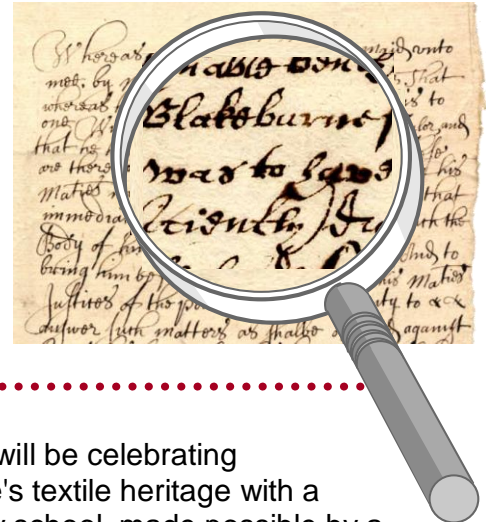


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Looking Forward

2016 promises to be a turbulent year for archives, and indeed all LCC services, as we face the stark reality that there is much less money available and that some things will have to stop. Our staff numbers will reduce during the year and so, although we will aim to continue to provide a high quality service, enquiries, copying and document production might take a little longer. We will also be reviewing how we might continue to provide projects and opportunities for volunteers in the future.

From the 1 February we will be holding a public consultation about opening hours. The proposed amendments take into account the views of the people who attended the user forum on 7 January and I am very grateful for their input. Their views have also helped to shape new fees and charges proposals which, if approved, will be implemented from 1 April. (You will, I'm sure, be pleased to know that I am not proposing that you should pay to use the searchroom service).

Looking for the silver linings: in March we look forward to welcoming Lancashire Certificate Services who will move here from Quayside Court. We hope family historians will welcome this one-stop opportunity. On Saturday 5

March we will be celebrating Lancashire's textile heritage with a special day school, made possible by a Textile Society award and supported by our Friends of Lancashire Archives. A workshop, talks and other activities are planned.

For the present however, it's business as usual, and we look forward to welcoming you to Lancashire Archives.

Jacque Crosby, Archives Service Manager

Car Park improvements

You will be pleased to know that the record office car park will be resurfaced and re-marked. This work is weather-dependent and is not likely to begin until the end of February. Please check the website, or email or phone to find out whether parking is available, if you are intending to visit on or after 29 February. There will be alternative parking arrangements for blue badge holders.

The Archdeaconry of Richmond

The Ecclesiastical Court records for the Archdeaconry of Richmond were deposited here in 1951 and were initially stored under

the catalogue reference DRCH along with papers we hold for the Archdeaconry of Chester. Combined, these two archdeaconries formed the Diocese of Chester which was created in 1541. The records we hold for the Archdeaconry of Chester relate solely to probate and are now fully catalogued under the reference ARCH. The remaining records for this Archdeaconry and for the Diocese of Chester as a whole are held by Cheshire Archives. The reference DRCH is no longer used here.

For many years, the only way to access the Archdeaconry of Richmond records was to use 'Dr Addy's lists'. In 1963 John Addy wrote for his PhD The Life and Administration of the Archdeaconry of Richmond 1541-1836. This thesis has never been published but there is a copy in the catalogue (reference: ARR/9/25). Dr Addy worked extensively on the collections held here, at the Borthwick Institute in York and Leeds City Library. The Archdeaconry of Richmond was a vast area stretching from Preston in the south up to St Bees in the north and all the way to York in the east. It was split into areas called the Western Deaneries and the Eastern Deaneries. All the Eastern Deanery records are held by the Borthwick Institute and can be consulted on-line at <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/causepapers/> while the records held here at Lancashire are for the 5 Western Deaneries of Amounderness, Copeland, Furness, Kendal and Lonsdale. Occasionally there is some overlap with the Eastern deaneries for example in the Compert Book series (reference: ARR/1/2). The Eastern Deanery probate records are held at West Yorkshire Archive Service, Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar, Leeds, LS7 3AP (www.archives.wyjs.org.uk).

