Elizabeth Shorrock, gave them twenty-four questions to tax their minds on old buildings and sights of Leyland. I am too modest to say who won, but since I have an unfair advantage, the prize was taken by Ted Almond.

On Saturday **5<sup>th</sup> June**, the Society again took part in the fourth Leyland Craft & Local Societies Fair. There was the Slide Show with Elizabeth Shorrock & Bill Waring, the exhibition in the talk & slide show room featuring the history of the buildings along the Festival route through Leyland, and the story of Sandy Lane. The display in the main hall featured a photographic tour around the Leyland Cross area through the years.

The main discovery this year was the details that could be obtained from the three scanned aerial photographs we have of that part of Leyland from 1929, 1957 and 1970. The June fair on the 1957 one and the new shopping centre going up around Bakers chemist are my particular favourites. It also featured “Leyland – Then & Now”, an enlarged series of photographs from the archives of the Society from many various, and some foreign, imports.

The following Monday, **7<sup>th</sup> June**, Dr Alan Crosby came and talked about “**Making the Lancashire Medieval Town**”. Using an overhead projector, a first for him, we were given a tour around Lancashire looking at various town plans and seeing how they evolved (and in some cases didn’t) from the early markets attached to churches. The plans included the usual suspects, Preston, (this one borrowed from Dr Hunt), Burnley, Garstang and Lancaster, though when the questions came at the end of the lecture, Alan was able to provide a town plan to answer any query.

The Annual General Meeting on Monday **5<sup>th</sup> July** saw the usual reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman followed by our Senior Vice President Elizabeth Shorrock who presented the Historian of the Year trophy to Derek Wilkins for his article in last year’s chronicle. It was then announced that after being on the committee since 1979 and having been Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman, the society was awarding an Honorary Life Membership to Betty Chaloner.

This was followed by an entertaining talk on postcards that had been collected over the years entitled, "Preston in the Post". Edwin Williams showed us his vast collection using a laptop computer and digital projector, which is what the society has now acquired via the Lottery. - See the article on photographs in this chronicle for more details.

Now I realise that this report may have been read in part by the members already, be it via the bi-monthly newsletter or from the infamous website. This has continued to grow since its inception in December 1999 to a point that up to the end of June the number of visitors to the site was over **13456**, over 3800 hits in the last year. The enquiries have continued to flood in with 67 requiring the committee's attention in the last twelve months.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last eleven years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future, especially Elizabeth with the planning applications and Mary, the editor of the Chronicle.

**PETER HOUGHTON CHAIRMAN**

### **FIFTY EDITIONS OF THE SOCIETY'S JOURNAL**

This year's 'Lailand Chronicle' is numbered No 50 and is a milestone for the Society. Some eagle eyed member, however, who has read our Chairman's excellent book, 'The History of the Leyland Historical Society', will have noticed that the chronology of the journal includes numbers 22 and 22A which would make this year's Chronicle the 51<sup>st</sup>! The quality of one of the issues was poor and was reprinted. If it sounds confusing then please read Peter's explanation on pages 20, 21 and 25 of his book.

November 1970 saw the light of day of the Leyland Historical Society Bulletin which was put together by Noel Bannister and Edgar Mason. It is worthwhile noting the Society's purpose of the bulletin.

The object of our bulletin is to keep you informed of the committee decisions and activities and to give publicity to any comment therein. *'Also by the inclusion of special articles written by our members to maintain a lively interest in history and its closely related subjects to topography, archaeology and antiquity. In all this we should welcome letters and comment which are informative (or controversial) and which, we feel, would assist communications generally.'*

The second bulletin of February 1971 has the Society's shield on the front cover. The secretary informs that if any members have anything for inclusion they should *'send it to the bulletin editor.'* No mention of who it might be!

Issue number 3, October 1971, gives details only of the address of the Bulletin Editor- -  
-7 Sandy Lane, Leyland.

No 4 saw a major change in cover design and title: the OS map of Leyland emblazoned with 'Lailand Chronicle' and entitled 'The Journal of THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.' There was also colour, both 'Lailand Chronicle' and the cross on the shield were in red.

There have been ten members responsible for editing the Bulletin/Chronicle. Francis Knight took over for issues 3-8. He was succeeded by David White (9-14). At the AGM in 1975 Mr J. Kazer volunteered to be editor assisted by Miss D Kazer. For the editions 15-22 there is no listing of editor by name although No 18 does mention 'the Editorial staff.' Peter, lists Miss D. Kazer as the editor for these issues.

However, by No 23 the editor is named as Edgar Mason with Ray Woodward as assistant editor. No 24 gives the editors as Mason and Woodward and in No 25 as Woodward and Mason. No 26 reverts to Mason and Woodward and No 28 back to Woodward and Mason.

Before issue No 29 was produced Edgar Mason had died and Ray Woodward was in sole charge as editor. Another change took place for No 30 when George Bolton, our current President, became editor. After producing four editions he was succeeded by Bill Waring (34-40) and he in turn by our present editor, Mary Fowler (41-50) who has been responsible for editing more Chronicles than any of the previous editors.

Since the first edition in 1970 there have been 75 known contributors accounting for some 419 articles. Of these 52 are known to be male (336 articles) and 21 females (81 articles). Approximately half of the articles (203) have been about the Leyland and Farington districts.

Thirty-two of the contributors have been, at one time or another, members of the Committee (320 articles).

The most prolific contributor is Bill Waring with 42 followed by George Bolton with 35. Then Peter Houghton (25), Francis Knight (23), Noel Bannister (19), G. Thomas (18), Frank Cumpsty (17), Edward Almond (17), Peter Barrow (14), David Hunt (13), Elizabeth Shorrocks (12) and Joan Langford (12).

Our President, George Bolton, has the longest spell of contributing between the first issue in 1970 and No 49 in December 2003. In addition he has been awarded the title 'Historian of the Year' on no less than nine occasions. Elizabeth Shorrocks is next with four.

**EDWARD ALMOND**

### **ADDENDUM, ERRATUM AND OTHER MATTERS**

#### **Chronicle No 45: The Manchester to Blackpool Walk**

It would appear the walk from Manchester to Blackpool that took place in 1903 was a competitive walk and was organised by Manchester Wheelers Cycling Club. The course was chosen after consideration of other point to point routes. It was a match between the North and the South in which the southerners were triumphant.



Chronicle No 47: Tandem Record Centenary

At a meeting of the Northern Record Association, in October 1902, to consider the record application, there was an objection from the timekeeper on the grounds that his fee had not been paid! Approval was delayed for further clarification and was further delayed due to a query regarding the measurement of courses. The fee was eventually paid and the course re-measured to the satisfaction of the Association. The distance based on Mr Worth's measurements, was passed with a total of 201 miles. The record was finally approved on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1904, at the Crown Hotel, Manchester.

Chronicle No 48: The Lost Buildings of Leyland

Farington Factories off Golden Hill Lane

Leyland Paint and Varnish Company off Golden Hill Lane

Chronicle No 48: Two Soldiers; Part One: Frederick Hackforth

Frederick's monument records his age as 26 but the family tombstone, bordering Church Road between the gateway and the houses, gives his age as 27!

Chronicle No 49: Leyland's First Olympian

Jack Higginson was a gifted all round sportsman and played football for Leyland Motors. In 1919 he scored all three goals in about ten minutes after the interval in an away fixture against Coppull. In the 1960's he was also a member of the Northern Veterans Cycling Club.

**EDWARD ALMOND**

**LANCASHIRE LADS AND LASSES SHAPE HISTORY**

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment has recently undertaken a campaign to save the Regiment from merging.

Most people are likely indifferent to what the Regiment is called, but the Regimental Museum and Headquarters, located in Preston, have a history that touches people worldwide.

We all remember our history lessons from school. Most of my memories included memorising dates, names and events. The teachers did not go much further. We did not learn anything outside of the who, what, where, when.

Our history lessons in Ontario told us about the British settlers and the army that protected them from the French and their Indian allies. However, the part they did not mention was that the British soldiers responsible for settling in Canada were from Lancashire.

The first group of British soldiers deployed to Upper and Lower Canada were the 40th Foot Regiment of what is now the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

This group was formed in Nova Scotia in August 1717. It was created from eight independent companies of foot soldiers. They became known as Phillips' Regiment of Foot after the first governor of Nova Scotia. The regiment garrisoned for 44 years on the Canadian frontier and participated in numerous battles with the French to protect the British interests.

James Wolfe, the son of a British general, was born in Kent and joined the military at the age of 14. After serving admirably in the Austrian Succession and the Scottish campaign of 1746, William Pitt, then Secretary of State for Britain, made Wolfe second in command under Major General Jeffrey Amherst, the British Commander in Chief in North America.

In 1758, the 40<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Regiments (now part of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment) defeated the French and took control of their fortress at Louisburg, Nova Scotia. The triumphant Wolfe was promoted to Major General and put in charge of a joint military/naval campaign against Quebec.

As a result of their performance at the battle of Louisburg, the 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment took the nickname "Wolfe's Own".

In June 1759, Wolfe had another chance to engage the French. He took approximately 9,000 troops to a field above Quebec City and waited for a French advance. When nothing happened, he launched an offensive on July 31<sup>st</sup>, which the British troops lost.

In September the same year, Wolfe organised a second attack on Quebec City. This time, he took his troops up the St. Lawrence River to a landing point about a mile and a half southwest of Quebec City. During the night of 12 September, 5,000 men scaled up the cliffs to a location just above Quebec City – the Plains of Abraham.

British troops forced Quebec into battle early on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> September 1759 on the Plains of Abraham. General Wolfe's planning and skills gave his Lancashire lads a decisive victory over the ill-prepared French and their Indian allies.

Unfortunately, Wolfe lost his life on the battlefield. The French commander, the Marquis Louis Joseph de Montcalm De Saint Veran died the following day of wounds sustained during the battle.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September the 47<sup>th</sup> and Grenadier Company of the 47<sup>th</sup> earned great distinction in the Battle of Quebec. In fact, the battle is still commemorated annually by the Queen's Lancashire Regiment who wear black in memory of General Wolfe's death.

The capture of Quebec was a success for Britain for two main reasons. First, it provided the British with an opportunity to expand its colony, eventually leading to a country larger in landmass than Russia. Second, it gave the British a stronghold along the St. Lawrence River that the British were able to use as a port during the American War of Independence in 1776.

As you can see, people from Lancashire – as close as Preston – influenced the social development of Canada. Without the brave men and their families who struggled through tough times and fought for the British colonies, we can only speculate on how the future of the British Empire might have unfolded.

**DOREEN HOUGHTON.**

### IN SEARCH OF MY AUNT'S COTTAGE IN PRESTON

The aunt in question was actually my great, great, great, great, great aunt but hopefully a little journalistic licence will be excused in the interests of a concise title.

