

100-year-old independent Lancashire firms

If you would like to contact us about any 100+ year old independently owned Lancashire companies that could be added to this list, please email Insight@lancashire.gov.uk

Introduction

"In the future as in the past we shall do our best to continue, in spite of the difficult period we are all passing through, to give an unrivalled service."

Part of a 1951 advert for one of the long-established independent Lancashire firms that has traded through two world wars, the 1930s depression, the post war austerity years and today continues to exist as one of the 100+ year old independent Lancashire businesses listed in this article. The type of 'Vision' statement that represented an attitude that was appropriate for the time; an honest approach that was good enough to ensure many years of profitable trading, and one that may have seemed out-dated during the prosperous years that followed but was later very fitting as a #hashtag for the Covid-19 epidemic.

The overall aim of this article is to highlight as many as possible of the large number of independent and predominantly family-owned Lancashire companies that have been trading for over 100 years.

The wide range old independent Lancashire firms

Lancashire residents are able to purchase a wide variety of products and services from independent local firms that are over 100 years old. In the county it is possible to save or take out a mortgage, sell a house and employ a removals firm, shop in large modern foodstore, book a holiday and be taken to the airport, have a glass of beer, purchase a range of locally-made food products, buy furniture, hardware, jewellery etc., stay in a hotel, or have a day out at a major Theme Park, and on each occasion use a Lancashire business that is over 100 years old.

Lancashire has a solicitors firm that claims to be the oldest family firm of solicitors in which the original founding family has maintained its involvement throughout the company's history.

Britain's last Temperance Bar is still trading in the county, whilst in contrast Lancashire has a wine merchants business that is considered by many experts across the country to be an absolute gem. You can even have a website designed by a Lancashire company that is well over 100 years old.

Mention must be made of a Lancashire soap manufacturer that was founded in Belarus in the 19th Century. The company managed to survive two forced moves as a result of the Russian Revolution and the need to leave Berlin in 1937 before finally settling in Chorley in 1938.

Even in today's fast moving commercial environment, there is plenty of room for well-managed local companies that know how to satisfy their customers and which have amassed a large amount of what accountants officially term as 'goodwill'.

Many of these companies do not operate in safe business segments where barriers to market entry for new firms are high and competition is limited, but have managed to carve their own particular niches in some of the most competitive business sectors around.

Together these Lancashire firms provide employment for thousands of people in Lancashire, and together have products and reputations that are well-known beyond the county. This article celebrates their long-standing success and continued independence.

Criteria for Inclusion

The following represents a list of criteria that ideally need to be satisfied in full for inclusion in this article.

1. the company's head office is in the 14-authority Lancashire area;
2. the company is independent and not owned by a larger commercial organisation;
3. the company offers a product or service to the public or other businesses;
4. the company has an uninterrupted trading history in excess of 100 years that does not include any period in public ownership (e.g., former local authority bus companies) or any other form of non-fully commercial status;
5. the company maintains an active website that hopefully includes historical details, and which confirms its continued existence as an independent entity.

Criterion number two presents the most difficulty and some of the companies may be run by individuals who have business interests in other firms, but the essence is that they are not run by larger trading companies. For this reason [SurrIDGE Sport](#) in Burnley, which can trace its history back to 1867 but is now one of three trading brands of the SDL Group formed in 1977, is not included. Applying this particular criterion does highlight a number of difficult grey areas. Other firms have crept in to the main list when perhaps they should not have been included. A company website may imply a firm is independent, but at a later date the website of their parent company may come to light and a different picture is presented.

Firms that have been through financial difficulties, but have continued to trade pose a particular problem. Should the fact that [Roach Bridge Tissues](#) being forced to enter administration in 2000 detract from the fact that it has a trading history that began in 1875, and is still run by a family firm? It is a fine line on occasion between including or excluding a company from the main list, and whilst this firm does not have a main entry, some in similar circumstances have been included.

