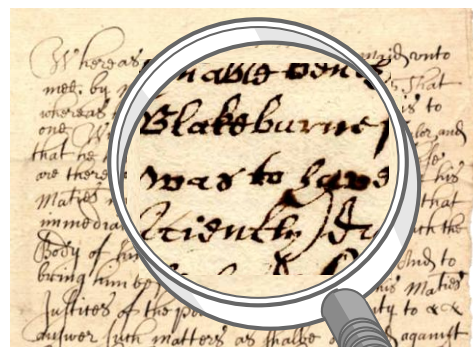


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Accreditation

The staff of Lancashire Archives (some were unfortunately not able to be in the photograph) celebrated their contribution to becoming one of the UK's first Accredited Archive Services.



Keith Sweetmore of The National Archives (who delighted us by telling us he was born and brought up in Preston and worked on a job creation scheme at the new record office in the 1970s which inspired him to become an archivist) presented a certificate to the leader of Lancashire County Council, Jennifer Mein. She and county councillor Marcus Johnstone, cabinet member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services, thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication and Ian Watson, head

of Cultural Services added his congratulations.

Archive Service Accreditation is the new UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. It provides independent endorsement that Lancashire Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the quality of service offered to its entire range of users.

Digital Downloads

1756482 – the number of images of Lancashire parish registers and vagrant deportation records downloaded from *Ancestry* in 2014. This is an increase of almost half a million records on the previous 12 months. It leaves us in no doubt that digitisation is the way to increase access and provide a valuable resource for people worldwide and suggests that we need to make more progress in this direction. Lancashire school admission registers up to 1914 appeared on *Find my Past* in September and we're waiting to hear how successful that project has been. Both *Ancestry* and *Find my Past* can be used free of charge in our own searchroom and in all

Lancashire libraries.

In comparison 6643 people came to the record office to carry out research in person; but although this was 400 fewer than last year they used over 400 more documents. The average visitor looks at (or photographs) 3.8 archives.

Jacque Crosby, Archives Service Manager

A Great Uncle Remembered

You may remember our story 'A Son Remembered' in the June 2014 issue about Hubert Baines, the brilliant young soldier from Preston who was killed in action at the end of the Great War. We featured a letter from his father describing the pain of his loss, and we thought you would like to know what happened next. We received a collection of documents relating to Preston Catholic College from Newman College (our reference DDX 3061), and in it were school magazines from the war period. These included letters from the front from pupils who had gone off to fight in the war, and obituaries of the fallen. Not only are there letters from Hubert Baines, but his obituary and photograph feature in the 1919 memorial magazine. We were thrilled to see the young man who had touched our hearts. His story proved popular and was tweeted on the county council's WWI blog, where it was seen by the descendants of Hubert's sister Margaret. We recently received a visit from Hubert's great-nephew, who was delighted to discover the photo of his brave ancestor and was able to tell us that his grandmother Margaret followed in her father's footsteps, becoming the first female registrar in the UK. The family also adopted a foundling left at St. Wilfrid's church, and called him Wilfrid. Hubert's great-nephew will be returning to look for more information about the Baines family in the Catholic College records which include pupil records, class photographs and staff and

administrative records. If you have Catholic ancestors from Preston who may have attended the college, why not come along and discover what the collection can tell you about your family?

Deborah Emmett, Searchroom team

50? 75? It's just a number

Is it possible that media reporting of the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's death was nothing more than evidence of a slow news weekend?

It's true that I wasn't born when Winnie was buried, but I can understand the impact the State Funeral had, and of course I know the reasons for the pomp and pageantry. A perusal of some of the diaries of ordinary folk at Lancashire Archives shows very well how highly regarded our former Prime Minister was. Thomas Hope Floyd was certainly a big fan of Churchill's – he had assisted him with election campaigning in the 1920s, had even tried to persuade Churchill to give him a job. The fact that no job was forthcoming did not dim Tommy's admiration. Churchill's wartime leadership confirmed him as a hero in Tommy's mind.

Thomas Hope Floyd's diary reports the gradual deterioration in Churchill's health until, on 24 January 1965, "When I bought the Sunday papers I was informed that the news had been broadcast – too late to be in today's papers – that the great Sir Winston Churchill died at eight o'clock this morning. When I had a coffee with Mr and Mrs Shrimpton next door they had heard the news." Thomas, an inveterate record-keeper and a man with a vast library (and a bachelor), immediately wrote letters of condolence to Churchill's son and his widow, and "started a special box-file of cuttings on the Death of Churchill."

