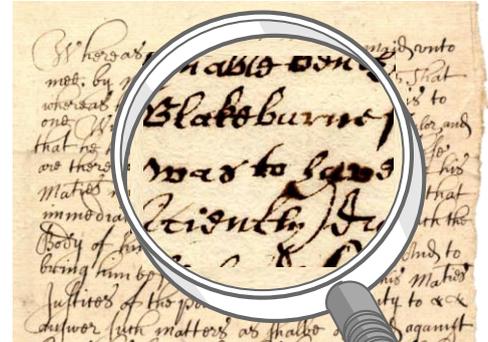


# News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



## ***Lancashire Militia Records***

I have been helping to catalogue some documents relating to the Militia and Volunteers in Lancashire, and one of the most interesting aspects that I have discovered is a clear class distinction between the two forces, which on the surface appear to be very similar. They both filled the same role, that is part time auxiliaries to support the regular army, and both filled their ranks with local men. But it became clear to me that their differences could reflect the class divide that existed in Victorian Britain.

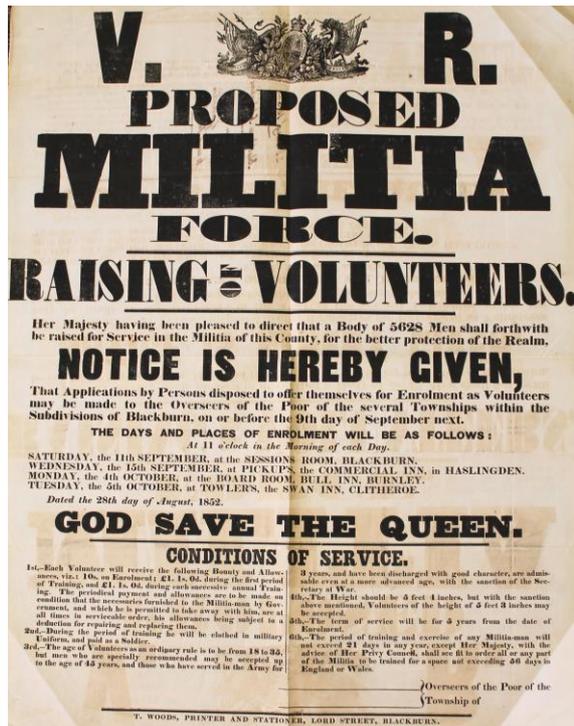
The Militia, with its roots as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, had become an almost entirely voluntary force by the 1850s (although the option of a ballot still remained if needed), and the government clearly intended for members of the working class to make up the bulk of militia recruits. A recruitment poster from Blackburn from 1852 (L/V/5/30) demonstrates this, as well as other documents in L/V/5. The poster gives notice that applications to join the Militia are to be submitted to the Overseers of the Poor, and makes note of clothing and extra pay, which would be of particular interest to those living in poverty. Other documents, such as L/V/5/26, further demonstrate this push for working class

recruits, as the Overseers of the Poor (and churchwardens, who would also be regularly working with those in poverty) are urged to furnish as many volunteers as possible. This provides ample evidence that the government paid a great deal of attention towards attracting those in poverty for service in the Militia.

In contrast, I found that the Volunteer Corps was oriented towards the wealthier members of society. A War Office memorandum (L/V/8/1) regarding the formation of Volunteer Corps, mentions that only 25% of the rifles needed by the Corps are to be provided by the government, the remainder are to be purchased by the volunteers themselves. Such an expense was obviously not possible for those struggling to even feed their families. While later documents such as L/V/8/18 show that the government would by 1863 provide all the arms needed by the Corps, the higher social standing of the Volunteer corps can still be seen from L/V/9/22, where the Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lancashire Light Horse Volunteer Corps refuses to even receive a grant from the government, stating that his corps is proud of its financial self-sufficiency. While this is most likely the exception rather than the rule, it does demonstrate that the Volunteer Corps received most of their funding on a subscription basis, further excluding those from the working class.

These are just a handful of documents which

I have found to be both interesting and informative while helping to catalogue this collection. This would be of interest not only to those researching military history, but also to those studying the social history of Lancashire, as it demonstrates that the armed forces in the 19<sup>th</sup> century generally reflected the social makeup of society as a whole.



Joe Corcoran

## With a little help from our Friends

The Friends of Lancashire Archives are generously supportive of our aims to ensure that records survive and are made available for use.

Thanks to them we have been able to purchase two important Lancashire medieval deeds. We hope to provide more information when they arrive from the auction house.

One of our researchers told us recently about some wonderful maps of the Woodplumpton area in the Warren family papers at Cheshire Archives and Local

Studies. These seven maps show the manor of Woodplumpton in 1805. Seeing their potential, the Friends approached Cheshire Archives and now, at a cost of £120, we have high quality copies available to researchers.

If you know of any other nice maps related to Lancashire that are held elsewhere, please send us details. We may be able to develop our collections further, but even if we can't, it's useful to have the information.



