



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Best wishes for the New Year to all our members

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Notes from The Chairman

This issue heralds in the New Year and 2021 has arrived. Hopefully you will have had your Christmas celebrations with family and friends you have felt able to do. You may have spent seeing in the New Year at home with the television and possibly Jules Holland's Hootenanny, depending what the rules are in place after I write this. I think this year end and a new beginning with a vaccine has to be seen as a brighter future for us all after such a destructive year for everything we have taken for granted. The Committee have found forward planning very difficult, resulting in a total shut down of all our venues after the lockdown began and having to postpone everything to a similar time in 2021. As this is written before Christmas, Santa has yet to deliver my crystal ball, although I am not sure it will be accurate anyway!

We have been having regular Zoom Committee meetings to keep the momentum going and have achieved a lot despite the difficulties. One event, as you will be aware, we have not been able to arrange is the AGM in June. We have been in contact with the Charity Commission on this matter but have yet to receive a reply. When we have more details of what is required we will let you know.

You will have the 2021 calendar of events included with this issue commencing in March. Most of the speakers and artists have been carried over from 2020 in similar slots. As this is the 135th anniversary of the Mexico disaster for the RNLI we are planning additional events. On 8th March David Forshaw is giving an illustrated talk at the Assembly Rooms on the disaster, using his extensive archive of the event. In the autumn our Heritage

*Lytham Parish Church
(St Cuthbert's) Vicarage*

exhibition in the Centre will also be charting the events of the night and its aftermath. We will still be displaying our Mexico material in the Old Lifeboat House for the 2021 season. Unfortunately at this stage we cannot say when or if the Windmill and Old Lifeboat museums will be open as it is Fylde Borough Council who will make those decisions based on Government advice. Hopefully the Archive can be included in those decisions situated as it is at the Institute where Fylde Borough Council is the Trustee.

With regard to the status of planned events we will include details in the Antiquarian and if urgent email any updates and post outside the Centre as well so do keep an eye out for any news.

So to end on a positive note. I wrote to the current Squire of Lytham Hugo Bryan to invite him to become a Patron of the group. He was delighted to accept and is looking forward to visiting us on his next trip to Lytham to find out more about our work.

Do keep safe and hopefully we will meet sometime in 2021. *Sue Forshaw*



Lytham Green

When the districts of Lytham and St Annes on the Sea amalgamated, the Squire gave the new borough (then Lytham St Annes) all the seaside land between the old Custom House and the slade at Ansdell Road. The old windmill was included. It may be of interest to Heritage members to know the nature of the covenants involved in the Lytham Green Documents which we have at the Archive.



Lytham Green with the Windmill still with its large working sails and some of the fishing fleet moored in Lytham Pool to seaward of the Lifeboat House. (Lytham Heritage Group Archives)

slades and causeways leading down to the seashore and the iron fences, walks, footways, road, grass surfaces, flagpoles and shelters and all other erections.

4 There were to be no shelters, booths, tents, sheds, stalls, sanitary conveniences or other buildings or structures other than those then existing and none could be enlarged without the consent of the Cliftons or their heirs, with no erection being ten feet in height from the ground level to the square except the Windmill.

5 The Borough not to permit the sale or hawking of any articles on the beach or promenade, nor use or permit the land itself for the purpose of public advertisements or for any purpose which may be an obstruction, nuisance or annoyance.

6 The Borough was not to lay out any part of the land for the purpose of ornamental flower gardens, nor to erect or plant fences or screens which would prevent uninterrupted views across the Green.

7 The Corporation would not permit meetings for political, religious trade or social questions or other matters of controversy or allow religious services or lectures or addresses on the beach or promenade.

8 The Borough would observe the covenants on the part of the Cliftons, contained in the various leases of properties on the north side of the road.

Residents of Lytham (who have long memories) may care to comment on their covenants in terms of how they have been observed over the years and their relevance at the present time.

Now we have the Lytham Festival and also the Fair on Club Day with some of these restrictions I think maybe a blind eye has been raised, but don't tell anyonessshhh

Dave Hoyle (the Archivist of Lytham)

(There are also restrictive covenants on the land and premises lining the north side of the road. These will be with the title deeds of the various properties).

