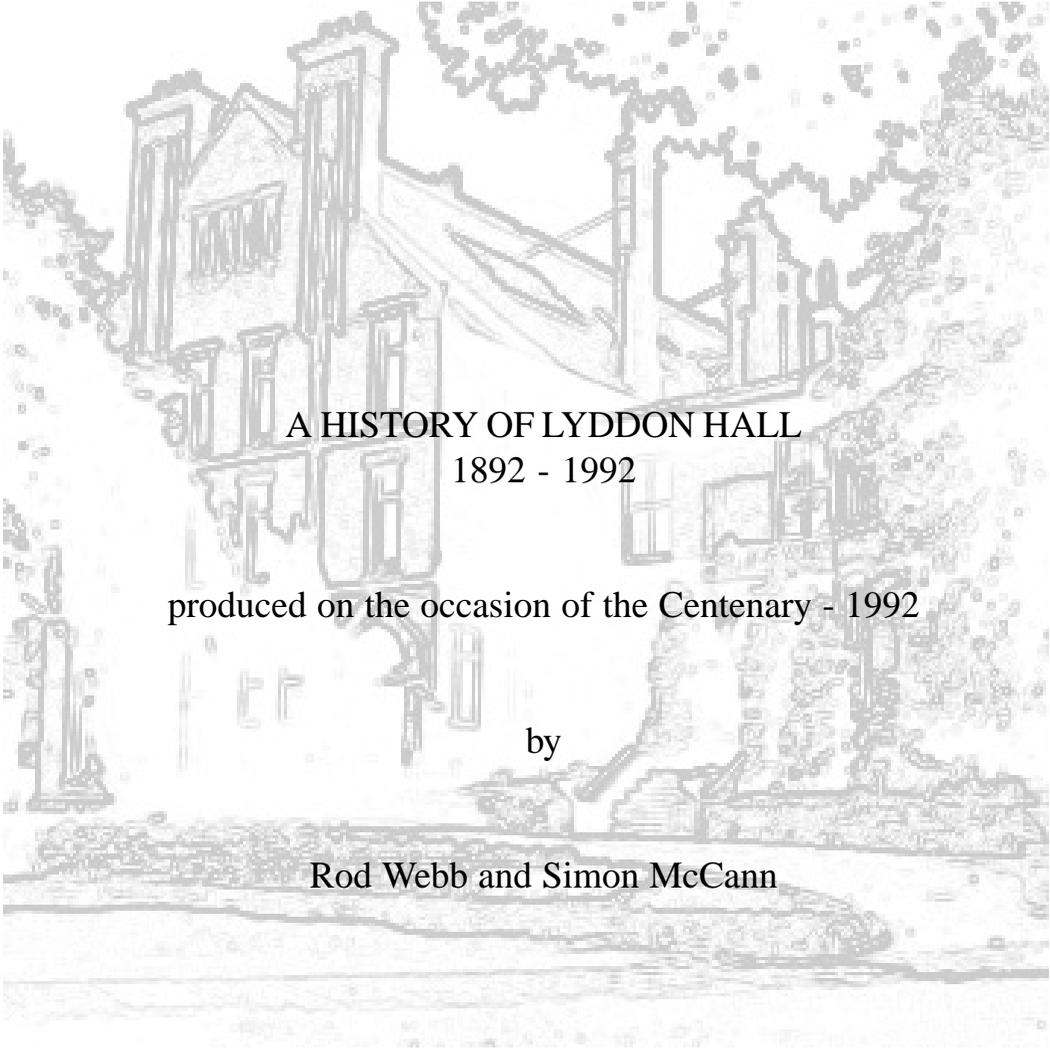




LYDDON HALL



A HISTORY OF LYDDON HALL
1892 - 1992

produced on the occasion of the Centenary - 1992

by

Rod Webb and Simon McCann

Everybody stood, and Gulliver listened as they sang:

*‘ When Haddon was founded, the Senate all wanted
a site that was healthy and high;
So they chose without question the top of Mount Preston
as near as could be to the sky.
So here we live behind the University ,
So here we live along Virginia Road
But fault to be pitied, our founders omitted
to do their Malthusian sums.
Population expanded and Haddon was stranded
Alone in an ocean of slums.
The winds from the moor swept up to the door
Blowing bits of waste paper around;
The scavenger dogs appeared out of the fogs
and the soot settled down to the ground.
But still in the Spring we could hear the birds sin
and see sun in the Sycamore trees,
Till they shut out all sight of the day and the night
with a building for lunches and teas.
Now we can't see the sky but we don't sit and sigh
for the blessings that fate has denied
Though the outlook's unkind, we're accustomed to find
certain small compensations inside.
So here we live behind the University,
So here we live along Virginia Road.*

As the singing finished, a mighty chorus of yells shattered the room, and rebounded off the walls into Gulliver's ears. "Alone in an ocean of slums", said Black Belt, "that's us. An oasis of culture in the industrial desert of Barfield. Isn't that rich, eh?"

From *The Florentines* a novel by Brendan Kennelty, who spent one term in Lyddon Hall in the early 1960's.

“I know not what you propose to do with your cares: as for my own, I left them within the city gates, when I issued thence with you awhile ago; wherefore do you either address yourselves to make merry and laugh and sing together with me (insofar, I mean, as pertaineth to your dignity) or give me leave to go back for my cares and abide in the afflicted city.”
Boccaccio, Decameron (translator: John Payne)

INTRODUCTION TO PARTS I-X

Lyddon Hall celebrates its Centenary in 1992. It is the oldest hall of residence at Leeds University; indeed it predates the University. It is the only Hall which has been operated by a private company, and the only hall which has been both a men's and women's hall (but never a co-educational hall). The Warden's house predates the Hall building, and has a long history of its own.

The sense of living in an old building creates "atmosphere". It also induces an interest in the history of the building and in stories about its past occupants. Hall members, Wardens and subwardens have always made Hall history a frequent topic of conversation. A short (but very informative) history of Hall was written in 1952 by the then Hall historian Martin Williams. This was done as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Hall. As the 100th anniversary approaches, it seems appropriate to produce an expanded version - with 40 more years of history added to it!

The greatest repositories of information on Virginia Cottage/Lyddon House/Lyddon Hall are the Local History Collection at the Leeds Central Library, and the University Archives. The University Central Filing Office also contains deeds and other material. Books about the precinct are useful, especially Prof. M. Beresford's *Walk Around Red Brick*.

Conversations with knowledgeable people were indispensable, as were written contributions from some ex-Hall members. The search for information was so generously assisted by so many people, that a number of acknowledgements are in order.

Sincere thanks are due to: the staff at the Local History Collection of the Leeds Central Library, the staff at the Medical School Library, Mrs Pulleyn at the Central Filing Office, and especially to Mary Forster and Rosemary Stevens at The University Archives for their unstinting assistance. Thanks also to Mrs Morgan, Prof. Beresford, and Prof and Mrs Whewell, for sharing their personal recollections. Thanks to Mrs Whewell, Chris Carter, Phil Brown, Robert Cobb, Mark Jeffs,

Malcolm Birtwell and Adrian Ballentyne for submitting written contributions. Richard Gross proofread the manuscript and made several valuable suggestions, for which I am most grateful.

Last, but not least, thanks are due to Simon McCann for writing the part of this History which deals with the years 1984-92. His first-hand experience of this difficult period renders him the person best qualified to record it.

- Rod Webb

INTRODUCTION TO PARTS XI – RII

Pressure of space is a familiar chronicler's complaint, but nonetheless serious for that. The 1988-92 chapter suffered more from the disease than that covering 1984-88, mainly because I was a resident of Lyddon from 1988-91 and President of the J.C.R. Committee (1990-91) and it seemed very important when writing to include everything from those years. Yet something had to go. Detailed chronology and anecdote were sacrificed for a critique of University policies and their effects on Lyddon, since these policies were the cause of almost all the problems faced in the last four years. My brush with the Accommodation, Estates and Catering Offices were disheartening experiences, so I make no apologies for the piece.

My acknowledgements are due to Mark Jeffs, who helped with the Ballentyne chapter; to Adam Corner, critic and confirmer of facts; and to Rod, who provided the idea and the persuasive force for my involvement. The opinions are mine, not theirs.

Thanks.

- Simon McCann

I. THE ATKINSONS' SIX CLOSES (1739-1825)

In 1739 one John Atkinson of Leeds mortgaged to one John Dixon, merchant, also of Leeds “all those six closes of meadow and pasture ground, situate at Woodhouse near Leeds in the county of York, containing by estimation 16 acres,”¹ the land being then leased to a certain William Wilson. This is the first appearance in modern records of the land on which Lyddon Hall now stands. This land remained in the Atkinson family, passing by will from one generation to the next, and also remained mortgaged as the Atkinsons continued to borrow more money on the security of their land whenever an existing mortgage was paid off.² The land was leased to a succession of tenants, who used the land for grazing purposes, no buildings having yet been erected on the site.

In 1792 the 16 acres (now more accurately measured as 15 acres one rood) were owned by the Rev. Richard Mosely Atkinson of Catterick, near Richmond. He died in 1823. In his will, he directed that the land was to pass to his nephew John Perfect and his son-in-law John Ingledew of Richmond (a surgeon in the Royal Navy - the first but not the last connection of this land with the

1 The information for Part I comes entirely from an abstract of title prepared for Julia Lyddon in 1825, and kept with the University Bursary, Leeds.

2 In 1773 one Thomas Moseley borrowed £4700 from Sir Edward Hawke, who raised the money by selling South Sea Stock Annuities notionally worth £5425. Repayment was to be in an equivalent amount of the same shares. This was 50 years after the bursting of the “South Sea Bubble”. Had the shares recovered their value, or were these different shares altogether?

medical profession!) as trustees to sell the land and apply the proceeds for the benefit of his wife and daughter (both named Mary) the latter being Ingledeew's wife. Mary Atkinson (Richard's wife) having died and John Perfect having refused to act as trustee, John Ingledeew put the land up for sale in 1825 (he had in the meantime paid off the mortgage and settled other claims on the property).

It was not long before a purchaser was found in the form of Mrs. Julia Lyddon (nee Silly), who contracted with Ingledeew for the purchase of his Little Woodhouse property on 5th April 1825. Julia directed the trustees of her marriage settlement to produce the purchase price of £3,950 - money settled on her by her family when she married William Lyddon in 1807. A word about the Lyddons is now in order, especially as the Hall bears their name.

II. JULIA SILLY AND CAPTAIN LYDDON; VIRGINIA COTTAGE (1825-1826)

Julia Silly was born in 178? the daughter of a Leeds butcher who had married rather above his station, his wife being a Preston.

The Prestons were a wealthy merchant family, and Julia's maternal grandfather and great-grandfather had been Mayors of Leeds. Her uncle (i.e. her mother's brother) was Wade Preston, a wealthy bachelor who died at his home in Scarcroft in 1789. Julia Silly was his nearest relative (Mrs Silly having predeceased him) and inherited his estate. The butcher's daughter was now a wealthy woman.³

Included in the inheritance was a 19-acre plot of land which Wade Preston had owned in Little Woodhouse. This property comprised some of the present University Precinct, but did not include the future site of Lyddon Hall. This was owned by the Atkinsons, as we have seen.

Julia Silly's new affluence allowed her to frequent Bath and other fashionable spots, including Boston Spa. It was perhaps at the former that she met Captain William Lyddon, who hailed from Devon. Nothing is known of their romance (reader invited to supply details from own imagination), but they were married in 180? and came to live in Park Square, Leeds. It is clear that Julia had been thinking for some time about

3 Information on the Lyddons comes from a variety of sources: deeds in the possession of the University Bursary, Prof. Maurice Beresford's delightful Walks Round Red Brick, etc.

My supposed biography of Julia Lyddon is a fanciful reconstruction from slender evidence!

developing the Preston land in Little Woodhouse:

“J.S. Morrish her Leeds property agent was called to her house at 2 Queen Square, Bath on the night of 26 October 1805, which he remembered as the night when the news of Nelson’s death reached Bath. His purpose was to make a copy of a plan which she possessed showing her uncle’s 19 acre estate in 1739. This plan, which is now among the University Bursary deeds, showed 7 fields of irregular shape and all unbuilt upon.”⁴

It was not until 1821 that development began on the Preston lands. In 1825 the Atkinson property was purchased (see above). Mrs Lyddon thus owned much of what is now the University Precinct: the Preston land extended from near the Clarendon Wing of the Leeds Infirmary, up to the Sports Hall (the Georgian house across from the Sports Hall and next to the Food Science building was built by the Lyddons in 1821), then extending up to the area across from the Baines Wing and to where the ornamental entrance gates to the Student Union now stand. The Atkinson land joined this and included the present sites of Lyddon Hall and Charles Morris Hall, bounded by the present Lyddon Terrace and Clarendon Road. The area now occupied by the Student Union was a wooded part of the Beech Grove Estate, and was not owned by Mrs Lyddon .⁵

In 1826, Mrs Lyddon sold a parcel of land abutting the Beech Grove Estate to one Thomas Boyne, and the Lyddons strictu sensu no longer concern us, but their subsequent history sheds

4 Quoted in Walks Around Red Brick from Morrish’s affidavit in the Chancery action Lyddon v Woolcock.

5 A map of the two parcels of land can be seen in Walks Around Red Brick, p.31.

light on both the economic situation and the state of English law at the time. 1826 saw the country enter what we now term a “recession”, and development of the Lyddon estate came to a halt. Julia died in 182g {in her mid-40’s).

Her heirs were two grand-nephews from the West Country, Cloberry Silly Woolcock [sic] and Fredrick Silly Parkyn. William Lyddon sued Woolcock and Parkyn in the then notoriously dilatory and corrupt Court of Chancery, claiming £1815 for bricks, etc supplied for the building of houses on the Lyddon property. Mr Lyddon claimed that the brickworks on the land were his own separate property and that he had paid for the raw materials used in the brickmaking. He also claimed recompense for money laid out to pay tradesmen and workmen who built five houses constructed before 1828.⁶ The matter dragged on in Chancery for sixteen years until a settlement was reached late in 1842. William Lyddon died in January 1843. In 1853, a further action was begun by Lyddon’s second wife Eliza,⁷ claiming that the solicitors representing William and herself had overcharged them. (She lost). The result of this litigation, reminiscent of Bleak House, was a judicially decreed sale by auction of the Lyddon property, and so, save for a few street names and the name of

6 The first action is unreported, and the papers in the case must be inspected at the Public Records Office. The Bursary deeds file at the University contains copies of all the decrees made in the case. Much can be gleaned from reading the report of the second action (see note 7j where the first action is neatly described as involving “the brick debt” and “the building debt”).

7 Lyddon v Moss (1859) 45 Eng. Rep. 41. Chancery actions were likely to be so prolonged that lawyers made financial settlements with their clients to ensure a steady income during the many years an action was likely to be “In Chancery”. Eliza Lyddon’s lawyer was held to have “overestimated the value of his services” but not fraudulently so.

one Hall of Residence, the Lyddons now disappear from the scene.

