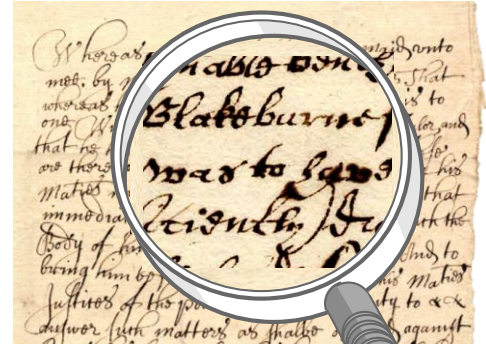


# News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



## ***Handheld scanners: our verdict***

Recently we've had a few requests as to whether we will allow handheld scanners to copy documents in our Searchroom. We have investigated these pieces of equipment and have decided not to allow their use.

Technology moves on rapidly these days and we do try to keep up with digital developments. The self-photography service has been a great benefit to researchers recording large quantities of information: the ability to take your own photos often allows a quick visit here followed up by more detailed inspection of the images at home. In theory handheld scanners could be a similar opportunity. They may offer additional functionality to a digital camera – they can transfer files by WiFi, and they can convert images into pdf and other formats. They don't seem to emit light or heat in doses likely to cause damage to documents.

Unfortunately their use does require that they are in contact with the document that they are scanning. It's that aspect that

concerns us. We have researched among our fellow professionals in the world of archives. The National Archives Australia allows digital cameras but says:

"You may not use any device which comes into contact with the record, such as a flatbed scanner or hand held scanner that is moved across the face of documents."

More explanation is available from the American National Archives (NARA), which "does not allow the use of hand-held scanners that are moved or rubbed across the face of documents. According to NARA preservation specifications, 'Equipment that could potentially damage documents will not be approved. No part of the equipment may come in contact with records in a manner that causes friction, abrasion, or that otherwise crushes or damages records...'"

Several companies advertise scanners online. They promote them for use with books, magazines and newspapers – principally printed matter. The companies do not advertise that their products are suitable for use with unique and irreplaceable archives. These archives may present such challenges as a bound volume with photographs or other documents loosely glued in or otherwise attached. We also have many medieval and later deeds

with pesky folds and iron-gall inked text which lies tentatively atop the parchment and could get rubbed off.

In common with other archive repositories in this country and abroad, then, we will not permit the use of handheld scanners. We will continue to monitor the march of technology, but anyone who is considering buying these magic wand-like appliances should bear our comments in mind.

**Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager**

## *Listen in!*

Our next 6-monthly user group will be held on Tuesday 3 November at 2pm. As usual I'll give you an update of what is happening here and answer any questions you might have about the archive service. Tea and cakes are provided and this time there will also be a chance to find out more about the Lancashire Sound Collection and to have a look at the sound lab we have created to allow us to play and copy the new media.

Everyone will be very welcome.

**Jacque Crosby, Archives Manager**

## *Collections*

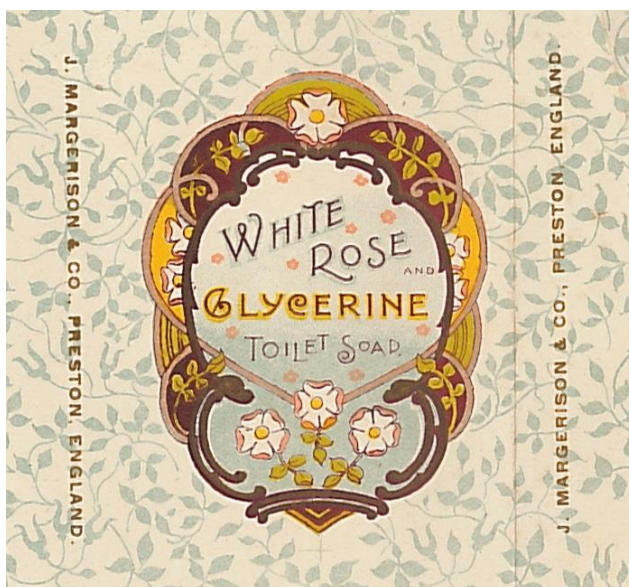
Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new catalogues. In August we processed 12 deposits of documents, all of which were selected for permanent preservation.

### **Boer War Diary of Septimus Marsden (DDX 2251)**

This handwritten diary is a detailed account of the experiences of Sep Marsden while serving with the East Lancashire Regiment in South Africa during the Boer War. He travelled extensively around the country, helped to build railway lines and was also responsible for guarding prisoners.

### **Joshua Margerison and Co, soap manufacturers of Preston (DDX 2473)**

This small business collection spans the years 1873-1954, and includes production information and recipes, financial and sales records. Interestingly old adverts and wrappers have frequently been used as scrap paper, ensuring that some wonderful examples have survived throughout the collection.