She was Elizabeth Wilkins and was born in Hutton in 1748. She never married and after the deaths of her parents and brothers, continued to run the family farm of some 36 acres until retiring in 1817 at the age of 69.

There are many references to her in the records of the time and she appears as quite an interesting character. Although by no means wealthy she was at least comfortably off. She was well educated and numbered amongst her acquaintances the headmaster and master of what was then Penwortham, now Hutton, Grammar School.

Almost the first document unearthed in the Lancashire Record Office when I began to research my family's history almost thirty years ago was her will, written in 1819(1). Amongst her bequests was one to her niece, Margaret Wilding of Longton whose husband Roger was landlord of the Ram's Head: -

*"I likewise give to my niece Margaret Wilding of Longton six pounds a year to be paid yearly out of the rents of my Cottage in Preston during her life & the first payment to become due twelve months after my decease."*

I resolved to trace this cottage one day, although not with any great hope of success. Being familiar with the watercolours of Edwin Beattie I assumed that the cottage, like most of the buildings in his paintings, would have disappeared without trace in one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century rounds of demolition.

In the autumn of 2003 I decided to attempt the task. The Land Tax Assessments (2) in the LRO had previously been used successfully to locate the family farms in Hutton and Longton, but to do the same for a cottage in Preston would surely be more difficult.

In fact it turned out to be surprisingly easy. "Betty" Wilkins is listed as a proprietor in 1808, her tenant was a Mr Garstang and the tax was 10<sup>d</sup>. From 1821 the street names are given in the assessments and in later years the route followed by the assessor allows identification of her cottage as being the third from the bottom on the west side of Library Street. The location was immediately south east of St. John's Parish Church and is shown in Fig 1.

A row of seven terraced cottages had been built back-to-back with another seven on Stoneygate. (The term "built back-to-back" conveniently distinguishes them from "true back-to-back", where a row of cottages was simply divided lengthways by a party wall, giving only one way in and out through the front door. Four pairs of such a row can be seen between Bolton's Court and Turk's Head Yard. (bottom left))

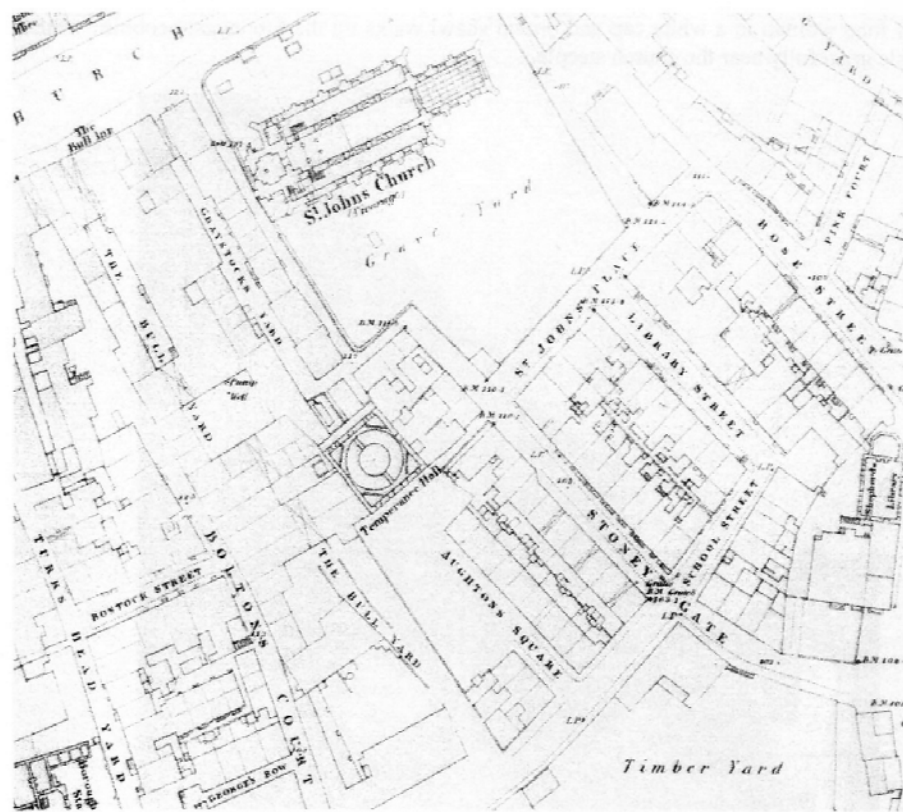


Fig 1.

60" 1849 O.S. map

*Showing area to south of Parish Church.  
(Library Street takes its name from Dr Shepherd's Library opened in 1759)*

The Land Tax Assessments prior to 1808 are incomplete and inconclusive; a possible date of building is 1806 or 1807 but it may have been earlier. Following Elizabeth's death in 1821 ownership in trust passed to her nephew Thomas Wilkins as her executor. After the death of her niece Margaret Wilding in 1823 it was sold to Richard Walton, a woollen draper in the Old Shambles on Lancaster Road. The cottages were demolished in the early 1930's and the site is presently occupied by the Christian Science reading room.

Would it be possible to locate a photograph or perhaps a painting of the cottage? An initial search drew a blank for Library Street but in one of Stephen Sartin's books (3) there is a reproduction of a Beattie watercolour of 1891 showing Stoneygate with the row of cottages backing on to Library Street. It is shown in Fig 2, which being black and white, does not do justice to the original. In the original the whitewashed cottages on the left of Stoneygate contrast nicely with the terra cotta tones of those on the right (backing on to Library Street) whilst the Parish Church stands as guardian of the entrance to Stoneygate.

A lone woman in a white cap and brown shawl walks up the Stoneygate cobbles whilst gulls circle gracefully near the church steeple.



*Fig 2. 1891 Beattie watercolour looking north up Stoneygate towards Church Street.  
(Courtesy of Carnegie Publishing)*

**Brilliant!!** This apparently idyllic, almost semi rural environment is exactly the sort of place I had expected (or maybe hoped) that my aunt *would* have a cottage. Was it not just an extension to her farm in Hutton?

**How wrong I was!!** Although in one sense it turned out that it could be considered as an extension to her farm it was not in the sense I had first imagined! Initially unnoticed, there is another picture in the same book; this one a black and white photograph from the early 1930's, looking in the opposite direction down Stoneygate.



Fig 3

LRO CBP 4/1/190.

*c1931 photograph looking south down Stoneygate.  
(Courtesy of Preston City Council)*

The contrast with the Beattie watercolour could not be greater. Urchin-like children stare at the camera from the steps of gloomy dwellings, whilst a man with a horse and cart makes his way up the cobbles, having reached almost the same spot as Beattie's woman. To quote Stephen Sartin: - "A desolate picture of life in Preston ...."

The two pictures evoked very different images. Which was the “real” one? Had the area deteriorated in the forty years between the two? In an attempt to answer these questions I decided to read about the history of this part of Preston.

The first port of call was David Hunt’s “A History of Preston” (4) which outlines the early development of industrial age building along the mediaeval burgage plots south of Church Street, especially to the west of the Parish Church. The two rows of cottages on Library Street and Stoneygate formed part of this initial phase and are clearly shown on William Shakeshaft’s map of 1808. David’s book refers to another, more specialised work by Nigel Morgan (5). This graphically describes the history of housing development in Preston and pulls no punches in highlighting the social ills to which it gave rise.

In the fifty years from about 1790 large numbers of houses were crammed into all the available spaces between the Parish Church and what is now Cannon Street. Intermixed with the houses was a jumble of early industrial premises including several slaughterhouses and all this at a time when there was no running water or proper sewerage system. Even in 1844, when a reservoir was constructed at Grimsargh, only about a quarter of houses had piped water. Sewers only arrived to any extent in the 1850’s and prior to this sanitation was invariably by means of “privies” with cess pits or ash pits in the back yards – except in the “true back-to-back” rows which didn’t even have a back yard!! These pits were supposed to have their contents, euphemistically referred to as “night soil”, emptied regularly by teams of so called “scavengers”.

This type of sanitation, or rather lack of it, was nothing new; it had been the accepted method for centuries in the farms and country cottages and would continue to be so well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. What was new was the overcrowding which accompanied it. Most of the early inhabitants had been brought up in the countryside and, perhaps understandably, they continued in the accepted ways, but as Nigel Morgan says: - “*It cost them dear*”

In 1849 G. T. Clarke of the General Board of Health produced a report on conditions in Preston. He made the following observation on what he found in the Library Street / Stoneygate cottages:-

*“Between the backs of Stoney-gate and Library-street is a narrow and very filthy passage with an open gutter between two rows of open cesspools, clogged with accumulations of night soil. It seems to have been the plan, at one time, to build rows of cottages with this sort of narrow alley between them for the purpose of getting to their back premises. Such an alley, in Preston, is sure to be a receptacle for filth.”*

So this was the reality of my aunt’s cottage, only thirty years after she owned it - a somewhat different image to that evoked by Beattie’s watercolour. It was the Preston of “*Hard Times*” in which Dickens observes: - “*...where nature was as strongly bricked out as killing airs and gases were bricked in*”

Preston Borough Council had the foresight to take photographs of properties scheduled for demolition and these are now preserved in the LRO (6). The photograph in Stephen Sartin’s book is from this archive and there are several others of these cottages. One in particular clearly shows the privies and the narrow access passage. (Fig 4)



*Fig 4 LRO CBP 4/1/191 "Rear of Stoneygate and Library Street (looking south)  
Taken from St. John's Place 16<sup>th</sup> May 1931.  
Illustrates the congestion and lack of air space at the rear"  
(Courtesy of Preston City Council)*

It is hardly surprising that the scavengers could not do their job properly and it goes without saying that such conditions were unhealthy in the extreme, giving rise to epidemics of typhus and cholera. It is a sobering fact that, for each decade either side of Beattie's "idyllic" 1891 painting, infant mortality in Preston was higher than anywhere in the country, reaching a peak of 268 per 1000 in 1893.

Although there is some evidence that the statistics were biased against Preston by other towns' inclusion of suburbs, conditions must nevertheless have been dreadful and the cottages on Library Street and Stoneygate amongst the worst.

Such cottages were by no means the only problem. The "industries" were every bit as bad, as Mr. Clarke found in the neighbouring alleyways:-



*Turks Head Yard*- "several filthy corners, and a very large cesspit, said to be the largest in town. Close by is a large slaughterhouse in a dirty condition and giving out a most offensive smell"

*Bolton's Court*- "has a range of piggeries and open dung heaps, with a large trough for the storing and mixing of manure. Near is the National School with 700 or 800 children also eight public slaughterhouses held under the Earl of Derby. The smell at the time of my visit was very bad."

