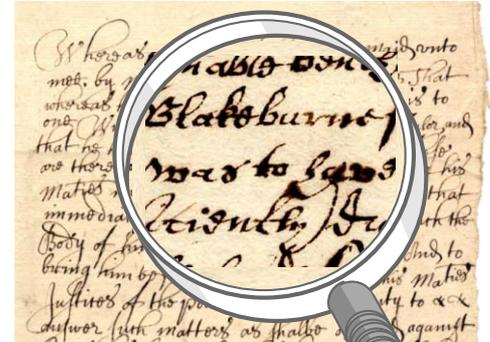


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



From the Archive Service Manager:

As 2015 draws to a close I'd like to wish all Lancashire Archive staff, users, volunteers and other supporters a very happy Christmas and a good new year.

We've celebrated our 75th anniversary in style, starting in January with a staff recognition event to celebrate our achievement of Archive Service Accreditation. We hosted a civic tour for the Chairman of the County Council, held a weekend of 75th celebrations in April followed by exhibitions of 74 of our treasures [remember - the 75th is still out there!] and another appearance of Café Archive on Lancashire Day. Working with other services and outside organisations has continued to be very important, notably for the Demolition Street installation, the 1715 commemoration with the Harris museum, and the *Time and Tide* creative writing project in Lancaster and Morecambe, as well as an increasing number of projects in partnership with universities and colleges. We have extended our service by taking in the Lancashire recordings from the North West Sound Archive, created a new sound lab to process them, and a set up a listening post in the searchroom. We've been successful with external funding for cataloguing collections – the early Horrockses

business records, and the Hulton family and estate archive - while the BAXI collection and the Archdeaconry of Chester probate court catalogues have been completed. Our volunteers and the Friends of Lancashire Archives have been a great support in so many ways throughout the year and I am very grateful to you all.

Sadly the future is not quite so rosy. We have the exciting news that Certificate Services will relocate to the Record Office building in the first part of next year, but I am sure that many of you have seen or heard about Lancashire County Council's budget proposals. The county council has continually had to make financial savings over the past five years, both to offset the Government's cuts to its funding and to account for significant cost pressures brought about by high demand for many services. To help achieve the level of savings required to balance the books, new proposals affecting a wide range of services were taken to a meeting of the council's Cabinet on 26 November. For the archive service the proposals mean a 33% reduction in service cost between now and the financial year beginning in April 2017. This will require a combination of service reconfiguration to reduce costs and a review of our charging policy. Arrangements for appropriate public consultation will be put in place over the coming months.

Our next user group meeting will be held at 2pm on Thursday 7 January.

Jacque Crosby

Car Park and Stacks 3 and 4

The good news: our car park will be resurfaced and remarked in the New Year. The bad news: the car park will be closed for 3 days while the work is carried out - probably the week beginning 25 January depending on weather.

Good news: we will be fitting some more shelving into stacks 3 and 4 possibly before Christmas.

Bad news: access to archives in these strongrooms will be restricted on the days when the work is carried out.

Scots in the Archives

As part of the commemoration of the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of Preston, on 20 October the archives were invaded by a band of feisty recruits from St Augustine's Primary School Avenham and St Mary's Episcopal Primary School in Dunblane.

The visit was arranged in partnership with the Harris Museum and recognised the fact that on the same day in 1715 that Preston saw fierce fighting and fires raging, Jacobites were also taking a stand at the battle of Sheriffmuir near Dunblane. Both conflicts ended in surrender and ignominy for the rebels and solidified the position of the Hanoverian royal line. Year 7's from both schools joined together to learn about the historic sources and to see what the archives were all about.

One of the eye witness accounts held here (DDX 2244) describes the rebels wearing cockades 'which were knots of Ribband in their Hats to distinguish them from other people and the English wore Red and White and the Scots Blew and White'. This prompted

a frenzy of cockade making and the children loved the practical task of choosing sides and sewing the ribbons into shape. Apparently the cockades came in very handy later in the day when they staged BOP2 (Battle of Preston 2) at which the Jacobites, for once, emerged



victorious!

Finally Facing My Waterloo...

While inputting probate details onto the spreadsheet we made a sad but exciting find among the 1816 wills: a letter from George Worsley, a private in the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, just before he marched to Ramsgate to embark for the Netherlands. The letter, dated 11 April 1815, is addressed to his cousin, William Chapman of Clifton near Manchester, advising him that his regiment is due to depart abroad as 'that vile usurper Bonaparte has once more caused us to leave our nation land'. George wrote: 'if I fall in the field or die in The Service, God Bless me and the money is yours and at your disposal'.

On 18 June the Life Guards formed the front line of The Household Brigade, staging the famous cavalry charge against the French Cuirassiers which saved the British centre from being overrun. They sustained heavy losses, including the life of George Worsley. Service records of soldiers killed in action at this date have not survived and the database on the Forces War Records site does not include George. These probate documents may be the only record of his military service and death at Waterloo.

