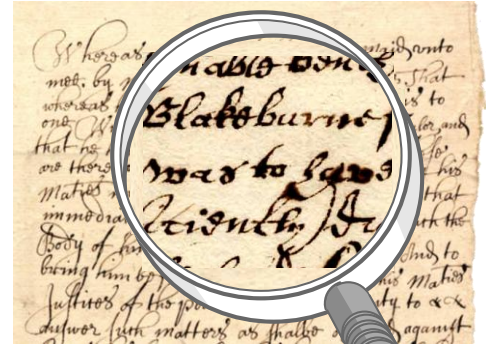


# News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



## ***Bound Up!***

After almost 4 years the volunteer project on the Quarter Sessions Recognizance Bonds has drawn to a close. Although there is still much work to be done on this collection, it was felt that we could not ask the volunteers to continue on what was a very demanding, and not always very interesting project! That makes their achievement all the more amazing as they have stuck to the task as they always do. The statistics are impressive:

- 36,000 entries on LANCAT
- 519 individual Recognizance rolls indexed
- Around 100,000 personal names have been made available
- 20 years of records covered, 1774-1782, 1822-1834

One of the aims of the project was to improve access to this collection but also to make users more aware of its existence! This has definitely been achieved as researchers are starting to request these documents in the Searchroom and ordering copies by post. As with all Quarter Sessions records, all life is to be found in this series.

They consist mostly of bonds summoning people to court either because they have committed an offence or are a witness to one. As a result the names of borough constables often appear who may have exacted an arrest. Some bonds summon the reputed fathers of illegitimate children to court but by far the largest group of bonds are ones for 'Keeping the Peace'. There are approximately 19,500 entries for what was the equivalent of the modern ASBO, with people being bound over to keep the peace for a period of months. Although these documents do not contain a lot of information, they may at least fix an ancestor as being in a particular place at a specific time. This is what happened with William Amphlett Dyson (ref: QSB/1/1828/Jul/pt 7/56) bound over in 1828. I searched for this unusual name on the internet and discovered a genealogist who had been looking for this person for 8 years!

The bonds also contain names of people involved in riots, machine-breaking, murder, speeding coaches, theft, assault, poaching and trespass. There are also Calendars of Prisoners and documents relating to the repair of highways and bridges as well as stopping-up orders. There are often plans with the latter. You can also find alehouse

documents certifying that someone is a fit person to keep a public house and including the name of the pub.

The project has generated one or two mini-surveys in order to establish the variety of information to be found. For example the April session of 1826 listed 29 shopkeepers; from 1833-1834 the names of 44 different policemen appear and again between 1833 and 1834 names and addresses for 67 people living in Preston can be found. Addresses appear quite routinely and of course can be very useful in the pre-census period. From records found in the series a talk has been generated on women and domestic abuse and research has been carried out on George Holt, a Preston Borough policeman, and the Dolphinholme Mill dispute of 1832-1833.

The project can be counted a great success and hopefully the groundwork has been done which might enable the rest of the rolls to be indexed at some future date.

We thank the volunteers a lot for what they do and perhaps after a while saying thank you gets a bit stale. However we cannot begin to stress how grateful we are for all they do, particularly when confronted with less than exciting documents ('keeping the peace' bonds come in runs of 200 and more!), horrible handwriting and a huge variety of types of documents. They do not give up! When we add this project to all the others they have so successfully carried out, what they do is immense and we just hope that they will carry on supporting the work of the archives. Many, many thanks to everyone who has indexed, checked and typed up the data and to Tracy Postings, Volunteer Support Officer, for superb organisation while running and supervising the project.

**Anna Watson**

## Collections

**Lancashire Archives aims to collect records relating to Lancashire, Lancashire life, and the lives of Lancashire people. The Collections Team ensures that these collections are suitably packaged to guarantee their survival and are kept safe at all times. We provide details of the documents we have received in our catalogues, in our themed guides to record sources, and in publicity.**

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new acquisitions. In January we processed 13 deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

### **Highams Limited of Accrington (DDX 3094 acc11857)**

This deposit consist of a privately published history of the Higham family and their cotton spinning and manufacturing company covering the years 1859-1940. It includes a number of original photographs of family members and of the area around Wood Nook where one of their mills was located.



## *Merseyside poetry challenge*

Our War Words poetry challenge was held at the end of 2014 with categories for U18s and adults. Two members of the English department at Liverpool University (Prof Joe Moran and Dr Andrew McMillan) selected 3 entries from each category along with an additional specially commended adult entry. The poems were made into pull up display banners and along with an information panel they will be displayed in various locations across Merseyside. In March the poems can be read in the Performance Space of Radio Merseyside on Hanover Street, before they move to the Cunard building reception area.