To what extent were my aunt and the other owners responsible for these conditions? The first decades of the nineteenth century saw unprecedented social changes and what was in effect an experiment in social engineering. Never before had housing of this design and density been attempted. As Mr. Clarke had noted, the cottages had been planned to be cleaned on a regular basis; the reality was that through ignorance, poverty, overcrowding or a "someone else's problem" attitude this did not happen. Whether this should have been foreseen by the builders and original owners is, perhaps, a matter for debate.

Maybe later generations, who were only too well aware of these conditions and who resisted change for so long, are more blameworthy. From the 1870's things started to improve, largely due to the efforts of the Local Board of Health and their Medical Officer, Dr Pilkington. But it was a slow process, frequently hampered by vested commercial interests such as those of certain landlords, builders and even borough "worthies". Even by the 1930's when the Borough Council officers were taking their photographs of condemned properties there remained pockets where life was still grim by modern standards, as some of the very poignant shots of interior living conditions show.

Like most people with an interest in Local History, I suppose I was aware of these conditions before undertaking this research, but nothing brings them to life quite as forcibly as discovering that a relative, albeit a distant one, was one of the landlords.

Never again will I view one of Beattie's watercolours with the same sense of nostalgia and would recommend that anyone who likewise develops a yearning for the "good old days" reads Nigel Morgan's book and takes a look at the excellent archive of photographs in the LRO.

### **Acknowledgements**

The help of the staff of the Lancashire Record Office is greatly appreciated, as is the kind permission of the County Archivist for the reproduction of Figs 3 and 4. Thanks also to Stephen Sartin and Carnegie for advising me on the copyright situation with respect to Fig 2.

Much of the material in the latter part of this article is taken from Nigel Morgan's book and acknowledgement is duly made to him and to the Preston Curriculum Development Centre as producers of that work.

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**DEREK WILKINS**

### MATTHEW BROWN OF THE 95<sup>TH</sup> RIFLES

A request for information concerning a Matthew Turner (a veteran of the Rifle Brigade during the Napoleonic Wars) of Bradshaw Street who died in 1870, led me to search the records of the *Chorley Standard*. Unfortunately I was unable to find any report of his death. However in the local news section on Leyland for June 4<sup>th</sup> 1870, I found the following item;

#### 'FUNERAL OF AN OLD PENSIONER'

*'On Wednesday last, Mr Matthew Brown late of the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles was interred in the Leyland Parish Churchyard. The deceased was 85 years of age, and among many other battles in which he had been engaged, his silver medal mentions the following—Toulouse, Orthes, Neville, Vittoria, Salamanca, Badoajoz, Ciudad Rodrico, Fuentes d'Onor. He was in his country's service for a period of over 41 years - from 1793 to 1834. He was carried to his last resting-place by four friends and four fellow pensioners alternately. Each had a shilling given to him, by the old man's special request, and no intoxicating drink was allowed at the funeral.'*

Matthew was buried on June 1<sup>st</sup> and his death must have occurred in late May not long after that of Matthew Turner who was aged 82. It seemed co-incidental that two veterans of the Rifle Brigade, both living in Leyland and both named Matthew should have died virtually within a week of each other.

What caught my attention was the list of battles in which Matthew had been involved. Their names were familiar from reading the Sharpe novels of Bernard Cornwell. Here in Leyland had lived a rifleman who had worn the same uniform, used the same weapon and fought in the same campaigns, as had the fictitious Richard Sharpe.

There was something in the newspaper report had puzzled me - Matthew's length of service. From his age at his death Matthew must have been born in 1784/5 which would make him 8 or 9 when he began his military career. I think this is highly unlikely and I believe whoever wrote the newspaper report misinterpreted information from his silver medal.

The medal concerned was the Military General Service Medal (1793-1814) which was awarded to soldiers who had taken part in the Napoleonic War. It bore the inscription 'TO THE BRITISH ARMY' around the rim and depicted two figures, one standing laying a wreath on the head of one kneeling. The medal was issued with bars (clasps) bearing the names of battles fought. Matthew's first bar was the battle of Fuentes d'Onor, which took place in May 1811. At this time Matthew would have been 26/27.

His reported 41 years of service starts at the date 1793 (on the MGSM) until his discharge in 1834. Matthew did not have the medal for long as it was only awarded in 1848 to the survivors of the Napoleonic campaigns. Veterans had to apply for the medal and there were over 25,000 who did so.

Mark Urban the author of "*Rifles (the story of the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles)*" writes of this medal:

*'This meant that many years later, when a general service medal was finally awarded for the Iberian campaigns, the metal clasps across its ribbon numbered two or maybe three for the average veteran.'* Matthew Brown had eight!

Who were the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles? They had been formed in March, 1800, from volunteers from different Regiments and had originally been called 'An Experimental Corps of Riflemen.'

During the period 1811-14 when Matthew was serving in the Peninsula, the 95<sup>th</sup> had three battalions present, mostly fighting as part of the Light Division. Adkin in "*The Sharpe Companion*" describes them thus:

*'Riflemen were present at virtually every major engagement of the war. They drank the toast, 'First in the field and last out of it' for years after the war. Their dark green uniform earned them the nickname 'The Sweeps', their agile skirmishing, 'The Grasshoppers'...They concealed themselves, fought in pairs, loaded their rifles kneeling or crouching behind rocks or trees, fired from the prone position and dodged from cover to cover in advance or retirement.'*

Their weapon was the Baker rifle, which had been invented by Ezeikiel Baker, and replaced the 'Brown Bess' smooth bore musket. The main difference was the length. The rifle was shorter by nine inches and had a grove bore. The musket had only a foresight but the rifle had an additional backsight. The musket could be loaded and fired twice as quickly but it lacked the range of the rifle and was not as accurate.

The rifleman was expected to carry all his equipment whilst on the march and the weight was estimated at between 70-80 pounds. Life during campaigns was not easy. Quite often they faced long marches in fair and foul weather. They had no tents, except in winter quarters, and were forced to sleep in the open or under improvised shelters. At the end of the day there were few rations and it was forbidden to steal food from the local population. Punishments if caught could include flogging. Pay was not always on time so many were unable to purchase extra food, even if it had been available, to supplement their meagre rations.

Between May 1811 and April 1814 Matthew Brown was involved in six battles and two sieges. The battle of Fuentes d'Onor took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> in a rugged terrain with steep gorges and a nearby fast flowing river. Initially the Light Brigade was being held in reserve but an attack on the right flank from the French cavalry caused it to be moved to support the threatened First Division. They were successful and suffered no more than twelve wounded the total casualties for the British being over 1400.

Fighting in open country was different from laying siege to a fortified town. There were days of concentrated bombardment on what was considered to be the weakest part of the walls. When a breach had been made it was the responsibility of the Forlorn Hope, which included some members of the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles, to attack and enter the town. In doing so they would encounter intense fire power from the defenders.

The assault on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1812 was successful but there were over 1000 casualties including over 200 killed. Having gained the walls, the companies held in reserve rushed into Ciudad Rodrigo where they searched for plunder and alcohol. Stripping dead enemy soldiers for their clothes, equipment and money was a common practice. I wonder if Matthew Brown participated in these excesses? His request for no intoxicating liquor at his funeral could indicate he was tee-total at that time but it is more likely he became tee-total later whilst a civilian.

If Ciudad Rodrigo created a bad image it was nothing compared to what occurred at the siege of Badajoz later that same year in March/April. Urban writes:

*'The siege of Badajoz was already proving something harder fought and more desperate for the Rifles than their action at Rodrigo three months earlier. There were three times the number of French in Badajoz for one thing and it was thrice the fortress for another, having thicker walls, deeper ditches, the works.'*

Once again the battering of the defences was launched involving four companies of the 95<sup>th</sup>'s right wing. It was a bloody attempt and doomed to failure. However a breach was made elsewhere by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division which opened the way for the enemy to begin to retreat and allow for the fall of the city. Commenting on the effect of the enemy fire during the siege Urban says:

*'Badajoz became the yardstick when trying to describe the enemy fire.....Having been to the gates of hell, and proven themselves in the most terrible situation, they wanted to survive to tell the tale.'*

Then it began. Atkin writes:

*'The sacking of the city is better remembered than the assault. It was a Spanish town with a populace supposedly allies of Wellington's army, but they suffered most. Some Spaniards undoubtedly fought with the French, but revenge was indiscriminate. The women, the children, the aged and the defenceless--- all were terrified victims of a brutalised and drunken soldiery. The orgy of murder, rape and wanton destruction by thousands of the victorious troops following their entry into the city has left an indelible stain on the reputation of the Peninsular Army.'*

Was Matthew Brown part of this outrage? Did he witness the terrible scenes? Did it affect his subsequent behaviour? The answers remain lost in the mist of time.

The army had not finished their task. There was little respite before they proceeded to Salamanca, a march of four days. Even Wellington, who travelled on horseback, complained: *'I have never suffered more from cold during the manoeuvre of the days preceding the battle of Salamanca.'*

The days were blistering hot and the nights bitterly cold.

The battle took place on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1812, a Sunday and although the 95<sup>th</sup> were present they saw little action being required in the role of mopping up.

From the battlefield the way led to Madrid where they arrived on August 12<sup>th</sup> after a march of over 200 miles. Here they could relax and the 95<sup>th</sup> was employed in guarding the city. They left Madrid on October 31<sup>st</sup> to return to Ciudad Rodrigo for their winter quarters. During this journey they were often hungry and I wonder if Matthew resorted to eating grilled acorns, as some were obliged to do?

In the spring another long march took Matthew and his companions to Vittoria close to the French border. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1813, the attack on Napoleon's brother, Joseph, took place. The French were retreating and taking with them the plunder of five years occupation of Spain.

The 95<sup>th</sup> played their part in crossing an unguarded bridge over the river Zadorra and taking by surprise the French, who consequently fled the scene. The end result was a victory for the British and the inevitable taking of the treasures left behind by the fleeing French. Atkin comments:

*'Never before in modern times has such a prodigious accumulation of military stores and private wealth fallen to a victorious army.'*

Naturally the soldiers plundered the hundreds of wagons which also contained the French army's two years pay arrears. As Urban says:

*'Some soldiers, though, were to be rewarded beyond their wildest dreams for among the chests and cases were millions of gold doubloons and silver dollars.'*

Did Matthew benefit from some of this booty? If he had he would, as an infantryman, face the problem of carrying it and keeping it safe from his own companions.

The 95<sup>th</sup>'s next assignment was in the Pyrenees pursuing the retreating French. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1813, they encountered the enemy under the command of Marshal Soult. Eighty men of the 95<sup>th</sup> played a vital part in the battle by holding an important bridge for 21 hours. Was Matthew part of this group? Was he injured? The allies had casualties of nearly 3000 whereas the French losses were over 4300.

Matthew was having a charmed life for early in the next year, February 17<sup>th</sup>, he once more encountered Soult. This time it was at Orthez on the river Gave de Pau. Wellington had just over 2100 men killed or wounded compared to 4000 of the enemy.