A map of the manor of Woodplumpton, 1805 (DVE 3756/10 (part) reproduced with permission from Cheshire Archives and Local Studies)

David Tilsley  
Archive Collections Manager

**Our Next Saturday Opening is 14 November**

**Please note that we will close at 5pm on Tuesday 29 December**

**Get your skates on!**

**The surprising story of roller skating in Lancashire**

National Sporting Heritage Day is celebrated annually in September, and this year the Community Heritage Team decided

to choose the theme of roller skating. 'Why roller skating?' has been the response of most people, but there is a great deal of surprising information to be found.

From the last quarter of the nineteenth century until just before the start of the First World War, roller skating was a craze involving, it is estimated, about 1 in 10 of the population. Towns could hardly adapt or erect buildings quickly enough to satisfy the crowds who flocked to the venues. Haslingden town council met on 7th April 1909 to give planning permission for the erection of a rink – and it was opened 5 weeks later! What is more, the building is still there. Lancashire Archives has many plans of rinks to be adapted from other buildings, to be built from scratch, or to be enlarged to meet demand.

Several people from Lancashire became national or international champions, and records were created here.

Arnold Binns, of Hebden Bridge, first established a new world endurance record at the age of 47 by skating non-stop for over 40 hours at Burnley in June, 1930.

The following month he topped it by more than 20 hours in Preston, surviving on an unusual diet of tripe and Horlicks! He then skated the entire length of the country, from John o' Groats to Land's End, losing a stone in weight in the process but suffering only a blister on his right foot.

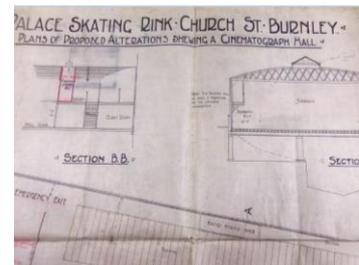
Richard Swarbrick, the grandfather of Glenn, the Archives Conservation Technician, was a champion skater in Preston – this postcard is still in the family's possession from that time.



The Museum of Lancashire has on display a roller skating dress made of cigar papers. It was made for his wife Annie by Charles Thomas Hamer of Burnley in 1910. She was an office cleaner who apparently collected the bands from cigars and cigar boxes, to be sewn on to this unique dress.



As with all crazes, the enthusiasm waned – this application shows the application to turn the Palace skating rink in Burnley into a 'cinematograph hall' in 1911. (CBBU 127.7747)



The Community Heritage team has organised talks and digital learning sessions around the theme – see [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) for details. And they would love to collect your memories of roller skating – email them on [ch.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:ch.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk).

**Marianne Howell**

## Collections

### Atkin family papers (DDX 3116)

Charles Cecil Atkin enlisted at Manchester on 8 February 1915, and his training as a plumber meant that he was posted as a sapper with the Royal Naval Division Divisional Engineers. He received his training

at Walmer in Dean and Blandford before being posted to Gallipoli and then France. The papers deposited include his original diaries describing his experience during this time, as well as embroidered postcards, photographs and the rare survival of a programme for a concert held at the Mudros Camp in 1916. We also have the recollections of his son Arthur, who served during the Second World War, alongside a moving series of letters sent by him to his sister and brother in law during his service.



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

**CR 19-22 HM Coroners' records**  
Inquest files for 1999

**DDBAX Baxi Partnership**  
Business records of the Baxi heating partnership including photos, adverts and other papers 1950s-1990s

**DDX 1764 Harris Trustees**  
Harris Orphanage minute books, reports and visitors book, Harris Library and Museum minute book 1881-2006

**DDX 1856 Fleetwood Library**  
Various records including guiding, council and school records and an 1890s Lancashire cricket scrapbook

**DDX 3003 Elisabeth Roberts**  
Oral history transcripts relating to Slaidburn; CD compilations of themed oral history clips

**FRL Lancaster Quaker records**  
Minutes and financial records

**LCC Lancashire County Council**  
Campaign poster submitted by anti-fracking protestors 2015

**PR 3096 Burnley St Peter**  
Register of baptisms 1943-1971; Register of baptisms at Burnley Hospitals 1963-1981; Registers of marriages 1956-2004; Registers of services 1982-2010

**PR 3451 Fleetwood St David**  
Register of marriages 2006-2014

**WICN Caton Women's Institute**  
'Our Lives So Far' collection of reminiscences 2015

## *Dates for the Diary*

**Wed 11 Nov 12.30 to 13.30**

1715 – Jacobites in the Archives, Kathryn Newman

**Mon 16 Nov to 18 Dec (during normal opening hours)**

Time & Tide exhibition/installation comes to Lancashire Archives

**Sat 28 Nov 13.30 to 15.30**

Join us and the Friends of Lancashire Archives (FLA) to celebrate the Time & Tide project, meet poet Sarah Hymas and hear readings of the fabulous work produced.

November is also *Explore Your Archive* month. To find out more about this national archive awareness campaign visit:

<http://exploreyourarchive.org/>

**Don't forget our next User Group meeting on Tue 3 Nov at 2pm. Come along to find out more about the Lancashire Sound Archive, have your say about the service and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake.**

**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)*