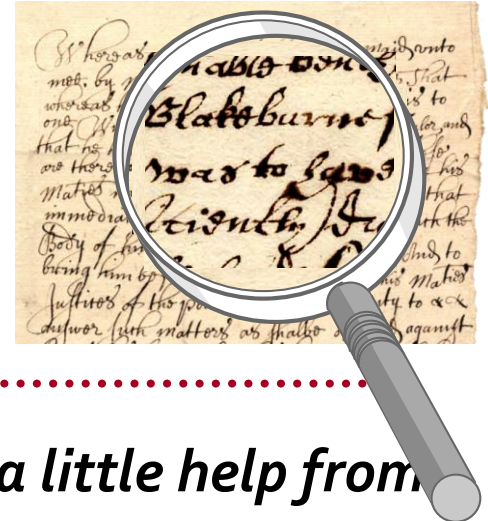


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Happy New Year

Amongst other anniversaries 2016 will see the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, the bicentenary of the opening of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, and the 30th anniversary of the Friends of Lancashire Archives. This issue celebrates some of the valuable work of our Friends' association and I know that, in these uncertain times for local government, FLA support for the archive service is becoming increasingly important. This year they will be launching a campaign to raise money to finish cataloguing the Horrockses archive collection and will be hoping to attract new members. If you would like to find out more about our Friends please do have a look at their website (www.flarchives.co.uk) or follow them on Twitter (@flarchives). Information is also available in the record office tea room.

Don't forget our next user forum on Thursday 7 January where I'd welcome your views on shaping the archive service for the future. The forum starts at 2pm and refreshments will be provided.

Jacque Crosby, Archive Service Manager

With a little help from our Friends...

John Horrocks: A Textile Pioneer

We were recently awarded a grant of £1250 by the Textile Society and this allowed us to make huge improvements to our catalogue of the substantial business archive from the firm of Horrockses.

John Horrocks established the business in Preston in 1791. Within ten years he owned seven large mills. In its early decades, whilst being one of the pioneers of the factory system in Lancashire, the firm was also "putting out" thread to be woven by huge numbers of home workers. By 1816 the company, which later became Horrockses, Miller and Co, employed 7000 handloom weavers. It continued to grow and in 1887 Horrockses, Crewdson and Company resulted from a merger with two other Preston textile companies. By 1891 they were running thousands of looms and hundreds of thousands of spindles in Lancashire at a time when the county dominated the international cotton textile industry.

The firm's archive – according to the newly-improved catalogue of the pre-1887 records that the funding grant enabled - dates from 1712 and includes financial records, plans, staff records, title deeds, probate records, sales figures and publicity material. It also contains important early correspondence relating to foreign trade. This deals not only with the export of cotton cloth to foreign markets in Portugal, China, India and Mexico, but also the purchase of goods to be imported for resale, including opium, spices, tea and silk.

Having made such a great start, we would love to be able to finish the job by moving on to the records showing the company's continued growth up to the period just after World War Two – including the launch of the *Horrockses Fashions* brand – and its eventual decline. To this end, Lancashire Archives needs to raise £7,500 over the next few months to pay for an archivist to catalogue the post-1887 archive. We will be exploring various options in terms of fundraising, and will be pleased to hear if anybody has any ideas that will support our efforts to make this nationally important collection better known.



Horrockses' Yard Works, Preston, 1940s (DDHS/77)

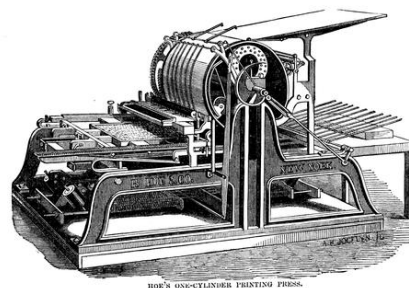
Lancashire Day 2015

Thank you to our Friends and all those who either volunteered to help or baked cakes for Café Archive last November 27 – in particular Bob who supplied us with his

delicious sausage rolls again! Thanks to you all we raised £185 towards the fund to catalogue the Horrockses collection.