The final criterion has not been applied in all cases, but websites easily allow facts to be verified and there is a very strong preference for including companies with their own sites. There is not enough time to undertake in-depth academic research to publish this list of firms therefore there has to be a large amount of reliance on easily accessible published data from the businesses themselves.

There are a number of other Lancashire firms that probably could be included in this list, but without websites, the limited amount of information available on their age and ownership status is time-consuming to verify therefore they have at present been withheld from the list. Even with this relatively cautious approach to including companies, there is still a chance that errors have arisen and these will be corrected as they come to light.

There are business areas such as semi and professional football clubs, other sport-related clubs and societies, trade associations etc., which have been in existence for over a century. It is difficult to know exactly where to draw the boundary for what to include and exclude. In general terms the emphasis has been given to include businesses that operate in what would be considered as a normal commercial environment.

Chronological List of Companies**Chronological Listing of Old Lancashire Firms Still Independently Trading**

Name	Business activity	Established	Website
18th century			
Blackhurst, Swainson, Goodier	Solicitors	1720	www.bsglaw.co.uk
Woodcocks Haworth and Nuttall	Solicitors	1791	www.whnsolicitors.co.uk
Southernss Solicitors	Solicitors	1792	southernssolicitors.co.uk
19th century (1800-1849)			
Naphthens Solicitors	Solicitors	1800	www.naphthens.co.uk
Mears H (Furnishers) Ltd	Flooring specialists	1802	www.mearscarpets.co.uk
Daniel Thwaites PLC	Brewery	1807	thwaites.co.uk
Oglethorpe Sturton & Gillibrand	Solicitors	1810	www.osq.co.uk
Dickinson Parker Hill	Solicitors	c. 1810	www.dphlaw.co.uk
S Carr & Son	Jewellers	1820	www.carrsjewellers.co.uk
Askam Construction Ltd	Civil engineering	1831	www.askam.co.uk
ET Birtwistle & Sons Ltd	Funeral directors	1832	none
Brierley, Collier & Hartley (BCH)	Food science	1835	bchltd.com
J Atkinson & Co. Ltd	Tea and coffee	1837	thecoffeehopper.com
EH Booth & Co. Ltd	Foodstores	1846	www.booths.co.uk
19th century (1850-1874)			
J Robinson & Sons (Plasterers) Ltd	Plasterers	c. 1850	none
Tomlinsons Chemists	Pharmacy	1850	tomlinsonschemist.co.uk
Reed Family Linens	Fine linens	1852	www.reedfamilylinen.com
ESSE Engineering. Ltd	Cookers and stoves	1854	www.esse.com
AMA DataSet	Typesetting and database design	c. 1855	www.ama.uk.com
Dugdale Nutrition	Animal feed	c. 1855	www.dugdalenutrition.com
Altham & Sons (Lancaster) Ltd	Chandling service	1856	jcaltham.co.uk
Althams Catering Butchers	Wholesale caterers	1856	althamsbutchers.co.uk
R Slinger & Son Ltd	Architectural ironmongers	1858	www.slingers1858.co.uk
T Snape Printers	Commercial printer	1858	www.tsnapeprinters.co.uk
Chorley Building Society	Building society	1859	www.chorleybs.co.uk
T. Gillibrand (Fix Auto Blackburn)	Vehicle repairs	1859	www.gillibrand.co.uk
Frank Littler & Sons Ltd	Butcher	1860	www.franklittler.co.uk
Marsden Building Society	Building society	1860	www.themarsden.co.uk
W Robinson & Son (Seeds & Plants) Ltd	Plant nursery	1860	www.mammothionion.co.uk
Waterloo Timber Co. Ltd	Timber supplier	1860	none
Rothband (formerly WS Rothband & Co. Ltd)	Medical sales	1860	rothband.com
Peter Reed International Limited	Luxury Linens	1861	www.peterreed.com/
Thomas Banks & Co. Ltd	Heating fuels	1862	www.thomasbanks.qbr.cc
James Hall & Co. (Southport) Ltd	Spar distributors	1863	https://www.jameshall.co.uk/
J Fairburn Ltd	Precision engineering	1864	www.pulverisers.com
Lofthouse of Fleetwood Ltd	Lozenges	1865	www.fishermansfriend.com
Moorhouses	Brewery	1865	www.moorhouses.co.uk
Briggs Shoes	Shoe shop	1865	www.briggsshoes.co.uk
Bolton Hall Estate	Estate Management/ Spring Water	1866	None
Halewood & Sons	Booksellers	1867	None
Attwater Group	Insulation materials	1868	www.attwater.co.uk
S&A Blackwell Ltd	Metals and chemicals	1869	www.sandablackwell.com
HM Sowerbutts & Co.	Furniture store	1870	www.sowerbuttsfurniture.co.uk
Ainsworth Jewellers	Jewellers	1870	www.ainsworthjewellers.com

