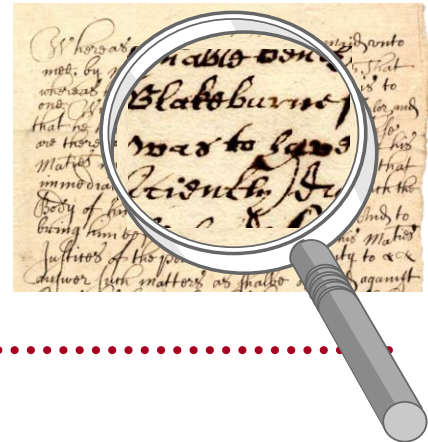


News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



ACCREDITED
ARCHIVE SERVICE

Archive Service update

We've been open again for 6 weeks now and I am so happy to see people back in the searchroom. We may see more restrictions lifted later this month, but any changes to our procedures at Lancashire Archives will be gradual, directed not by the prime minister but by our local director of public health and Lancashire County Council's own Safe Working team.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We asked questions before Christmas about how safe you felt visiting the record office, and I am intending to reinstate our user group – online – to get a snapshot of your views six months on, so that we can start to plan the future service offer.

Please do join me on Zoom on Monday 28 June at 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88274271606?pwd=TVJyWlI6ZEMzcWZaMWxPNzdiMXpIdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 7427 1606
Passcode: 904013

Sadly, you will have to provide your own tea and cake!

Do also remember our **Saturday opening on 12 June**. Advance ordering and booking as usual, but Saturday sessions are additional to any visits during the week.

The first week in June is National Volunteer week and I'd like to say a BIG thank you to all our volunteers for their patience over the last 12 months and for accepting that things have to be rather different now. I'm also very sad to record the deaths of some during the last year: Mick Miller, Janet Bottomley and, just last month, Eileen Green and Sue Bromley. They are very much missed.

Jacque Crosby

Archive Service Manager

Our next online talk...

From Calcutta to Canton – records of international trade in the Horrockses archive



Despite only being founded in 1791, Horrockses cotton manufacturers were involved in international trading from early in the 19th century, with agents based in countries as diverse as India, China, Portugal, and Mexico. Our archive collection includes bundles of correspondence documenting the goods which were bought and sold in each region, with shipping notes, stock records, price lists and invoices sitting alongside detailed trade reports.

As well as shipping fabrics for sale in India, Horrockses also took part in the triangular trade in the region, purchasing opium in India which would be sold in China, in exchange for spices, silk and tea, all goods which would be brought back for sale to an eager British market. Letters in the Horrockses archive give an idea of just how perilous this trade could be, with ships not only having to contend with the monsoon season, but agents also seemingly caught in the middle of the political upheavals which were taking place in each region.

The letters sent by the agents, although ostensibly offering reports on the trade in each port, offer a fascinating glimpse into the various disturbances which could have an impact on trade. Agents in Mexico in the 1840s had to contend with the impact of the

Mexican-American War, with blockades at sea and the main trading port of Mazatlan being occupied by American forces. Correspondence from agents in China dates from the period between the two Opium Wars, while agents in India document the impact on trade of the Indian rebellion against the British East India Company.

On Friday 25 June I'll be giving a talk about these records, sharing how they can be used to learn more about international trade in the mid-19th century as well as the political situation in Asia at the time. The talk will take place on Zoom at 12.30. To book your place email

archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

Keri Nicholson
Archivist

Student Placement:

Ormskirk Guardians of the Poor minute books



Ormskirk Workhouse babies' ward, c1900, from <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

The New Poor Law came into being in 1834 to replace the Elizabethan Poor Law, which had barely been altered in the two centuries of its existence. The new system was created in rural Nottinghamshire and was intended to be more cost-effective by creating the 'workhouse test', that the harsh conditions would act as a deterrent to all but

those who lacked the moral determination to survive outside it. Families were separated and segregated so that parents could no longer influence their children. The adults were given the almost pointless tasks of stone-breaking and oakum picking while the children attended school.

The workhouses were primarily run from Somerset House in London. Areas of the country were split into districts called 'unions' and each union had a workhouse directed by a Board of Guardians who implemented rules and regulations from the central administration. The Guardians were usually prominent individuals in the area (in some rare cases including women). They organised the running of the Union workhouse by appointing staff, such as the master and matron, to be in charge of the day-to-day management, and committees to solve problems arising in the workhouse.