III. THOMAS BOYNE AND WILLIAM BOYNE, F.S.A. (1826-1844)

As just mentioned, Mrs Lyddon sold the piece of land on which Lyddon Hall now stands to Thomas Boyne, a tobacco and snuff manufacturer in Leeds. Boyne had previously lived at Warehouse Hill, then at 13 Neville Street (where the business was thereafter located), St Peter's Square and finally Queen Square before occupying "Virginia Cottage", as he called the square Georgian House he built on his new plot of land. He retained the Queen Square property, and moved back to it in 1842. He sold Virginia Cottage in 1844.

The house and access road were named for the American state of Virginia, from which Mr Boyne's tobacco emanated. (Until 1872, the road was called Virginia Street). An idea of the original appearance of Virginia Cottage can be gained from standing in the yard behind the hall and inspecting the rear of the Warden's House as well as the side facing the Union. The staircase and pointed staircase window are probably original; the kitchen is a much later addition' (1952). Virginia Road ceased carrying vehicular traffic in about 1966. Its old route is now a footpath, along which members of Lyddon pass on their way to the New Arts Block. Even this last vestige of old Virginia Road is under threat as plans are afoot to extend the Student Union.

Thomas Boyne carried on the tobacco business as "Boyne & Son" until 1847 when he retired and went to live in France. He died at Neuilly near Paris in 1849.⁸

Thomas Boyne's son William was born at St Peter's Square in 1814. He was therefore 12 years old when the family moved up the hill to Virginia Cottage. He attended Leeds Grammar

School, and later joined his father's tobacco business. It was no doubt during his residence at Virginia Cottage that William met Anne Scott whose family had a house on Woodhouse Moor. She was to become his wife.⁹

William became a noted antiquary and numismatist, and amassed an important collection of coins and tokens, as well as other antiquities. He wrote several works on coins and tokens; as well as on Yorkshire History, and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

After William left Virginia Cottage, he may have lived for awhile at the Queer~Square House but soon purchased a large moated mansion near St Chad's Church. He kept his collections here. Not long after this in 1853, he sold the house and contents:

“It is said that for some reason he conceived an unconquerable prejudice against Leeds; at all events he went abroad and few, even of those who were numbered among his most intimate friends in Leeds ever saw him again.”¹⁰

8 For biographical information on Thomas and William Boyne, see G.D.L. [sic] “William Boyne, F.S.A. Numismatist, of Leeds and Florence” Thoresby Society Miscellany Vol. 33 (1935), p.227, as well as “Materials Toward a Life of William Boyne, F.S.A.” a typed manuscript at Leeds Central Reference Library. The University Archive has a letter from a descendant of Anne Scott Boyne to Miss Scott, Subwarden of Lyddon Hall, 22 Sept 1922. This gives more biographical details.

9 Anne's father William Scott was a maltster whose malt kiln was on the site of the Department of Geography (once the University Refectory) .

10 Obituary, Yorkshire Weekly Post, 2 December 1893.

The reasons for William's departure are not really so obscure: his wife Anne died only a few years after their marriage. They had no children. He was also very upset by his father's death, as his correspondence reveals:

“Leeds July 23rd 1849

My Dear Dixon

I have been much occupied of late or should have written to you before this. My father died in Paris on 23 June very suddenly, and I have been over to see to his affairs. It has been such a shock to me - I have been very unwell ever since.¹¹

After a sojourn in South Africa and Nice, William Boyne died in Florence in 1893, aged 79, having resided there for 13 years.

There is a further indirect connection between the Boynes and Lyddon Hall: A Mr Hoffman-Wood was a member of the trust which transferred the house to The Yorkshire College to found Lyddon Hall. The Wood family were related to the Boynes and had also been in the tobacco business.¹²

11 Quoted in Thoresby Society article cited in note 8 supra.

12 Letter to Miss Lorna Scott 27 Sept. 1922. See note 8 supra.

IV. THE ARMISTEADS 1844-1872

Joseph Armistead

In 1844, Virginia Cottage and its grounds were purchased by Joseph Armistead, a Leeds brush manufacturer. The Armisteads were an old Quaker family: as long ago as 1699, the house of one Richard Armitage was mentioned as a place “registered for meetings by the people called Quakers”.¹³

Joseph Armistead lived in a Quaker enclave in South Leeds:

“In the early 19th Century [the Armisteads] lived in Water Hall just south of the river and a hundred yards from the meeting house compound with its boarding school, master’s residence, the five Friends’ Houses of Camp Lane Court, the library and the burial ground. It was all surrounded by a high wall, but there was enough space within for the caretaker to mow the grass, and a hundred Friend families within easy walking distance, strongly disciplined and clearly marked out by dress, speech and conduct from the general population”.¹⁴

Joseph’s eldest son, Wilson Armistead, was born in 1819, grew up in this Quaker enclave and, in 1844, married Mary Bragg, who came from a well-known Quaker family in Cumberland. As Joseph acquired Virginia Cottage in 1844, the year of Wilson’s marriage, he may have intended it as a gift or as part of a settlement for the newlyweds. There is no evidence that Joseph ever lived in Virginia Cottage, whereas

13 Allott, “Leeds Quaker Meeting” (1966) Thoresby Society Miscellany Vol.14 Part I, p.14. See esp. pp.57-59.

14 Allot, “Wilson Armistead 1819-68” Journal of the Friends Historical Society Vol. L (1962-64) p.158.

Wilson spend the rest of his life there. Wilson Armistead¹⁵

Wilson Armistead did not enter his father's brush business, but joined a family firm "Joseph and John Armistead Mustard Manufacturers". (He is occasionally referred to as an "oil merchant" and "seed crusher"). Although he eventually became a senior partner, the business did not prosper under his guidance because Wilson's interests lay elsewhere. He became a prolific writer and from out of his study at Virginia Cottage emanated a continuous stream of pamphlets and articles on moral and religious issues. (For example, wrote a series of tracts especially aimed at the German emigrants passing through Leeds en route to the United States via Liverpool). His religious and ethical writings run to six volumes! He also wrote a biography: Anthony Benezet American Philanthropist, and (under a pseudonym) a work of folklore: Tales and Legends of the English Lakes and Mountains as well as several short works on natural history.¹⁶

But Wilson Armistead's chief interest was the Anti-Slavery movement (also very popular in Leeds at the time). He threw himself into the Abolitionist cause with characteristic energy

15 See notes 8 and 9. Also see Goodyear, "Wilson Armistead and the Leeds Anti-slavery Movement" (1974) Thoresby Society Miscellany. Vol.16, part 2, p.113 and Spence., Eminent Men of Leeds (1868) no.16. The frontispiece contains a tiny photograph of W.A. His long face, dark eyes, and soulful expression make him appear rather like J.D. Salinger with a Quaker fringe beard!

16 W.A. presented a complete set of his published works to the Leeds Library (Commercial Street), of which he was a member. The Leeds Central Library has several of his writings as well.

- in 1848, he produced a true literary curiosity, a 600-page book entitled *A Tribute to the Negro*. The purpose of the book was to marshal every sort of scientific argument (including phrenology) to prove that the Negro race was not intellectually inferior to the White race. In 1850, Wilson travelled to the United States where he met some emancipated slaves and several prominent abolitionists, including the radical abolitionist Lloyd Garrison.

Leeds Anti-slavery Association on Garrisonian principles. The Leeds Town Hall was hired for a series of lectures and meetings, culminating in 1853 with a meeting attended by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. She did not visit Virginia Cottage, but several escaped slaves attended meetings of the L.A.S.A., and Wilson Armitage entertained and lodged some of these at his home.

Meanwhile, Wilson undertook extensive improvements to Virginia Cottage. He built the bow window onto what is now the Warden's House, as well as the imposing stone porch over the Warden's entrance. At the rear of the house, where the Hall itself now stands, he installed several ornamental gardens with paths leading through them. Following this upgrading of the house and grounds, he gave as his address "Virginia House" (cottage no longer!).

In the 1860's Wilson Armitage decided to start a fish hatchery near Dumfries in Scotland, called "Solway Fisheries". This enterprise prospered, as we shall see.

In 1867, he was at last able to secure the attendance of Lloyd Garrison, the

American abolitionist, at one of the Town Hall anti-slavery meetings. But attendance was poor - the American Civil War was over, and slavery had been abolished. Wilson refused to be discouraged by this, however, and said, using an old Quaker expression, that he was content to be “once more and forever among those that are quiet in the land”.¹⁷

Wilson Armitage died at Virginia House in 1868, aged 48. He was described as exhausted – “worn down by his many projects and activities”. His son Joseph John Armitage was with him when he died.

Joseph John Armitage

Joseph John Armitage, born in 1846, was Wilson Armitage’s eldest son, and he inherited Virginia House.¹⁸ J.J. Armistead, was more of a businessman than his father had been. He soon restored prosperity to the family mustard firm, and then sold it to J.J. Colman & Co. He threw himself energetically into the Solway Fisheries Co. which he continued to run, presumably at a profit, until at least 1895. In 1889 his fishery received a favourable notice from the Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald:

“Mr J.J. Armistead, piscicultural engineer, who had acquired extensive experience in the breeding and rearing of fish, was led to establish a fish hatchery in a pleasant little nook in the parish of New Abbie. What success this novel undertaking has attained under the skilful hands of Mr Armistead may be

17 Allot, see note 14.

18 Wilson Armistead’s death certificate is included with the Bursary Deeds.

learned from a visit to the fishery. It is now more than 25 years since the idea was first originated in his mind ... and no one can look upon the success of the most enthusiastic naturalist in the country without wonder and amazement. ¹⁹

Joseph John published a series of charming yearly newsletters from the fishery.²⁰ He also wrote several pamphlets on natural history, including ornithology, as well as two longer works: *A Short History of the Art of Pisciculture* (1870) and *An Angler's Paradise* (1895) (the first of these was written while he lived at Virginia House).

In 1872, J.J. Armistead, now aged only 26, sold Virginia House to Dr Clifford Allbutt, thus terminating the connection of this interesting family with Lyddon Hall.

19 16 November 1889.

20 Two of these newsletters, as well as J.J.A.'s two longer works are in the *Local History* collection at the Leeds Central Library.

V. DR CLIFFORD ALLBUTT (1872-1890)

Dr Clifford Allbutt purchased Virginia House in 1872, and henceforward it is referred to as Lyddon House. As Dr Allbutt's connection with George Eliot and Middlemarch is now part of the Hall folklore, the following account will have the "George Eliot connection" as its main emphasis. It was written as a separate article, but appears here for chronological reasons.



DR. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, GEORGE ELIOT AND LYDDON HOUSE

Since at least 1950²¹ there has been a good deal of speculation as to whether Clifford Allbutt entertained George Eliot at Lyddon House. It is certain that she visited Leeds, and stayed with Dr. Allbutt; but how many such visits were there, and was Dr. Allbutt living at Lyddon House when the visits occurred? I decided that the occasion of Lyddon Hall's Centenary would provide a good excuse to investigate the facts behind this venerable piece of Hall folklore.

21 The rumour was certainly current when a Hall history was written for the 60th anniversary of Lyddon Hall in 1952.

Notes. The main sources consulted were The Letters of George Eliot (9 vols.) by Gordon Haight (Yale 1956); hereafter "GE Letters", and The Right Honourable Sir Thomas Clifford Allbutt, A Memoir by Sir Humphrey Davy Rolleston (Macmillan, 1929), hereafter "Rolleston". I am grateful to Prof. M. Beresford, Mrs. Marjorie Morgan and Mrs. Robert Taylor for their assistance.

I. Dr Clifford Allbutt

Thomas Clifford Allbutt was born in Dewsbury in 1836, where his father was vicar. Rev. and Mrs. Allbutt were active in the cultural life of the town, and through one of Mrs. Allbutt's sisters, knew and entertained the Bronte sisters.²²

In 1855 Clifford Allbutt went up to Cambridge “with literary and artistic tastes rather more prominent than his scientific leanings.”²³ (Among these were contrapuntal music and pre-Raphaelite painting). He turned to science as a result of reading Auguste Comte's *Philosophie Positive*, and studied medicine. Whilst pursuing his studies at St. George's Hospital, London, he met and formed a lifelong friendship with George Henry Lewes. Since 1853, Lewes had been living with George Eliot (Marian Evans). In addition to being a keen student of physiology, Lewes was active in London literary life. Separated from his first wife but unable to obtain a divorce, he nonetheless lived with George Eliot as if in a married state until his death in 1879. It was through Lewes that Clifford Allbutt first met George Eliot.

(It is interesting to note here that in 1860 Allbutt did post-graduate work in Paris, where he studied under the renowned M. le Docteur Duchenne de Boulogne, one of whose descendants, Charles, was a member of Lyddon Hall in 1968-9.)

²² See Rolleston, p.2-4 for a most interesting account of Clifford Allbutt's recollections of the Bronte sisters (especially the letter to Edmund Gosse).

²³ Rolleston, p11.

In 1861, Allbutt settled in Leeds, becoming physician to the fever hospital at Seacroft. In 1864 he was appointed physician to the Leeds General Infirmary. (At L.G.I. Allbutt was a close colleague of T. Pridgin Teale, a doctor whose hobby was designing smokeless fireplaces and ventilation devices. Examples of both can be seen in Lyddon Hall study-bedrooms). From this time until 1889, Dr Allbutt held several posts at the Leeds School of Medicine, and was a member of local philosophical and literary societies.

On September 15, 1869, Allbutt married Susan England of Headingley at Weeton parish church. The Allbutts lived at 38 Park Square until 1872, when they moved to Lyddon House. (Behind the Warden's chair in the Lyddon dining room there is a window containing a stained glass monogram of the letters C, S, A and a love-knot!) They lived at Lyddon House until 1881 when they moved to Carr Manor, Meanwood.

In 1889, the Allbutts “abruptly”²⁴ left Leeds for London, where Clifford became a Commissioner of Lunacy.

In 1892, Allbutt was appointed Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge, and was elected Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. Whilst at Cambridge, he took an interest in the writing of correct English as part of a medical education, and is quoted approvingly by Fowler in *The King's English*.²⁵

24 Rolleston, p.95. The sudden departure from Leeds was apparently due to the stress of professional life, along with other official responsibilities.

25 H.W. & F.G. Fowler, The King's English (Oxford, 1931).

In 1907, Allbutt was created K.C.B., and in 1920 he was made a Privy Councillor. He died February 1922, aged 89, having been married to Susan for 56 years. He was described as “Aristocratic in appearance and courtly in manner.”²⁶

Two characteristics would have rendered life difficult for him in the Lyddon Hall of today: drinlang tea invariably raised his pulse to 160 (from 48), and “port always gave him cramp”.²⁷

II. Clifford Allbutt and George Eliot

That a warm friendship existed between Dr Allbutt and George Eliot can be seen from reading the correspondence which passed between them, much of which has been preserved.²⁸

On 3 August 1868 George Eliot wrote a letter to Dr Allbutt containing remarks relating to some religious matters which they had been discussing. The letter concludes with a proposal to visit Leeds:

“The invitation you give us is very tempting and pretty. If there came some beautiful autumnal weather, and other conditions were favourable in the third week of September, we might perhaps indulge ourselves with a journey into

26

27

²⁸ *GE Letters, VOIS. IV, V, VI, VII.*

Yorkshire, get some breezes on the moors, and accept for a couple of days the pleasure your goodness offers us of seeing Leeds in your company ... [and] to go over the hospital with you. ²⁹

The proposed journey took place in mid-September, and was described by George Eliot in a letter of 25 September 1868 written to Mme Bodichon:

“We went to Leeds last week. [Description of an art exhibition given for the benefit of the new Leeds Infirmary] We went on from Leeds to Bolton, and spent a day in wandering through the grand woods on the banks of the Wharfe. Altogether our visit to Yorkshire was extremely agreeable, our host Dr Allbutt is a good, clever, graceful man, enough to enable one to be cheerful under the horrible smoke of ugly Leeds, and the fine hospital ... is another mitigation”. ³⁰

The citizenry of Leeds were less impressive than the scenery of Wharfedale:

“[T]he Leeds workpeople, we were told, are sadly coarse beer-soaked bodies, with pleasures mostly of the brutal sort, and the mill-girls ‘epicene’ creatures that make one shudder.” ³¹

29 GE Letters IV 471-3.

30 In 1868, it was possible to take a train to Bolton Abbey. GE and Lewes stayed at the Red Lion at Burnsall. The tour was curtailed due to bad weather.

