

News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives




Archive Service
ACCREDITED
ARCHIVE SERVICE **update**

didn't reach the age of the written record but I know that, once they get to the last 900 years, we will have plenty to offer. Another exciting project to be involved with, and more opportunities to inspire arts and creative writing.

Whittingham Lives, the two-year project, which has been exploring the heritage, history, culture and legacy of Whittingham Asylum, from 1873- 2016 has now come to an end and I have been preparing reports and reflecting on the benefits to Lancashire Archives. The project attracted significant local interest and gave many people an opportunity to engage with or to explore archives (in particular this amazing collection) for the first time. As the report winged its way to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council I attended a day at the Harris learning about another, even bigger, arts and heritage project which is likely to involve our service in some way over the next 4 years. Viking Super Highway will explore the 121 kilometres of the River Ribble over 7000 years of its history. Inspired by the concept of the Ribble as part of a Viking highway between Dublin and York, the event featured stunning art and creative responses to the river's history. It



Whittingham Lives: Portraits of Parity by Sue Flowers & George Coupe 2018

If you missed the *Whittingham Lives* exhibition in the Harris last autumn or you would like to see more of it, there are two more exhibitions to see this month:

At Clitheroe Castle until 8 April *Hidden Histories Alternative Futures* uses panels from the Harris exhibition and material from museum collections and archive images to examine changing attitudes towards mental distress, past, present and future.

ASYLUM - Narratives of Mental Health: Past, Present and Future is on display in the PR1 Gallery in the Victoria Building at the University of Central Lancashire

4th – 14th February 2019

(PR1 Gallery Opening Times: 9am-6pm
Monday – Friday- closed weekends)

Jacque Crosby

Archive Service Manager

Can you shed any light on old windows?

Many of you will recall that we hold a large collection of designs and records relating to the stained glass manufacturers Abbots and Company of Lancaster. Two years ago we were fortunate to receive funding from the Business Archives Council which allowed us to catalogue and conserve these splendid archives. Abbots were rightly famous for the quality of their designs, both secular and ecclesiastical, and many examples of their work remain visible in churches and homes across the country.

But did you know that Lancashire was home to another stained glass designer by the name of John George Whittaker? A small collection of his designs was deposited with us and has now been catalogued but we

have very little information about the man himself. We know that he was born in Haslingden in 1883 and passenger lists show that he travelled to America in 1915. By 1930 he had returned and is listed in a Blackburn trade directory as a stained glass artist. What we would love to know is whether any of his designs are still in any churches in the area. We know he was associated with the White Church at Fairhaven but there must be more. We have reached out to the splendid Stained Glass Museum at Ely Cathedral for their expertise but if any readers recognise his name do let us know.



DDX 3242

Kathryn Newman

Archivist

Our next Saturday opening is 9 Feb and our next Tuesday evening opening is 12 Feb until 7pm.

Cataloguing the Dalton of Thurnham Collection



Last month we read about the adventures of Mary Emma Dalton's family - the Cook(e)s – settling in and moving around America until the South's defeat in the American Civil War prompted them to set out for Brazil....

The family ventured up-river from Rio de Janeiro in native boats and found an area of land on the banks of the river where they decided to settle on the edge of the rainforest. They planted food and made shelters like the native peoples' homes. However, supplies started to run out and Thomas left his wife and children to get more provisions. He returned after three weeks just as his family were running out of food and had given up all hope of seeing him again.

They soon decided that they had made a mistake and packed up to leave for the port of Santos. This time they decided to walk, and stopped for a while at another American settler's home. Thomas went off alone to arrange for their possessions to be

transported – they did not see him again for a very long time! Mary's mother decided to walk with her children to Santos without him, relying on the kindness and generosity of local native people to give them shelter and food. They eventually arrived in Santos, where there was no sign of Thomas. With money growing short Mary and her sister Susan found work teaching English in wealthy homes to support the family. When their father finally arrived he has his own extraordinary tale to tell [which is too long to include here]

It is around this time that William Henry Dalton arrived on the scene, swept the young Mary of her feet and married her. After a brief sojourn in the USA and England they ended up in Buenos Aires until William Henry unexpectedly inherited the Dalton estates at Thurnham.

This biography is fascinating not just from the point of view of family history, but as a record of the pioneering age of the American West. It sits within the backdrop of the history of the emerging state of Texas, the Mexican and so-called Indian wars and the American Civil War. It moves on to being a witness to the Texan diaspora in South America and ends in the North West of England.

There are also fascinating little side-stories such as the tale of the tragic affair of Mary's aunt with a violinist; the once-wealthy French teacher in Brazil who had eloped with her father's gardener; and the tale of the anti-slavery local minister. This last story leads on to another, if lamentable, theme - slavery.

From the moment Mary's grandfather owned a plantation, we know that the family owned slaves. In fact their African-American slaves were very much a part of the story, from Sylvia the nurse to Mary's childhood slave and companion, Lucy. Interestingly, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Mary's mother

believed that slaves should be freed, while acknowledging that this was a minority view. Sadly the attitudes of that age and at the time when the story was written, probably in the 1930s, meant that the language used is today seen as deeply offensive. When slaves are described and quoted it seems stereotypically racist and almost caricature. The Native American Cherokee people did not fare much better, but conversely the attitude is less derogatory towards the native people of Brazil. It is a terrible history and a great shame that the authors of the story perpetuate a racist attitude, however it was written by a member of the dominant ruling social group who would have seen nothing wrong in that attitude, and while it is hard to read sometimes, behind the dominant narrative is a glimpse into the lives of these oppressed African-American people, and native Cherokee people, at an important juncture in their history.

Victoria McCann

Archivist

Pageantitis

The Lancashire Local History Federation Day School on 16 February looks at spectacular history – pageants and processions in the North West including Lancashire Cotton Queens, Rushbearing, the Preston Guild and Mike Winstanley's overview of pageants in the context of local history under the title - 'Pageantitis'. (I thought that he must have made that up but discover that the word was coined over a hundred years ago to describe the enthusiastic increase in pageants in Edwardian England.)

The day at Preston Masonic Hall costs £12 (£18 if you would like lunch).

Booking forms are available at Lancashire Archives or email Zoe.lawson@talktalk.net.

Feeling Crafty ?

Art inspired by archives workshops

Saturday 9 February

Helen Draper, community art teacher

Make a sketchbook 10.30am-12.30pm

Work with archives and objects from Lancashire Archives to develop a sketchbook to take home. A range of materials, including original maps of Lancashire, will be provided to develop or enhance your drawing skills.

A fun workshop to further develop or begin a passion for drawing and sketch-booking.

Suitable for all abilities

Stitching Lancashire 1.30pm-3.30pm

Work with some fascinating original maps from the archives to explore ways to alter, decorate and embellish them to make little works of art.

Basic sewing equipment will be produced to enable you to decorate your own section of a Lancashire map. Perfect for beginners who want to try sewing with a difference.

Cost £10 each or £17 for both sessions

*Payment in advance please. Make cheques payable to **Friends of Lancashire Archives**. To pay by BACS please see the Friends' website: www.flarchives.co.uk*

Family History Friday

On 8 Feb, as well as the usual drop-in advice session 9.30-12 noon, and the Getting to Know session at 3pm, our talk is *By his tattoos you shall know him - tracking down an elusive great-uncle*, given by Alan Crosby. Intrigued? We are. Join us if you can to find out more...

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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