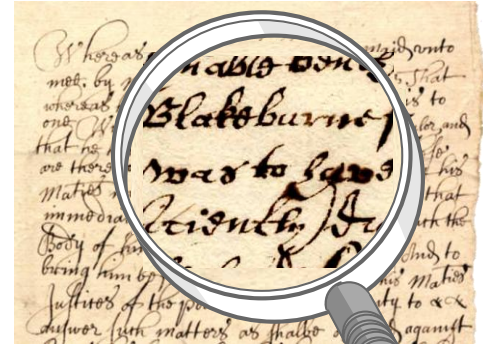


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



16th August 2014

... is the 195th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, when a peaceful rally of 60,000 pro-democracy reformers was attacked by armed cavalry in the centre of Manchester. 15 people died and about 600 were injured. This has a particular interest for Lancashire Archives today, as the chairman of the magistrates who issued a warrant for the arrest of Henry Hunt, and later ordered the cavalry to charge, was William Hulton of Hulton, near Bolton.

The Hulton archive, for which we are currently trying to raise £95,000, includes a letter written to William Hulton by Lord Derby, shortly after the event. It encloses a printed letter from the Home Secretary, Lord Sidmouth, expressing "to the Magistrates ... the great satisfaction derived by his Royal Highness from their prompt, decisive, and efficient measures for the preservation of the public tranquillity ..." [reference DDHU53/76]. There are other documents relating to the tragic event as well as many which help us to build up a picture of William Hulton as a successful colliery owner and chairman of the Bolton and Leigh Railway Company (which opened Lancashire's first public railway in 1828) but also as a man

who was tough on crime and political unrest and quite opposed to his employees being part of any sort of union.

The Hulton of Hulton archive is not just another family and estate collection, it is a collection of national significance with archives spanning eight centuries. It has been in the care of Lancashire County Council's archive service for more than 70 years and I believe it is vitally important to keep it here.

The Friends of Lancashire Archives are leading local fundraising and donations are eligible for gift-aid. If you would like to contribute please make cheques payable to *Friends of Lancashire Archives* and address to the Treasurer c/o Lancashire Archives or make a donation in the chest in the searchroom.

Jacquie Crosby
Archives Service Manager

Searchroom News

Ding Dong!

In addition to the exterior bell behind the main entrance, we now have a bell next to the lift in the foyer. Please ring the bell to

summon assistance and a member of staff will come down to operate the lift.

Thanks to all of you who completed our recent user survey. Your feedback helps us to improve our service. We are busy inputting the details and hope to report on the results in the next issue.

Pride Awards 2014

Chris Gannon, our archive box-maker reached the area finals in Lancashire County Council's 2014 Pride awards. Jacquie Crosby, Archive Service Manager, nominated him for his customer service skills.



Photograph by Denis Oates

Collections

Each month we bring you the highlights of this month's new acquisitions. In June we processed 9 new deposits of documents, 8 of which were selected for permanent preservation.

Report on explosion at White Lund Factory, Lancaster (DDX 3059)

Many of our First World War records relate to the impact on the home front, and this recent deposit is a vivid example. Lancaster was the site of two munitions factories. The factory at Caton Rd was where the shell casings were produced, and they would then be taken to White Lund to be filled with explosives. On the night of 1 Oct 1917 there was an explosion at the filling factory.

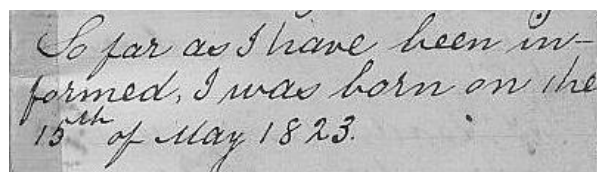
Haworth Nuttall was a clerk at the factory at the time of the explosion, and afterwards wrote an account of events on the night.

"Readers, picture a clear starry night, still, with a beautiful full moon lighting up the county around. Then picture the writer, seated with the Foreman and Staff at supper. Go further, and picture seeing a flare of light shoot high in to the heavens, and imagine you were there, and knew that one of England's Largest Explosive Factories had taken fire; yes, taken fire, with the full knowledge that there was no chance of coping with it. You can only imagine these things - we lived them in reality."

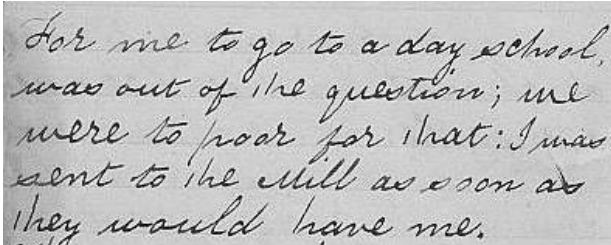
He describes not only his actions on seeing the initial fires, but also tasks such as identifying the bodies of the victims, attendance at the inquest into the incident and to assess the damage caused to the factory, and the journey back to his family home in Burnley for the funeral of John Crowther, a colleague killed in the explosion. The whole report is written as if for an audience, and gives a very personal account of his experiences both on the night in question and during the days that followed.