31 Ibid.

At the time of this visit, George Eliot had not yet started writing *Middlemarch* it was begun six months later, in March 1869 - but she may well have been planning the novel in her mind. Dr Allbutt was at this time unmarried and living at 38 Park square.

Either at the time of this visit or in a subsequent letter, Allbutt confided to George Eliot that his courtship of Susan was not going well: not only was the process too long and drawn out, but it was distracting him from his work. Her reply, dated December 1868 counsels resignation and optimistic thoughts for the New Year:

“I know through the experience of more than two thirds of my life the immense difficulty to a passionate nature, of attaining more than a fitful exercise of such resignation, and especially I know (what you hint at) the blighting effect on the sympathies of an unsatisfied yearning for a supreme engrossing affection
.”³²

(I think a present-day Lyddonite would express all this more pungently.) The letter concludes with the hope that

“we should all in common look back next Christmas on something achieved in which we share each other’s satisfaction.”³³

It worked! Clifford and Susan were man and wife by Christmas 1869. In May 1869, George Eliot wrote to her friend Mrs Richard Congreve:

³² *GE Letters IV 499.*

³³ *GE Letters IV 502.*

“Besides Mr Harrison’s [engagement] there is Dr Allbutt’s, our charming friend at Leeds ... I thought myself magnanimous in really rejoicing at the engagements of men friends, because, of course, they will be comparatively indifferent to their old intimates.”³⁴

On 1 November 1873, when Dr Allbutt and his wife had been living at Lyddon House for about one year (they had been married just over four years) George Eliot wrote him a letter in which she thanked him for his “suggestions about lessening the inconveniences of writing”. The problem, presumably, was how to find a comfortable sitting position when writing for long hours:

“I have for the last three years taken to writing on my knees, throwing myself backwards in my chair, and having a high support to my feet.”³⁵

The letter ends:

“Mr Lewes unites with me in best regards to Mrs Allbutt and yourself. We do not despair of being in your neighbourhood again some day, and taking a glimpse of you in your new home [Lyddon House].”

We are now at the critical period for our inquiry. Did George Eliot re-visit Leeds? Unfortunately there is no evidence that she ever did. The next meeting between Dr Allbutt and George Eliot took place in London early in 1877:

³⁴ *GE Letters* V 41.

³⁵ *GE Letters* V 450.

“Our friend Dr Allbutt came to see us last week, after we had missed each other for three or four years” . (GE Journal, 26 January 1877) ³⁶

In 1878, George Henry Lewes died, and Dr Allbutt wrote a long, formal letter of condolence, headed “Lyddon House, 19 January 1879”. ³⁷ George Eliot replied on 20 February 1879, ³⁸ in a letter thanking him for his kind words and asking Dr Allbutt if he would write an appreciation of Lewes’s work for a memoir or sketch of him which she wished to write. She also asked Dr Allbutt’s advice on the founding of a lectureship or something similar for the teaching of Biology, “in memory of my husband”.

Dr Allbutt was not long in replying, for George Eliot’s Journal for 27 February 1879 contains the entry:

“Letter from Dr Clifford Allbutt saying that he would gladly write about what he had observed of the influence my darling’s work had on young men”. ³⁹

There is no further surviving correspondence between George Eliot and Clifford Allbutt. George Eliot died in 1880; Clifford Allbutt left Lyddon House for Carr Manor, Meanwood, in 1881.

36 GE Letters VI 42i.

37 GE Letters VII 96-7.

38 GE Letters VII 103-4.

39 Quoted in GE Letters VII 103. The actual letter no longer exists .

The unlikelihood of George Eliot's ever visiting Lyddon House rests on more than a lack of epistolary evidence. George Eliot came to know Clifford Allbutt through G.H. Lewes, but they seem to have become good friends. Their intimacy probably arose when Clifford confided in her about his troubled courtship of Susan England. After Clifford and Susan finally became engaged, George Eliot obviously felt that some of this intimacy was lost. (Could it even be that she had no particular desire to meet Mrs Allbutt?) We know that she did not see Dr Allbutt between 1872 (Allbutt's move to Lyddon House) and 1877 (Allbutt's London visit). It is unlikely that she would have visited Leeds on her own after Lewes's death late in 1878. Therefore the only time a Leeds visit could have occurred was between early 1877 and late 1878, and there is not the slightest evidence that such a visit ever took place. I fear we must reluctantly conclude that the Warden's Sitting Room was never graced by the author of Middlemarch - mention of which raises the possibility of a less direct connection between Lyddon and George Eliot ...

III. Dr Tertius Lydgate

One of the main characters in Middlemarch is a provincial doctor named Tertius Lydgate. It is generally assumed that Lydgate is based upon Dr Allbutt. George Eliot began writing Middlemarch in 1869, shortly after her visit to Dr Allbutt in Leeds. She is said to have admitted in conversation that "Dr Allbutt's early career at Leeds had given her suggestions".⁴⁰ Dr Allbutt was always coy when asked about the Lydgate connection:

⁴⁰ *Rolleston, p.61.*

“When this subject was raised in his presence Allbutt preserved a somewhat sphinx-like expression, but never denied it; on one occasion he gave what for him was very unusual, a rather self conscious laugh and said, Oh, I think all of us were Lydgate.”⁴¹

In his biography of Clifford Allbutt,⁴² Sir Humphrey Davy Rolleston neatly sums up the similarities: Lydgate opted for a medical career after reading a book; he studied in Paris, settled in a provincial town, was superintendent of a fever hospital, “and showed mental independence with an aristocratic bearing”. We could add perhaps that Allbutt’s courtship problems arose at the time George Eliot was writing about Lydgate’s unsatisfactory marriage to Rosamund. Is there any connection? Did George Eliot have a negative impression of Susan England? Was she the model for Rosamund?

Now the differences: Lydgate was the orphaned son of a military man, was educated in Edinburgh and started practicing in Middlemarch in 1829. Lydgate soon left Middlemarch to practice in London and continental spas, finally dying of diphtheria at age 50 before his hair had turned white. Lydgate wrote a book on gout; Allbutt never did - but Allbutt and his colleague Pridgin Teale were interested in the ailment.

Clearly Lydgate, like most of Eliot’s characters, was a composite character and it is not certain that an identification with Allbutt can be made with absolute confidence. Marcia Taylor, an American Eliot scholar who has visited Lyddon

⁴¹ *Rolleston*, pp.61-2.

⁴² *Rolleston*, pp.59-62. See *Middlemarch* (Penguin Edition 1985), Chapters 10, 11 and 15 for descriptions of Lydgate.

Hall, wrote me that “the best help I can give you is to warn you strongly against a close association between Lydgate as a character and Allbutt. After her early work she (Eliot) is very careful not to allow any one character to become too closely aligned with her real world”.

However, if we assume that Lydgate is loosely based on Allbutt, another problem arises: Middlemarch was published in 1871 before Dr Allbutt moved to Lyddon House. He lived at 38 Park Square during George Eliot’s visit and the writing of Middlemarch. Where, then, did the name “Lydgate” come from? Are we at liberty to imagine a tour of Leeds during the Eliot visit: “This high, salubrious area is the Lyddon property - I hope to live up here someday, if Miss England finally consents to be my bride!”

But a more prosaic explanation is to hand, alas: at the time of George Eliot’s visit to Leeds a small lane ran from Woodhouse Lane eastwards to what is now the rear of Lewis’s Department Store. Its name ... Lydgate.

A discussion of Clifford Allbutt’s occupancy of Lyddon House would be incomplete without mention being made of two changes which he made. In 1887, Dr Allbutt sold most of Wilson Armistead’s garden behind the house to George Hutton, a builder. Hutton then built the row of houses on Cromer Terrace now containing the Music Department and the Annexe. It must also have been Dr Allbutt who constructed the large coach house (now demolished) in what is now the back yard of Hall. So much for Armistead’s garden! ⁴³

43 Walks Around Red Brick, p.58-9. See also the view toward Lyddon Hall on the recent University Christmas card.

IV. THE YORKSHIRE COLLEGE HALL OF RESIDENCE (1891-1916)

Origins – 1891

“When Lyddon was founded
The Senate propounded
a site that was healthy and high,
So they chose without question
The top of Mount Preston
As near as could be to the sky”
(from “The Lyddon Hall Song” by R. E. Morgan)

The Senate propounded, but the Council confounded: Lyddon Hall’s foundation was due to a perceived need for a men’s Hall of Residence to serve the growing Yorkshire College. In the Senate Minutes for 13 December 1887, a resolution was passed which would result in the creation of Lyddon Hall:

“It was resolved that in the opinion of the Senate the time has come when the establishment of a Hall of residence for Students is desirable.”¹

Meanwhile the Council established a Hall of Residence Committee to look into the matter. The then Principal of the Yorkshire College, Prof. Nathan Bodington was a member of this Committee. As Professor of Classics, he would be

1 From Senate Minutes, bound volumes in the University Archives. Council Minutes are also available in the Archives, as are Minutes of Committees and Sub-committees. To save footnotes, it can be stated at the outset that references to meetings of the Council and the Sub-committees on Halls and on Lyddon Hall are from the Archives’ collection.

interested in seeing an expanding Arts programme at the College, one which would draw students from outside Leeds.

The Hall of Residence Committee considered two properties: Lyddon House and Hillary House (now demolished), ² and reported on Nov. 19 1890:

“On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Baines, it was decided to inform Dr Allbutt that in no case will the College buy land for the purposes of a Hall of Residence, but that the Council have appointed this Committee to consider whether a company can be formed for the purpose, that the Committee is looking at various sites, and at present they incline to Lyddon House. Dr Allbutt was to be asked if he would allow a little time for consideration.” ³

The problem was that the College had very meagre resources and not all Council members would have shared Prof Bodington’s view as to the desirability of attracting students from outside Leeds by building a Hall of Residence. The solution was a private company.

In fact, Prof Bodington and others had already been at work to form such a company and had obtained promises of £f00 of shares.

2 Originally “Ridge House”, built in 1790 by John Hebblethwaite, renamed “Hillary House” by his son J.H. Hebblethwaite. In 1891, it was owned by a Mr Horsfall. It is now demolished: it occupied what is now the car park between Emmanuel Church and Trinity Church. (Walks Around Red Brick p.20) (vol.4).

3 In 1891, Dr Allbutt was living in London, having left Leeds in 1889.

The Directors of the Yorkshire College Hall of Residence, Ltd were (in 1892):

Prof. N. Bodington, M.A. (Chairman)

Sir James Kitson, Bart., M.P.

James Bedford

Charles Turner Bentfield

George William Brown

Richard Reynolds, F.I.C.

Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D., Vicar of Leeds

Thomas Pridgin Teale, M.A., F.R.S., Consulting Surgeon at Leeds Infirmary.

The Directors were described as “Friends of the College”,⁴ and all except Prof. Bodington and Canon Talbot were “Life Governors”, a title bestowed on those who had contributed an amount in excess of £250 to the College.⁵

Dr Allbutt gave the Committee until 15 December, 1890 to make up its mind, and on that day the Committee recommended that the new Corporation purchase Dr Allbutt’s land, conditional on Dr Allbutt’s subscribing for 60 shares. The purchase price was £2750.

To finance the purchase of Lyddon House and the construction of the Hall the Corporation issued 1000 shares of stock at £5 per share. Sales were not brisk, and of a later issue of another 1000 shares, only 21 shares were sold in two years. A mortgage agreement was made with the Yorkshire Penny Bank for the loan of £3500 at 3 3/4 %

⁴ See *Annual Report for 1890/91* (vol. 1886-92) p.24.

⁵ Rev. Canon Talbot was an “Elected Life Governor”.

interest. Subsequently, four individuals and the University loaned money to the Corporation, which from its inception was in financial difficulties. ⁶

The Annual Report of the Yorkshire College for 1890/91 states:

“A Company has been formed by some friends of the College for the purpose of providing a Hall of Residence for Students. Lyddon House, situated in Virginia Road has been purchased, and a building is now being erected on the site to provide for 30 students.” ⁷

The first Calendar entry for Lyddon Hall was in the 1892/3 edition.

“The Hall of Residence for Students in Arts, Science, and Technology has been erected upon a suitable site within five minutes walk from the College, and is furnished with every attention to the health and comfort of the student. The accommodation consists of Dining Hall, Library, and other rooms for common use, and a separate room furnished for use as the private study and bedroom of each student. The charge will be at the rate of £2 per week, exclusive of laundry charges.” ⁸

The advertisement cites the success of Halls at Owens College (precursor of Manchester University) as the inspiration for the

6 See M. Williams “Private Enterprise in Lyddon Hall” The Gryphon, Summer 1952.

7 See note 4.

8 P.45.

founding of Lyddon Hall, and states that

“the object of this Company is to supply students whose homes are at a distance from Leeds with the advantages of a common collegiate life”.

The College’s first and only Hall of Residence was therefore accepting students by the autumn of 1892, having probably been completed sometime during the session 1891/2. The architect/builder was Richard Wood of Leeds.

C M Gillespie Lyddon’s First Warden: 1892-4⁹

Charles Melville Gillespie (1866-1955) was born in Edinburgh, the son of a wealthy doctor. Although he spent most of his life in Yorkshire, he never lost “a strong Scotch accent of the mind”. He graduated from Edinburgh University, and then won a classical scholarship to Trinity College, Oxford. Two years after his finals, he came to the Yorkshire College as a young assistant lecturer in Classics, where he was to teach Greek and Philosophy “if required” as part of the College’s attempt to build an Arts programme. Gillespie’s “boss” was Prof. Bodington, Chairman of both the Classics Dept. and the Board of the Yorkshire College Hall of Residence Ltd.

⁹ *Biographical information on Prof. Gillespie is taken from an Obituary in the University of Leeds Review IV (1955) p.386, C.M. Gillespie “A Retrospect” University of Leeds Review I (1948) and M. Williams The History of Lyddon Hall 1952, a manuscript in the University Archives written by the then Hall Historian to mark the 60th anniversary of Lyddon Hall.*

Therefore:

“when the principal offered a young lecturer the post of warden [of Lyddon Hall] he was impressed less by the advantages of acceptance than by the dangers of refusal”.¹⁰

Gillespie was to resign the Wardenship in 1894. One reason for his dissatisfaction with the post was the difficulty of filling the Hall places, which kept the Hall in constant financial difficulty. In “A Retrospect”, Gillespie described the problem:

“It was not really until the First World War that hostels became popular with men, largely because of their comparative costliness: they usually charged £2 per week, whereas a pair of students occupying a joint room in private lodgings could live on about 18s 6d a week at this time.”¹¹

It was exceptional for the Hall to fill as many as 17 of its 30 places, and these places were too often taken by “young technical students ... whose education was almost entirely practical”, leading to “the problem of evenings frequently mispent”.¹² Prof. Gillespie described them as “a rotten lot”.