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Marsden Rawsthorn	Solicitors	1870	www.marsdenrawsthorn.com
Hindle & Jepson	Chartered Accountants	1870	hindleandjepsonfs.co.uk
D Byrne & Co.	Wine merchants	1871	dbyrnewine.com
John Spencer (Textiles) Ltd	Textile manufacturers	1871	www.johnspencer.com
The Travellers Choice	Coach travel	1872	www.travellerschoice.co.uk
Althams Travel	Travel agency	1874	www.althams.co.uk
Charles Parker Bennett & Co.	Chartered surveyors	1874	www.charlesparkerbennett.co.uk
19th century (1875-1899)			
James Proctor Ltd	Boiler manufacturers	1875	www.jamesproctor.com
Mere Brow Smithy	Ornamental metalwork	1875	www.merebrowsmithy.com
Pembertons Dairies	Dairy farm	c. 1875	www.pembertonsfarmshop.co.uk
Waters & Atkinson	Chartered accountants	c. 1875	www.watersandatkinson.co.uk
Banks Lyon Jewellers	Jewellers	1876	www.bankslyon.co.uk
Talbot Funeral Services	Funeral directors	1876	none
Ashton's of Fleetwood	Wedding stationery	1877	none
Garratts Insurance Brokers	Insurance brokers	1877	www.garrattsinsurance.co.uk
Henry Alty Ltd	Building and horticulture	1877	www.altys.co.uk
Leonard Dews	Jewellers	1877	www.leonarddews.co.uk
Bernard Watson	Painting and decorating	1878	www.bernardwatson.co.uk
T&W Garner	Ironmongers	1878	www.twgarner-ironmongers.co.uk
Wilcocks & Sons	Hardware store	1878	www.wilcockandsons.co.uk
Armistead Barnett	Auctioneers and Property Agents	1880	www.abarnett.co.uk
Henry Halstead	Parts procurement	1880	www.kanbanexperts.co.uk
K Supplies Ltd	Tools and hardware	1880	www.ksupplies.co.uk
J Trickett & Son (Insurances) Ltd	Financial advisors	1882	www.trickettsinsurance.co.uk
Cherry Tree Machines Ltd	Laundry machines	1882	www.cherrytreemachines.co.uk
Stevenson Memorials	Memorial masons	1883	www.stevensonmemorials.co.uk
Winter & Kidson Multimedia	Web design and multimedia	1883	www.wkm.co.uk
Cunningham Jewellers	Jewellers	1885	www.cunningham-jewellers.co.uk
Rushtons Chartered Accountants	Accountants	c. 1885	www.rushtonsaccountants.com
Edward Dewhurst	Electrical engineering	1887	www.dewhurstgroup.co.uk
JW Fish	Cookware products	1887	www.jwfish.co.uk
Beaumont Textiles	Textile manufacturer	1888	beaumonttextiles.co.uk
Conveyor & Elevator Co. Ltd	Mechanical handling	1889	www.conveyor-and-elevator.co.uk
George Haffner (Foods) Ltd	Butchers	1889	www.haffners.co.uk
George Speight & Sons Ltd	Wholesale fruit and vegetables	1889	www.georgespeights.co.uk
Fitzpatrick's	Temperance bar	1890	www.mrfitzpatricks.com
Granthams	Printing and graphics	1890	www.granthams.co.uk
Gorrills of Lancaster	Homewares and gifts	1890	none
Roberts & Co.	Tea and coffee	1891	www.e-coffee.co.uk
Moore & Smalley	Business consultancy	1892	www.mooreandsmalley.co.uk
Droyt Products Ltd	Soap manufacturer	1893	www.droyt.com
Lydall Industrial Filtration	Filtration and industrial textiles	1894	www.lydallif.com
Carrington Textiles Ltd.	Textile manufacturer	c. 1894	www.carrington.co.uk
Pincroft Dyeing & Printing Co. Ltd	Dyeing and printing	c. 1894	www.pincroft.com
Ritherdon & Co. Ltd	Sheet metal	1895	ritherdon.co.uk/
Fredericks Ice Cream Ltd	Ice cream	1896	www.fredericksicecream.co.uk
Clitheroe Auction Mart	Auctioneers	1897	www.auctionmart.co.uk
Edmondson's (Blackburn) Ltd	Furniture store	1898	www.edmondsonsfurniture.co.uk
F Brown PLC	Commercial refurbishment	1898	www.fbrownplc.com
E Taylor Sons & Co. Ltd	Decorating store	1899	www.taylorsthedecoratingstore.co.uk
D. Sanderson (Bookbinders) Ltd.	Bookbinders	1899	sandersonbookbinders.co.uk
20th century (1900 onwards)			