The Guardians kept a record of activity in *Guardians' minute books*, of which Lancashire Archives have several (PU). As can be imagined, these provide a great insight into the running of the New Poor Law and the lives of the poor - from clothing to diet. In some cases, they mention individuals including inmates and can provide information for people seeking their ancestors. However, this would usually involve painstakingly going through every page which, with almost a century's worth of information, is a big task. The Ormskirk Union is an exception. Inside the Guardians' minute books a carefully handwritten index has been created. Lancashire Archives has been working to improve the accessibility of this gold-mine for research, by creating a digitised version, in the form of a searchable spreadsheet of names. This provides the exciting opportunity for researchers to access information that before would have been so very time-consuming and difficult to find.

Kim Newell, Lancaster University

Thanks to Kim's work, the process to record the indexes in a spreadsheet is well under way and will be a valuable contribution to the finding aids at Lancashire Archives.

So far, the years 1837-1878 (PUS 1/1 to PUS 1/9) have been added to the spreadsheet.

Vicci McCann

Archivist

Inside the Box



Our current box-listing project, funded by the Friends of Lancashire Archives, is now well underway.

A project blog has recently been launched. *Inside the box* will provide updates on the progress of the project, more detailed descriptions of the collections which have been listed, and shine a spotlight on interesting records found along the way.

The blog can be found on the Friends of Lancashire Archives website at www.flarchives.co.uk/inside-the-box.

Over the last month I have listed the following collections:

DDX 2711: Preston Harriers and Athletics Club: additional records, 1960-2011

DL: Fleetwood & Preston Dock Labour Boards, 1941-1988

MBU: Burnley Methodist Circuit records: additional records, 1752-1988

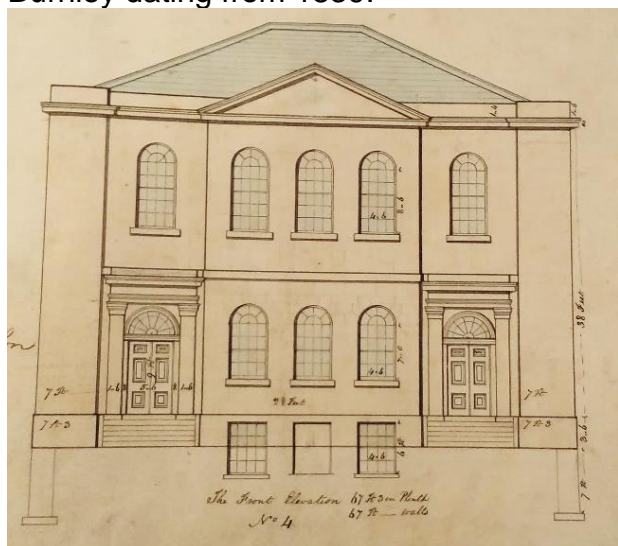
HRPC: Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee, 1948-1974

MBF: Fleetwood Municipal Borough Council: additional records, 1885-1974

The descriptions are now available on LANCAT.

The Burnley Methodist circuit collection includes many interesting items including minutes, accounts, programmes for various events, photographs, school logbooks, pew rents, Sunday School records and records of the building of several chapels.

Below is an image from a set of building plans for a chapel on Hargreaves Street, Burnley dating from 1839.



If you would like to make a donation to support this important work or join the Friends, go to <https://www.flarchives.co.uk/>

Roz Williamson

Project Archivist

Message in a bottle

Some of you might have caught my appearance on *North West Tonight* in a piece about a "time capsule" found in the foundation stone of a Congregational chapel in Barrow, near Whalley. The chapel, built in 1876, closed in 2015. It was demolished last autumn when the glass jar - containing two local newspapers, copies of the foundation stone-laying ceremony leaflet and an assortment of coins – was discovered.



It was a great opportunity to promote Lancashire Archives (particularly as the item was repeated on *BBC Breakfast* the following day). Mark O'Neill, our archive conservator, has enjoyed drying and flattening the paper items (which are in surprisingly good condition) and taking some advice from our museum colleagues about how best to treat the coins. I am now helping to develop a local history unit of work for the children at the school, featuring the jar and its contents. These will ultimately be displayed in the new school extension which the chapel has made way for.

If you missed the broadcast and want to watch, you can find it online [here](#).

David Tilsley

Archivist

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

Write to: The Editor, News from the Archives, Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE. Telephone: 01772 533039. Email: archives@lancashire.gov.uk