“He relates that some were known to au “He relates that some one week. One [student] complained of being bullied, a revelation speedily countered by the porter, who told the Warden that he had caught this student scribbling obscenities

10 Shimmin, The University of Leeds: The First Half-Century, 1954, p.89.

11 Gillespie, “A Retrospect” University of Leeds Review I (1948-9) at p.21-2.

12 See note 10.

on the lavatory walls! A further cause of worry for Mr Gillespie was the dissatisfaction of the newly-appointed matron who would indulge in violent quarrels with the energetic and derisive [sic] porter. The reason for such behaviour is probably to be found in her complaint that in her previous post as housekeeper of a training college the men had made her their confidante, but that the Lyddon men were more reticent. And finally, the new fittings were abused: the students made no attempt at the coal economy made possible by the modern fireplaces, and when they found that the special ventilators were conducive to draughts, they blocked them all with sand”.¹³

Gillespie had problems with the stuffy Leeds middle classes as well as with hedonistic technical students:

“Gillespie liked to tell of an occasion when, still a very junior lecturer [and Warden], he had a meeting to attend at Wakefield. The wife of a wealthy and esteemed Leeds alderman who was herself driving that way offered him a seat in her carriage, but a town councillor who heard of this later protested that for so young a man to sit in the same carriage as a wealthy matron was quite improper, and predicted that no institution which tolerated such unseemly behaviour in its staff could come to any good”.¹⁴

“The above account perhaps makes Gillespie sound “anti-student”, but this was not the case. He always preferred

13 M. Williams The History of Lyddon Hall 1952. I am unable to find the original source for this quote, which may have been an interview.

14 Harvey, Charles “Melville Gillespie, 1866-1955”, an obituary, University of Leeds Review IV (1954-5) p.386 at pp387-8.

teaching to publication, and took a great interest in student welfare. He took his students on outings to the country, and was involved in publication of The Gryphon, the student magazine.

The Philosophy department prospered, and Gillespie became Professor of Philosophy in 1912, a post he held until his retirement in 1932. He was Acting Vice-Chancellor in 1917-19, during Sir Michael Sadler's absence in India. The Vice-Chancellor's secretary was a Miss Fowler, whom Prof. Gillespie married in 1921 (he was 55), and by whom he had one son.

After his retirement, Prof Gillespie was still to be seen about the University, a revered and respected figure, sought-after for his reminiscences about the early days of the College. He died in 1955.

G.H. Rowe, Surgeon Soldier and Warden: 1894-1910¹⁵

G.H. Rowe succeeded to the Wardenship in 1894. He was born in York in 1857, the son of the Rev. George Rowe, principal of the Diocesan Training College there. He entered as a student of medicine at Leeds in 1874. After completing his training he commenced practice in association with his father-in-law, C.G. Wheelhouse. He became Surgeon to the Public Dispensary in 1884, as well as a Demonstrator in Anatomy at the Medical School.

15 Biographical information on Col. Rowe is taken from an Obituary in the British Medical Journal for July 30, 1910 (1910 ii 297), and another in The Gryphon for Nov. 1910, p.11.

Rowe's main interests, however, were of a military nature, in particular what we would today call the Territorial Army. In

1872, he joined the York Rifles. In 1883, he joined the Leeds Rifles as Captain. When the Territorial forces came into existence, Capt. Rowe undertook to raise a new battalion in South Leeds. In this he was successful:

“Many doubted the possibility of getting together sufficient men in that part of the city to constitute a separate battalion. It was here, however, that Col. Rowe’s enthusiasm had full play. Calling together meetings of the artisans employed in the engineering sheds and factories of South Leeds, he spoke to them with an earnestness that kindled their zeal, and it was not long before the 8th Battalion became an accomplished fact, with Col. Rowe in command”.¹⁶

The Yorkshire Post claimed that “Leeds never turned out a better soldier” than Col. Rowe, V.D. (And here one ought hastily to mention that the letters V.D. stand for “Volunteer Decoration”. The modern equivalent is T.D. or “Territorial Decoration”).¹⁷

When Col. Rowe succeeded to the Wardenship, he had the assistance of Dr T.S. Patterson, a Demonstrator in the Chemistry Dept. as Deputy Warden, and of his wife (the former Miss Wheelhouse) as superintendent of household arrangements. Patterson was succeeded in 1899 by Mr J.K. Jamieson of the Medical School. The immediate problem was how to attract more student residents. The Directors decided to drop Hall fees from £60 to £48 per session (then 38 weeks) in the hope of increasing the demand for places. The Hall’s

16 From a Yorkshire Post obituary, quoted in the B.M.J. (see note 15).

17 I am indebted to Col. Roberts, the Pro-Chancellor, for this piece of information. Col. Rowe founded the University O.T.C.

advertisements emphasized gracious living:

“The presence of a lady at the head of the domestic arrangements of the institution is a sufficient guarantee that the comfort of the students will be ensured”.

Neither lower fees nor the feminine touch had the desired effect of increasing student numbers. As the real cost per student was £25-30 per week, it became necessary to put the fees up to £60 again in 1896, by which time, the Hall’s deficit totalled £1272. Strangely enough, numbers then increased, and the Hall made a profit for two years. But 1896-7 was disastrous, and the Directors considered winding up the Company; however, in 1898, a new arrangement was devised whereby the Company let the Hall to the Warden for £200 per year. Under this arrangement, Col. Rowe actually succeeded in keeping the Hall in the black during the remaining twelve years of his Wardenship.

[A numerate hall member of the early ‘50’s computed that at the advertised fee of £60 per year, not including “laundry and beer (if taken)”, the difference between the cost of living in Hall and in lodgings could furnish 900 gallons of beer (if taken) per year. How much laundry could be done for this amount is not known.]¹⁸

In any event, the Hall struggled on, and by 1910 was still in the black, but not by enough either to reduce its debt or to pay any dividends. Then, tragically, in the summer of 1910, Col. Rowe died suddenly at the age of 53. He was given a military funeral on 20 July, 1910 and one Leeds resident told Mrs Morgan that she could remember the cortege setting out from

18 M. Williams The History of Lyddon Hall, 1952 p.6.

Lyddon Hall, including a black riderless charger with the stirrups reversed, as was then customary. The Gryphon in its obituary described “the military dignity and courtliness” of Col. Rowe, and continued:

“The influence of Mr Rowe was, however, most felt by the students of Lyddon Hall where he had been Warden for many years. Holding before them as he did the ideal of an English gentleman, he showed them the example of one who was possessed of great enthusiasm, of an intense desire to serve the public ... and particularly of a great conviction that education was a social and physical, as well as a merely mental concern”.¹⁹

Beginning in 1966, a large photograph of Col. Rowe, V.D. in military dress was presented each year to the winner of the Apulia Prize, awarded for discursive irrelevancy in conversation. Memorable “pulers” of the past include George Johnson, Michael Balfour, David Miers (recently Dean of the Cardiff Law School), Howard Green, Chris Carter and Nick Ashley (both subwardens), Graham Wood [award refused: grounds unclear], David Wood brother of Graham], Steph Holding and many more. How unjust that Col. Rowe, eloquent inspirer of the South Leeds artisans, should be associated with these drivelling pulers!

J.K. Jamieson and the Demise of the Private Company: 1910-15

1910 was an important year in the life of John Kaye Jamieson. Most important for our present purposes, it was in 1910 that Jamieson became Warden of Lyddon Hall.²⁰ He had been subwarden at the time of Col. Rowe's death. In the same year, Jamieson was appointed the first full-time Professor of Anatomy at the Leeds Medical School, and also Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. From this date onward, "Jamie" or "J.K." as he liked to be known, was an important figure in the University.

J.K. Jamieson was born in 1873 in Shetland. He attended the Madras School in Sandness, Shetland, of which his father was founder and schoolmaster. He was of Norse ancestry, of which he was very proud, and was much put out at anyone who mistook him for a Scot. He studied medicine at Edinburgh, graduating in 1894.

In 1895, he came to Leeds as demonstrator in anatomy. He enjoyed teaching, and spent many hours with students in the dissecting room until, later, the many administrative posts he held left him little time for teaching. In 1906, he married Elizabeth Goodworth, by whom he had two children.

Jamieson inherited the arrangement which had existed between Rowe and the Yorkshire College Hall of Residence

19 Nov. 1910, p.11.

20 Biographical information on Prof Jamieson is taken from an Obituary in The University of Leeds Review I (1948) p.125, and Anning and Walls A History of the Leeds School of Medicine, p.124.

whereby the Warden leased the Hall from the Corporation at a fixed yearly rental. This was not financially successful and in 1912 the Chairman of Directors ²¹ of the Hall was forced to write to the University requesting assistance:

“Lyddon Hall

I wish to call the attention of the Council to the difficulties under which the Directors and Warden of Lyddon Hall - the university Hall of Residence for men students - are now labouring.”

Under the management of the Warden - Professor Jamieson - the domestic arrangements in the Hall have been greatly improved, but in spite of the fact that rigid economy has been, and is, exercised the directors find themselves unable to make both ends meet. They therefore fear that unless the Council can see their way to assist them in the immediate future they will have no other alternative than to hand the property over to the mortgagees, but they are very unwilling that such a step should be taken if it can possibly be avoided. The students now in residence are hard working, earnest fellows, who keenly appreciate the advantages of a Hall of Residence ... but at the present time the number in residence is unfortunately very small. It is greatly to be desired that a much larger number of students should be in residence, but in order to attract them it is believed that the rates must be materially reduced ... [T]hey therefore venture to invite the Council to examine the financial aspect of the question and to decide as soon as convenient whether they will help to maintain the Hall

21 In 1912 the Chairman was Prof. John Goodman. The letter is preserved with the minutes of the Sub-committee on Lyddon Hall for 20 January, 1913 (vol. 11). Shimmin says that Prof Goodman “who looked every inch a farmer” in fact taught engineering.

of Residence either directly as a University undertaking or under the existing company.”

On 11 December 1912, the Finance Committee set up a sub-committee to discuss the future of Lyddon Hall. On 20th January, 1913 the Sub-committee held its first meeting at which Prof. Jamieson answered questions about Hall finances. The “hard-working, earnest fellows” then in residence numbered only eight! The Subcommittee recommended first that a grant of £70 be made to the Hall to cover immediate necessities; second, that a system of bursaries be established under which ten shillings per week would be paid to students who could not otherwise afford to live in Hall; and third, to look into how halls at other universities were coping.²² (Other proposals which had been made included admitting a limited number of non-students, and admitting Oriental students at a higher fee than that charged to home students, which “would be justifiable in view of the extra trouble they entail”.)

The grant of £70 was made, but there is no evidence that the bursaries were ever established. The Hall’s financial plight can be assessed from the financial report accompanying the Director’s letter just quoted. The Hall had a total deficit of £1780. The standing cost of running the Hall was £648 per year. Student fees were £65 per session, of which £30 represented the cost of food, heating, and lighting. This meant that the deficit would continue to mount until at least 18 students were in residence ($£35 \times 18 = £630$).

Then came more bad news: a veiled threat by the Yorkshire Penny Bank regarding the mortgage On 9 July 1913, Prof.

22 The third proposal was made at a later date.

Jamieson read the Sub-committee a letter which he had received from the Bank:

“Referring to our interview of yesterday, I beg to confirm what I then stated, namely that when the security was introduced to us 21 years ago, we were distinctly informed that though the Hall of Residence was not, strictly speaking, in connection with the University, it was conducted under the auspices of the University ... and we might be quite sure that our loan would be repaid as the University would not allow the Hall of Residence Company to get into difficulty. If we had not had this assurance, we certainly should not have advanced the money”.

The Sub-committee resolved that the University has “no obligation, moral or otherwise ... to keep the Hall of Residence out of financial difficulty”, and asked the Warden to write to the Bank to this effect. The Sub-committee also resolved to make a grant of £150 for each of the next two years,²³ to look into the question of bursaries and to postpone the question of repairs to attic (top corridor) rooms. (This meant that the domestic staff would occupy study bedrooms.)

Lyddon struggled along during session 1914-15, war having broken out the previous summer. Then in March 1915, the University and the War Department agreed on a School of Instruction for Officers to be run at the University and using University facilities.²⁴ It was agreed that the Military Education Committee would rent Lyddon Hall for £10 as accommodation for the trainee officers, each officer to be

23 A further grant of £150 was made in 1915, but not all of it was paid, as the Hall had “ceased trading” by then.

charged 1 shilling and 15 pence per day. Prof. Jamieson was to remain as Warden, even though he had been appointed registrar of East Leeds War Hospital with the rank of Major. The course ran during session 1915-16. It was the Hall of Residence Company's last year in business (actually operating in the black) and Prof Jamieson's last year as Warden. It was also Lyddon's last year as a men's hostel for 30 years.

In November 1916 the Sub-committee on Lyddon Hall was re-convened. At this time the School for Officers had left the Hall, and Lyddon was being used as a supplementary hostel for women students. The Sub-committee noted "that the Directors are not prepared to undertake again the maintenance of the Hall as a men's hostel". It expressed the view that it would be a "misfortune" for the Hall to be given up altogether considering the need for accommodation for Education students, especially since the Elementary and Secondary Training Committee had recommended in May 1916 that the Council's attention be drawn to Lyddon Hall as a possible hostel for men students of the Education Department. The final recommendation was that the Council should express to the Directors of the Company its willingness to take over the mortgage on Lyddon Hall in return for the transfer of the whole property to the University. The Yorkshire Penny Bank agreed that the mortgage could be repaid over 10 years at 3 ¾% interest. The transfer of title occurred on 24 May 1917, a grant of £350 having previously been made "toward the cost of fitting up Lyddon Hall as a supplementary hostel for women (not men, as the Training Committee had recommended).

24 Minutes of the Military Education Committee, May 5 and Nov 12 1915 (Vol. 11). It is unclear just when the course actually began. For Jamieson's War Hospital work, see sources cited in note 26.

Why did Lyddon become a Women's Hall of Residence?

Briefly, beginning in the late nineteenth century, the Board of Education gave grants or scholarships to students doing Education courses at Universities. The money was disbursed via the counties, and the recipients were termed "Kings Scholars". At the turn of the century it was the policy of the government to encourage women to enter the teaching profession. The Board of Education required that if female students had to live away from home, the educational institution was obliged to provide hostel accommodation. The result was that if a University or College wished to expand its numbers, a good way to do so was to take more King's scholars - especially women. But this meant providing more Halls of Residence.