The Covenants imposed on the Borough were as follows:

1 To keep it open for the free use and enjoyment of the public and leave the same open, unbuilt upon and unenclosed, except for the fencing on the seaward side.

2 The Corporation would at all times keep the beach and promenade in good and tidy order and condition and free from rubbish and would preserve order and good conduct amongst those persons frequenting or using the same.

3 The Borough would maintain and keep in good order the stone hulking, sea wall or embankment and the stone steps,



The east end of Lytham Green (Lytham Heritage Group Archives)

New Members

Welcome to all
David Ashton and family
Jerry Ashton
Jaki Armstrong

Heritage Centre Exhibitions Programme 2021

We perhaps prefer to say no more about 2020, but we do now have some hope that exhibitions can begin again in the Spring of 2021. Provided the rollout of the Covid vaccinations happens as quickly as the government indicates, then we should feel safe to reopen on 30 March 2021 with "Location Location" Textile art by the Diversity Group.

Being cautious the Programme does not include an earlier heritage exhibition, but should we feel that we can open sooner, then we have a new exhibition waiting in the wings.

In the main, the Programme is the same as last year's re the

artists. Later on, we will re-exhibit the Mexico Disaster heritage exhibition, as it will be the 135th anniversary year of this historic Lifeboat tragedy.

The Christmas Fayre returns, this time for a whole week. It will be timed to coincide with the Christmas Market and late shopping night in Lytham - the dates shown are our best guess.

Whilst Christmas this year will be a faint version of the usual, we look forward to a New Year full of hope and plans for a return to our normal lives.

Hilary Fletcher

30 Mar - 18 April	"LOCATION, LOCATION" Textile art by the Diversity Group
20 April - 09 May	"INSPIRATION 2021" Another Eclectic Mix of Colours and Styles by Members of The Blackpool Art Society
11 - 30 May	Abstraction and Portraiture by Will Pickering.
31 May - 20 June	"COASTAL CONTRASTS" Paintings by Carla Raads
22 June - 11 July	"CAPTURED ON CANVAS" From the botanical to mechanical, a unique collection of art inspired in Lancashire by Glynn Ward
13 July - 01 Aug	The Art and Craft Guild of Lancashire Summer Exhibition
03 - 22 Aug	"NATURAL INSPIRATIONS" Contemporary Art by Joan Aitchison
24 Aug - 12 Sep	"HUMAN LAND" Photographic Studies and Landscapes of Northern Britain by Peter Laurence
14 Sept - 03 Oct	"AUTUMN EXHIBITION" by LSA Art Society
05 Oct - 21 Nov	"THE Mexico DISASTER" Lytham Heritage Group exhibition to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of the worst ever Lifeboat disaster that occurred locally on 9th December 1886.
30 Nov - 05 Dec	"CHRISTMAS FAYRE WEEK" buy original gifts by local artists and crafts people

Notes for John Heap & Sons Builders

The following article on John Heap, one of the pioneers of the new town of St Annes was first published in the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society journal and was put forward for inclusion in the Antiquarian by Phil Stringer.

John Heap moved to the coast to play his part in the planned new town about to be carved out of the West End of Lytham.

The starting point for the new town was officially recognised with the laying of the foundation stone of the St Annes Hotel 31st March 1875 by the Squire's grandson, 6½ year old John Talbot Clifton although building had started the month before. The hotel of course, given its size, was not the first to be completed. The accolade for completing the first brick built house in what was to become the new town goes to John Heap when Alpha House (now the "Keg N Cask" pub, 17 St Andrews Road South) was finished in 1875.

John Heap also has the dubious distinction of building the first house to be rated in St Annes when he built for his family the wooden "Pine Cottage" on the other side of the railway near Springfield Road. Given the almost total lack of infrastructure at that time, apart from the railway, Clifton Drive and the start of building the gas works, it was indeed a dubious distinction to be first to have your property rated and therefore liable to have to pay rates.

Over the years John Heap & Sons, builders, made a significant contribution to the area's townscape, some small like the tram shelter at Marine Drive / Clifton Drive, Lytham completed by the still thriving firm years after John's death, or the far larger Baptist Church built in 1886 in St Andrews Road South, St Annes (No 46) which after many years as Sanders Saleroom is now back in ecclesiastical use as the home of the Fylde Christian Service Church.