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Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Theme park	1900	www.blackpoolpleasurebeach.com
Shirley's Ltd	Waste recycling	1900	www.shirleyswastepaper.com
H&P Ascroft, Worthingtons Farm	Farming	1900	www.worthingtonsfarm.co.uk
Douglas Marine Ltd	Boat builders	c. 1900	www.douglasmarine.co.uk
H Lofthouse & Sons	Plumbing and decorating	c. 1900	none
John Potter & Harrison	Chartered accountants	c. 1900	www.jpharrison.co.uk
Pincroft Dyeing & Printing Co. Ltd	Dyeing and printing	c. 1900	www.pincroft.com
Ratcliffe & Bibby	Solicitors	c. 1900	www.ratcliffe-bibby.co.uk
Harrison Drury & Co Ltd	Solicitors	1901	www.harrison-drury.com
Austin Walmsley Ltd	Welding and fabrication	1902	none
Hesfords	DIY	1903	www.hesfordsdiy.co.uk
Wm Hobkirk & Son	Sewing machines	1903	www.hobkirk.co.uk
The Old Sweet Shop	Sweet shop	1903	www.oldsweetshop.com
Birtwell & Co. Ltd	Printing	1904	www.birtwells.co.uk
J Major & Co Ltd	Boatbuilding and repair	1904	none
Ward Knowles Ltd	Business forms	1904	www.wardknowles.co.uk
JH Blakey & Sons	Locksmiths	1905	www.jhblakey.co.uk
RH Slater & Son Ltd	Building contractor	1905	none
WH Oddie Ltd	Bakery	1905	www.oddiessbakery.co.uk
Besglos Polish Co. Ltd	Polish manufacturers	1906	none
EA Foulds Ltd	Lift engineering	1907	www.fouldslifts.co.uk
Ingles' Dawndew Salad Ltd	Salad wholesalers	1907	www.dawndew.co.uk
John Turner Construction Group Ltd	Building and civil engineering	1907	www.johnturner.co.uk
Kirk Environmental	Water treatment	1907	www.kirk-environmental.com
Mitchell Interflex Ltd	Textile manufacturer	1907	www.mitchell-interflex.co.uk
Waddington & Son Solicitors	Solicitors	1908	www.waddingtonandson.co.uk
Briggs & Duxbury Ltd	Builders	1909	https://www.briggsandduxbury.co.uk/
Clark & Sons	Removals service	1909	www.hjclarks.co.uk
J Wareing & Son	Steel structures	1909	www.wareingbuildings.co.uk
KM Chartered Accountants	Chartered accountants	1909	www.kmaccountants.co.uk
Ashlea Limited	Landscaping	1910	www.ashlea-landscaping.co.uk
E & W Threlfall	Dairy farm	1912	www.threlfallsdairies.co.uk
Morris Quality Bakers	Bakery	1912	www.morrisqualitybakers.co.uk
Blackburn Yarn Dyers	Dyeing of yarn	1915	www.bydltd.co.uk
Roger Eaves Building	Construction services	1916	www.rogereaves.com
N & W Lancs Chamber of Commerce	Membership organisation	1916	www.lancschamber.co.uk
Hargreaves, Brown and Benson	Chartered accountants	1917	www.hbb.co.uk
Lancashire Sock Manufacturing Co.	Textile manufacturer	1917	www.lancshiresock.com
Lantex	Textile manufacturer	1918	www.lantex.co.uk
Emerson & Renwick	Engineering	1918	www.eandr.com
James Hart (Chorley) Ltd	Commercial vehicles	1918	jameshartchorley.co.uk
Kevills Solicitors	Solicitors and barristers	1919	www.kevills.co.uk
Albert Harrison & Co Ltd	Wholesalers and distributors	1919	www.harrisonsdirect.co.uk
W H Bowker Ltd	Road transport haulage and warehousing	1919	www.bowkertransport.co.uk/
Beech's Fine Chocolates	Confectioners	1920	beechsfinechocolates.com
W H Good	Engineering	1922	www.whgood.co.uk
Eric Wright Group	Civil Engineering / Construction	1923	www.ericwright.co.uk
Donald Race & Newton	Solicitors	1924	www.drnlaw.co.uk
Whitehead & Howarth	Chartered accountants	c. 1925	www.whaccountants.co.uk
Whitehead & Aldrich	Chartered accountants	c. 1925	www.whiteheadandaldrich.co.uk
Over 100 years old but exact date of establishment unknown			
Ashlea Farm	Farm	unknown	none
Cowmans	Butcher	unknown	www.cowmans.co.uk