In 1911, the University created University Hall for women students. This was done by knocking together seven old terraced houses on De Grey Road where the Parkinson Building now stands. By 1915, Sir Michael Sadler, the Vice-Chancellor, was interested in providing more accommodation for women so that Leeds University would not have to turn down female candidates. This is why Lyddon was already a temporary hostel for women in the autumn of 1916, and why it was destined to remain a Women's Hall until 1939.²⁵

A word about the subsequent career of Prof. Jamieson: he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Chairman of its Board in 1918, before he completed his Army Service (with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel). He held these posts for 18

²⁵ See Gosden and Taylor, *Studies in the History of a University* 1974 pp.56-8, and P. Gosden (editor) *University of Leeds School of Education* (1991) p.13-16.

years, until his retirement in 1936. It was said that he loved this position of undisputed authority, but was not given to “throwing his weight about”. He also occupied several posts within the higher administrative bodies of the University, including the Council, the Finance Committee and the Housing and Estates Committee. He served as Acting Vice-Chancellor in 1923-24. He was also active in other spheres outside the University, such as the General Medical Council and the Masonic Order.

Prof Jamieson was described as “an arresting personality, instantly impressive”, “a tradition in his own lifetime”. It was said that “beneath a rather forbidding exterior he imperfectly concealed an inherent kindness”. Also “[t]here was an impish quality about all his doings ... and it was a secret delight to him - sometimes not so secret that he was thought by some to be Machiavellian in his, methods”.²⁶

On his retirement in 1936,²⁷ he accepted the Chair of Anatomy and Embryology at Trinity College, Dublin, a post which he held until 1947 when he was 74 years old. He died at his home in Black Rock, Co. Dublin on 20 August 1948. Prof Jamieson’s tenure as Warden of Lyddon hall saw the final demise of the Yorkshire College Hall of Residence Ltd., and ushered in the conversion of Lyddon Hall into a Hall for women students under the direct control of the University.

26 From MJ Steward, John Kay Jamieson. 1873-1948 an obituary University of Leeds Review I (1948) p.125 at p.132.

27 His wife died in 1936, and this influenced his decision to leave Leeds.

VII. LYDDON AS A WOMEN'S HALL 1916-1939

The Transition

As early as May 29th 1916, the Board of Education had written to the University approving Lyddon Hall as suitable for the accommodation of King's scholars.¹ On 18th August, 1916, the Committee of the University Hall for Women reported that 70-75 King's scholars would require accommodation in session 1916-17, plus 17 non-King's scholars. The Committee approved the use of Lyddon Hall "as an addition" i.e. as an annexe, to University Hall, under the overall Wardenship of Miss Ida Thompson, Warden of University Hall. To govern Lyddon, Miss Blackburn of the Education Department was appointed Sub-Warden.² She was to be responsible for discipline, but further division of responsibilities was left for her and Miss Thompson to work out by mutual agreement. Miss Blackburn's remuneration was fixed at £25 per session, including room and board. Mrs Nuttall was appointed housekeeper, her remuneration being fixed at £10 per annum, including room and board for herself, her husband (a laboratory steward in the Chemistry Department) and her mother! The Nuttall's sitting room was the present Warden's Study, and their bedroom was the room over the Warden's Entrance. Mrs Nuttall, a Hall "institution", remained as housekeeper for many years.

1 Much of the information in this section comes from the Minutes of the Committee of the University Hall for Women, especially the meeting of 18th August, 1916. See also minutes in February and July 1917. (Vol. 11).

2 Thus, in a list of Wardens of Lyddon Hall, Miss Thompson of University Hall ought to appear, but Miss Blackburn, the one in charge, would be omitted. It was common for staff in the Education Department to be appointed as Wardens of Halls since their students formed a large percentage of the residents.

This arrangement continued during session 1917-18. On February 17, 1917, a grant of £350 was made for improvements recommended by the Board of Education in their letter of 1916. These included a fire escape at the side of the Hall, as well as the removal of “a good deal of ground glass”, and the alteration of windows so that more could be opened. On 12 June, 1917, Miss Dixon from the Board of Education toured the Hall and recommended *inter alia* that “the large room on the top floor” could be divided into three double rooms. This must refer to the three double rooms 30, 31, 32. (What was the original function of the “large room”?) Miss Dixon suggested that 41 places could be provided in the Hall, as follows:

In Lyddon Hall	28 single places 6 double places - 3 rooms (30,31,32)
In Lyddon House	4 double places - 2 rooms
[Warden’s House]	3 single places, not definitely settled ³

We can see from this that the top corridor was not in use for students. Were domestic servants living there after 1917, or were these living in the Warden’s House, rendering three rooms “not definitely settled” there until top corridor could be put in repair? Miss Blackburn probably occupied Room 42, next to the Common Room.

During session 1917-18, it was decided that Lyddon Hall should be independent. Miss Agnes Marchbank, was appointed Warden, beginning in session 1918-19. In 1919, Miss Lorna Scott became Subwarden.

3 Minutes of the Committee of the University Hall of Residence (Vo1.11) July, 1917. The original single study bedrooms were numbered 1-28, other rooms are numbered, not in sequence, but according to the date on which the room was devoted to student use, e.g. No.42 on the first floor.

Life Under Miss Marchbank

Mrs Mary Whewell, who was a student in Lyddon Hall from 1926 to 1930 has provided a delightful account of life in Hall at this time. As to the layout of rooms, Mrs Whewell writes:

“The public rooms were allocated quite differently then. The dining room was the present billiards room and made a very pleasant room with a large coal fire at one end on which we made toast at tea time. The common room was on the first floor as now. The Warden, Miss Agnes Marchbank had her sitting room in the present dining room, before it was extended. [i.e. by the removal of a wall which divided the room from a corridor running where Top Table is now] Her bedroom was on the first floor by the common room. One of the rooms on the ground floor was a visitor’s room and two more - a bedroom and a sitting room - were used by the sub-warden, Miss Lorna Scott, a lecturer in the Department of Botany” .⁴

There was daily maid service: rooms were tidied and fires laid in the grates of the fireplaces.

The daily routine began with the “rising bell” at 7.30 am. The Warden led prayers in the Common Room at 7.50; attendance was sparse. Breakfast was from 8 to 9 am. Each student provided her own napkin ring and collected her napkin from a basket as she entered the dining room. There was a buffet lunch at mid-day, and tea in the late afternoon. Finally, dinner-time arrived:

4 The present laundry room and adjoining washroom are the two halves of an old study bedroom. Miss Scott may have been in room 3. Room 1 was the Visitor’s Room.

“Formal dinner was at 7 pm each night except Sunday. The dressing gong rang each evening at 6.30 pm. as we were expected to change. We assembled in the Common Room in response to another gong ring at 6.55 pm and then we chose a dinner partner. The Warden and Subwarden distributed notes each morning asking students in turn to take them [in] to dinner or to bring their partners to the high table”.

Everyone then descended two by two to the Dining Room. When dinner was over, everyone adjourned to the Common Room until 8 pm:

“This was not compulsory but most of us went as we enjoyed dancing. The Warden played [the piano] for the first waltz - always the Merry Widow Waltz - I never heard her play anything else. When we had our annual ball, although of course we hired a band, the Warden always played the Merry Widow Waltz for the first dance”.

At 10.30 pm occurred “the twinkle”, when the lights twinkled for a few seconds. This was a warning. At 11 pm the lights were turned off for a second or two which signalled the beginning of quiet time.

The front door of Hall was locked at 10 pm and permission was required to remain out after that time. A favourite pastime was attending the theatre. Miss Marchbanks attended frequently, and each time she went two students were permitted to accompany her. The plays of George Bernard Shaw were popular at this time (1926-30), and these did not finish until 10.30, rendering a late return to Hall inevitable. An early high tea to replace dinner could be ordered on theatre nights.

There were many University Balls at this time. These were held in the Great Hall, and lasted until 2.30 am. Third year students were given keys on these occasions. First year students were allowed to go only if a third year student was going. All the Lyddon participants returned in a group, and the third year students then turned in their keys.

“I well remember [writes Mrs Whewell] delivering my key to the Warden who was sitting up in her bed reading and waiting to know that we were all safely back”.

These restrictions were not felt to be oppressive. Students were able to do most of the things they wanted to, “and no reasonable request was refused”. Lyddon was considered to be less restrictive than the other women’s halls.⁵

Miss Marchbank’s long tenure as Warden gave rise to a sense of continuity which provided a strong link with former students. She was not a “formidable” type of person, and was regarded with affection for her interest in individual students, her gentleness and her sense of humour. (It was said that in all her years as Warden she was never known to tell the same joke twice).

Miss Marchbanks was constrained by ill health to request a medical leave of absence in the second term in 1937. She passed away in 1938. An obituary states that:

5 An amusing account of life at Weetwood Hall in the late 1930’s can be found in The Weight of the Evidence a “whodunnit” by Michael Innes. See Chaps 6 and 12. The author (real name J.I.M Steward) was a lecturer in the English Dept. at this time, and many University figures of the day are recognisable, including the redoubtable Miss Redman-King, of Weetwood Hall. (The murder occurs in the Clothworkers’ Court).

“Miss Marchbank was too alive to be dull; even when she was crippled with rheumatism and was suffering great pain she was never too tired to discuss the latest play or novel, the coming Dance or new ideas for the improvement of hostel. She lived for the welfare of Lyddon and no matter was too small for her interest”.⁶

Miss Marchbanks was assisted by Miss Lorna Scott, who was a “[Plant] anatomist, algologist, and bryologist” in the Botany Department. Miss Scott was subwarden from 1919 to 1937. She is described as pleasant, interested in Hall, but more reserved than Miss Marchbanks. She continued to attend annual reunions long after her retirement from the Botany Department in 1958, travelling up from her home in the West Country. She passed away in the early 1980’s.⁷

Last Years as a Women’s Hall

After Miss Marchbank’s retirement, Miss Scott was Acting Warden for the remainder of 1936-7. Miss J. Holgate was appointed Warden beginning in 1937-8, but she was unable to take up the post due to illness. Instead, Miss Hibgame, who had been Tutor for Women Students since 1931, filled in as Warden. (She was described as having a “breezy, forthright manner”.) Miss Dorothy Broome, M.A., Ph.D. was the next appointee as Warden, and took up her duties in 1938-9. She could not have known that world events would make her tenure a brief one, nor that she would preside over the end of Lyddon’s period as a women’s hall.⁸ The Committee Minutes show Miss Broome actively campaigning for improvements to the Hall, including a one-way door for the fire escape to keep out intruders, a downstairs “loo” for the Warden, cupboards to enclose the lift shaft, and a telephone kiosk.⁹

6 *From an Obituary in The Gryphon, Dec. 1938. Failing eyesight also added to her disability.*

7 *See notice of her retirement in the University of Leeds Review (1958) p.169.*

8 *I do not know of any male student of Lyddon whose mother was an “old girl” of Lyddon Hall.*

9 *See Minutes of Women’s Halls Committee, April and May 1939, Vol. 21 of Committee Reports.*

VIII. A MILITARY INTERLUDE / LYDDON A MEN'S HALL UNDER C.A. SMITH (1939-49)

The War Years - 1939-45

War broke out in September 1939. On November 17, Lyddon Hall was requisitioned by the War Department to be used by the Royal Tank Regiment for training purposes. At a meeting of the Women's Halls Committee on October 25, 1939, the Chairman reported on the evacuation of Lyddon Hall, and the re-housing of the Lyddon Hall students in the "Weetwood Hostels", i.e. Oxley and Weetwood Halls. The Committee "regretted" the necessity of terminating Dr Broome's appointment "in consequence of the closing of Lyddon Hall".

The Hall was not derequisitioned until 14th March 1945. At a meeting of the Hostel Accommodation Committee on 10th April 1945 a decision was made that the reopened Lyddon Hall should be a men's hostel.¹⁰ The Hall must have been something of a shambles after the military "occupation" as it was decided that £2000 needed to be spent on decoration and £4000 on furnishing.¹¹ Miss Hibgame makes another brief appearance here: she was co-opted onto the committee so that a woman's viewpoint on decoration etc. would be available.

10 The reasons (not stated) were probably the large number of servicemen now returning to take up university places, and the new women's halls now available for use: Oxley, Tetley, etc. It would also have been much more expensive to render the Hall fit for female habitation.

11 Planning Office files show that the Army agreed to pay nearly £2000 compensation for damage done during requisition. The files contain an interesting room-by-room inventory of the Hall, as well as other information on requisition. (University Archives).

The improvements that were ordered to be made included

showers on the ground floor (replacing a linen room), a porter's lodge (replacing a women's cloakroom), an exit at the end of the ground floor corridor, linoleum for the floors, conversion of the garage (the old coach house in the yard) into a recreation room, and construction of a cycle shed. The purchase of a billiards table is discussed. This indicates that the present dining room had been created by knocking together Miss Marchbank's sitting room and a corridor running where Top Table is now. I assume that the military needed a larger dining room, and made this alteration. The old dining room was henceforth to be the Billiards Room. In any case, Lyddon Hall re-opened on January 7, 1946, Charles A. Smith having been appointed Warden.

C. A. Smith: Warden 1946-49

Charles Smith was born in Hampshire in 1904. He graduated in geography from Southampton and went into teaching at grammar school level. He joined the Department of Education in 1931 as an Assistant Lecturer, specializing in geography teaching. In 1938, he was appointed to a full Lectureship in Education over 90 other candidates.

He joined the R.A.F. in June, 1941 as a bomb disposal officer, serving until October 1945. For much of this period, he was in North Africa, where he had a harrowing time:

“[H]e was concerned with the destruction of enemy ammunition dumps. His greatest achievement here was to blow up at Tobruk a dump thought to be too big to blow up without wrecking the town. Smith built walls diverting the blast from the town and blew up the dump with what was said to be the largest single explosion before the atomic bomb. For this he was awarded the M.B.E. He was probably prouder of

the, fact that in all his bomb disposal operations he did not lose a single man".¹²

Smith returned to the Education Department in 1945, where he now specialized in the teaching of history and was in charge of the teaching practice programme. It was at this time that he became a friend of R.E. Morgan, who was Director of the Physical Education Department. The two had much in common, as both had served in North Africa during the war, both were involved in Education, and both took a keen interest in student welfare as promoted by collegiate life.

The re-opening of Lyddon Hall gave C.A. Smith an opportunity to put into practice his enthusiastically-held views on the running of a Hall of Residence. In this he was influenced by his belief in the social value of a military Officers' Mess. Smith chose to remain a full-time lecturer and unsalaried Warden instead of a full-time Warden. His first half session, January-July 1946, was beset by problems of logistics and personnel. I quote from a brief report which may have been a Warden's Report written by C.A. Smith himself:¹³

After military occupation throughout the war period, the hall opened on Jan 9th 1946 with Mr C.A. Smith M.B.E. B.A. (ex-RAF). The domestic staff were almost non-existent for the first

12 This quotation and other biographical information comes from an obituary by J.E. Hemingway in University of Leeds Review IZ (1950) p.84, as well as from conversations with some ex-students.

13 This curious "document" consists of a half sheet of paper titled only "Rough Draft". It is in barely legible handwriting and is unsigned. It may have been written in late 1947 or early 1948, possibly by C.A. Smith himself.

few days but slowly increased in number and under the Matron, Miss Fairbairn, looked after the needs of forty students, about half these being ex-servicemen. The early days were memorable for a considerable amount of self help necessary in all spheres, partly due to the re-opening at short notice and Mr J.K. Waller as President and Mr D.R. Carrington as Secretary had a busy period of office.