David Forshaw

The article below is reproduced here by kind permission of the author, Margaret Heap, and the journal's editor Hazel Johnson.

....and so to Margaret's article -

JOHN HEAP (1840 - 1905) by Margaret Heap

Blackpool has always been a popular holiday destination. It was the Georgians who introduced the delight of sea-bathing at English resorts, mainly in the south at Brighton and Margate, but also further north at Blackpool and Scarborough. In 1775 Elizabeth Shackleton of Alkincoates Hall, Colne, wrote in her diary "May 28th 1775 - my son set out from here to Preston... then to bath (sic) at Blackpool". And again, "June 12th 1775 - Tom writes from Carlisle on June 9th, gives an entertaining account of expedition from Blackpool where he bathed which did him service".

Down the coast at Lytham which has always relied on its fishing industry for its income, the Clifton family of Lytham Hall had been developing the hamlet during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Here too, the Cliftons had seen the increasing popularity of sea-bathing, and decided that money could be made by attracting visitors.

At the beginning of the 1870s Elijah Hargreaves, a cotton mill manager from Rawtenstall in the Rossendale Valley, was on holiday in Blackpool and realised that the vast expanse of land between Blackpool and Lytham had great potential for development, especially as the railway line between the two places had been completed in 1863. Also it was thought that



Alpha House as it is today in 2020. This was the first brick building completed for the new town of St Annes in 1875 by John Heap.

(photo David Forshaw)

a more upmarket resort would attract the better off middle-class visitors from Lancashire and further afield.

Following negotiations with the Clifton estate who owned the land, the St Annes-on-Sea land and Building Company Ltd was formed by Elijah and seven others. The project needed investment, and initially there were problems as other businessmen were reluctant to invest their money in a long-term plan. However, William John Porritt, a wealthy mill owner from Helmshore, did decide it was worth the gamble, and it is believed that he eventually contributed in the region of £100,000.

But the project also needed tradesmen from the construction industry - the Rossendale Pioneers - and one of them was John Heap, a joiner and builder. John was the eldest brother of my husband's great-grandfather, Servetus, (a good Unitarian name!) Heap. According to his birth certificate, John Heap was born at 7.00pm on 28th May 1840 at Newchurch-in-Rossendale, the son of Henry Heap, shoemaker, and Mary Ann, formerly Oldham.

On the 1851 census for Newchurch John is aged 10 and a woollen piecer. But by 1861 he is aged 20, and has become a house joiner. In 1862 he married Margaret Lord, who had been born on 21 June 1842 at Bay Gate, a tiny hamlet between Bolton-by-Bowland and Slaidburn. The daughter of a farmer, she had six sisters and two brothers, and came from a long-standing staunch nonconformist family. In 1861 her occupation was 'cotton weaver'.

John Heap 1840-1905

By 1871 John and Margaret had four children and were living in Rawtenstall, John still carrying on his occupation as a joiner. Then in 1874 life changed for the Heap family when John, employed by James Roberts, set off for the new town of St. Annes-on-Sea, together with three other builders, James Shepherd, Edward Walmsley and Alfred Smith.

There was no accommodation for their families so Shepherd, Walmsley and Smith went to live at South Shore, Blackpool. John chose to rent a small farm cottage in Headroomgate Road. The four men had been recruited to build the first ladies' school on South Promenade and entered into partnership.

In order to accommodate his family, John built a wooden house in the American style which he named "Pine Cottage". This was the very first rated house in St. Annes, and was situated between Springfield Road and Alexandra Road. By January 1875, two months before the foundation stone of the new town was laid. Pine Cottage was ready for all the family to leave Rawtenstall and begin their new life. There were now six children - Henry William (11); Frank (8); Wilson (6); Sarah Jane (4); Mary Ann (2) and Nancy, born on 27 December 1874. Two more children were later born in St. Annes, Fred in 1878 and John Albert in 1881.

The family and all their goods and furniture travelled to St. Annes by train which stopped alongside Pine Cottage, where the railway furniture van was uncoupled and left for two hours whilst it was unloaded and all its contents carried over the railway fence into the house. The next train from Blackpool picked up the empty van and took it on to Lytham. On arrival, Margaret Heap looked out from her compartment window at the surrounding sandhills and said to John *"Where have you brought me to? I shall never exist here."* But exist she did during the next 50 years and became one of its happiest residents.

