

News from the Archives

Newsletter of Lancashire Archives



Archive Service
update

As I write this I wonder where the first half of 2019 has gone! At the beginning of June we celebrate the work of our volunteers and thank them for the huge amount of time they give to Lancashire Archives each year.

Family History Friday on 14 June looks at records which can help us to explore our ancestors' schooldays. On the same day Keri will be at Ansdell Library talking about what we have relating to that part of the Fylde. There's still time to book for the walk round Lancaster on 12 June, following in the footsteps of the Dalton family and for creative people there are still spaces on the workshop on 13 July (email: record.office@lancashire.gov.uk or phone 01772 533039 for details).

Thanks to the Friends of Lancashire Archives our visitors and volunteers now have a fridge in which to keep their sandwiches and drinks chilled. It is situated in the tearoom at the top of the stairs.

People have been asking about the car-parking charges which are to be introduced this summer. It is now likely that they will start in August so further details will be in the next newsletter.

Jacque Crosby
Archives Manager



**Our ancestors' Lancashire schooldays - 14 Jun
12.30-1.30-pm**

*Thank you for your
time...*



The first week in June is national volunteer week and I want to thank all our volunteers who have so generously given their time to support Lancashire Archives over the last 12 months – and, in many cases, for much longer. In the last year 56 volunteers gave 4954 hours of their time – equivalent to three full time members of staff, and worth around £60,000. *Ancestors at Sea* won a national award – the Archives and Records Association volunteer award - for a project which was considered 'outstanding for the impact it had on the volunteers, the service and the profession.'

In addition to all these people there are five Friends of Lancashire Archives volunteers indexing Blackburn workhouse registers; the volunteers who help with Café Archive; and six people working for the Lancashire Place Name Survey 'excerpting' early forms of Lancashire place names from our archive catalogues and other printed sources to assist in the production of a new edition of the origins of Lancashire Place Names for the English Place-Name Society

I am also particularly grateful to volunteers from the Preston branch of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society who provide expert advice at the drop-in surgeries on Family History Friday each

month. Their patient research and years of experience really has made a difference to the service offered to new family history researchers here.

Thank you all. Lancashire Archives wouldn't be what it is without you!

Jacquie Crosby

**This month our Saturday
opening is
8 Jun and we are open until
7pm on Tues 11**

A policing pioneer



Lilian Crapper (DDX 3187)

In April's edition we met we met Police Superintendent Francis Crapper, fighting the floods in Fleetwood. He was not the only Officer in the family. After the death of his

first wife, Sup. Crapper met and married one of the first female Detective Inspectors in the country whose career, although short, was as glittering in its own way as her husband's. Lilian Naylor had been brought up in India and South Africa, and after 'war work' for the Army, joined the Lancashire Constabulary in 1917. Originally confined to clerical and administration work, under Lancashire's Chief Constable Sir Philip Lane, police women moved into other fields.

Sir Philip Lane was asked to report on the value of women police officers and found them "most useful, trustworthy and discreet" Unusually perhaps for the period, he also stated that "I think Police women should now hold the same status as men and be covered by Act of Parliament" as well as the radical opinion that "I do not see why women should not receive the same pay as the men, especially the Detective Staff".

Lilian seems to have been an ideal candidate to prove the worth of women in the service. She worked with confidential enquiries, murder investigations, civic events such as Aintree Races and Preston Guild, and taking a central role in policing Royal visits to the area. Rumour had it that her confidential work involved undercover exploits among the Fenian rebels in London. In 1921 she was even given a kitten by the then Prince of Wales later Edward VIII during his visit to Lancashire. (We don't know if the awarding of a kitten was a regular 'honour' bestowed by the bachelor prince...). The marriage of two police officers caused nationwide interest, and a collection of press cuttings survives in her wedding album. Lilian retired from the police force on her marriage in 1925, but her drive for public service continued and she became chairman of Fulwood Urban District Council. She died in 1959.

Kathryn Newman

Archivist



Wedding news (DDX 3187)

Rogue's gallery

Last month we came across a wonderful series of convict photograph albums in an uncatalogued part of the Lancashire Constabulary archive. The three volumes, compiled by Lancaster Borough Police 1899-1920, to record details of known criminals, introduce us to someone new with every turn of the page. Each photograph is accompanied by lots of personal information

- name, age, place of birth etc - and details of any distinguishing features, including tattoos, scars, limps and moles. As well as the name of the offence and what they got for it, we are also sometimes told more about the circumstances of the crime.

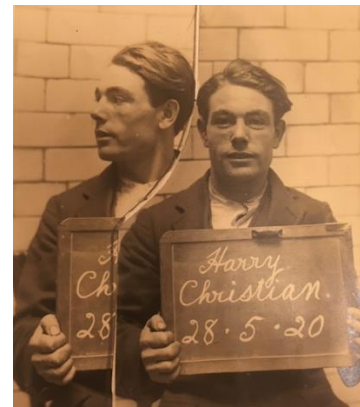


Margaret Cragg for example was found guilty of abandoning her child on the workhouse steps. She had gone to Lancaster as a munitions worker (this was 1917), had been "brought up on charity" and was pregnant with another child at the time of the offence. She was bound over for 12 months.

Henry Christian (scar on forehead, bullet wounds in both insteps, tattoo on left forearm – heart pierced with dagger) had gone to Lancaster as a soldier and become "infatuated with a married woman". He "strongly resented her being in the company of other men" and, whilst he was berating her for this, PC 9634 intervened. It didn't end well: the policeman was assaulted for his trouble and Christian, convicted for the same, was fined £5 for his.

As well as Christian's "mugshot", his details contain additional uniquely personal details: his finger, thumb and hand prints. These appear in the last album from June 1919 and raised in my mind the fundamental question of how the police (or indeed anybody) knew for certain who was who. And also, how were known criminals and

their wrongdoings tracked across a country which could be crossed by train a number of times in a day?



No doubt local recordkeeping - like these albums – and advances in fingerprint technologies helped, but it must have been a huge challenge. Interestingly, the inclusion of previous convictions in the albums from all over the United Kingdom suggests that some kind of central registry must have existed, with a supporting bureaucracy powered largely by pen, paper and the Royal Mail.

So, when Frances Bennett was convicted of stealing a violin case in April 1901 in Lancaster, the police were able to list full details alongside her photograph of her 19 previous convictions in places as far afield as Tamworth, Aldershot and Dublin.

I am pleased to say that a full name index to the albums can be searched online in Lancat thanks to another great volunteer effort!

David Tilsley

Archivist

**ANY
COMMENTS?**

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