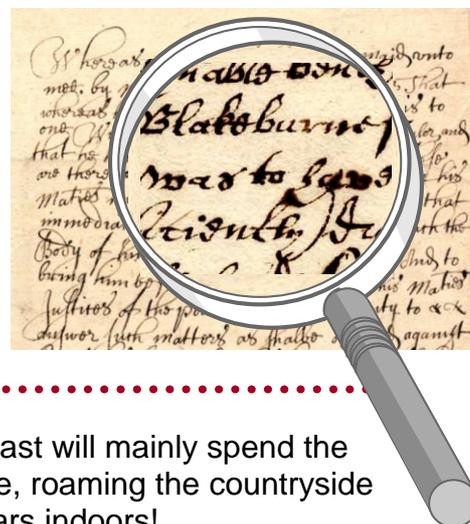


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Farewells

As spring approaches, change is in the air. At the end of this month we will be sad to say goodbye to two long-serving members of staff – Viv Berry, searchroom supervisor, and Bruce Jackson, the former County Archivist. I'd like to thank them both for their huge contributions to Lancashire Archives and to wish them well in the future.

Jacquie Crosby, Archives Service Manager

Bruce Jackson

They same time goes faster as you get older, and it must be true. It can't be over 20 years since I wrote a short piece for the Friends of Lancashire Archives newsletter to introduce myself as the newly arrived County Archivist, but then I realise that it is. At the end of March I will be retiring and leaving Lancashire - both the county and the County Council. Fiona and I are moving back to Scotland, but still staying in textile territory as we are going to live in Galashiels, looking out over the Tweed to Sir Walter Scott's house at Abbotsford. I do not intend to be idle, but for the first few

weeks at least will mainly spend the time outside, roaming the countryside after 40 years indoors!

I have a huge range of memories from my time in Lancashire. There are a few that I may choose to forget, now that I do not need them for work purposes, but the overwhelming majority are both positive and fond, and derive in the main from the people I have met through archives – as searchers at the Record Office, members of staff, volunteers, Friends, depositors - and from the wide range of different organisations I have worked with in the course of 20 years. A lot of faces may have changed, but what is perhaps more remarkable is the continuity. Some of the same staff; some of the same searchers; some of the same volunteers. It was really fantastic to be at the 25th anniversary celebration for volunteers last year and see such tangible evidence of that continuity.

At the same time there is always going to be change, and Lancashire Archives has been at the forefront of many developments that other archive services have copied. Some of the changes are not always made by choice but driven by necessity and external factors beyond our control; but against that I hope everyone will feel that Lancashire Archives is now a better, more welcoming place to visit and work in than it

was back in the early 1990s, and I hope I have played a part in making that happen. I feel comfortable moving on, as I know that I leave Lancashire Archive as a service valued by its users and by the County Council, and with a committed team of staff and volunteers who want to ensure that Lancashire's archives will be well looked after and used.



Nothing to see here, move on

"I don't want any fuss."

"All right, Viv, I won't mention that you're leaving then."

I won't mention that after 10 years of cheerful service with Lancashire Archives Mrs Berry will be retiring from her post as Searchroom Supervisor at the end of March. I won't say that she hopes to spend more time with her family, Mr B and the grandchildren most of all.

I won't mention that her calmness, dependability and amazing ability to control and defuse the tensions that occasionally arise (as in any public service) will be greatly missed.

If Viv originally joined us from the banking sector in August 2003 because she wanted to do something purely for the reward of the job itself, and if every day since then she has lived that mantra at work, then I can't say that. Nor could I point out that her leadership skills during and since our restructure and summer closure in 2011, as well as her understanding and practical use of systems, have made her for me personally – there's no other term for it – a rock to anchor myself to.

I couldn't possibly allude to the respect and admiration in which she is held both by staff and by our regular visitors, because of her knowledge, her humour and her unfathomable optimism.

I will mention only that Hina Gohil will take over as Searchroom Supervisor in April. Hina joins us from elsewhere in Lancashire County Council and has a background of working in Lancashire County Libraries. I'm sure our customers, new and old, will join us in making her welcome and in hoping that her stay will be as pleasant as Viv claims hers has been and as fruitful as we know it has.

Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager

Searchroom News

Searchers have been able to take photographs of original documents, in the searchroom, for several years, on payment of a fee for the day of £5.00. The lighting in the searchroom was one of the improvements undertaken during the closure period in 2011 and this seems to have helped improve the quality of the images produced.

An additional facility is now available: a rise and fall table! It can prove difficult to obtain a suitable distance between lens and document, because of the standardised height of the existing tables and the variable height of photographers. The table height can be adjusted by means of a handle, ensuring the preservation of the document and the comfort and safety of the photographer. Castors mean that it can also be moved about the room, increasing flexibility.