The personnel problem extended to the student body. The mixture of new students and ex-servicemen was not an altogether happy one, and Smith's sympathies seemed to lie with the former. The "Warden's Report" continues:

"At the end of session a high proportion of members left for various reasons, and the following year the percentage of ex-servicemen was still about sixty".

C.A. Smith was keen to weld the Hall into a cohesive social unit. Admissions policy was used as one means of achieving this:

"Determined on the founding of an effective hall of residence, Smith selected students who would contribute to and profit by the social background that he fostered. If a man failed in these demands he might be, and probably was, asked to leave. If, on the other hand, a student was favourably influenced by Lyddon Hall he was retained. By this method of continuous and in a measure ruthless selection, men of outstanding personality were steadily added to the Hall".¹⁴

If the above has a slightly sinister ring, the same article

14 From the obituary (see note 3) at page 85. The following words in quotation marks are from the same source.

describes C.A. Smith as warm-hearted, friendly, enthusiastic, and scholarly. He was interested in art and music, as well as outdoor pursuits - river exploration and walks in the country. (He made several long canoe journeys usually with students). He had a direct manner, and was intolerant of “hypocrisy and humbug” which “he condemned in a towering spate of words which at times threatened to carry him away”. Yet through all this ran “his warm good humour and ebullient spirits”.

In 1946-7, a Major Griffiths was appointed Steward, succeeding Miss Fairbairn.

12 Cromer Terrace became an Annexe housing ten students. Dr H. Newman became a

resident, and would be Sub-warden from 1947-50. In 1948, a Miss Stead became Housekeeper, replacing Major Griffiths.¹⁵

C.A. Smith died suddenly and tragically on 4 November 1949. His body was found under a railway bridge between Littlethorpe and Wormald Green on the Harrogate-Ripon line. He had been hit by a train.

In his will, C.A. Smith left all his property to Lyddon Hall. This included a fine collection of pewter tankards,¹⁶ a cabinet full of wine and brandy glasses and a large number of books which form the nucleus of the Hall Library. His best-known bequest was a fund he established and left to be administered

15 From the “Warden’s Report” (see note 3). Mrs Morgan supplied the information about Miss Stead. Major Griffiths was apparently quite a character.

16 The tankards were stolen in 1989.

by the University. The C.A. Smith Fund is to be used to provide grants “to enable students of Lyddon Hall to travel widely and adventurously outside the United Kingdom during vacations”. Many students have benefited from the fund over the years. (In 1967, a group of students ¹⁷ was given a grant towards a journey by raft down the River Danube from Ulm to the Black Sea - a project of which C.A. Smith would have approved).

17 George Johnson, Michael Balfour and Steve Brown.

IX. R.E. MORGANN- WARDEN 1950-1973

The succession of R.E. “Ronnie” Morgan to the Wardenship ushers in “the modern era”, which most Association members will know by direct experience or oral tradition. In fact, it is true to say that even present Hall members still live under much the same system as that which he fostered during his 24 years as Warden. More than anyone else, Ronnie Morgan made Lyddon Hall into the uniquely successful institution that it is.

Biographical¹

Mr Morgan was born near Coventry on 18 May 1908. He was educated locally, and then read History at St Mark’s College, Chelsea, for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (University of London) which was awarded in 1930. It was at a college party that he met the future Mrs Morgan, whom he married in 1933.

Mr Morgan’s first contact with Leeds was a year as a student teacher at Carnegie College in 1935. Following this, the Morgans lived in London and then in Exeter, where Mr Morgan was Director of Physical Education at St Luke’s College (now part of Exeter University). In 1937 the Morgans returned to Leeds and to Carnegie College, and in 1938, Mr Morgan was appointed Director of the new Department of Physical Education at the University of Leeds. His career, as well as the construction of new physical education facilities, was interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1939.

1 This section is taken almost verbatim from an obituary written by R. Webb in 1983.

Mr Morgan joined the Royal Signals, and reached the rank of Major. He had a distinguished military career, seeing action in France and El Alamein, as well as being involved in the training of the Polish troops who later stormed Monte Cassino.

During and just after the war, the Morgans spent some of their leave and vacation time in the Washburn Valley, north of Leeds. This was the beginning of a long association with this unspoilt dale, where they were later to acquire a beautiful old farmhouse, "Sword Point".

Mr Morgan returned to Leeds in 1945, and from then until 1949, the Morgans lived in Otley. At this time they became friendly with C.A. Smith, a lecturer in Education and Warden of Lyddon Hall. One morning in late October, 1949, Mr Morgan came over to Lyddon Hall from the P.E. Department in order to use the telephone in the Study. He found the domestic staff and the Hall Committee both grieved and upset at the news, just received, of C.A. Smith's untimely death. It was a Thursday, with a Guest Night scheduled, and the Morgans agreed to preside. From then on, the Morgans filled in as necessary at Hall events until February 1950, when Mr Morgan was officially appointed Warden.

During his twenty-four years as Warden, Mr Morgan firmly established the many traditions which enrich life in Hall to this day - formal dances, guest nights, "smokers", and Christmas dinners to name but a few. He maintained these traditions despite great pressure to abandon them during the upheavals of university expansion and student unrest in the 1960's, and the period of inflation and economic stringency in the early 1970's. The presence in Hall of Mrs Morgan, Richard and Charlotte provided a pleasant and relaxed family

atmosphere.

For many years, Mr Morgan occupied the post of University Marshall. In this capacity he helped to organize Graduation ceremonies, in which Lyddon members served as ushers. He is the author of two books concerning physical education, Circuit Training (co-author G Adamson), and Concepts and Values in Physical Education.

On Mr Morgan's retirement in 1973, the Association organized a special dinner and party in his honour. The large attendance and convivial atmosphere attested to the success of his Wardenship.

During his retirement, he lived at Sword Point with Mrs Morgan and Richard, where they hospitably received and entertained Hall members both past and present. Sadly, his last years were clouded by a painful illness. He passed away in June, 1983.

The Building

The Morgans moved into the old part of the Hall, thereafter to be known as the "Warden's House". C.A. Smith had lived in Room 42 and the old part of Lyddon had been inhabited by students and domestic staff.² At the end of the Warden's House was a wing containing the kitchen, above which was a large bedroom previously used by the kitchen staff. A staircase gave access to the kitchen from this staff room. In the Yard was the large coach-house which C.A. Smith had tried to convert into

2 The present Warden's sitting room was a triple study bedroom.a

recreation room (see Part VIII). The old kitchen was infested with cockroaches - just like its successor! ³

The Refectory building was under construction at this time, and Mr Lodge, the architect, was not happy that the Victorian bulk of Lyddon Hall should interfere with the view of Refectory from the Mount Preston side. Although he would have preferred that Lyddon be removed altogether, he eventually settled for removal of the coach house and kitchen wing. In return, he agreed that the present kitchen should be built and that a bathroom and small box room should be built onto the truncated upper storey. During this work, an excavation was made so that a staff room could be put underneath the new kitchen. Meanwhile a makeshift shack in the yard served as a temporary kitchen. The work was completed in 1952-3. The Refectory was completed in the same session.⁴

Top corridor was used for students by 1950. Room 44, then a box room, was converted to a study bedroom in 1959. It was later used by the Subwarden, and later still became a double room.

3 The Lyddon Cockroaches are American cockroaches (periplaneta americana) not the more common Oriental cockroach (blatta orientalis) or German cockroach (blattella germanica). They probably escaped from University laboratories, where they are used in experiments. They are characterized by size and climbing ability, the latter enhanced by adhesive suckers on their feet. (from Dave Hammond of Rentokil).

4 Mr Morgan's pleas that if dances were held in Refectory the noise level in Hall would be unacceptable went unheeded.

The Neighbourhood

“But more’s to be pitied
Our Founders omitted
to do their Malthusian sums.
Population expanded
And Lyddon was stranded
Alone in an ocean of slums”

- R. E. Morgan, The Lyddon Hall Song

The neighbourhood of Lyddon during the 1950’s was much different from that which we see today. In front of Hall was a large garden surrounded by a brick wall. Outside it ran Virginia Road, a cobbled street. At the corner where it joined Mount Preston (now submerged under Charles Morris Hall) was a doctor’s house. The doctor soon inherited a fortune and departed for pastures new.⁵ There was a photography business run from a house on Virginia Road. There was a fire at the shop while the proprietor was on a boat trip with his secretary. The shop assistant told the fire brigade the proprietor’s whereabouts and was sacked for his undiplomatic truthfulness.⁶ Directly across from the Hall was a dilapidated terraced row, one of which was inhabited by a vociferous Irish lady who objected when the Warden hit a golf ball into her child’s bedroom.

A piece of woodland known as “the coppice” adjoined the Hall on the land now occupied by the Union extension, along

5 I am indebted to Mrs Morgan for most of the ensuing reminiscences. Information was also provided by the Minutes of the Lyddon Hall Regents.

6 This ex-shop assistant now has his own photography business in Harrogate.

with two tennis courts. The coppice had existed in Julia Lyddon's day, having been part of the Beech Grove Estate. ⁷

Continuing anti-clockwise past the Union buildings we come to Cromer Terrace. The houses which backed onto the Lyddon yard were privately occupied - the Music Department moved into these houses in the mid-1950's. 12 Cromer Terrace was used to house Lyddon domestics. These included Chef Albert and some maids. One of the latter rushed into the back door of Hall one lunchtime loudly complaining that a would-be rapist had been trying to force his way into her room. Chef Albert grabbed one of the Warden's military swords and charged across the yard to the rescue, followed by an enthusiastic crowd of Hall members – “an unforgettable sight”, according to Mrs Morgan (the “rapist” was non-existent - a case of wishful thinking).

The first floor of 10 Cromer Terrace was occupied by Frank Lyle, a well-known artist. He was friendly with C.A. Smith and Ronnie Morgan, both of whose likenesses he painted for the Dining Room. He claimed that his flat was haunted by a Miss Rutter who died there many years ago. When he moved out, a door was put through to 12 Cromer Terrace, and both houses were used for staff accommodation. Eventually, as fewer staff “lived in”, 12 Cromer Terrace fell into disuse. In 1966, both houses became an annexe of Hall.

Across the street, the Associated Flats 13 and 19 Cromer Terrace came under Lyddon's control in 1962 and 1963 respectively. A few elderly female residents continued to live there until about 1970, co-existing peacefully with the students. Most notable of these old residents was Mrs Bean,

7 See map in Beresford, Walks Around Red Brick, p.31.

the formidable caretaker, whose eloquent outbursts against student misbehaviour could be assuaged only by large potations of the Subwarden's sherry.⁸

[The Flats were built in 1861-4 by George Whitely, a builder. Cromer Terrace was originally known as Bodmin Street (in 1845), recalling the Lyddons' West Country origins.]

At the corner of Cloberry Street and Cromer Terrace was Cromer Hall, a hostel for nurses, and an important source of female companionship for Flats members.

[Cloberry Street is named for Cloberry Silly Woolcock - See Part II.]

Coming down Cloberry Street, the Catholic Apostolic Church stood behind Cromer Hall and opposite the entrance to the back of the Hall. This church, not to be confused with the Roman Catholic Church, believed in the imminence of the Second Coming and re-established the offices of Prophet, Apostle, etc in order to prepare for this event. The church building became derelict and was damaged by fire in 1963.⁹ It was demolished shortly thereafter.

Next door were three terraced houses, nos. 5, 3, and 1 Cromer road. In 1955-6, no.3 was occupied as an Annexe. It had been known as "Jim's House" since Jim Richmond, a medical

8 Her notices were famous. One read, "Will young man as has taken mop please return bloody mop. How can I mop bloody floor without bloody mop".

9 See The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 1977, p.96. One of the founders of the church, a Mr Drummond, was given the title "Angel of Scotland".

student, had been living there unofficially during the previous session. Shortly thereafter, no.5 was also occupied as Lyddon Hall Lodge. The two houses provided an additional 12 places. In 1957, no.1 was occupied by Miss Moss's school of ballet, which had moved to Cromer Road from Woodhouse Hall. The school's practice bar was attached to the wall [barely] separating it from the Annexe. As a result of noise, two Annexe rooms had to be vacated until soundproofing could be provided. All three houses were demolished in November 1963. Mr Robert Cobb rescued the "Lyddon Hall Lodge" sign, and it became the nameplate of his residence in Norwich for some years. The loss of revenue from the 12 Annexe and Lodge places was compensated for by the acquisition of the Flats.

Cloberry Street became Cromer Road after crossing Cromer Terrace and continued down the hill toward the Dental School - it was not a cul-de-sac then. At the bottom, where the Clarendon Wing of the Leeds General Infirmary now stands, was a small pub called The Tonbridge, a favourite haunt of Lyddon students. When it was demolished, its Lyddon regulars rescued the sign, which reposed in the Hall attic for many years.¹⁰

On Caledonian Street, which ran from where the New Arts Block is now to the present Physics/Admin block, lived Jacob Kramer, who had been a famous artist in his day, but was then living with his mother in a state of extreme poverty. C.A. Smith was one of a group of university people who used to treat Kramer to a large luncheon (with corresponding amounts of drink) once per month at the Guildford Hotel. Kramer was a frequent visitor to Hall in the years following the war.

10 See Appendix II.

A Leeds art college now bears his name.

Development and Restructuring

“But horror of horrors
They’ve put up Charles Morris,
A Hall for a thousand or so;
Astounded confounded
Completely surrounded
Oh where in the world shall we go”.

- R.E. Morgan The Lyddon Hall Song

By 1963 or '64 every building just described was gone except for the Hall, and Cromer Terrace east of Cloberry Street. The author of this “History” arrived in Hall in September 1964, to find Charles Morris Hall under construction, and a sea of mud and rubble beyond Virginia Road. The construction noise was terrific, and started at 8AM.

The University’s “Master Plan” called for a new Lyddon Hall, housing 300 students to be built next to the Law Department (site of a car park now). A most interesting meeting took place on 27 May 1965 attended by Messrs Chamberlain and Bon, the University’s architects. In the common room after dinner, plans for the new Lyddon Hall were unveiled, and amendments were suggested. The resulting plan showed Lyddon as a hollow square, with an entry system rather than a [Chas. Morris type] corridor arrangement. A walled garden outside the hollow square contained a few staff dwellings. The ground floor and first floor contained a dining room and balcony inside the square, with a lounge and sherry bar outside. Funds ran out, and the new Lyddon was not built, but Ronnie Morgan always enthusiastically supported the idea of

a new Lyddon Hall (The Association was less enthusiastic).

In the mid-1960's the Lyddon Regents unwisely acceded to a request by the University that they allow the removal of the wall around the front garden of Hall, a

decision which was regretted almost as soon as it was made. Subsequent wardens have agitated unsuccessfully for the wall's replacement, as vandalism, theft, noise, and lack of privacy have resulted from the "open plan" concept.

One result of the expansion of the University was the accompanying expansion of the University's administration. This was a mixed blessing at best, as the Administration's "idea men" working through the various University committees soon turned their attention to Halls of Residence.

The first of their "attacks" occurred in 1966, when a "working party" toured Hall and then recommended that all Lyddon's study bedrooms be converted into doubles. This proposal was only defeated in the Senate.

