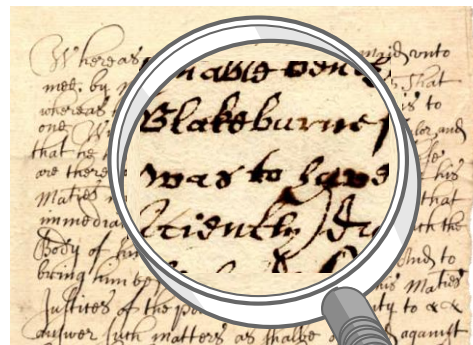


# News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



## ***More change***

The new financial year sees the archive service with a smaller budget, fewer staff and the need to make more savings and generate additional income; but we still intend to provide you with a first class service. And on 19 April we will be showing off what we do here to the chairman of Lancashire County Council and the mayors of all the Lancashire districts, when we host a special civic visit.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation on opening hours. We are still analysing the results, but I can promise that we will listen to what you have said. More details next month.

Our charges for copying, and many other additional services, have not increased since 2008, but new fees and charges have been agreed for implementation from 1 April. I know that not everyone will be happy with the price increases or the new charges, but we do have to cover our costs. Access in person to our unique Lancashire collections will, for the time being, remain free for everyone.

Lancashire Certificate Services have now arrived in the record office building, and so family historians will have the opportunity to collect pre-ordered copies of Lancashire birth, marriage and death certificates at the same time as they research archives in the searchroom.

**Jacque Crosby, Archives Manager**

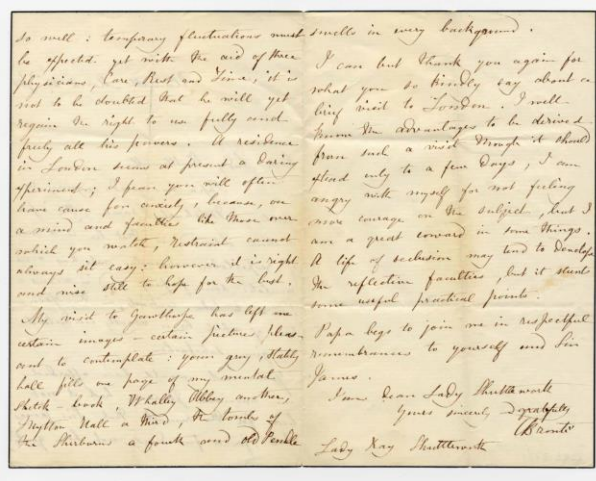
## ***When daffodils begin to peer...***

April sees at least two great literary anniversaries: 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare and 200 years since Charlotte Bronte was born.

At Lancashire Archives we are fortunate to hold a manuscript letter from Charlotte Bronte to Lady Shuttleworth, dated March 1850, where she recalls a visit to Gawthorpe Hall and remembers the grey stately hall, Whalley Abbey, Mytton Hall and the tombs of the Shireburns while 'old Pendle swells in every background'. The letter (reference: DDKS 37/1) will be on display in Gawthorpe Hall this summer.

For details of Gawthorpe Hall opening hours see:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gawthorpe-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gawthorpe-hall)



## Collections

### School and Mining Education Records DDX 3128

These records were deposited by the daughter of John Thomas Anderton from Burnley. They document John's educational and working life. They include exercise books from his time at St Peter's School and at Burnley Municipal College where he learned about mining theory and practice. He went on to work at Bank Hall Colliery as Colliery Safety Engineer and there are reports produced by John which reflect this. The school exercise books illustrate the topics taught to children in the 1930s and cover history, mathematics and religious instruction. The college records provide a rare and fascinating insight into the theoretical teachings of mining and engineering in the 1930s and 1940s.

We were also grateful to accept records from Preston Philatelic Society (DDX 2007); personnel records from Williamsons of Lancaster, dating from the 1940s-1960s (DDX 909); architectural records relating to Towneley Hall, Burnley (DDX 3130); and church records from Westhead St James (PR 3390); Christ Church, Colne (PR 3173);

and Orchard Street Methodist Church, Great Harwood (MGH); Slyne with Hest Autumn Club Records, 1974 to 2012 (DDX 3136); Childhood Memories of Greenodd by Albert Charles Marchant, 1924 to 1934 (DDX 3137); St James Westhead Parish magazines 1984 to 1996 (PR 3390); Clifton of Lytham Papers 1672 to 1965 (DDCL); Preston Christ Church and Preston St Stephen's 1864 to 1954 and Preston Church of the English Martyrs and Brierfield Holy Trinity Registers of marriages 1976 to 2013 (PR 3450 and PR 3293); Blackburn Cathedral Music and More Magazine 2016 (PR 3073); St Joseph Over Darwen, English Martyrs Whalley Range and Saints Peter and Paul Bolton Registers of baptism, confirmation, marriage and deaths 1855 to 2010 (RCDJ, RCRE and RCBO); Calderstones and Brockhall Hospital Patient Records 1910 to 1960 (HRCA and HRBC); Memoirs of Alice Burton 1871-1965 (DDX 2952); Stephen Haigh Archaeology Records 2011 to 2016 (DDX 2204); Oxford Archaeology North 2001 to 2006 (DDX 1915); Preston Guild Souvenir Napkin from 1902 (CNP).