In August 1963 the first deposit was made at Lancashire of records from the Western deaneries, followed by another accession in 1980. Dr Addy had catalogued much of the collection and although some of the documents were numbered, far from all of them were and indeed a large part of the collection remained unsorted and lacked a description.

The collection consists of the following series of documents:

- Records of the Archidiaconal Court
- Records of the Consistory Court
- Records of the Bishop's Visitation Court and the Probate Court

Within each series are more detailed records such as Court Call books, Compert books, Probate Act books, Day Books and Visitation Call and Exhibition books. By far the greatest and potentially most interesting papers are the Court Cause papers which cover disputes concerning unpaid tithes, pew and faculty disputes, defamation cases, marriage and incest cases, probate cases, clergy cases and cases to do with fornication and bastardy. The collection also includes a map of the Diocese of Chester from the 18th century (reference: ARR/8/1) and copies of this can be seen in the searchroom.

In addition to the records mentioned above, the series of marriage bonds for the Archdeaconry of Richmond, consisting of almost 43,000 documents are fully catalogued as are the probate records for the same area. These consist of over 91,000 testators.

Despite these numbers, what has survived must be only a fraction of what was created during 300 years of administration. There is no information about the original order of the documents and there is no way of knowing how Dr Addy set about his catalogue.

The new catalogue is built on Dr Addy's lists and these have been an enormous help in creating the catalogue and providing detail at a level we would not have the time to achieve. Thus there is some guide to the contents of the Compert books (ref: ARR/1/2) which would not have been available otherwise.

The series of Parish Bundles also existed as a separate catalogue under the reference DRCH/37. These bundles of parish documents covered the whole of the Diocese and they have now been split under the two Archdeaconry references – ARCH and ARR. This series contains records largely relating to the appointment of clergy and schoolmasters but may also contain deeds, Consecration papers and parish correspondence. This catalogue has never been available on-line until now.

The bulk of the collection dates from the 18th

and 19th centuries but the earliest documents in the collection are papers from a clandestine marriage suit in 1579: Deposition by Robert Parke of Lea, Preston, yeoman, aged 33 saying that Sir Thomas Fletewode had told him about an intended marriage between Sir Thomas and Mary Shereburne alias Fletewode and he had to prepare himself 2 or 3 days before to be at Stonie Hyrst the dwelling house of Sir Richard Shereburne father to the said Mary and to have also with him ready some priest or curate for the 28 Jan [?1578] at night and he also procured Edward Parkehill late before that time curate at Blackburn to be ready accordingly. Edward staying at the house of Richard Cowell of Dutton about 2 miles from Stonihyrst. Thomas Keasden his contest was sent unto them about 8 of the clock the same night to rouse them to come to the said Stonie hysrt into one chamber there called my Lord's Chamber "whych they were secretly conveyed to" by Sir Thomas who was there with Mary and Ellen Yngham the wife of John Yngham and Dorothe, one of Mary's sisters, there they stayed until about 3 in the morning when Robert saw and heard Edward Parkehill contract and solemnise the marriage between Sir Thomas and Mary.

This fantastic collection provides an insight as to how the church courts dealt with issues of recusancy, unpaid taxes, fornication and neighbourly squabbles while monitoring the role of clergy and their livings, maintaining the fabric of the churches and schools and ensuring that churchwardens were appointed, people married at the right time in the right place, wills were proved and penances carried out. Given the size of the Archdeaconry, administering all of this was remarkable as the collection reflects. The catalogue is now available on LANCAT.

Anna Watson, Senior Archivist

For historic images of Burscough and Surrounding areas visit:

<http://images-of-burscough.co.uk/>

Hulton Cataloguing Project

In recent weeks I have begun working on the later deposits of material within the Hulton collection. Probably the most interesting story to be found relates to the military career of Sir Geoffrey Hulton. Geoffrey was born in 1920, and after studying at Marlborough College he was commissioned into the Royal Marines.