U18 entries came from schools across Merseyside and adult entries from across the UK. We even had an entry from a poet and teacher in India. His poem was one of the selected entries made into banners.

In conjunction with Special Collections and Archives we are hosting an exhibition in the Aldham Roberts Library. 'World War One in 100 Objects' will run from 1st March to 10th April. This has been curated by two local collectors Dave McGivern and Alan Manning, who for the past 12 years have collected items of militaria from car boot sales and markets to display at events to raise money for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The material on display is of British, French and German origin and includes letters and postcards as well as weapons and items of military kit.

While this exhibition is running I will be holding two drop in sessions in Special Collections for people to come along and share their WWI family stories with the Merseyside at War project. Mon 23rd & Mon 30th March 1-4pm.

The website for the project is at:  
[www.merseyside-at-war.org](http://www.merseyside-at-war.org)

## *1919 Preston Absent Voters' List*

As a little project for the anniversary of the start of World War One, Glenn Swarbrick has transcribed the 1919 Preston Absent Voters' List into Excel spreadsheets.

He says: "One of the problems with using the absent voters' lists has been that they were published in street order within wards and there were no surname indexes. If you didn't know where a person lived in 1919 you would need to scan through all of the wards to find him or her. By transcribing the lists I was able to easily sort them into surname order, making them more user friendly.

The spreadsheets are in three different formats: One as originally published, one in surname order within wards, and one in surname order across all wards.

I have transcribed them as they were written "warts and all" and resisted the temptation to correct obvious typographical errors or standardize abbreviations.

The spreadsheets can be searched by a member of staff and I have provided copies to Andrew Walmsley in Community Heritage."

The next phase of this project is an online version. This project is under way but it will take some time to complete!

## *Time & Tide*

The next Time & Time workshop will be held on **21 March from 1.30-4.00pm**. The workshops will be in Morecambe Library, Central Drive, Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 5DL. Visit [www.timeandtide.xyz](http://www.timeandtide.xyz) for more information.

## The Archive at 75

As part of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations there will be a weekend of events on 25 and 26 April 2015.

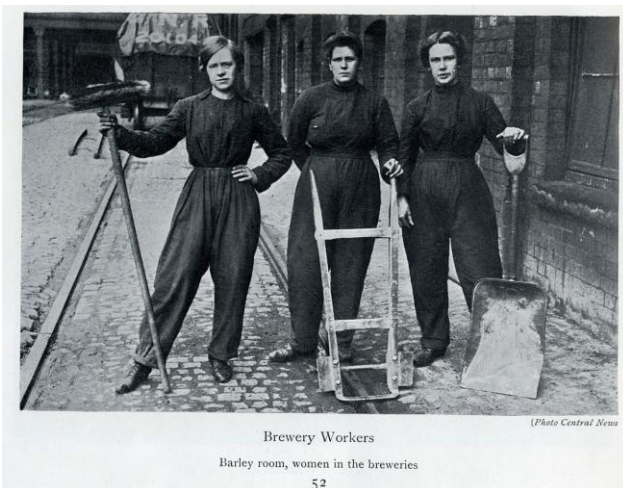
On Saturday 25 April the building will open for a 1940s themed open day, with exhibitions and talks on our history, strongroom tours and film footage on loan from the North West Film Archive, alongside a number of vintage stalls, a pop-up vintage hair salon, 1940s music, nostalgic displays and vehicles and a café serving cakes and refreshments. Anyone in period dress is most welcome.

On Sunday 26 April we will host a family history fair where you can get advice and assistance on how to make the most of our collections for your research, and look at exhibitions of documents celebrating the family history of some famous Lancastrians including John Inman and Eric Morecambe. Our Conservation team will also be on hand to give advice about preserving your own family archive.

Join us and help us celebrate 75 years! For more information please contact us:

Telephone: (01772) 533039

Email: [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk)



## The Archive at 75

Join us for a weekend celebrating 75 years of Lancashire Archives

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives)



### Tuesday Evening Talk

#### Women's History Month 2015

**Tuesday 10 March, 6.30-7.30pm**

**Women and WWI: Letters and other archives**

**Tuesday 24 March, 6.30-7.30pm**

**Women and WWI: Scrapbooks and memories**

**Please note** that this is a change from the advertised dates for these talks.

**Our next Saturday opening is 14 March**

**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](mailto:vicci.mccann@lancashire.gov.uk)*