### Second World War Diary of Evelyn Wilkinson DDX 3138



This collection includes the diary of Evelyn Wilkinson which she kept during 1941 whilst carrying out work for the war effort. Evelyn worked for Sharps Commercial Vehicles in Preston which had a contract with the Ministry of Supply to re-condition military

vehicles. The diary provides a fascinating account of Evelyn's day to day tasks which included the maintenance, repair and transport of military vehicles. The diary also documents her pay and long working hours. Also included in the collection are a series of photographs of Evelyn (pictured on the back row) and her colleagues. There is some debate whether these women undertook this work as part of a contract with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and research is being undertaken to identify the badge and uniform worn by the women.

**Lindsey Sutton, Archivist (Collections)**

## ***Hulton Cataloguing Project***

As I've come to the end of my 6 months working on the Hulton archive the final stage has involved coming up with a suitable new arrangement which would help researchers to discover the fantastic material included within the collection.

The archive has now been divided into four sections. Section one contains deeds and other evidence of title. It is arranged alphabetically by place and then by document type. Section two contains records relating to estate management, with the main series consisting of accounts, rentals, copy letter books and plans. Section three contains family papers, which includes heraldry, appointments, wills, correspondence, news cuttings and photographs. The final section contains records which were a little more difficult to classify, but which have been arranged by subject. These include records relating to the church; education; crime; labour disputes; leisure activities; military; politics; paupers; trade; miscellaneous publications and the collection of notices described in the last newsletter.

The new catalogue will be made available in the searchroom and on our electronic catalogue in the coming weeks.

**Keri Nicholson, Archivist**

## ***In Memoriam***

*'the men placed the body in the boat...'*

In 2014 to 2015 the Friends of Lancashire Archives (FLA) received generous funding from Arts Council England for the *Time and Tide* project using coroners' records for Lancaster and Morecambe from the First World War period as inspiration for writing.

*'dressed in seaman's clothing without cap, stockings & right shoe...'*

One such coroner's inquest was that of William Marshall, a young sailor who had been serving on HMS Champagne when it was torpedoed and sunk off the Isle of Man in October 1917.

*'Containing a metal watch stopped at 6.32...'*

His body was found floating in Morecambe Bay and was recovered by two local fishermen Percy Baxter and his son Edward. Among his personal possessions was a cigarette case with a photograph of a young woman, a Jackknife and letters from 'Winnie'. When his body was first recovered his age was thought to have been between 30 and 40 years.

*'Inquiry is being made with a view to identification...'*

However, the following witness statement tells us:

*'Wm Marshall on his oath says:- I live at 8 John Street, Warrington. I identify clothes & disc as belonging to my son...His name was William Albert Marshall aged 18 years.'*

Coroners' inquests are public records and are official in nature. Police reports and witness statements are used to ascertain how a person died in sudden or suspicious circumstances in order that an accurate verdict can be arrived at. They are therefore somewhat impersonal. Yet, through the process of creative writing people were inspired to write about the untimely deaths of William and others, and bring their stories back to life.

What the inquests give us are names and details. There are no images and it is rare to see a picture of the deceased. It was incredible then to have the opportunity to see the face of William when his nephew, Roger Marshall, kindly sent a photograph of him in his sailor's uniform; presumably not long before he joined his ship and only a few months before his ship was torpedoed.



Thank you to Roger Marshall for this photograph of his Uncle William

What this photograph reminds us is that behind the documents are real people, who

lived, loved (were loved) and sometimes suffered, and it is through projects like this that we can tell their stories and in doing so, remember them.

**Victoria McCann, Senior Archivist Access**

## ***Down to the Sea...***

An exhibition showcasing some of the amazing documents and images we hold relating to the Fylde and Wyre area has opened at Fleetwood Museum. Land, Sea and Sky was previously seen at the Fylde Gallery in Lytham during winter 2014, and is having a second lease of life at Fleetwood Museum for the season. The museum has made us very welcome and is open Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 4pm.

## ***Afternoon Talk***

Our next Wednesday afternoon talk is:

**13 April - Urinals for all**, Dr Sally Ann Pilkington, 12.30pm

**Our next Saturday opening is 9 April 2016**

## ***Resurfacing of Car Park***

**The car park will be resurfaced on 5-7 April so there will be no parking available here on those 3 days.**

Apologies for any inconvenience this will cause. It has been postponed 3 times already because of weather and removals.

*'The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts  
Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose'*

*(William Shakespeare)*

**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*