These moving documents can be seen in Lancashire Archives reference: George Worsley WCW 1816 (C717B/43)

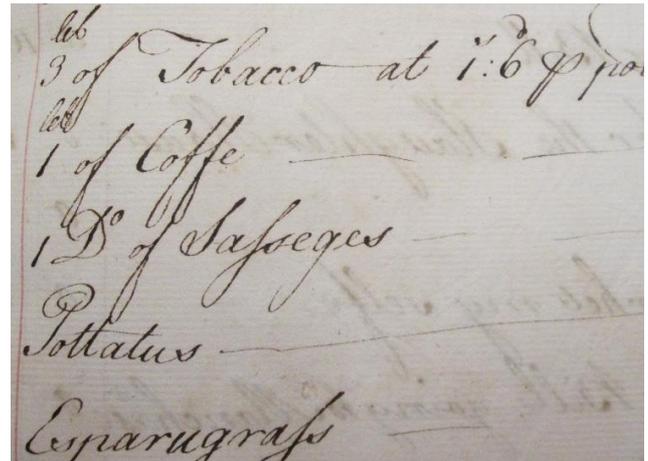
Lesley Barker and Chris Morton

Hulton Cataloguing Project

I am currently 2 months into a 6 month project to catalogue the Hulton family and estate archive. Since starting work on the collections my favourite discovery has been the series of household account books, which give a fascinating insight into life at the centre of a large estate. The range of food purchased gives some idea of the diet of the rich at that time. While the earliest book has few references, usually to meat supplied by the butcher, cakes and ale, later volumes include items such as crab and oysters as well as a wide range of fruit and vegetables. DDHU/42/6, dating from 1769, even includes an entry for "esparugrass" which may offer early evidence of the local asparagus industry.

The account books can also reveal more personal stories. While browsing through entries for 1774 (DDHU/42/4) I discovered payments made to a nurse, two doctors and an apothecary called to assist Master A Hulton. Sadly, the next entry in the book is for the purchase of a lead coffin, and family pedigrees confirm that Adam Hulton did in fact die on 15 Dec 1773. This record offers a sad

parallel with the many stories to be discovered in the Longworth Overseer's account book (DDHU/42/15) which includes numerous payments towards the burial of a child. In fact the whole series of account books offer a wealth of names potentially of interest to family historians, as many of the account books record payments made to estate workers, including those employed in the local coal mines.



Keri Nicholson

Collections

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new catalogues. In October we processed 24 deposits of documents.

Preston Trades Council/Labour Party Records (DDX 3121)

This collection contains records relating to the Preston Trades Council and the Labour Party from 1886 to 1983. It includes financial and administrative records relating to the running of the Trades Council as well as records relating to daily activities. Amongst these records is a letter from Keir Hardie the first Labour Member of Parliament to the Secretary of the Preston Trades Council. The collection also features copies of the Preston Worker from 1979 to 1981 and election manifestos from Labour Party candidates as well as photographs of Labour candidates and cabinets from the 1920s and 1930s.

News from the Sound Archive: The Sounds of Silence

Not unlike myself, some of our sound recording equipment is aging badly, and our Digital Audio Tape (DAT) recorder/player has become rather poorly. As part of the Lancashire Sound Collection we hold approximately 250 recordings on DAT tape and will need to be able to play (and digitize) these. We are currently trying to determine if our trusty old machine is repairable but, in the meanwhile, we thought we would ask if any of our readers had a working DAT machine they no longer need or use. Even a non-working machine may be of use for spare parts. If you have a machine that you would be willing to donate or loan us on a long-term basis please contact me at glenn.swarbrick@lancashire.gov.uk

Always wanted to find a long lost family member?

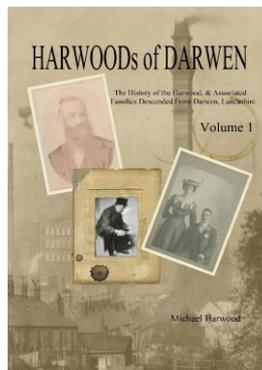
Still looking? Or have you recently been reunited? Brand-new programme for major broadcaster is looking to hear from people who have been tracking down family members. Email familyfinders@ricochet.co.uk or phone 01273224800

Harwood family history

It's always good to see some results for the hours of dedication – years, in this case – that people have put in researching records at Lancashire Archives. One recent publication may give some of you an idea for a Christmas present. It's *The History of the Harwood Families of Darwen, Lancashire*, by Michael

Harwood, formerly a regular presence in our Searchroom.

The fruit of his research is substantial - some 740 pages – and it puts the Harwood family story into the context of the historical development of Darwen. It gives the very first ancestral tree and follows the story of one



particular family branch through to the twentieth century and into living memory. The story includes detailed information of many other families with whom the Harwoods have intermingled over the centuries, so many locals will find some

connection with their own ancestors.

Mike's self-published tome, well-illustrated and readable, is available online at <http://www.authorhouse.co.uk/Bookstore/>, priced £33.95.

Palaeography Course

Come to the Archives at Bow Lane on 26th January 2016 and learn how to read the handwriting of past generations:

1.00 – 2.15 Practical examples and workshop session: looking at the documents – Wills, Inventories, Quarter Sessions, etc. 'Filling in the gaps' task.

2.15 – 2.45 Tea and coffee break

2.45 – 4.00 Further workshop session: looking at the documents – Land conveyances, leases etc. Use of a 'letter grid' for more complex documents.

Fee: £10. A booking form is available on the FLA web site:

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

Our next Saturday opening is 12 December 2015

**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