Toulouse, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1814, was a battle that should not have taken place. It was the last battle of the Peninsula War and as Urban noted:

*'The fight with its thousands killed and maimed, was doubly futile, since a messenger carrying news of Napoleon's abdication reached Marshal Soult just too late to stop it happening. Toulouse was another of those large set pieces in which the 95<sup>th</sup>'s role had not been great'*

Was it fortunate for Matthew because the allied losses were approximately 4500?

Thus ended his Peninsula campaign. He had taken part in the bloodiest battles and sieges of the Spanish wars and was still alive. The 95<sup>th</sup> had proven their worth using conventional and unconventional tactics. Matthew was one of Wellington's legendary sharpshooters.

The 95<sup>th</sup> left Toulouse on May 30<sup>th</sup> and marched towards Bordeaux where they arrived on June 14<sup>th</sup> ready for embarkation on the battleship the Ville de Paris. It arrived at Portsmouth on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Apart from looking forward to a period of peace and being reunited with loved ones, the riflemen were entitled to substantial pay arrears. For some there would be 'blood money' for wounds received.

This article only deals with Matthew Brown's Peninsular campaign. There is much more to unearth about his life and military service.

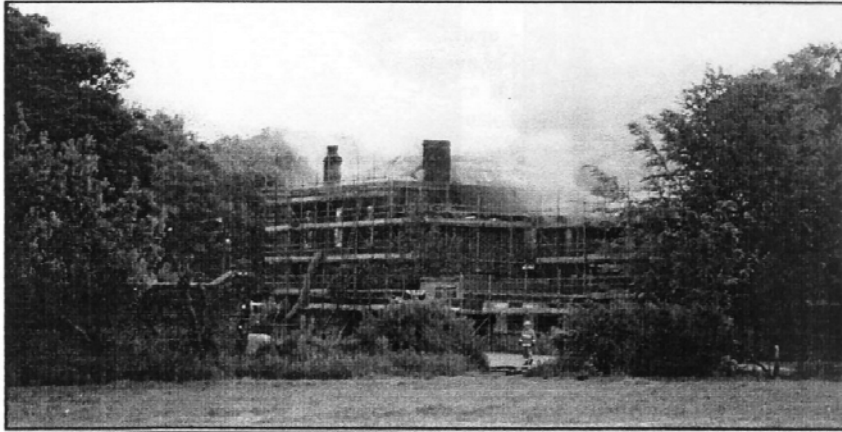
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Chorley Standard, June 1870

**EDWARD ALMOND**

**FARINGTON HOUSE –**  
**A Pheonix Risen From The Ashes**

It was with great sadness I heard the news on 26th May 2003 that Farington House had become the victim of an arson attack. The fire, which was started in the early hours of the morning, quickly took hold. Flames and smoke could be seen for miles around and, although the fire fighters did all they could, the old building was severely damaged, and little more than the shell remained.



*Farington House May 2003 with the fire fighters struggling to contain the raging fire*

Originally built in the 1830's as the home of William Boardman (co-owner of Farington Cotton Mill) the fine Georgian house has for some time been a Grade II listed building.

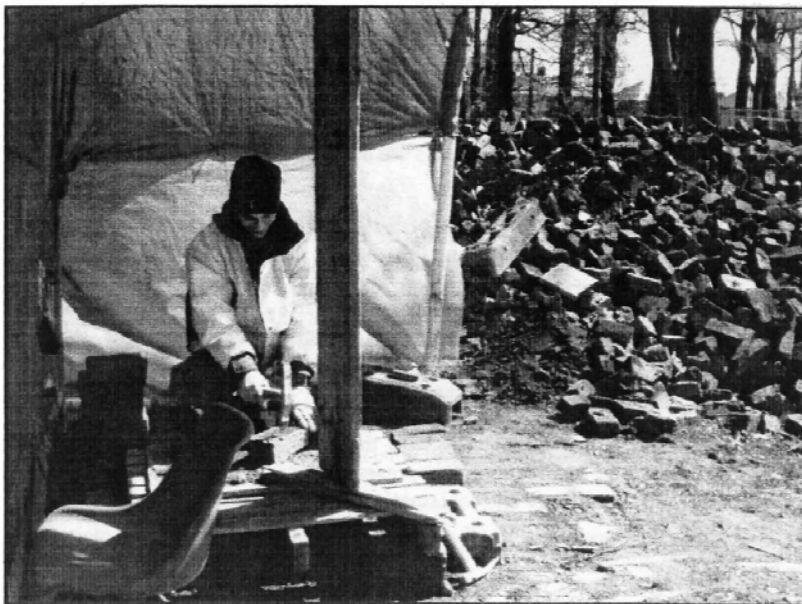
Farington House had been purchased by Rowland Homes in 2002 and the company had begun restoration of the building with a view to making it their Head Office. Mr. Rowley and his wife heard the news of the fire while they were on holiday in Portugal, and were devastated on their return when they saw the extent of the damage.

However, after inspections and meetings with the Georgian Society, English Heritage, County Architects, Surveyors and local authority representatives, it was agreed that the building could and must be saved, and the salvage and reclamation and restoration work re-commenced.

Fortunately enough of the decorative plasterwork on the ceilings of the ground floor rooms was able to be salvaged for a Fylde company to make moulds to reproduce them exactly, and they now look wonderful in the restored rooms. As far as possible the interior woodwork is all the same style as was used in the old building, with skirting boards some 15" deep, and the deep window recesses are all wood lined.



*The devastated remains of the House after the fire (above)*



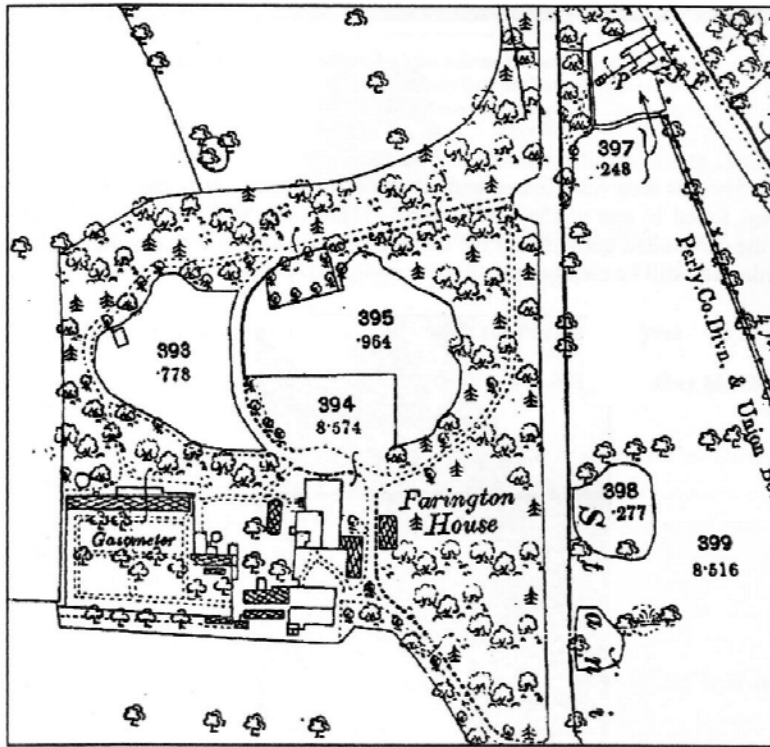
*Salvage work - cleaning some of the original bricks from collapsed walls*

Because the house is a listed building it was a requirement that the replacement windows be fitted with sash type frames, each with twelve panes of glass - the same as the originals - but there was one concession, the new ones could be double glazed to help with energy conservation.

The main internal structure walls of the old building have all been retained, although some extra partition walls have been added to make the office space more appropriate to the Company's needs.

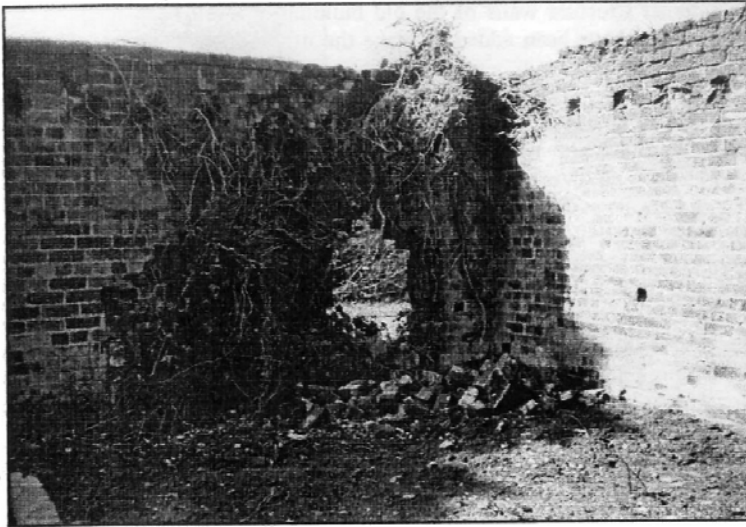
And so, after many months of careful reconstruction, the main building was ready for the Rowland Homes staff to move in to in June 2004 and Farington House is now their Head Office. Among the photographs on the Boardroom wall, that of William Boardman takes pride of place. Were he able to see his old home now I am sure he would be absolutely delighted with the restoration and renovation work which Rowland Homes have done to save the building. I too am so pleased, and relieved, to see this special building saved and brought back to life again.

The arsonist? As a result of information given to the police by his sister, an 18 years old young man was arrested and charged with the crime – which he admitted. He was tried at Preston Court, found guilty and sentenced to 2 years in youth custody. Twelve months and one week after the fire, the staff of Rowland Homes were at last able to move into Farington house – by which time the arsonist had been released from custody!



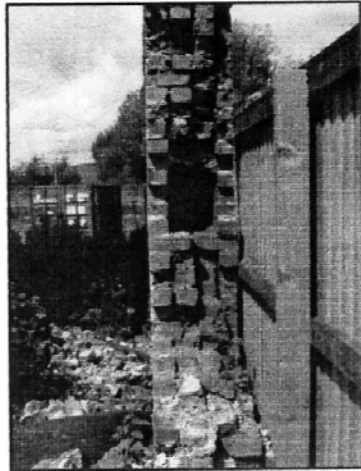
*An 1800's plan of Farington House and its grounds.  
The walled garden was developed in the area where the gasometer  
was originally sited.*





*The hole in the old walled garden wall where the fireplace once stood  
and which heated the wall (on the left) and the greenhouse.  
This area is now part of the staff car park.*

The grounds at the rear of the house had become very overgrown with brambles, weeds, grass, etc. and when this area was cleared and reclaimed (to make into a staff car park area) an old fireplace was found in one of the garden walls. This was the fireplace which heated the greenhouse in the old walled garden, and the heating pipe which ran through the length of one wall of that garden can still be clearly seen (in the middle of the photograph below).