The partnership with Shepherd, Walmsley and Smith lasted less than 2 years, after building Miss Davidson's school on South Promenade, when John withdrew and became a partner with James Eccles at the sawmills in St. Andrew's Road North. This partnership only lasted until 1880 when John set up business on his own. (Two trade directories for John Heap and Sons, Joiners & Builders, say business established in 1875). John had also previously been offered a post as Builders' Manager by Harold Porritt, the son of William John Porritt, St. Annes' main investor, but in view of past partnership experiences he turned down this offer and Porritt appointed another builder, Robert Fleming instead.

The Heap family spent the first 18 months of their time in St. Annes at Pine Cottage, but moved to Church Road as soon as a property was available. They made their final home in St. Andrew's Road South, at the back of which was John's workshop - Pioneer Saw Mills.

The first four buildings in St. Annes, including Alpha House (the first post office) in St. Andrew's Road South were built by John Heap. The stone-fronted houses with their distinctive fancy brick-work gable ends on South Promenade were his work. Other buildings included the West Crescent shops; the villas in Headroomgate Road; St. Annes Road East; St. Andrew's Road

South and many others built by John's sons after his death in 1905.



The first brick built house completed by John Heap in the new town of St Annes (photo by David Forshaw)

Although John's trade as a joiner and builder, together with his sons, Henry William and Frank, later joined by Wilson and John Albert, kept him busy he was keen to provide the new residents of St. Annes with a place of worship in respect of their nonconformist religion. He and his wife, Margaret, first opened up their home at Pine Cottage, and amongst the congregation at that time were Maxwell and Tuke, St. Annes' architects, and their wives. Later, stables were built in Back St. Annes Road West and the large room above was converted into a chapel. The minister taking the services came from Lytham or Blackpool, and if he missed the train it was John's responsibility to take the service until he arrived. But, following a split amongst the congregation, new premises were sought, and in 1884 John Heap, Joseph White and William Walker rented the Assembly Room over a shop on West Crescent at a cost of two shillings and sixpence a week and held Baptist services. However, these premises proved impractical due to the access to the chapel being up three flights of stairs and deterred many from attending. But one person was undeterred - John's eldest son, Henry William, climbed the stairs every Saturday night with a harmonium on his back, played it for the services on the Sunday, and carried it back home at six o'clock on the Monday morning.

By 1884 St. Annes Baptist Church was formally formed, John Heap being appointed one of the deacons; and by late 1885 a plot of land in St. Andrew's Road South, opposite John's home,

The Baptist Church built in 1886 by John Heap in St Andrews Road South was replaced in 1910 by the present church on the corner of St Thomas Road and St Andrews Road South. After many years as Sanders Saleroom the building was purchased in 2013 and renovated to open on 14th June 2014 as the Fylde Christian Service Church.

(photo David Forshaw)



John Heap 1840-1905

was acquired for the building of a chapel. The foundation stone was laid on 18 September 1886, John began building and the work was completed within 13 weeks at a cost of approximately £800. Its official opening took place on Christmas Day 1886.

Once the Baptist chapel was fully established John took an active part in its activities. Years earlier he had become one of the founders of the Nonconformist Mission. He was the Superintendent of the Sunday school for a time, teacher of the young men's class, and a great advocate of 'Improvement Societies', and other organisations connected with the thriving church. He also became a Trustee of the St. Annes band which owned its origins to the Baptist Church.

Like the first settlers in St. Annes he was passionate about everything that had for its main objective the advancement of the town, and never lost an opportunity of advocating its claims.

John always took a keen interest in public affairs, being a frequent speaker at ratepayers' meetings. For two terms he was a member of the Local Board, and was an Overseer of the Poor for five or six years - a job with which he would be able to empathise having come from a very humble background.

John Heap died on 30 December 1905, and following a service at the Baptist chapel, his coffin being carried in by his employees, he was buried at St. Annes Parish Church. Amongst the many mourners were members and officials of the Council; Overseers; representatives of the Master Builders' Federation; the Tradesmen's Association; The Rate Payers' Union and the Institute, besides other townspeople. A sure indication of the great esteem in which John Heap had been held in both his private and public life - a true Rossendale Pioneer.