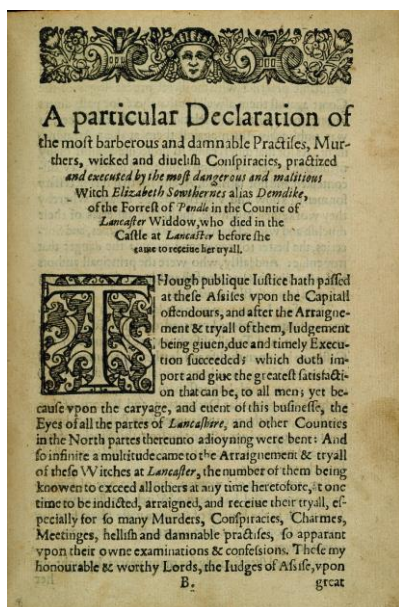
Abinding hope

Many libraries with special collections of printed books make a publication date of before 1850 their main criterion for selection. That's mostly because the mid-19th century is seen as a watershed moment in book production. The invention of the steam-powered rotary printing press meant books could be mass produced as never before.



With a generous grant of £1500 from the Friends of Lancashire Archives we have been able to pull together the many rare and valuable books we have in our library as our own Special Collection. Whilst we are (of course) mainly concerned with archives, we always take the opportunity in talks, group visits, at dinner parties and in casual conversation of reminding people that our printed collection is second to none. It includes periodicals and maps as well as hundreds of books.

So we were pleased to have the services of Stephen Knowles recently to identify and collate all our pre-1850 book stock. Stephen had years of library experience behind him and proved to be a great asset to the Collections Team. With our Special Collections together for the first time, we can better assess what we have and how they relate to our archive collections, as well as evaluate what they need by way of care and repair.



Thomas Potts' *The Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster* (1613) is one of the many treasures in our printed collection

David Tilsley, Archive Collections Manager

Time and Tide: Writing to connect with WWI

Thanks are also due to the Friends of Lancashire Archives for their support of the Time and Tide writing project for which we received funding from Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts scheme.

The project used coroners' inquest papers from the Morecambe area relating in some way to WW1 (DDHD/CR) to stimulate creative responses in poetry and prose.

It developed into an inspirational and often moving project. We celebrated the work produced with an afternoon of readings and cake in November. Despite the foul weather it was a packed house – for the readings and not just the cake!

A FREE book of the work created is available in our public searchroom.

Vicci McCann, Senior Archivist (Access)

Hulton cataloguing project update

The biggest challenge I faced at the outset of this cataloguing project was the large series of deeds, around 250 of which are written in medieval Latin. While these had largely already been calendared in detail it was felt that this would be an excellent opportunity for me to gain some experience working with Latin documents, as I would be able to check the existing catalogue entries rather than beginning from scratch.



While some aspects, including names of the main parties and place names were reasonably easy to determine I found that more complex property descriptions, family relationships in deeds such as entails which may describe several generations, and even dates could be more complex. A number of books have helped to make things simpler, including Eileen Gooder's 'Latin for Local History' as a basic dictionary, 'The Record Interpreter' for first names and Cheney's 'Handbook of Dates' for calculating the feast days used to date the earliest deeds.

The most surprising aspect was how quickly I did actually begin to gain confidence reading these documents, and while I could hardly describe myself as fluent I now feel much less intimidated at the prospect of working with Latin documents.

Perseverance and patience, as well as fantastic help from colleagues where needed, have definitely been key to the whole process.

Keri Nicholson, Archivist (Collections)



Collections

In November we processed 18 deposits of documents, including marriage registers, school magazines, and glass negatives and slides. Two particular highlights were:

The Frank Kilroy Collection - The Wreck of the Mexico Lifeboat Disaster DDX 3123

The Mexico lifeboat disaster of 9 December 1886 resulted in the loss of 27 lives. It was one of many incidents that inspired men like Charles Macara to turn public sympathy into financial support for a



lifeboat service. He started collections later known as Lifeboat Saturday, an event still run by the modern day Royal National Lifeboat Institution. These records were donated by the widow of Frank Kilroy who

produced a book on the disaster. They include photographs of the boats and crew, correspondence and records relating to charitable collections and commemoration.

Preston Schools Football Association DDX 3127

Richard (Dick) Clegg was a Preston school teacher and fixtures secretary of the Lancashire Schools Football Association. The records in this collection were collated from Richard's papers and include minutes, photographs of teams, matches and nostalgia events, press cuttings and programmes from 1907 to 2011.



The cost of living

From 1 January 2016 the cost of providing a certified copy of an entry in a baptism register will be £27 (plus postage where applicable). The Church of England revises its fees and charges each year. When Lancashire Archives issues copies of baptism or marriage certificates our charges should align with this. The cost of a certified copy of an entry in a marriage register will remain at £10.

Our next Saturday opening is 9 January 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