Be aware that Lancashire Archives also has 2 camera stands which you are welcome to borrow. Also, money can be saved by bulk buying photography permits, at a discount.

Collections

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new acquisitions. In January we processed 15 new deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

Blackpool Grammar and Collegiate Schools (Ref: SMBP 13 Acc11610)

We received a large deposit of additional records relating to these schools, including fee registers which detail admissions for the early part of the 20th century. Particularly moving is the photograph album of old boys in their military uniforms, dating from the First World War.

Storey Gallery, Lancaster (Ref: DDX 2965)

In 1991 a group of Lancaster based artists took over the management of the gallery space in the Storey Institute, managing a series of very successful exhibitions until being forced to leave by funding cuts in 2012. This collection includes extensive administrative records, but is perhaps most interesting for the large amount of visual material included, such as this postcard of a painting by Albert Irvin.



Photographs of Councillor J.F. Gray and Miss E. Gray enacting official duties as Mayor and Mayoress of Preston (Ref: DDX 3004/2)

This album includes many images of social events in Preston in the mid-1950s,

including the visit of the Queen on 13th April 1955.



The Ballad of Timothy Nuttall

We recently received a small deposit of papers relating to Peter Pickup, an overseer of the poor for the township of Higher Booths. Included was an account book (Ref: DDX 502/7) which has lots of information about the collection of poor rates and the provision of relief to the poor of the area, as well as a list of illegitimate children and their parents. However I was particularly interested in a song, reported to have been written by a Gilbert Welsh, telling the life story of Timothy Nuttall.

*At Bottomly Bank in Higher Booths
First I Received breath
I being illegitimate
As several People saith*

A search of the Lancashire Online Parish Clerk's site (www.lan-opc.org.uk) confirmed that Timothy was indeed born illegitimately, the son of Betty Nuttall of Bottomly Bank, and was christened at St Mary and All Saints, Goodshaw on 15 Feb 1767.

It appears that the owner of the book has been equally interested in Timothy, as he adds additional notes at the end of the 10 page song, giving details not only of his

baptism but also of his apprenticeship and of dates of service with particular employers. Thus we learn that Timothy was first apprenticed to Lawrence Nuttall of Rakefoot as a weaver in April 1774, and after that date worked for a number of employers both short and long term.

*With several Persons afterwards
Engaged by the week
Thinking that if I did not like
New service I could seek*

After travelling around the area hoping to make his fortune, Timothy decides that it is time to find a wife.

*A Girl at Haslingden I met
Who Ann Heys was by name
We married where without delay
And then to House we came*

Again, the online parish clerk confirms the marriage of Timothy and Ann Heys at Haslingden St James on 2 Jun 1791, and also perhaps explains the rush to marry as a child, Abigail, is baptised on 9 Oct 1791, although she sadly dies within a matter of months. However, the couple go on to have another three children, and it is at this point in the song that questions about his settlement are first raised, probably in part due to the expense of supporting such a large family.

*Opinions were of course obtained
A settlement were gained
In Newchurch when with Seedall last
I Forty days remained*

This settlement likely relates to the only trial record that I have been able to locate in our collections regarding this case. QSP/2400/48 is an order for the removal of Timothy Nuttall, Ann his wife and James, Mary and John their children from Lower Booths to Newchurch, which dates from 22 Jun 1798.

However, it seems that the case does not end there as Timothy tries to return to Lower Booths and is placed in Preston Gaol.

*To Preston I was sent one month
My errors to Correct...
Forgotten here did pass my time
Till seven years did turn round*

Sadly we do not know what fate befell Timothy after his release from prison, but for anyone lucky enough to be interested in the Nuttall family this song contains an enormous amount of information at a time when tracing the movements of ancestors can be particularly difficult.

Keri Nicholson
Archivist

Our next Saturday opening is 8 March 2014

Don't miss our Tuesday evening talks celebrating Women's History Month in March

Tuesday 4 March, 6.30~7.30pm
Anna Watson, Lancashire Archives
"Great cruelty and barbarity"

Tuesday 11 March, 6.30~7.30pm
Dr Elizabeth Roberts, Lancaster University
Working Wives and Mothers in the Textile Industry

Tuesday 18 March, 6.30~7.30pm
Dr Jill Liddington, University of Leeds
Vanishing for the Vote: The Suffragette Census Boycott Across Lancashire

Tuesday 25 March, 6.30~8.00pm
Andrew Walmsley, Community Heritage Manager
Women's Suffrage in Lancashire: Sources and Resources

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

If you have any comments on, or suggestions for this newsletter please send them to: Vicci McCann, News from the Archives, Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE. Telephone: 01772 533039. Email: vicci.mccann@lancashire.gov.uk