Rita Harris Dutton also noted Sir Winston's death in her diary. Originally from St Helens, she lived through the Second World War and, after a working life as a schoolteacher, had by 1965 retired to the Lake District. I sometimes use her diaries in talks. She combines her own life with world events often in unintentionally humorous juxtapositions – on 22 November 1963, for instance, she recorded "President Kennedy is assassinated. Fine. Coldish. False teeth found in dead leaves." For Churchill, she like Tommy Floyd was interested in how the news was broadcast. She was just off to catch the bus to church "when the radio programme changed and a short communication was made." The vicar had heard: he offered up prayers. Rita had lunch and her Sunday bore on into the evening. "Some days", she says, "I do not use T.V. at all but from tea time tonight, I scarcely moved from my chair. I did not think of I.T.V. and its tribute until the end, because I know the B.B.C. can still be relied upon, to rise to the occasion."



So Churchill's death was an important event: he was an international statesman who had brought us through the Second World War. His passing was big news, and impacted on the lives of individuals who felt moved to note it in their diaries. But why should we mark 50 years since his death? Is it just another staging post for the nation to reassess its place in the world? Do we have to do it again every 10 years?

Don't be surprised if we revisit these questions in the light of our own 75th anniversary this year. Talks, exhibitions, and an open weekend are all being planned. But underpinning everything is the question, Why do we commemorate at all?

Lancashire Archives collections quoted (and pictured): DDFL and DDX 1127

Tracing Your Great War Army Ancestors

The Friends of Lancashire Archives (FLA) will be holding workshops with Peter Bamford on 20 and 27 February looking at tracing your WWI ancestors.

Visit the FLA web site for further details:

<http://www.flarchives.co.uk/>

Collections

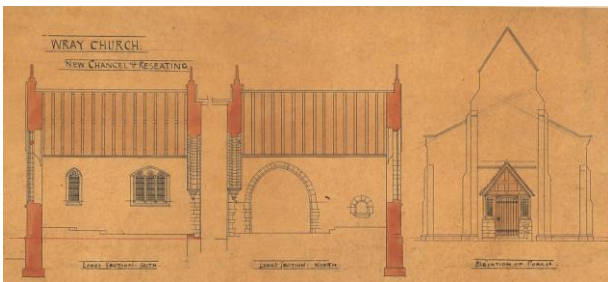
Journals of John Burton (DDX 2952)

John Burton was born in Preston in 1900, and would eventually set up a fishing tackle business, John Burton and Co (Angling) Ltd. However he was also extremely interested in politics and world events, and during the Second World War decided to begin keeping a journal which could be passed on to his son after his death. The first diary gives some indication of John's reasons for maintaining such a record. "Whoever may read this in the years to come will perhaps be able to picture in the faded ink of these pages the momentous times of the Second Great War." However John would not in fact stop writing the diaries on the declaration of victory, but would continue to offer comment on the major news stories of the following years. The diaries include newscuttings recording major historical events and giving John's opinion on them, as well as comments on local matters and his own personal life, including the death of his mother and the expansion of his business.



Holy Trinity Church, Wray (PR 3338)

A recent deposit from Holy Trinity Church at Wray included a number of records from the 19th century, many relating to the redevelopment and extension of the church which took place between 1879 and 1880. Most notable are the series of plans by Paley and Austin, architects of the scheme.



Time & Tide

The next Time & Time workshop will be held on 21 February. The workshops will be in Morecambe Library, Central Drive, Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 5DL on **Saturday 21 February** from 1.30-4.00pm:

Visit www.timeandtide.xyz for more information.

Tuesday Evening Talk

Tuesday 10 February, 6.30-7.30pm

George Lyon, the Upholland 'highwayman', and the Walmsleys of Wigan, a talk by Marianne Howell

Preston Court Leet Presentments

David Berry has created a Wiki of full transcriptions of the presentments given at the Preston Court Leet from 1653 until 1813 and they can be found at:

wyresearchaeology.org.uk/mw

Don't miss...

Outing the Past 5!

"Our History"

LGBT History and 10 years of LGBT History Month

7 February 2015

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Join us at Lancashire Archives to find out more about the past seven years of the LGBT Network and look beyond with an opportunity to share your ideas about the future; Paul Fairweather will talk about gay rights publications in Lancashire in the 1980s, and you can hear all about the Documenting Dissent project and the research carried out by their LGBT group. Grievous Angels will perform, 'Isaac Hitchen's House' their song inspired by the plight of Isaac Hitchen in 1806. The afternoon will be rounded off with a talk about the 'Pink Archive' at Lancashire Archives and an opportunity to network over a cup of tea or coffee and to add to the NHS LGBT timeline.

Our next Saturday opening is 14 February

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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