An earlier owner of Farington House was Mr. Tom Hartley Roberts, owner of the Wood Milne Rubber Company. He purchased the house and grounds in 1909 and made them his family home until he retired, when the estate became the Social & Recreational Club of his company (eventually the British Tyre and Rubber Company).

In September 1910 Mr. Roberts applied to the Patents Office for recognition of his invention "of improvements in the construction of treads or covers for pneumatic tyres for the wheels of motor cars." His application for the patent was successful, and accepted in February 1911, the full details of which are reproduced on the following pages.

Mr. Roberts was himself one of the early car owners in Farington – I wonder how long it was before his car was fitted with tyres made to his new specification?

The Preston Guardian reported on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1914 that "Mr. T.H. Roberts, Farington House has had his 33 – 35 h.p. car converted into a motor ambulance with four stretchers, for the Red Cross Hospital which has been organised by Countess Helene Gleichen and Lady Eva Wemyss. The work of conversion has been carried out in accordance with the Red Cross Society's requirements by Messrs. W. Harding & Co. Ltd. of Preston. The hospital, the personnel of which will comprise three doctors and eight nurses, is being at once taken to the front, at the expense of Lady Wemyss.

Mr. Roberts brother, Mr. Norman Roberts, is having his car converted for a similar purpose, and intends taking it to the continent and driving it himself."

<b>N<sup>o</sup> 20,820</b>		<b>A.D. 1910</b>
<i>Date of Application, 7th Sept., 1910</i> <i>Complete Specification Left, 7th Dec., 1910—Accepted, 2nd Feb., 1911</i>		
<b>PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION</b>		
<b>Improvements in Treads or Covers for Pneumatic Tyres</b>		
<p>I, Tom Hartley Roberts, of Farington House, Leyland, County of Lancaster, Rubber Merchant, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:-</p> <p>This invention relates to improvements in the construction of treads or covers for pneumatic tyres for the wheels of motor cars.</p> <p>It has been proposed to make vehicle tyres of a compound material comprising metal wool or steel wool and vulcanised rubber, but I consider that such material is not sufficiently flexible taken by itself to form a cover or tread for a pneumatic tyre.</p>		
2	<b>N<sup>o</sup> 20,820.—A.D. 1910.</b>	
<p>My invention consists of a tyre constructed with a wearing or puncture resisting layer or portion of a metallic rubber compound applied in addition to the ordinary rubber of the tyre.</p> <p>In one form the cover is built up of a casing of layers of canvas and a layer of ordinary rubber and outside the layer of rubber I apply to a layer of the metallic-rubber compound to form the tread the whole being vulcanised together in an ordinary tyre-vulcanising press into one solid piece. In this construction the sides of the tyre cover are formed or covered with soft or ordinary rubber there being a layer of the same between canvas casing and the steel wool tread.</p>		

In another form the cover is built up of a casing of layers of canvas with the metallic-rubber compound placed on the centre of the casing to form the tread, the walls of the cover being built up of ordinary rubber without the steel wool to give sufficient flexibility and resilience thereto.

In another form the cover is built up of a casing of layers of canvas and a layer of ordinary rubber covering same, upon this is placed a layer of the metallic-rubber compound and again above this a further layer of ordinary rubber which extends over the compound to the walls of the cover thus interposing a layer of the metallic-rubber compound between the rubber tread and the casing. The walls are also covered with rubber.

In either case the rubber and the metallic rubber compound are vulcanised together into one solid piece and on to the canvas casing of the tyre cover.

No claim is made *per se* for a metallic-rubber compound formed of metal or steel wool incorporated in and vulcanised with rubber.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 1910.

J. OWDEN O'BRIEN

Successor to the late of W.P. Thompson & Co., of Manchester, Patent Agents

### COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

#### Improvements in Treads or Covers for Pneumatic Tyres

I, Tom Hartley Roberts, of Farington House Leyland, County of Lancaster, Rubber Merchant, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:-

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of treads or covers for pneumatic tyres for the wheels of motor cars.

It has been proposed to make vehicle tyres wholly of a compound material comprising metal wool or steel wool and vulcanised rubber, but I consider that such material is not sufficiently flexible taken by itself to form a cover or tread for a pneumatic tyre.

My invention consists of a tyre constructed with a wearing or puncture revisiting layer or portion of a metallic rubber compound applied in addition to the ordinary rubber of the tyre.

The metallic rubber compound is formed of metal or steel wool or very fine turnings or cuttings of flexible metal in fibrous form incorporated into the rubber.

The invention will be fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings forming part of the specification.

Figure 1: Transverse section through tyre cover and tread.

Figure 2 and 3: Similar sections showing modified constructions of tyre cover.

In the form shown in Figure 1, the cover is built up of a casing of layers of canvas or of cords A and a layer of ordinary flexible rubber B adhering thereto. Outside the flexible rubber B I apply a layer of metallic rubber compound C to form the tread or wearing surface of the tyre cover. The sides *a* of the cover are formed or covered with soft flexible rubber B to give sufficient resiliency to the side walls of the cover. The rubber B which forms the sides extends round at *b* from the side to side forming the layer between the casing A and the metallic rubber compound C. The whole vulcanised together in an ordinary tyre vulcanising press into one solid or composite structure.

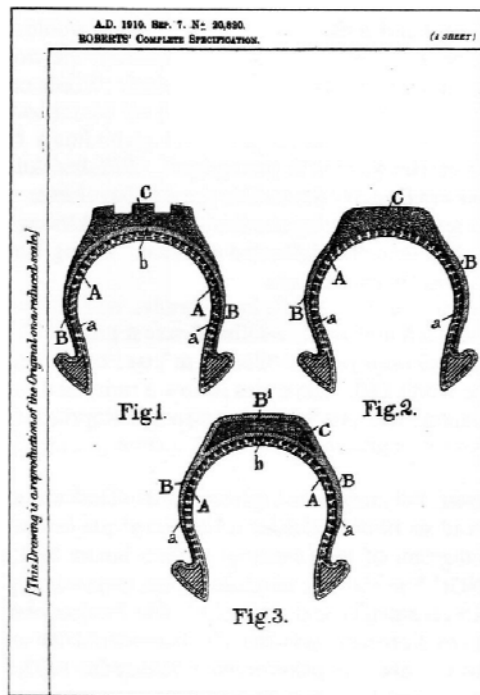
In the form shown in Figure 2, the cover is built up of a casing of layers of canvas or of cord casing a layer of metallic rubber compound C is applied to form the tread or wearing surface of the cover. The sides *a* of the cover are formed or covered with soft flexible rubber B to give the desired resiliency to the side walls of the cover, the soft rubber extending over the edges of the rubber compound C. The whole is vulcanised together in an ordinary tyre vulcanising press into one solid or composite structure.

In the form shown in Figure 3, the cover is built up as described with reference to Figure 1, with an additional layer of soft rubber B' which extends to the walls *a* the metallic rubber compound C being embedded in the centre or between two layers of soft rubber B B' the side walls *a* being covered with the soft rubber B. The soft rubber B and the metallic rubber compound C are vulcanised together and upon the canvas or cord casing A. No claim is made *per se* for a metallic-rubber compound formed of metal or steel wool incorporated in and vulcanised with rubber.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

1. A cover or tread for pneumatic tyres constructed with an inner layer or casing of canvas or cord, sides of soft flexible rubber and a tread of metallic rubber compound substantially as described.
2. A cover or tread for pneumatic tyres constructed with an inner layer of casing of textile material, a layer of soft flexible rubber on the casing, and a tread of metallic rubber compound substantially as described.
3. A cover or tread for pneumatic tyres as a whole substantially as described and shown in Figures 1, 2, or 3 of the drawings.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1910. J. OWDEN O'BRIEN  
 Successor to and late of W.P. Thompson & Co., of Manchester, Patent Agents.



JOAN LANGFORD

### FIRSTS FOR LEYLAND

Owd Bill looked at his timepiece. It was nearly the hour and his friends would be waiting. Pulling on his fraying jacket Bill opened his front door and without bothering to lock it walked down the flight of four steps and onto the pavement. He turned to his left and began his usual slow gait to the corner. He glanced to his right at the school but as always he could hear no sound. The scholars would be hard at work he reckoned. Then he heard his friends. The sound was unmistakable; he had been brought up with it and worked with it all his life. Standing in front of the Roebuck were two magnificent shire horses, which had pulled the dray cart from Whittle, bringing barrels from the well-known Whittle Springs Brewery.

Bill stopped to admire them. He never ceased to be fascinated by their size, strength and grooming. One raised its head as if to acknowledge Bill who had turned up at the same day, same time, same place for more years than he cared to remember.

There was another reason for being at the Cross. Bill turned and headed into Threlfall's newsagents and tobacconists. He was greeted warmly with, 'Same as usual?' 'Of course', answered Bill as he searched his trouser pocket for the few pennies he required. The 'usual' was a 2oz packet of Taddy's pipe tobacco. Other mixtures had been tried over the years but the ripe, full flavour was to his liking. The clay pipes had been abandoned and a well-seasoned briar had taken their place.

The foil packet contained a card stiffener with a picture and text. Bill carefully opened the packet and removed the card and took a quick glance. What would the picture be? In his hand he held a cigarette card produced by Taddy & Co of London. He wondered would it depict a cricketer, footballer or something new. He was gobsmacked. Words came slowly., 'Well I'll be beggared its young Harry.'

Indeed the card was of Harry, now a young man. Bill had known him as an infant dashing round the grounds at the Dye Works at Shruggs on Cow Lane. Bill had worked there looking after his beloved shires since leaving the farm. The works was owned by Stanning's, who had a beautiful house called Broadfield situated adjacent. Young Harry was the Stanning's second son and his full name was Henry Duncan.

What Bill held in his rough and weathered hand was a piece of history. It was the first cigarette card to depict a Leyland born person. Today, in good condition, an individual card as valued by Murray's would be worth £40. The series is now a rarity and cards are difficult to find but fortunately, in 1987, a reprint was produced by Nostalgia Reprints and a set of Lancashire Cricketers costs only £2.

Why was Henry Duncan Stanning on a cigarette card? The card was part of a set of 235 on County Cricketers produced in 1907. Of these 15 depicted players representing Lancashire. The head and shoulder photograph of him wearing a straw boater and striped jacket had the caption MR H D STANNING. The title Mr emphasised his status as a gentleman for this was the era of distinction between an amateur and a professional. Professionals were merely known as players. Separate entrances from and into the pavilion would be used for gentlemen and players. Lancashire had however, abolished this practice during the 1902 season.

COUNTY CRICKETERS.



MR. H. D. STANNING,  
LANCASHIRE.

Henry Duncan had joined the Lancashire playing staffing in 1906 after learning his craft at Leyland, Rugby and Cambridge, following in his elder brother, John's, footsteps. John Stanning senior had also attended Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge and had been responsible for reviving cricket in Leyland where he and his four sons played on a regular basis. However, at Rugby Henry did not make the first team, and never gained a 'Blue' at Cambridge as had John, junior.