The Autobiography of Joseph Stones

One of our most interesting deposits over the past couple of months has been a short autobiography written by Joseph Stones in the 19th century. It tells the story of his life, from his birth in 1823 to his appointment as pastor at Newton in 1876.



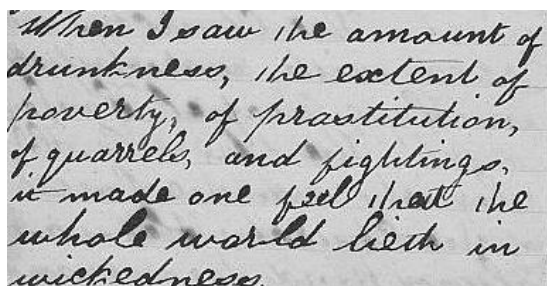
Joseph was one of the five children born to Henry Stones, a weaver and his wife Betty. Betty died when he was 10 years old, and his father Henry died 5 years later, while two of his siblings also died in infancy.



For me to go to a day school, was out of the question; we were to look for that: I was sent to the mill as soon as they would have me.

Joseph followed his father into the cotton industry, frequently moving around Lancashire to find work, although as time passed he records that his work becomes limited by advances in machinery. He claims to have had troubled teenage years during which he was exposed to chartism and socialism and was forced to question his Christian beliefs. However he returned to religion in his twenties, becoming involved with James Street Independent Chapel in Blackburn. From this time he became very active in the church, preaching, undertaking missionary work and teaching at the local Sunday schools.

I was able to trace the progress of his religious life, not only through the story told in his autobiography but also through the records of a number of independent chapels in our care. There are references to Joseph, his wife Ann and his children in the records of Grimshaw Street chapel in Preston (URPG/1) and Blackburn James' Street Chapel (CUBL/1) while he would also be called to preach at Great Harwood, and work as a missionary in Staffordshire.



When I saw the amount of drunkenness, the extent of poverty, of prostitution, of quarrels, and fightings, it made one feel that the whole world lieh in wickedness.

However the most informative collection relates to his many years as a teacher at Walkerfold chapel school. While there are only a few pages of his autobiography devoted to his time at the school, there is a huge amount of information about Joseph in the minutes of the school and chapel trustees (CUCG/5). They include the letter of application sent by Joseph, a description of his interview and a copy of his signed contract. From his appointment the children in Joseph's class are frequently assessed before the trustees, giving us an idea of his skills as a teacher.

June 18 1868 "Res[olve]d that the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr Stones for the attention he appears to have paid to his duties during the past year, some progress having been made notwithstanding the difficulties he has had to contend with in the non or irregular attendance etc of many of the children."

Joseph would continue to teach until 1876, at which date he moved with his family to Newton to become pastor at Newton in Bowland chapel. Sadly his autobiography ends at the point of his appointment to this role, and we do not have any records for this chapel. However, it seems that he remained in the area until his death, as he is buried locally, at Clitheroe Cemetery. We are extremely lucky that the small autobiography written by Joseph after his move to Newton has been retained within his family and that they were willing to offer it to us for safekeeping. The diary can be requested under the reference DDX 3060/1 and is a vivid snapshot of life in the 19th century for someone born into poverty, struggling to survive within the cotton industry and finding salvation through his religious beliefs and works.

Keri Nicholson, Archivist

Letter to an unknown soldier – a new kind of war memorial

This summer a new kind of war memorial will be made by thousands of people across the UK – and you are invited to be part of it. The project is inspired by a statue that stands on Platform 1 of Paddington Station in London, representing all the millions of soldiers who died; a statue of an ordinary soldier in battle dress, reading a letter.

In a step away from the numerous public commemorations taking place, organisers Neil Bartlett and Kate Pullinger are asking people to take a few private moments to think: if you could say what you wanted to say about that war, with all we've learned since 1914, with all your own experience of life and death to hand, what would you say? If you were now able to write to the unknown soldier, a man who served and was killed during World War 1, what would you write?

Writers who have already contributed to the project include Stephen Fry, Andrew Motion, Kamila Shamsie, Lee Child, Malorie Blackman and many others. If you would like to join them, write your own letter and submit it by 4 August to www.1418NOW.org.uk/letter. All the letters received will be collected and published online to create a new kind of public artwork, one made entirely of words, which will eventually be housed as a national archive in the British Library for the benefit of future generations.

Our next Saturday opening date is 9 August

Programme of talks and events



Look out for our latest programme of talks and events which starts in September 2014.

Classic Cars @ Clitheroe Castle

Interested in the history of cars? Then don't miss **Classic Cars @ Clitheroe Castle**, Saturday 23 August - 11am-3.30pm. For further details see www.nwsoundarchive.co.uk

World War One

For information about what Lancashire County Council's cultural services have to offer, and for details of events and exhibitions relating to World War One visit: <http://new.lancashire.gov.uk/ww1>



Please note that we will be closed on Monday 25 August for the bank holiday

**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