Margaret Heap

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Following on from Margaret's article Mike Coyle (a descendent of Harry Melling, the last Coxswain of St Annes Lifeboat up to the time when that station closed in 1925) has sent details of membership of the LFH&HS for those interested.

The Society was formed in 1973, originally, the 'Rossendale Society for Family History & Heraldry'. Our membership is now worldwide, with UK members 'Out of County' and 13 Branches throughout Lancashire including a Fylde Branch. A Branch in London looks after our membership in the South East. We also have specialist groups in the Irish Ancestry and Heraldry. The Society also maintains two Family History Research Centres, one in Oswaldtwistle and one in Chorley.



Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Society Aims & Objectives

To advance the study of genealogy, heraldry and family history.

To find, publish, and make accessible relevant documents and records.

To promote the preservation of these documents and records, especially by transcribing original sources.

To collaborate with organisations and bodies who have custody of records.

To operate an information service and build up a library.

Membership

Becoming a member is an easy process online, or by attending a Branch Meeting or by contacting our Membership Secretary

On joining the Society, members are entitled to visit and take part in any of these meetings. Members can use the facilities of any Branch, such as its library stock, microfiche stock, CD stock etc. Some Branches have fiche readers that can be borrowed for use at home.

Each Branch organises its own programme of events and activities. Details of these, together with locations and meeting timetables, can be found in the Branches section of the website and in the Journal.

Non-members are welcome at any of the Branch meetings. For anyone wishing to find out more about the Society, or individual Branches, please contact the relevant Branch Secretary.

Membership of the Society entitles you to:

A Starter pack of leaflets and Quarterly copies of the magazine 'Lancashire'.

A 'Surname Interests', 'Research Problems and queries' pages on the website and in the magazine.

A 'Pedigree Database', which enables you to be put in touch with others researching the same names in the same areas.

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

A 'Helping Hands Service' to provide possible sources of information local knowledge. Help is not restricted to Lancashire.

Attend any of the 13 Branch meetings, each offering visits, talks, workshops (discussion and help with research problems) and a chance to chat to fellow researchers with local knowledge.

Access branch resources and published society projects (over 500), which can be viewed at branch research meetings.

Subject to acceptance, have your personal family history website linked from the Society website.

Attend the Conferences of the Federation of Family History Societies.

Attend the Society's Annual Conference and Annual Dinner.

Access to the Society's Mentoring service.

Access the LFHHS e-mail Forum, offering support and advice to members and an opportunity to share knowledge.

Use the Society's Resource Centres at The Straits, Oswaldtwistle and at Astley Hall Farmhouse, Chorley with on-line access and extensive libraries of microfiche, CDs and publications.

LFHHS Online

LFHHS is committed to making the best use of technology and innovation to support its members and the public. This includes using all reasonable and cost-effective means to improve the way we communicate, reach out and interact with the different communities we serve.

You will find us at: www.LFHHS.org; on Facebook at: LFHHSOnline and many of the Branches have their own web pages and Social Media presence.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Mike Coyle

The Market Clock

Dave Hoyle has sent in this article by the late Stanley Brown which first appeared in Antiquarian No 60 but deserves a retelling.

THE MARKET CLOCK

Stanley Brown

Hands up all those who remember hearing the Market Clock striking the hour? Not many of you, I'll warrant, so here are one or two little bits of information about the two-faced public servant (and that's not a slur which suggests a reputation for double-dealing). The clock, with its tower, was added to the Market Building in 1888 by The Honourable Eleanor Cecily Clifton, wife of the then Lord of the Manor, John Talbot Clifton (the second).