So why was Henry on Lancashire's books? The answer may lie in the fact that his father had been on the County Committee and had been instrumental in helping to secure the Old Trafford ground, 'Lancashire County Cricket 1864-1953' by A W Ledbrooke, states;

*'One of the most practical supporters of Lancashire cricket was John Stanning of Leyland. Generous in his gifts of money and advice to younger professionals.'*

John Stanning junior had also played for Lancashire between 1900-03 although he only took part in four matches achieving a total of 97 runs with a highest score of 35. However he does have the distinction of being the first Leyland born cricketer to be a member of a touring team. This was during the 1902-03 winter when he joined Lord Hawke's team to New Zealand. The team travelled from Liverpool to New York where they boarded a train for California. Here they played one match before crossing the Pacific. On the return journey they played in Australia before crossing the Indian Ocean and passing through the Suez Canal. Although it was called Lord Hawke's Tour, Hawke himself had been injured and was unable to travel.

Henry's first class debut was against Oxford University at Oxford in 1906. The following year, according to 'Lancashire Cricketers A-Z', Henry '*enjoyed one promising season in 1907 but rarely played subsequently.*' His highest score for the county occurred that year—86 against Somerset at Old Trafford. This could explain his presence among the select fifteen of Lancashire County Cricketers. At this time Lancashire had fifteen professionals and fourteen amateurs. One third of those picked were amateurs. The others were Albert Henry Hornby (283 matches for Lancashire), Archibald Campbell McClaren (307), a test player, Leslie Oswald Sheridan Poidevin (105), an Australian, and another test player, Reginald Herbert Spooner (170).

Among the professionals were Lawrence Whalley Cook (205) who was born in Preston, Henry Dean (256) and born in Burnley, Frank Harry (69), James Sutcliffe Heap (210), William Huddleston (183), Alexander Kermode (76), Joseph William Henry Makepeace (487) who also represented England at soccer, John Thomas Tyldsley (507), and William Worsley (156) the wicket keeper. Henry Duncan Stanning, who only played in 33 matches for Lancashire, was in good company. I wonder what Owd Bill thought as he reminisced about the days spent at Stanning's Cricket Ground, the home of Leyland Cricket Club in Union Street/Fox Lane, watching young Harry and his brothers play?

Henry did not linger long in Leyland. The lure of the Dominions was calling. Both John and Henry emigrated to Kenya where they both died; John in a motoring accident in 1929 and Henry naturally in 1946.

Their father had set the example by moving to Egypt for health reasons brought about by his sporting exertions at Cambridge. John Stanning senior had established another first for Leyland by being the first person associated with Leyland to have competed in the University Boat Race, thus gaining a 'Rowing Blue.' This occurred in 1863 whilst a student at Trinity College and he was stroke for the Cambridge eight. Apart from the Cox he was the lightest member of the crew. The race took place from Mortlake to Putney (only for the third time) and Oxford won by 45 seconds. Immediately after finishing the Oxford boat sank whilst approaching its mooring.

John Stanning is buried in St Andrew's cemetery and his son John is commemorated on the same memorial. About 100 yards away is the grave of another cricketer who has a greater claim to fame. This belongs to Allen Hill who has the distinction of being the first person to take a wicket in a Test Match. This occurred in 1883. Although better known for his bowling Hill finished top of the batting averages for the two match series. Allen was born in Yorkshire and played for his county before coming to Leyland. He was employed at Leyland Cricket Club as groundsman and coach. In addition he played for the first eleven on a regular basis.

Henry Duncan Stanning's maiden first team appearance was on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1898, against Sefton at Sefton, where he played alongside Allen Hill. Hill died on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1910 aged 64.

The first lady associated with Leyland to appear on a cigarette card was Zona Vevey. She is depicted in a set known as Music Hall Celebrities, which was issued by Ogden's in the East between 1905-10. Among the 50 listed were Harry Lauder, Marie Lloyd, Harry Randall, Little Titch and George Formby, senior. One of these cards, in good condition, would be valued today at around £5.50. Zona was the wife of Max Erart (See Michael Park's article in Lailand Chronicle No.41).

**EDWARD ALMOND**



This classic photograph of the Cross with all the attendant buildings around it was found on the Leyland Forum website. They managed to date it to around 1903 by enlarging the adverts next to the newsagents on the left.

## **YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS**

### **(I know you are fed up of hearing this)**

The Society has always been keen to collect photographs that feature Leyland. However, recent events have led the committee, egged on by your chairman, to consider a more user-friendly way of viewing the resulting collection. Whilst organising and running the Leyland Craft Fair this year, your chairman, other committee members and Dr Hunt were impressed by the display that the Lancashire Family History Society, Leyland and Chorley branch were putting on. This required the use of a laptop computer and a digital projector, which enabled a computer display using power point programmes in natural light onto a screen.

This got your chairman thinking so he asked the obvious questions: "Where did you get it?" "How much did it cost?" And the biggie, "Where did you get the funds from?" It was then that I was introduced to the magical world of Lottery grants. This led me to the Awards for All category which covers requests up to the sum of £5000.00 and an application form was duly received and completed.

As the application neatly sums up our aims, here are extracts from the form sent in.

### ***"What project or activities will take place if you receive a grant?"***

We are in the process of collecting old photographs of Leyland and the surrounding area. We plan to create a series of power point displays that can be used either in the school environment or in the local museum and at various craft and local fairs to demonstrate the rich heritage in our area.

In addition, more delicate information can be displayed from a scanned document. With a number of retired teachers on our committee we can present the information and photographs that will fit in with school needs.



**Please explain how you know that people in your community want this project and what difference you hope the grant will make.**

The Society, through its 148 members, has a marked influence on the town of Leyland, its early members being responsible for the founding of the local museum. With the exhibitions that the Society puts on and its remit to help preserve the heritage of the town especially around the conservation area, the Society has Leyland's population's interest. At present we use a static display which, while showing pictures to A4 size, cannot show the information that can be obtained by, for instance, a display from a computer scan of a small scale enlargement of the same photograph, which on a screen can be blown up to show any particular detail.

Sometimes it can be just being at the right place at the right time as this picture by Jack Winrow shows. The demolition of the Midland Bank branch at the Cross was not done under the current Health and Safety regulations. This is just one of a series that Jack took of famous Leyland buildings disappearing forever.



**Please tell us how this project will meet the three aims of Awards for ALL. These are to:**

- 1. Extend access and participation by encouraging more people to become actively involved in local groups and projects, and by supporting activities that aim to be open and accessible to everyone who wishes to take part.*
- 2. Increase skill and creativity by supporting activities, which help to develop people and organisations, encourage talent and raise standards.*
- 3. Improve the quality of life by supporting local projects that improve people's opportunities, welfare, environment or local facilities, for example through voluntary action, self-help projects, local projects or events.*

**Your answer is important as it enables us to see if your project meets one or more of our aims and helps us decide whether to give you a grant.**

It will enable the Society to reach not only our society members and members of the public who attend our exhibitions, but also the schools and their children within the Leyland catchment area.

By giving more access to the photographs and the details contained within them, we will, as we have done in the past, gain more information from the public as their memories are triggered by the views they probably thought they would not see again.

Working with the schools will ensure that the future of the town's heritage will be saved for generations to come and hopefully show the children that the town has a heritage worth looking after.

**Please describe any contribution you are making towards this project**

We are presently collecting the photographs as well as researching the story behind each picture. The current scans we hold are 220, with another 500 to be scanned as soon as we have time and a further 200 that we have been promised. The pictures we have received already have come either from members of the public or via the society website coming from as far away as New Orleans and Boston USA and from New Zealand and Australia

So that's all there is to it. Now you are probably confused on a number of issues already; the one that sticks out to me is, "what is a power point display and why would we want one?" For all non-computer types it is a series of screens featuring slides or photographs, writing or a combination of both that makes up a lecture or what we would know as a slide show. We had a fairly simple one when British Waterways gave their talk, and at the last AGM we had a very professional version of one with all singing and dancing graphics.



Another event that a lot of people will remember was the Queen's visit to Leyland (she was really only coming to catch a train). Yes it was on time and from the right platform (3), which had been painted specially just before the waiting rooms were demolished. She can be seen in the doorway of the booking office.

**As you have probably heard me say over the proceeding months at the Society meetings, no matter how old the photograph, if it features a part of Leyland's past we want it.**



Here is a photograph of the exterior of Brook Mill from Orchard Street while demolition was in progress. We are lucky that Anne Holden who took this picture, Stan Haydock and Jack Winrow took quite a few photos of buildings that were going, going gone. I am sure there are a lot more out there as witnessed when the L & B chimney came down and a few hundred turned up to take photographs and videos.

**More buildings have disappeared in the last 20 years than the previous 50.**

Just to list a few of the businesses and buildings attached to the names will give you some idea. We'll start with the biggest:

Leyland Motors	North Works, South Works, Foundry, Stokes Hall, Thurston Road Canteen	Demolished
	Farington Works, Centurion Works, Both test tracks	Partly demolished
BTR	Golden Hill Works	Demolished
L & B	Wheelton Lane & Baxter's, Tuer Street	Demolished
Leyland Paints	Northgate	Demolished
Leyland Gas Works	Chapel Brow	Demolished
Brooke Mill	Orchard Street	Demolished

We can look at the main shopping streets of Leyland or the Festival Procession route, as I know it. That is: Chapel Brow, Hough Lane and Towngate. How many times have the shops changed hands, been demolished, rebuilt, etc.?



Now here is an interesting photograph from Stan Haydock's collection from the 1920's / 1930's festival.

It features the Leyland Morris Men in their traditional outfits as they dance down Hough Lane.

However, the building behind seems a bit odd. Yes it's the Leyland Motors Canteen but why is there a missing window on the top floor.

I have been informed that this was the testing and research department at one time. The only way to get vehicles or parts thereof up to their level was to use a winch that was situated at that window.

So you see we need to look in the background of pictures as well as the foreground.

Then, as I stated in the grant application questions, there are the events / people pictures. The best examples in Leyland of course are of the Festival. How many pictures do people have of floats in the procession (note the procession through the centre of Leyland – so more pictures of the town too). What went on in the park? The Festival queens, the displays, the Morris dancers, that wonderful Craft Tent, (who ran that?), though my video of the Procession and an "It's a Knockout" might be a video nasty. If you have a photograph of a group of Leylanders and you ain't too sure who they all are, I have a cunning plan, which is where the displays we are planning to show to the older generation come in, they may be able to identify people for you.



