

150 years ago

1839

A HURRICANE

Sunday 6th/ Monday 7th January,

This storm hit the whole country but was particularly violent in Lancashire. The Preston Chronicle reporters visited areas around Preston, but when venturing towards Chipping got no further than the Derby Arms. Much damage had been done there to corn stacks, and trees were dashed to pieces and broken. Several cottages nearby had roofs stripped, and slates and tiles sent 100 yards from the houses. Farm yards were in a state of ruin.

According to John Weld's notebooks and History of Leagram, this storm brought an end to the last thatched roofs in Leagram, as the repairs were done with stone and Welsh slates.

During most of Sunday night the wind blew strong from the south-east. The barometer dropped, but there was nothing to indicate the frightening storm to come. Suddenly the wind shifted to the south-west and rapidly increased. By 1am it was at hurricane strength, but the climax was not reached till about 3.30am. About 2am damage started and continued until daylight. No one could remember a wind so strong.

The storm is reported in great detail in The Preston Chronicle on the following two Saturdays. Two people were killed in Preston. There had been such damage that it seemed as though "a belligerent army had passed through the town". Every building suffered, even the best buildings in Winckley Square and Fishergate. Roofs were stripped away, chimneys toppled and windows broken. The "shower of falling slates was incessant". People left their beds in fright. By daybreak all objects, even many miles inland, were found to be encrusted in salt whipped in from the sea.

HELP PLEASE

WHAT AM I?

I'm 9" high and I'm 10" long, I've a handle you turn and on wood I sit on.
So please can you tell me, what I am and where I belong?



If you know what this object is please would you tell one of the History Society Members, thank you.