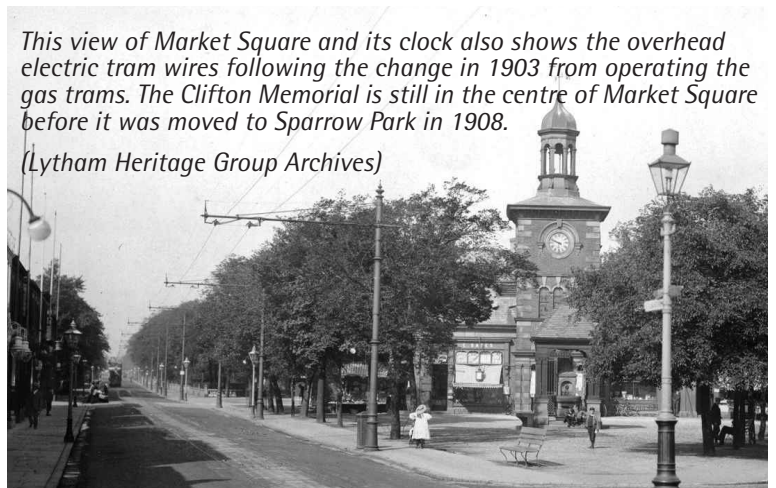
As to the Clock itself, many people are unaware that it really is a 'wind-up' clock, driven by a massive weight which, if ever the 'string broke, would plummet earthwards down a specially constructed chute, through the room in the tower and into a sand-filled 'cushion' at ground level, to soften and arrest its fall.

But what about the cracked and most unmelodious tone of the bell? Many years ago I well recall, its tinny tintinnabulation, hourly reminding the population of the passage of time, was somewhat peremptorily brought to a halt, since when it has never been heard again.

You see, at that time a prominent member of the Fylde legal fraternity came to live in one of the houses in that lovely crescent opposite the Cenotaph; he hadn't been in residence many weeks before those audible reminders of the passing hours were, without warning or even an explanation, silenced. The reason was obvious - his slumbers were being disturbed!

Perhaps in the same sort of way, just as a Right of Way can only be established by closing it for a statutory twenty-four hours once a year, so perhaps the striking of the clock should be reinstated say, for one day a year - in memory of Lady Eleanor Cecily, the cause of it all; or perhaps we should agitate for a sample - to be chimed on the last day of the year -for old 'times' sake.

Incidentally, Lady Eleanor Cecily's mother, who was a Cecil and wife of the Duke of Norfolk were regular visitors to Lytham (where the Squire's brother lived). It is of interest also that the Duke of Norfolk funded the building of St Annes Catholic Church.



This view of Market Square and its clock also shows the overhead electric tram wires following the change in 1903 from operating the gas trams. The Clifton Memorial is still in the centre of Market Square before it was moved to Sparrow Park in 1908.

(Lytham Heritage Group Archives)

Have You Seen The Imperial Hydro Stone?

After the demolition of the Majestic Hotel in 1976, decorative stonework with the letters "IH" standing for Imperial Hydro, the hotel's original name when built in 1910, was removed and later rebuilt into the front garden perimeter wall of the Brooklands Rest Home in Woodville Terrace. The home's front was remodelled a number of years ago and the stones vanished. Does anyone know what happened to them and where they are now please?

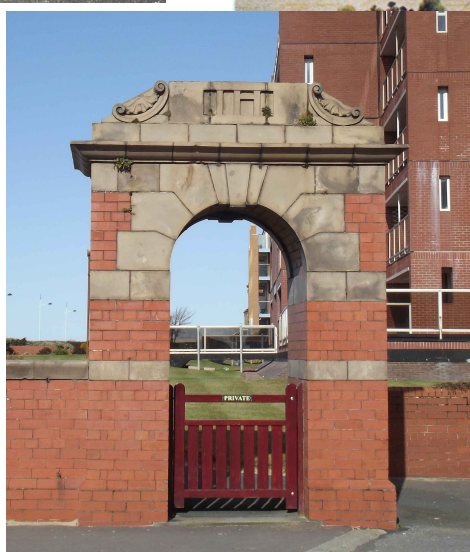


Imperial Hydro decorative stones in Woodville Terrace, Lytham

(photo David Forshaw)

The letters "IH" on the top of the gates are the remaining vestiges on site of the Imperial Hydro opposite Fylde Council's Offices in St Annes Road West

(photo by David Forshaw)



The Majestic Hotel formerly the Imperial Hydro

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE ANTIQUARIAN

If you have any articles, news, questions, photographs etc for future issues of the Antiquarian all will be gratefully received.

It is your Newsletter. Thank You.

Contact Details

We welcome all queries and suggestions. Please send emails to

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or leave a note addressed to The Editor, at the Heritage Centre.

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