Details of some of the other deposits received can be seen below:

### **DDX 1291, Lancaster Council Housing**

Council house contract including rules, for 12 Coniston Rd, Lancaster 1939

### **DDX 1862, Ancient Order of Foresters**

Records of Court Zacchaeus no 157 [Crawshawbooth, Rossendale] and Court Thursby and Scarlett 2253 including financial records, letter books and publications 1900-1977

### **DDX 2828, Joe Hodgson Collection**

Including embroidered handkerchiefs sent during military service, photographs of Egypt and South Africa and other military and family papers

**DDX 3117, Railway plans**

Various 19th-20th century plans of local railway lines

**MBAC, Street improvement plans**

Detailed street and sewer plans in the Borough of Accrington c.1890

**MPR 48, Fulwood Methodist Church**

Various minute books 1974-2001; Church history and magazines 2012-2015; Centenary Week Celebration Photograph Album 2012

**PR 3296, Preston Emmanuel**

Register of baptisms 13 Jul 1969-4 Mar 1990

**PR 5053, Simonstone Parish Council**

Minutes and accounts 1993-2014

**SMPD 5, Cross Bank School Padiham**

Log books 1888-1947; minute books 1914-1940; notes on history of school [late 20th cent]

**SMQ 20, Willow Lane Nursery School**

'The History of Appletree'; School log book 1947-1953; Pre-school admission registers 1946-1988 (2); Register of applicants 1980-1989; Summary register 1968-1974

## *News from the Region*

Wirral Archives Service is going down from three to two members of staff. This will come into effect on Monday 5th October.

There will be no reduction in opening hours. However, they will now be running an appointment only service.

Please contact them at least 24 hours in advance to book an appointment, and to discuss what you would like to see so that they can get it out ready for you in advance.

## *A colour bar in Blackburn?*

October is Black History Month and, to mark this annual celebration, we're featuring a curious item from 1956.

Barbara Castle was MP for Blackburn for many years – she has a thoroughfare in the town named after her (it features regularly on the travel news). She was asked by some Nigerian textile students at the town's Technical College to investigate their employment difficulties. They were eager "to undertake some practical training before returning home", but discovered that advertised vacancies in local mills were filled when they turned up to apply: "some excuse is always found to turn them down" (DDX 1123/5/1/37).

Mrs Castle wrote to Lewis Wright, Secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers' Association. The AWA was on friendly terms with employers' organisations but it is interesting that it was the union that was contacted, not the employers. Certainly Mr Wright wrote back from the perspective of the workers his union represented. His reply of 16 October (DDX 1123/5/2/44) states, in part:

"Experiences in the districts vary. In many, coloured boys have been employed in many departments of cotton mills, and there is no colour bar. In others: Haslingden is a typical example, operatives are prejudiced because the first coloured boy employed stabbed another worker, and as a result all coloured boys are looked upon as potential killers. Quite wrong, of course, but it will take a long time to die down."

This is an early example of industrial relations regarding the employment of black workers. It appears to be merely one story in the perceived inequality and unfair treatment that led eventually to the Race Relations Act of 1968.

**Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager**

## Our next Wednesday Afternoon Talks

14 October – Shell Shock in WWI: A Suitable Case for Treatment, Bernard Melling

28 October – Susannah Knight and Chorley's Memorial Album of the Great War, Adam Cree

### Our next Saturday opening is 10 October

## Lancashire Place Name Society

The Lancashire Place Name Survey is holding its AGM at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27 October at Lancashire Archives. Following the short business meeting there will be a lecture by Dr Fiona Edmonds of Clare College, Cambridge an expert on the history of Scotland, northern England, Ireland, Wales and the Isle of Man between the 7th and 12th centuries: *Brittonic and Welsh Influence in Lancashire history and place-names*.

Tickets for the lecture cost £5 and application forms are available in the record office. Advance booking is recommended.

## Cataloguing Hulton

Following the purchase of the Hulton Archive (DDHU) last year and a kind and generous legacy from the late Dr Mona Duggan, we have been successful in obtaining another grant to catalogue this collection, repackage it, and make it more accessible for use. We have now appointed an archivist – Lindsey Sutton – to provide cover for Keri Nicholson, who will be cataloguing the collection over the next 6 months.

You may see Lindsey working in the Searchroom from time to time.

## Preston Arts Festival

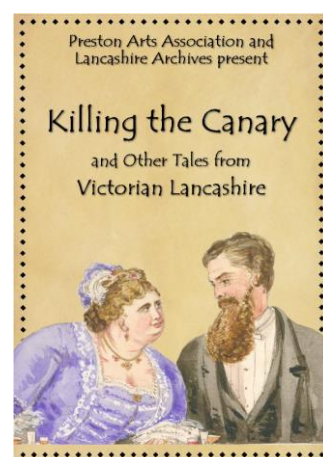
Join us on 16 October from 2pm to 4pm as part of the Preston Arts Festival for an afternoon of readings and to learn more about the latest collaborative creative writing project between Lancashire Archives and the Preston Arts Association.

This year writers used archives relating to Victorian Lancashire as inspiration. The resulting collection of work, *Killing the Canary and Other Tales from Victorian Lancashire* will be launched at the event.

There will also be an exhibition of work by the Preston Arts Society inspired by the history of the textile industry in Lancashire.

This event is FREE and refreshments will be available.

For more details of all events taking place as part of the Preston Arts Festival please visit: <http://www.prestonarts.com/>



## Fylde History Network Conference

The Fylde History Network in partnership with The Lancashire Local History Federation present:

### Struggle for Survival: Poverty & Society in Lancashire 1630-1900

Saturday 7 November 9.30am to 4.30pm

Visit [www.fyldehistorynetwork.co.uk](http://www.fyldehistorynetwork.co.uk) for information.

**ANY  
COMMENTS?**

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