Further attacks followed, and have continued without let-up until the present day. There is a depressing cyclical pattern to these proposals, which fall into two main groups, as follows:

1. "Rationalization" of Catering
 - a. End waitress service, install servery
 - b. Close Lyddon kitchen, Lyddon students eat at Chas. Morris
 - c. Close Lyddon kitchen, Lyddon students eat at Refectory

2: Threats to Hall

a. Lyddon to become an annexe of Chas.

Morris

b. Lyddon to be turned into Flats

c. Associated Flats to be taken away

d. Associated Flats to become part of Hall

There seemed to be an anti-Hall faction, or even a specifically anti-Lyddon faction within the Administration. There was no guarantee that a proposal once laboriously defeated would not be quickly re-introduced. It is safe to say that this continuous round of depressing proposals was the most worrying aspect of Ronnie Morgan's Wardenship after 1965, as it continued to be for his successors.

Mention should be made of two Hall residents who began their long association with Lyddon during Ronnie Morgan's Wardenship: Prof Peter Geach of the Philosophy Department, who lived in Hall from 1965-6, until his retirement in 1983, and Michael Passey of the Law Department, who arrived in 1967, and served as Subwarden, Regent, Association Committee Member, and Newsletter Editor.¹¹ Prof. Geach and Mike Passey are remembered with great affection by most Association members.

Ronnie Morgan retired in 1973. Despite the upheavals which occurred in the University and worldwide during the 24 years of his Wardenship, Lyddon Hall was very much the same when he departed as it was when he took office. This was a great achievement.

11 Mike's 1981 Newsletter is still eagerly awaited.

X. R.T. WEBB - WARDEN 1973-84

Biographical (I will now lapse into the first person)

I was born in Denver, Colorado, on December 4, 1937. I attended local schools, followed by Yale University from which I graduated in 1959 (History) and 1962 (Law).¹² Two summers spent in Europe as well as my interest in European History made me wish to try studying and living in Europe. I arrived in Leeds, in May 1962 (30 years ago!), as a Post-graduate law student, and resident of Bodington Hall. In 1964, I became a lecturer in the Law Department and came to live in Lyddon Hall.

From 1965 onwards I was either a Subwarden or an ordinary resident of Lyddon, except for the years 1970-72, when I taught Law at the University of Malawi.¹³ I returned to Lyddon as Subwarden in 1972-3, and succeeded Ronnie Morgan as Warden in 1973-4. I retired from the Wardenship in 1984, and took early retirement from the Law Department in 1990. In 1992, I shall return to the U.S.A. but, hopefully, not so permanently as to lose touch with the U.K. and my many friends here.

12 In 1982, Yale University allowed me to convert my LL.B into a J.D. upon payment of fifteen dollars. I encountered a good deal of mirth and levity when I began to style myself "Dr Webb", which naturally lacerated my feelings, sensitive as I am.

13 Just before my departure from Africa, I lost my excess weight thanks to Chef's 1000-calorie daily diet. From a rotund 19 stones, I dropped to a svelte 10 ½ stones in 6 months.

The Hall 1973-84

When I entered the Warden's House as Warden in September 1973, I was struck by how empty it seemed. This was largely due to the Morgan's long residence there but was in part due to a lack of furniture! The University was prepared to furnish one bedroom and a study for my use, but sure financial ruin faced me if I had to furnish the sitting room and three bedrooms, none of which I really required. By making the bedrooms into study bedrooms and dedicating the sitting room and kitchen to common use, the University became responsible for furnishing and decorating the entire house. Chef Winter was delighted to have four more mouths to feed at little additional cost. It was also a bit more fun to have some company.

No major additions were made to hall. The fire escape (recommended by the Board of Education in 1916 and fitted with Dr Broome's security door) was moved to the end of the corridors. Room 9 in the Annexe was created out of a box room. Unsuccessful efforts were made to enclose the front garden (when I asked the University to explain why Charles Morris was allowed an enclosed garden and we weren't, I was told that the "open plan" precinct "envisages a series of enclosed open spaces merging into one another".)

We continued, successfully, to fight off the threats to our catering and our independence. In this, we were helped immensely by Prof. Jack Nutting of the Metallurgy Department, who was Chairman of the Council of Regents throughout much of my Wardenship, as well as before and

after. Lyddon Hall owes Prof. Nutting an enormous debt of gratitude for his unstinting support over the years.¹⁴

I do not propose to write any more about Lyddon Hall under my Wardenship. Chris Carter (ex-Vice President and Flats Subwarden) and Phil Brown (ex-Committee member and Newsletter Editor) kindly agreed to contribute short accounts of life in

Hall during their period of residence, the early '70's and early '80's respectively.

These views will be more objective!

Lyddon Hall 1971-1975

by Chris Carter

I was a hall resident between 1971 and 1975, acting as Vice-President in my second year and as Flats subwarden during my last.

It was perhaps one of the most interesting times in terms of the Hall's development. Ronnie Morgan retired to the Dales in 1973 after having held the wardenship since the end of the war. The transition to Rod Webb - recently returned from Malawi - brought quite clear changes in style, but no real breaks with the past. The warden's flat - previously a family home - became more accessible to students. Indeed some rooms were soon allocated to them in an attempt to increase the admission numbers and help pay the bills. In Ronnie's day entertainment in the sitting room was kept to special occasions, many of which tended to revolve around music,

14 Prof. Nutting retired in 1989.

including impromptu recitals from those connected with the Leeds Triennial Piano Competition.

Rod continued Ronnie's policy of taking postgraduates and returnees as hall members. The benefits of having a mixture of ages and experience did a great deal for the personal growth of freshers, to say nothing of the breadth and quality of debate. Rod was also instrumental in appointing postgraduates as subwardens - a policy which helped those individuals who sought responsibility as well as hall members generally who tended to respond to someone closer to their own age.

There were always difficulties in making the associated flats part of the Hall itself. Their quasi-autonomous status meant this was always likely to be the case. However, special phased efforts were made to integrate flats members to the Hall at dinners and common-room events.

Lyddon Hall was very much an island unto itself. It had a clear identity which attracted and rewarded its members. Those who didn't subscribe to its culture would frequently accuse it of elitism or of being backward-looking, but barriers were never consciously erected to exclude them. This was due in part to the small size of the hall

and the more obvious need to integrate in order to benefit. It was also due to its non-competitive nature. Unlike some of the larger halls, Lyddon was never really a "sporty" place. People were judged on their sense of humour and ability to entertain rather than their achievements on the playing field.

Like any small community, Lyddon had its characters (emergent as well as established) as well as its folklore and institutions. Peter Geach, Professor of Logic, Owen Lattimore,

Professor of Mongolian Studies, and Michael Passey, whom God preserve, were just three - or should I say ten - who added to the colour and intrigue of the place. And those with direct hall responsibilities - Mr Winter the Chef and Mrs O'Connor the Domestic Bursar - were well able to prove their resilience and stoicism in the face of the frequent outbursts of unbridled adolescence, whether actual or retrogressive.

During my time the existing panoply of smokers, Festerers' races and Apulia Awards were soon augmented by the Gross Cup and TELSWAC (the Thursday Evening Late Sitting Wine Appreciation Circle). But the most enduring new institution was the Longest Day Society, established at a summer ball in 1974 by ten members who vowed to meet up each summer and structure a weekend on a typical Rotary gathering apologies for absence, minute-reading, papers, any other business and all. The event was held for twelve years, and is now in the process of redefining itself in the light of various mid-life crises.

In the first half of the seventies our views of university as an institution were shaped to a great extent by the recent national expansion programme. We all knew several angst-ridden postgraduates who had been launched into junior staff posts before they had had a chance to sample the outside world.

Lyddon was an island, as I've said, but it was not a closed one. It encouraged growth through personal resilience and intellectual debate, but it was never judgmental or claustrophobic. The Vietnam War ended, Cyprus was invaded and Edward Heath imposed the three-day week. Our worldly aspirations were both encouraged and tempered by real-life artists and scientists, not to mention a number of foreign nationals - particularly Cypriots, Poles and Americans. It's

true we lost touch with the balanced environment of the family, but we were all close to that back home anyway and it was time to lay our vulnerability on the line.

The hall made us grow up, but at the right pace. It recognised our need to take flight and it accepted it. If we fell it picked us up. It was a safe haven when the world became too much. And when we were receptive enough to acknowledge it, it made us realise that mature responsibility is best based on “easy accessibility” - to books, to music, to art, to ideas, to like minds.

Lyddon could never claim to have been an ideal. It had to defend its corner too much for that. But it turned out realistic and imaginative people who were equipped to function in the world at the same time as question it. We owe it a great deal.

Life in Lyddon 1978-81

by Phil Brown

I have never met anyone who has passed through university, for whom the abiding memories and the focus of life at the time was their hall of residence - unless they be from Lyddon. Lyddon residents in my own years there enjoyed a place which still behaved as if university was a solid, dependable and unchanging haven of tradition instead of a battleground of policy-initiatives and “efficiency gains” (DES-speak for cuts). The late seventies saw the gradual encroachment of the real world on Lyddon, personified, if that’s the word, by “the Admin” - faceless officials who sent reams of computer printouts for checking and updating. These were the days when a computer printout was still always on green-lined paper, and most people felt important just to be seen perusing

one with a knowledgeable sort of look. But not The Warden. For Rod Webb the best place for most communications from the Admin was, where else, the “Admin File” - otherwise known as the bin. It even had a label on it to this effect hastily hidden on one occasion when some functionary dropped by unannounced to enquire into, into ... well, whatever it is that University Finance Officers do (I’ m a Registry man myself - damn fine people too).

Rod’s period of office as Warden terminated in 1984. His friendly, accessible style of wardenship was a crucial factor in making university such a memorable time for so many Lyddon residents. The Warden’s flat was the focus of much of communal life in those years, and every Association member who regularly drank tea and ate Ainsley’s cakes in Rod’s sitting room will immediately recall little details such as the Indian-Tree china, the battered chairs, Penguin books lining the walls, and the instinctive but futile struggles of someone being pushed into their cream cake.

In retrospect much of life seems to have been spent drinking tea, coffee, beer, wine, or port. In particular those Saturdays not spent on a ‘walk with the Warden’ passed in a succession of mugs of tea or coffee. At about eleven one might drift into Rod’s sitting room for a coffee, and discuss the little work that had been done so far today. Then after lunch, a larger gathering. Sometimes this might actually merge into Tea at four o’clock - followed by High Tea down in the dining room. By now totally parched, students would wander off for another mug of tea in one another’s rooms before deciding on an expedition to The Wrens, or the Wellesly, or further afield to East Keswick.

Saturdays spent walking were an altogether more disciplined

affair. An early start would be made, with breakfast a packet of cereal and a jug of milk taken from the kitchen as Chef worked in his office - too early for toast. Then a brisk walk through empty streets to the station to catch a train, perhaps, to Gargrave. Fifteen or twenty miles later, after tea in Grassington we would sit out the long cold wait for the bus to Skipton. Back in Leeds, the Berni Inn could provide a rump steak, chips and peas for under £3.

Mid-week gatherings often revolved around showings from Rod's vast slide collection, accompanied by wine and cheese, or madeira and walnut cake - all financed from Rod's own purse. Debates about politics, religion, mathematics or the Yorkshire Ripper would often rage on into the small hours, and occasionally last over several evenings. Less serious conversation throughout the year provided ample evidence for the judges in their task of awarding the Auplia Prize to the Hall member most accomplished in boring his listeners, wittering or just speaking to no apparent purpose. Ifie Gross Cup (sadly since lost) was awarded, as often as events warranted it, to mark behaviour which fell below the standard any half-civilised society would expect.

The rather moth-eaten but reassuringly comfortable sense of tradition from a couple of decades before regulated a good deal of Hall life. Top Table was still there, with a membership never formally defined, but loosely based around present and former residents of the rooms in the Warden's flat (Virginia House) which Rod had given up for students, satisfying himself with the smallest room (well, alright, not actually the smallest room). Although interpreted in an increasingly loose way, the rule of jackets being worn to dinner continued to be applied. Guest nights were held about once a term, when a few parents, personal tutors and perhaps a senior member of

the University would be entertained to sherry, dinner and then coffee. Until illness curtailed their visits, the previous Warden and his wife - Ronnie and Marjorie Morgan were frequent and honoured guests, regaling current hall members with tales of the old days. Weekend visits by other ex-members of hall were a regular part of life which did much to maintain a strong sense of continuity and tradition.

Lyddon developed a reputation for practical joking, much of it unsubtle but no less amusing at the time for that. The Hall ghost formed the basis of a large number of these incidents, and although many residents can recount genuinely odd experiences, the “apparition” did on at least one occasion bear a striking resemblance to the Warden with a sheet over his head, ringing the dinner bell and moaning.

Gradually, the campus changed, continuing the process described in the Hall Song. From being architecturally in tune with its surroundings in the 1960s, Lyddon, by the early 1980s, was a strikingly anomalous building, looked down on from almost every direction from concrete walkways or tall buildings. I think this contributes to Hall members’ well-developed sense of community, and the Junior Common Room Committee, Regents and Association have always been active in assisting the Warden in fending off attempts to deprive Lyddon of its independence, whether by threats to make it a sub-unit of Charles Morris Hall (akin to making England a *departement* of France), or removing its catering facilities and forcing students to eat in the Union refectory. Rod’s departure as Warden signalled the end of some of the privileges which Lyddon had been allowed. For instance, the University rule which restricted students to a maximum of two years in a hall of residence was actively enforced. No longer would residents be able to clock up seven, eight, or even ten years’ continuous

residence. Perhaps that change has been the most fundamental alteration to life in Lyddon during its time as a university hall of residence, for the extraordinary character of Hall in those years was built on members' awareness of being part of a continuity of people and traditions.

XI. ADRIAN BALLENTYNE - WARDEN 1984-88 1

The long wardenship of Rod Webb ended in 1984 with his (self imposed) exile in north Leeds. Adrian Ballentyne took on the Warden's job for four years, living in Lyddon with his wife, Manijeh, and family. His period in office can be seen as a period of transition and change, and a time when threats to the Hall's future intensified.

Born in Malden, Essex, Mr Ballentyne attended Bishop Stortford College and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Awarded the degree of M. Litt. in History, Mr Ballentyne went to teach for a while in Switzerland before moving on to stimulating work for the British Council in Iran. It was while he was in Iran that he met his wife; however, the Ballentynes' time there was curtailed when the 1979 revolution brought the Ayatollahs to power. Iran was clearly no place for a British Council representative with an Iranian wife! Returning to Britain, Mr Ballentyne's next job was with the Registry at Leeds University, a position which he combined with his Wardenship of Lyddon.

The commitments of family and career necessarily reduced the active, personal role in Hall life that Mr Ballentyne could take. Students whose time of residence in Lyddon spanned the Webb and Ballentyne periods sorely missed Rod's traditional afternoon tea gathering in the Warden's sitting room - the pleasurable company of undergraduates was not imposed upon the Ballentyne family. Yet, reassuringly, the "well-worn humour" of past discourse remained alive and intact among

I Sources for Chaps XI and XII include the Warden's Reports for 1985-1991 in the L.H. Assn. Newsletter and the Re-ewt's Minutes Book, an account of the years 1983-5 submitted by Mark Jeffs, discussions with Wardens and subwardens, and personal experience!

the Hall's residents. Mr Ballentyne's commitments also placed more responsibility upon Lyddon's Subwardens, who dealt with the more day-to-day business of Hall.