These two photographs sum up the perfect family pic as Mrs Haydock and her children are out on their Sunday walk down a country lane back in the early 1960's. A clue to where they are is on the left-hand pic as it shows the entry to Anderton Hall Farm, the farm building on the left belong to the Moon family. Yes, this is what Langdale Road looked like before the houses and in the picture on the right, Runshaw College.

To give you some idea of what we would like to see, I asked Bill and Elizabeth if they have a wish list of photographs they would like to see. Bill mentioned two, they are - the old smithy on Union Street, and Richmond House. The old smithy stood between the entrance gates of the cricket field and the last house on that side of the street. Newton Iddon tried for years to find a photo with no success.

Richmond House stood on the western corner of the junction of Tuer Street with Golden Hill Lane. In my early days it was the home of the Fishwick family who had founded a haulage business that went over to buses in the 1920's. Bill recalls it being similar in appearance to New Inn, so it was probably built early in the 18th Century. It wasn't pulled down until some years after World War Two.

Elizabeth would love a copy of a photograph that she knows does exist, - Worden Hall on the night of the great fire with the firemen on the roof. For myself, the obvious one is a picture of the stationmaster's house on Leyland railway station.

**So please look in your collections. If you have a picture that shows a Leyland view, please let one of the committee know. We can copy it and return it to you.**

**Whatever you do, please tell your friends. Recently, we got a new member who attended the railway talk last year, David Travis, who asked his friends if they had any photographs. Between them they have given us over 250 views that have not been seen for years, 90% of which were taken in the last 40 years. So thanks David and keep up the good work.**

PETER HOUGHTON

☺ THE HUMOUROUS CURATE ☺

The Rev. E.G. Marshall was curate to Leyland Baldwin, the vicar of Leyland from 1891 to 1913. After the death of the latter he wrote a book about his vicar as a tribute to his memory. (1) The final chapter is entitled: - "*Wit and Humour.*" According to Marshall: - "*Mr Baldwin loved a joke. He could make them and he could take them*"

What is not readily apparent from reading his book is the fact that the Rev. Marshall himself had a keen sense of humour and nowhere is this more evident than in a little book of his, given to me by my granddad over 50 years ago. It is entitled, "*Memories of Sunny Leyland*" and was published in 1907 with an introduction by Leyland Baldwin. It is a re-write of an earlier book of his, "*Leyland, past and present*", which was evidently so successful that: - "*...no copies can be obtained now for love or money*"

I'm not sure how well known this book is; I am personally unaware of any other copy and the only reference to it that I have come across is in an article by the late J. Nowell Bannister, our first president, in a 1974 edition of the "Lailand Chronicle" (2). Consequently, I felt it may be worthwhile sharing some of the more amusing bits, whilst apologising to those readers who may already be familiar with the book and its contents.



**On taking visitors up the Church Tower:**

*"To mount these well worn steps is a great feat which most visitors to Leyland Church determine to attempt, and permission to do so may be obtained of the Vicar. I remember once shewing a party of "My Mothers" (from some town parish) round the Church. They were all of them what is known as "fat, fair and forty", and to my dismay they wished me to shew them up the tower. Their exclamations were very varied, and their faces had the rosy blush of youth, when they reached the top, but, oh! The coming down thereof! I explained to them that the shortest and quickest way down was to jump off the top, but they preferred to come down the steps, some backwards, some forwards, some on their hands and knees; and many were the vows, that never again would they be tempted to admire the view from such a lofty pedestal. One woman said "there was nothin' like terra cotta, after all." I presume she meant terra firma.*

*On another occasion I was working in the Churchyard and some visitors of the gentler sex requested me to shew them up the tower. On reaching the floor of the Church, (I came down last) I found that one good woman had made a collection of sevenpence, which she offered to me for my trouble, and when I requested her to put it in the poor box, she felt that I deserved a more searching look than she had hitherto given to me. Then, I suppose, she noticed my collar, and said, "I beg your pardon, but we thou't yo' was the sackstones"*



**On funerals etc:**

*"It has been said that Lancashire people enjoy a funeral more than a wedding. Whether this is so or not, I have noticed that Leyland folk take a great interest in funerals - in fact more people are to be seen at a funeral than at most weddings - and of these, a large number who are not related to the deceased.*

*Great interest is taken in the gruesome details of death.*

*I once found about fourteen women gathered together in a sickroom - I asked why so many of them crowded into the bedroom - the answer I received was, "we are watching to see her die"*

*Sometimes the love of a funeral has made people seem a bit hard on the living. A certain man was dying, and his wife came to his bedside and said: - "John, the doctor says as tha' mun 'ave just what tha' axes for - is ther'owt as tha'd loike?" The husband looked up and said: "oi shud loike a bit o' that 'am as 'angs I'th kitchen". But the wife shook her head and replied: - "nay, mon, tha mun do wi'out that. That's for tha' funeral"*

*The funeral feast is a great institution, and the mourners look for all sorts of good things after the service is over. One woman was heard to lament that at a funeral feast there had only been teacakes, sweet stuff, and bread and butter. "Au've buried seven o' my childer," she said, "but aw'm thankfu' to say I buried 'em all wi' 'am"*

*A sexton was confronted by his wife whilst drinking with his mates in the "Eagle and Child":-"Tha' looks weel, tha' does, sittin' thee're suppin' thi ale, when tha' knows tha' has'nt buried a livin' soul this three week"*

*To some minds, perhaps these Leyland customs may seem morbid, and unseemly, but be that as it may, Leyland folk take a great pride in their churchyard.*

*(Here, it is worth noting the vicar, Leyland Baldwin's "scolding" of people using the Churchyard, as it appears in his introduction: -*

*"It is no place for dogs, no place for scrambling, rambling, untrained children, no place for the sucking of oranges, and disfiguring our neat greensward with the peel, no place for throwing your debris, torn up love letters, scraps of newspaper, cigarette ends, empty match-boxes, chocolate and toffee wrappers, carelessly all over the place." - Some things never change - just the magnitude of them!!)*



**On Old Leylanders and their dialect:**

Nick names were very common in Leyland in the old days and the people got so used to them that they forgot their real names:-

*“Owd Bunnock” once refused a letter directed to him in his own name, and told the postman he didn’t know anyone of that name in the street.*

*“Im as they ca’s pancake” was the description given of a Leyland worthy by one of his relations, that being the name by which he was best known.*

*Some words in the English language are a little too much for some of my Leyland friends, “Information and Browntitus” is a complaint I am told some people suffer with, and of course you know the story of the woman, who, after she had fever in the house, said, “She had disgusted the house with diabolic soap.”*

*The letter H really ought to be omitted from the alphabet. The Lancashire man gathers up all the H’s the Cockney drops, and uses them to emphasize his words. I met a man one day by the village cross, and enquired concerning his health. He told me he had been suffering with sore eyes, but they were now quite better. After which he proceeded to give me the recipe, as follows: - “If hever you ‘ave hanything the matter with your hies, halways cure ‘em with the white of a hegg, and a honion.” I am thankful to say I never yet had occasion to try this remedy.*

*An old Leylander was fond of his glass of beer; his wife one day went to the door of the Inn and enquired if he was there, “because” she said, “if he is, there’s bound to be a storm.” The good man overheard her, and slipped out at the back door and went home. When his wife arrived she found him sitting up in bed with an umbrella over him. “Ar’ tha’ off thi’ nut?” she said, “sittin’ the‘ere wi’ thi’ umberella?” Meekly came the answer from beneath the gamp, “Tha’ sed as heaw the‘ere was goin to be a storm, and ‘oi was preparin’ for ‘t.”*

*A man’s wife committed suicide by cutting her throat with her husband’s razor. At the inquest the husband was asked about his wife’s behaviour. “Well,” he said, “Hoo were allus a queer ‘un, Hoo was, but Hoo never did nowt o’ this so’ort afore.”*

*A certain doctor in Leyland told a woman to give her sick husband plenty of “animal food” as he was very weak and needed strength. Calling on his patient a few days later, he asked him how he was getting on. “No better” was the reply, “an’ as for that animal food yo’ ordered me, it does me no good at all. I managed to get th’oats deawn, wi’ billin, em but th’ chaff were too dry for ‘owt”*

It is perhaps tempting for us present day readers to view these anecdotes as little more than a somewhat cruel poking of fun at simple village people by a better educated “outsider” but I don’t think this is the case. My granddad was an old Leylander through and through, being born on Slater Lane in 1869, and loved nothing more than to recount similar stories to his assembled family. Like most people of his generation he had the ability, not as common nowadays, to laugh at himself, and reading again these stories of the Rev. Marshall is to bring back memories of his hearty laughter – directed as much at himself as anyone.

**REFERENCES**

- (1) Marshall E. G. “Je n’oublierai pas: The Rev. Leyland Baldwin” (1913)
- (2) Bannister J. N. “Leyland’s First Local Historian” Lailand Chronicle No 11. (1974)

**DEREK WILKINS**

## COMBING THROUGH HISTORY

When one starts doing family history or local history research, one never knows quite what will turn up in the way of information – surprising or sometimes disappointing – or even what other avenues of interest one will be tempted to investigate. Whatever, it is almost always well worth the time spent.

During my family history searches I learned that my paternal grandmother's family were French Huguenots and that for many generations they had been gilders and art restorers. Several generations of my paternal grandfather's family had been master carpenters and craftsmen too, and what a wonderful surprise we had when I discovered that g.g.g. Grandfather Thomas Field had been a well-known long case clock maker. Having served a seven-year apprenticeship under a master clock maker in London he then moved to Bath to establish himself in business there. Several of his clocks and watches are now in a museum in Bath, but most exciting of all is that one of my cousins has managed to buy one of his clocks, which means we now have one of his masterpieces back in the family.

**FIELD, Thomas [BC, 5 June 1766]:**

*Thomas Field*  
*Watchmaker from London, having*  
*taken the shop and Stock in Trade*  
*of the late ingenious Mr Henry*  
*Stimpson dec. nr St. Michael's*  
*Church Bath, takes this method to*  
*acquaint the Public in general that*  
*he intends carrying on the same*  
*and hopes continuance of their*  
*Favours as he will make it his*  
*Study to execute their commands*  
*with diligence and care.*

*NB All persons that may*  
*have any Demands on the effects*  
*of the above Henry Stimpson are*  
*desired to leave an account with*  
*Mr John Latty, Ironmonger in the*  
*Market Place or at his late shop;*  
*and all persons indebted with the*  
*same are desired to pay the same*  
*forthwith as above;*



*A notice from the Bath Chronicle 1766 with a photograph of the face of one of Thomas' clocks*

My maternal grandfather's family had all worked on the railway since the advent of that form of public transport.

To my delight and fascination I recently discovered, in a baptism register of 1811, that another early relative had been a comb maker.

We have now found that brothers James and William had their own comb making business at Fleur de Lis Street, off North Folgate in Stepney. They were both born and lived in Hoxton, which was just within the City of London but to have been tradesmen there would have meant becoming freemen of the City, which meant they would have to belong to one of the City's guilds. (It did not matter to which guild one belonged, as long as one belonged, as the Company of Comb Makers guild ceased to exist in 1750).