In 1941 he was serving on board HMS Repulse, and our collection contains a number of images which give a sense of life on board the ship, as well as copy portraits of the crew drawn by the war artist Barnett Freedman. However on 10 December of that year the ship would be torpedoed by the Japanese, and the crew would be forced to abandon the sinking ship. After surviving the attack Geoffrey wrote an evocative letter to his family in which he describes his experiences, including the moment he had to leave the ship:

"One last look round – and it is impossible to explain all that means, to those who have never served in a ship and learned to love her as a human being. There was no time for regret, and with a sigh I took my leap, thick into the oil fuel that was all over the surface of the water. Dear God! Is there anything more loathsome than that oil fuel, which killed so many of my friends?"

Sadly his situation would hardly improve after the rescue. Around two months later he would be captured by the Japanese in Singapore and taken to the notorious Changi prison camp as a POW. He would spend the rest of the war as a prisoner, travelling to Thailand where he and his men would be involved in the building of the Burma Railway.

After his safe return to England at the end of the war Geoffrey would write down his experiences, in a manuscript entitled "Those Dreadful Years". "I am not going to go into gruesome details; each awful day gave way to the next, the food dwindled, and the Japanese

continued to bully, as men died. In late October the main body, who had gone out to work on the railway, returned to the fold, and some of them were in a shocking state." Despite his discretion the account still gives some idea of the misery of life as a prisoner of war, but also the camaraderie he felt for the men with whom he served.

Keri Nicholson, Archivist

Horrockses: History, Art, Archives and Fashion

Saturday 5 March 11.30am to 4.30pm

Thanks to generous funding from the Textile Society, in 2015 work was carried out to improve the existing catalogue of the Horrockses archive (DDHS). So to celebrate and to help the Friends of Lancashire Archives (FLA) raise more money to continue the work, we have organised a day to celebrate:

- 11.30am to 1.00pm Mono printing workshop
- 1.30pm to 2.00pm The Horrockses Archive, Keri Nicholson
- 2.00pm to 2.40pm A History of Horrockses, Dr David Hunt
- 3.00pm to 4.00pm Horrockses Fashion, Dr Christine Boydell

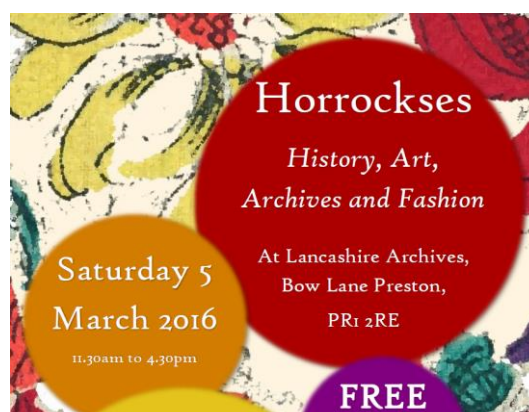
There will also be displays and exhibits of Horrockses historic records and textile art inspired by the history of the textile industry and collections at Helmshore Mill, the Gawthorpe Textile collection and Lancashire Archives.

This event is FREE, however booking is essential for the printing workshop and talks.

Please contact: record.office@lancashire.gov.uk or telephone (01772) 533039 for further information. Light refreshments will be available and parking is FREE on Arthur Street on Saturdays.

We will also have a stall at The Textile Society's Antique Textiles Fair which will take place on Sunday 6 March at the Armitage Centre, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6HE:

<http://www.textilesociety.org.uk/>



Traditional crafts in Lancashire

The Lancashire Local History Federation Spring Day School will be held on Saturday 20 February at Preston Masonic Hall. The theme is traditional crafts in Lancashire and will include Janet Lambert speaking on the charcoal burners and woodcutters of the Furness Fells; Val and David Bryant on their research into spinning wheels; Christine Workman talking about the felt hat makers in the Lune and Wyre Valleys and Diana Winterbotham on her research into some of the masons who built the bridges in south east Lancashire. The cost is £16 including lunch.

Booking forms available from Lancashire Record Office or contact Zoe Lawson 01772 865347; email: zoe.lawson@talktalk.net

Our next Saturday opening is 13 February 2016

**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