However, the Ballentyne era was not such a big break with the past as may be thought. Although the wardenships of C.A. Smith, Ronnie Morgan and Rod Webb constituted a sort of continuum, that of Adrian Ballentyne was marked by a similar appreciation of continuities, the unique qualities of Hall life, and the importance of maintaining Lyddon's independence as it had been during the previous Wardens' terms of office. Mr Ballentyne successfully acquired that "feel" for the Hall that the Lyddon Association embodies.

From his position within the University administration, Mr Ballentyne saw off many attempts at closure or "rationalization" of the Hall. Proposals for fundamental changes to Lyddon were around before 1984, but it was after this date that the threats intensified. The first indication of the University's uncertainty as to the Hall's future manifested itself in only a three year contract for the Warden, which Mr Ballentyne successfully increased to a five year one. To the University, Lyddon in its existing form was no longer seen as viable, financially or otherwise, and radical change seemed almost inevitable. A document dating from about this time cites the Leeds City Development Plan designating Lyddon as for "civic and cultural use", which the University at one stage, in a very liberal interpretation of this phraseology, took to mean that the Hall could become a car-parking area!

On a more realistic level, the University contemplated making Lyddon over to the Students' Union as extra office space, however the Warden's communication with the Union administrator revealed that there was little chance of this

happening unless the University gave the S.U. £1 million “to do the place up”. Similarly, a proposal for turning Lyddon into lodgings for high-ranking University officials or into a University department foundered largely due to problems of cost.

However, the most immediate and real threat to the Hall in its existing form was rationalization. University accommodation generally was under cost-cutting scrutiny throughout 1984-88, and Lyddon was not immune from the axe. Committees and subcommittees proposed, reviewed and redrafted until it emerged that what the University definitely and finally wanted was one Central Campus Hall run by the Bursar’s Office. This monstrosity was to be centred on Charles Morns Hall, with Lyddon and Ellerslie Halls effectively annexed. In his last Warden’s Report, Mr Ballentyne pointed out that this was a long-term plan; in the short-term Lyddon was likely to become increasingly marginalized (and to be kept short of funds) until such time as the Hall’s place in the Great Scheme, if there was one, was finalized.

Despite the indecision, Mr Ballentyne managed to fund a good deal of improvement to the Hall and Annexe interiors. The kitchen of the latter was transformed from its previous state of gloom and squalor.

Mr Ballentyne left Lyddon with little doubt that the Hall would soon be closed. Successors were only to be appointed for twelve-month terms thereby denying the Hall a representative with sufficient experience and loyalty for the difficult times seen ahead. It was on this somewhat sad note that the Ballentyne era closed in 1988, the family moving to Croydon, where Mr Ballentyne became a Master at Whitgift School.

XII. FOUR YEARS, FIVE WARDENS 1988-92

With the departure of Adrian Ballentyne in July 1988 there began a period of confusion at Lyddon. Since no permanent replacement for him was made until April 1990, this was a time of indecision and deepening fears about the Hall's future. The increasingly combative business of maintaining Lyddon's traditions and identity in a rapidly changing environment was made more difficult given a succession of Wardens stability and security were at a premium.

Although demolition no longer remained a serious proposal for Lyddon, destruction by Administration edict proved to be a more insidious menace. In 1988 an inscrutable subcommittee of the Housing and Estates Committee was still considering its verdict on campus accommodation and the University refused to offer new Wardens long-term contracts while the jury was out. Consequently, there were few takers for the Lyddon job, leaving the senior Subwarden, Martin Kearney, as the only candidate. Martin combined his work in the Department of Metallurgy with the Wardenship from August to December 1988, when he left to begin a career with Forgemasters in Sheffield.

Martin's brief period in office was marred by the theft of a number of pictures and frames from the stairwell of Hall during October 1988. Volunteers held all-night "stake-outs" lest the nocturnal visitors returned; however, there were no citizens' arrests.

The New Year saw Ian Moxon of the School of Classics fill the vacant Warden's job, but only on the understanding that this was a short-term measure and not a formal appointment.

The short-term proved to be longer than he anticipated - Mr Moxon filed two Warden's Reports covering the period January 1989 to April 1990.

The Hall was earmarked for change throughout Mr Moxon's time. Although the University required Lyddon to accommodate a burgeoning student population, plans for "rationalization" (i.e. making worse) were recurrent and wearisome. The themes were familiar – self-service dining rooms, dining in the Refectory or even de facto annexation by Charles Morris Hall. However, it was hoped that the staging of conferences in Hall (such as those held in September 1988 and March 1989) would offer evidence that Lyddon was a viable entity and would bring income for much needed improvements to fixtures and fittings (perhaps even central heating and hot water).

Despite the University's apparent attitude towards Lyddon, the Hall remained popular with its residents - over half the Hall members in 1988-89 stayed on for a subsequent year. It was a long-standing tradition that residents could remain in Hall for as long as they wished, but this too was menaced by the University. Vast increases in the number of first year students (who are guaranteed University lodgings) was putting pressure on a finite amount of accommodation, and so the number of second and third year students allowed to stay in Halls was to be restricted - Lyddon was to have only twenty "returners" for the year 1990-91. Not only did this engender a good deal of ill-feeling in Hall and mean disappointment for many residents, but the full implications of this development were only to be seen later.

It was also Mr Moxon's sad duty to report three burglaries during his time as Warden. Taking place in March, September

and November 1989, the losses amounted to four antique Windsor chairs, an oak table, a microwave oven and the Hall's antique pewter collection. Some damage to the Warden's flat was also reported.

All was not gloom. A formal appointment to the Wardenship was made in April 1990. Gary Chambers was a new member of staff in the University's School of Education, where he lectured in German Language Method. An Ulsterman from County Down, Gary read German and Latin at Queen's University, Belfast, and was a Head of Department in a school before coming to Leeds. In his first term, Gary was well assisted by his Subwardens, John Clarke and the long-serving Dave Raraty (who was to leave Lyddon in September 1990 after six years as student and then Subwarden).

Gary's appointment, together with the news that Lyddon was to be allowed another ten returners, brought new confidence. Improvements in the fabric of the Hall during the summer vacation, most notably new carpeting and new kitchen equipment, added to the buoyant mood at the start of the 1990-91 academic year. However, the initial apprehension felt over the issue of the ratio of first year to returning students proved well-founded. Within ten weeks, two thousand pounds worth of damage had been done to Hall property by first year students. The vandalism and resulting deterioration in atmosphere in Hall continued during the second term - residents were repeatedly fined, some were reported to the Bursar and three members were expelled for the victimization of a fourth. For Gary and Subwardens (John Clarke and Adam Corner) the Hall was becoming increasingly ungovernable.

The situation was ascribed to one cause - the relatively low level of returners. Returning students not only constituted the

Junior Common Room Committee but also provided continuity and set standards for new members to follow. Clearly, that element of self-regulation and peer pressure was lacking. Worse still, it was announced that the Hall would be allowed only ten returners for the year 1991-92, Centenary year. To quote Gary's 1991 Warden's Report, "What now of the Lyddon tradition? What now of the community? What of the committee?"

A small reprieve: In the summer term of 1991, the University allowed Lyddon a further ten places for returners (the residue of places not taken by other Halls), but even this was felt to be too little. Worse, Gary announced his resignation as Warden, effective from the end of July 1991. His decision was the product of the increasing problems of combining work in the School of Education with Hall commitments and a wish to purchase his own home. The difficulties encountered during his term of office were no doubt also a contributing factor.

So, Lyddon faced the 1991-92 Centenary without a Warden. John Clarke agreed to step in as caretaker Warden, with Adam Corner and Sean Conway as Subwardens. Some improvement was made in the organization of the Hall's catering and associated functions with the (well-deserved and long overdue) elevation of Mrs Mary Bennoson from Housekeeper to Domestic Bursar, a role given more importance with the departure of Mr Winter, Lyddon's long-serving chef.

However, to date, 1991-92 has not proved to be as difficult a year as was expected. Indeed, the Hall has been honoured in its Centenary year by a visit on November 13th, 1991 by the Chancellor herself, and since Lyddon was to entertain the Duchess of Kent, the University agreed to provide a new stair carpet, a new floor in the Dining Room, and a dash of paint

for the occasion. The future now looks brighter, as do the walls. If the Queen comes, can we have a Warden, please?

As the Hall makes plans for its second century the University hopes to make a four year appointment to replace Mr Clarke. Lets hope that this will start a new chapter of the hall's history.

THE END

APPENDIX 1

Some Lyddon Hall Ghosts

1. The Annexe Ghost - Frank Lyle, the artist who lived at 10 Cromer Terrace until 1949, attended a guest night in October 1973 to mark the hanging of his portrait of R. E. Morgan in the dining room. He told Hall members that he believed that the first floor of 10 Cromer Terrace was haunted by a Miss Rutter, whose family once occupied the house. Miss Rutter was “not quite right in the head”, and was confined to what is now Room 7, where, eventually, she died. To control her tendencies towards aggressive behaviour, a gramophone was provided on which was played American “Big Band” music. This had a soothing effect.

Lyle said that there was a definite “cold spot” just outside Room 10 which had been a kitchenette joined to Room 7. His dog would stand near this spot with hackles raised, and would growl at some invisible presence. Occasionally, at night, could be heard a faint, ghostly rendition of “Big Noise from Winetka”, a Big Band favourite from the 1930’s.

The University purchased 10 Cromer Terrace for £1000 in 1949. Since then no further paranormal phenomena have been reported.

Frank Lyle, a noted raconteur, was a member of the Senior Common Room “Storytellers’ Club”.

2. Ghostly Goings-on on the Warden’s House - Two Wardens have died in office, one in the Hall. Wilson Armitage also died in Virginia House, in 1868. It would not be surprising, therefore, to find the Hall haunted.

In 1967, an American student, George Olinger of Modale, Iowa, reported the following occurrence: He happened to enter the dining room at 1 am one Monday morning to eat all the left-over cold suppers [I spare the reader the mendacious verbiage in which he attempted to conceal his real reason for being there], and had just finished his third plateful when he heard strange noises from the servery. He called out “Who’s there?” and getting no answer, went out to investigate. He found no one in the

servery, but heard footsteps descending the cellar stairs. Going to the cellar door, he found it locked. At this point the footsteps (which had been heavy and deliberate) ceased. Then, after a few second’s pause, the steps began to ascend the stairs! George fled in terror to the Sub-warden’s room for tea and counselling.

A week later, the same heavy footsteps were heard ascending the back stairway. The steps reached top corridor, but a diligent search revealed no one. This incident was reported by Rick Cowan.

An invisible evil presence has been reported in and about the Warden’s Study. In 1977, the father of a new member warned his son not to work in the study, as he could feel the evil presence there. In 1980, a usually stolid law student who was working at the study desk abandoned the room after experiencing the same feeling of a menacing presence behind him. (He now holds an important post on the Association Committee).

In 1981, Vince Bissell, Rod Prince, et.al. were affixing paper streamers and other Christmas decorations to the ceiling of the main corridor in the Warden’s House when someone happened

to mention the name of a previous deceased Warden. At this very moment, all the decorations simultaneously fell to the floor! This was witnessed by several students as well as the Warden (a living one).

Malcolm Birtwell, who lived in the double room over the dining room has contributed the following disturbing account of events witnessed by him in 1980-81:

3. a. The Bath Plug

Don't ask me how or why but Dave Hammond, John Allen, Dave Arnold, my room-mate, and I were playing football in the corridor of the warden's flat with a bath plug. Dave Hammond stoutly defended his goal at the top of Virginia Cottage stairs and I defended mine, the fire-door which was the first floor link between the main body of the hall and the warden's flat. "Goal!" shouted Dave Hammond as he flicked the bath plug past me and towards the fire-door. As I leapt to retrieve the "ball" the door opened against its closing spring and as there was no visible explanation of who or what had opened it Dave Hammond's elation was short-lived. He said quite simply, "I don't like that", and went into his room.

This is only one of many strange inexplicable experiences attributed to the "phantom of Lyddon Hall".

b. The Door Knob

As Dave Arnold was working downstairs in the study of Virginia Cottage, Dave Hammond and I engaged in discourse on lofty matters at the top of the dark, Victorian staircase.

I decided to give Dave Arnold a fright, stole downstairs, with the other Dave upstairs eagerly anticipating the result, and ran my fingers down the study door in a suitably bestial fashion.

It should be noted that everywhere downstairs at this time of night was locked. The only way down to the study being the stairs, which creaked as my accomplice strove to contain his mirth.

Furtively I opened the study door, but so engrossed was the keen student that he still failed to be distracted. In a further frustrated attempt to attract his attention, I rattled the door knob vigorously. Both student and papers erupted as did the watching Dave's formerly stifled laughter. "You bastard! I nearly had a heart attack", said the furious Dave.

Flushed with success the victors ascended to the top of the stairs discussing their triumph, when the vanquished Dave appeared irately demanding why they felt it necessary to have perpetrated the self same crime twice. "It wasn't even funny the first time, why did you have to do it again?..."

c. The Dressing Gown

Returning from yet another rave, it may have been UB40 at the Refec, I was fumbling with the lock and attempted to gain entry to the darkened vestibule of a peacefully sleeping Lyddon Hall. Not wishing to disturb either my fellow students or Rod, who was known to view nocturnal disturbance with some displeasure, I was being particularly careful and quiet. When finally I gained admission it was with some horror that I viewed Rod, in his dressing gown, stationed on the staircase above the door to the Warden's flat.

Whilst turning to close the door I humbly said, “Sorry Rod if I’ve disturbed you”. Turning back to face the inevitable music in that split second I realised that Rod was no longer there. Indeed Rod far from having been disturbed was fast asleep and had been for some hours.

APPENDIX II

Memories of “The Tonbridge”

by Robert Cobb

The Tonbridge Hotel was around the corner from the Dental School. ¹ I seem to remember visiting it with Tony Wren, Mike Luckett, Tony Cockerill and Roger Alcock. Also, there would have been John Reedman and John and Peter Livesey.

As a pub it served a poor and run-down area. Many Irish workers went there and used another room, to the left of the entrance hall. We would assemble in the back right room, where there was a fire in winter.

The beer was always good and there were a landlord and wife. I forget his name (David?), but I think hers was Mary, and she looked upon us as her nephews (hence she was “Aunty Mary”). We would buy beer, and egg and bacon sandwiches which were excellent. I recall having one with four eggs in it because she had only a little bacon.

At other times things were not so bright. Ray Beesley’s brother was short changed, as were we all, by the waiter one night, so he ordered crisps all round and told the waiter to take it out of the change in his pocket. We didn’t go in for a few terms after that.

Finally, it was closed to make way for the University extensions. It was closed and pulled down in about a month - indecently quickly, but the white ceramic of the toilets remained to remind and taunt us of the folly of drink.

1 The Tonbridge Hotel was located at the corner of Tonbridge Street and Back Blundell Street. The publicans were David and Mary Dunn. The Tonbridge served its last pint on 1st May, 1963. It was then pulled down to make way for the Inner Ring Road. (See Yorkshire Evening News, 1 May 1963) [RTW].

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