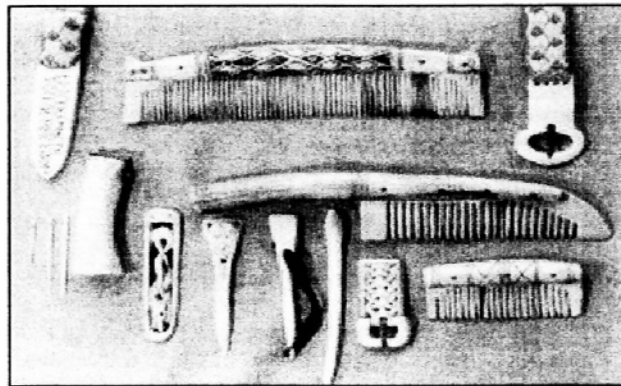
Becoming a freeman in the 1800's was a costly business and it was not unusual for businessmen to base their business just outside the City, so they did not have to become freemen, but could still gain the custom from those in the City. This is almost certainly why the brothers established themselves in Fleur de Lis Street. – outside the City boundary but not far from their homes.

But what did being a comb maker entail in 1800? What materials did they use? What kind of combs were they making? Indeed how long have combs been in existence?

I was off on another quest!

I soon discovered that combs have been in existence for a long time and are in fact among the most frequent artefacts found in Viking Age graves - some of the combs extremely beautifully decorated, others quite plain and simple – and from which it is easy to conclude that a comb was probably owned by all ranks of society even then. From the numbers found during archaeological digs, the Vikings seem to have carried a comb with them at all times – and to have both used and dropped/lost them frequently.

Comb making in that period was predominantly practiced in towns, markets and trading places, and comb makers were highly skilled and specialised craftsmen who must always have had a ready market for their wares.

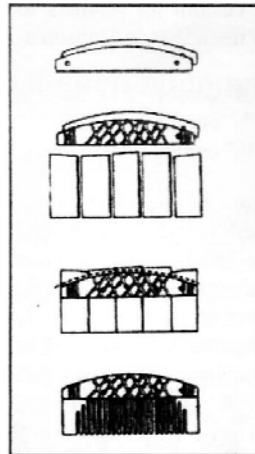


*Some Viking age bone work including combs*

Bone and antler were widely used in the Anglo Saxon and Viking periods for a wide variety of uses, including combs.

Horn was also used for many household items, with the useful property that, when placed in boiling water, it became malleable, and when softened could be moulded into other shapes.

Antler is stronger than bone and was used for jobs where extra strength was needed – typically combs, where teeth would break if made from a weaker material. The antlers used were mainly from red deer (but occasionally also from moose or caribou) and were best collected after the deer had shed their antlers naturally in spring (rather than from animals which had been hunted). Red deer antlers were particularly good, as there was very little wasted – only the tines and brow ridge being discarded.



*The various stages of the construction of an early comb*

From the pieces of antler the worker cut short, wide, rectangular plates to form the teeth plates and a pair of long narrow pieces as side plates to join the teeth plates together. Once cut the plates were sanded to shape and smoothed for the tooth plates and the side plates shaped into 'D' sections. The side plates were often decorated with simple designs of lines cut into the surface, which could be done at this stage or when the combs were riveted together. The tooth plates were then riveted between the side plates after which the individual teeth were cut with a saw (*as above*).

The basic shaping and decorating of the plates and handle were done with a saw, knife and a file. The teeth were entirely shaped with 'perk' tools (saw and file) or, later, just a single bladed hacksaw. Polishing was done using a fine file and coarse cloth, followed by a coat of beeswax.

It is likely that some people would have taken their own deer's antlers to the craftsmen in the town, thus reducing the cost of their combs.

Early combs were all so-called one-sided combs – those consisted of a 'supporting piece' with teeth in one direction only. During the 11<sup>th</sup> century and later Middle Ages, the so-called double-sided comb (louse comb) with teeth in two directions was introduced, with finer teeth in one direction and coarser ones in the other direction – as still used today.

In 1310 there were just 8 comb making businesses in this country, all in York, and York continued to be the main base of the British industry until the mid 1700's. Comb making businesses only began in London in 1500, but by the late eighteenth century it had become the principal area of production. In 1800 there were 450 comb making concerns throughout the whole of the UK, but by 1840 this number had risen to 1,100.

With the advent of the industrial revolution, mechanisation was introduced into the comb making industry. This meant that instead of the filing and cutting work all being done by hand, the craftsman was able to cut, grind and polish the combs on machinery, often driven by waterpower. They were still considered to be hand made however, as they were not yet mass-produced.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the custom for retailers to purchase six of each of several different sizes of combs at a time, and the prices in Dobson's 1833 ledgers for cow horn combs (per dozen) were:

2" combs	1s. 4d.	2½" combs	1s. 9d.	3" combs	2s. 6d.
3½" combs	3s. 6d.	4" combs	4s. 0d.	4½" combs	5s. 6d.
5" combs	8s. 0d.	5½" combs	10s. 0d.	6" combs	12s. 0d.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a tradition of exaggerated hairstyles became popular among more affluent women, and the 'common' comb was developed for another use – that of decorating the hair. This usage lasted well into the 1920's. The early ornamental combs with decorative headings were made mostly from materials such as carved pieces of horn, tortoiseshell with pique (gold or silver inlay), gilded silver or polished steel. Later ones were very elaborate and decorated hugely with valuable jewellery and ornaments.



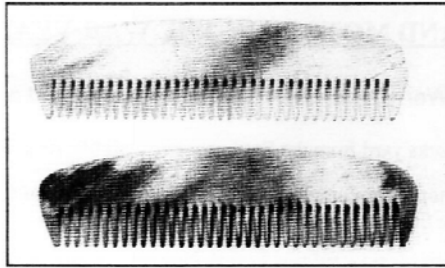
*English, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, brass comb with tortoise shell and silver pique inlay.*

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century man made materials were being invented and used for the making of many household items and including those such as combs. In the 1920's these materials included Casein which was a plastic made from a milk protein, and Vulcanite. Vulcanite was pioneered by Charles Goodyear who discovered that India rubber, after being mixed with sulphur and exposed to a very high temperature, turned into a black horn-like substance.

With the discovery of synthetics the use of horn, tortoiseshell and bone declined rapidly and the new products had almost entirely superseded the natural ones by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Until the 1940's the size and shape of combs had been limited to the size and shape of the original materials but, as a result of technical development including that of injection moulding, combs and other hair products could then be made to any size required.

Lancashire's only known comb makers are based in an old mill in Milnthorpe. John Dickenson's business (which began in 1704 in York and moved to Milnthorpe in the mid 1850's) used mainly cow horns to make their combs because it was resilient, would not bend, break or warp and could be welded together under pressure. Their last saw cut combs were made in 1958, since when all their combs have been machine mass produced.



*An example of combs made from cow horn by Dobson's c 1800*

So, the humble comb has been in use for a great many years. It is one of those household items that we all have and use regularly and probably take rather for granted – but we feel much inconvenienced if we are without one. I wonder how many of us have ever stopped to think about the making of our combs. I shall certainly look upon mine with different eyes now.

Working at their comb making business in London at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it is unlikely that James and William would have access to supplies of antlers, and it is most probably that they too were making their combs from cow horn – delivered in bulk by horse and cart from a local slaughter yard. It would be fascinating to know how much they had to pay for raw materials, how long it took to make a comb and how much they charged for the finished items, but unfortunately none of their records have survived to give us this information.



I visited Fleur de Lis Street (*above*) in spring 2004, and found their little premises – part of an enormous warehouse building. Sadly, the whole building is now empty, boarded up and looking very forlorn. If only those walls could talk!

So, although I do not know much more about James and William's actual business, I do know a lot more about combs and comb making now.

Thank you great, great, great grandfather.

**JOAN LANGFORD**

### LEYLAND MOTORS IN THE WAR YEARS.

My memories of the War years, when Leyland was a "stand alone" Company.

Take a walk down the North Works yard from the Entrance gate with Mr. de Wilde in charge of Security

1. On your right, the Torque Shop assembling Torque Converters under Tom Robinson. To the left, the General Offices. Below was the Service Stores.
2. Right is the Employment Office, Bert Elkington and Oliver Burgham could be found there. They supervised the Apprentices.
3. In front, through the large doors was the Bar Stores, always a busy place full of bar socks. To the right was No.1 Shop, Turning and Gear Cutting, always noisy and oily floors. To the left was the entrance to the Top Shop. Apprentices Training Centre, Machine Tool Repairs and the Nozzle Shop recently moved from Farington Engine Factory.
4. On down the main passage, and on the right was No.2 Turning Shop, Crankshafts and Camshafts, Valve Seats and small items.
5. To the right, No.4 Shop. Milling machines and the Press Shop at the far end. On the left was the Print Stores run during the War by the lovely Belle Pilkington, one of our pin-up girls.
6. To the right was the Tool Room run by Bob Harrison and Jack De Rhome, and Ernie Thwaites. This was where it all began, Jig and Tool Manufacture to keep the War Effort going. Names from the past like Max Halliday, Harry Gore, Dick Cookson, and many more.
7. On the left was the Drive Motor Compound. These large electric motors drove the line shafting for the No.3 Machine Shop. This was run by David Beech, and did most of the turning requirements, big automatic bar lathes and all types of smaller lathes. Many Leyland women were employed here during the War, working long shifts. Another noisy place and the smell of oil and coolant stays forever.
8. On the other side of the passage was the Stores and Electricians Department. Go further to the right and you were in the Heat Treatment Department, an inferno of hot metal and hot oil baths. Never forgotten.
9. Back to the Main Passage, to the lower end of North Works. Here was the result of all that had gone before, the Chassis Shop, run by Jack Fairclough and Charlie Hill. On the far right the chassis frame members were assembled and the road wheels and axles fitted. We had the start of a vehicle. Pushed along the line, before the age of conveyors, the other components were added, brakes, steering, and the engine and gearbox.
10. Filled with fuel and oil, the completed unit was now pushed from the end of the line, down the slope, for the driver to take it across to the South Works for finishing. The driver's cab and the rear body. Another Leyland Retriever, ready to go to the War. Many will have seen them driving round Leyland during the War, few may have wondered how they came into being, but that was what North Works was for. I know because I was part of it, as a Leyland Motors Apprentice.

There you have, it just a few memories. I have been sad to see Leyland Motors lose its identity, but progress must be made; we can always go to the Commercial Vehicle Museum and admire the work of those who strove to do their best for the Company. I recently visited Scotland and went to the Works where the Argyle Car was made outside Glasgow. They made torpedoes during the War, now it's a big shopping complex. Progress?

**WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH**