



Fig. 1

A Lancashire Settle?

This apparently 18th century oak settle (Fig 1) belonged to the granddaughter of a Henry Lees Sladin who came to Ramsbottom in Lancashire from Ashton-under-Lyme in 1866. He became a well-regarded local ironmonger and furniture dealer and died there in 1924. His wife Margaret came from Ramsbottom and lived there for some 90 years until 1933.

The particular point of interest is the seat which is of animal hide (pony skin?) of the kind that was commonly used to cover wooden trunks during the 18th and early 19th centuries. It appears to be stretched over a frame without webbing, which is set into a rebate in the rails of the settle and screwed in place (Fig 2). The nailed and brass-nailed edge strips round the top side (Fig 3) are also typical of the trim found on trunks. Fig 3 also shows a brand in the top of the skin at one end, and Fig 4 the initials EO more crudely scratched in, also on the top surface.

Is anyone able to throw any light on: a) the likely origin of the settle itself, b) the practice of making seats in this fashion or c) the initials? Further detailed photographs are available. I am grateful to Elizabeth Jameson for the illustrations.

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Fig. 2

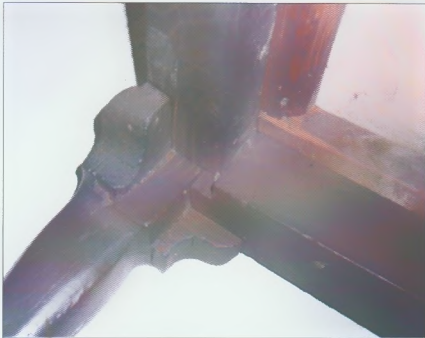


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