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F&W Burrow & Son	Butcher	unknown	none
J&J Ormerod PLC	Kitchens and bedrooms manufacturer	unknown	www.jjopl.com
The Sutcliffe Tool Co. Ltd	Tool supplier	unknown	www.sutcliffe-tools.co.uk

Blackhurst, Swainson, Goodier

Solicitors

Preston Office

9 Cannon Street

Preston

PR1 3QD

Website www.bsglaw.co.uk

Established 1720

The oldest independent Lancashire company so far identified, the company has a large number of experienced lawyers specialising in conveyancing, personal injury, family law and commercial work.

The present firm was formed as a result of the merger of two firms of solicitors Blackhurst Swainson and Oswald Goodier & Co. in January 2005. Prior to this event, Blackhurst Swainson had been established for over 285 years and Oswald Goodier & Co. for over 105 years.

Although steeped in history and ever mindful of the need to maintain solid traditional standards, the firm claims to have a modern approach to the practice of law.

Woodcocks, Haworth and Nuttall

West View

Princess Street

Haslingden

Rosendale

BB4 6NW

Website www.whnsolicitors.co.uk

Established 1791

Woodcock and Sons has been established for over 200 years and their website claims that it was the oldest family firm of solicitors in which the original founding family has maintained its involvement throughout the whole of its history.

The firm is an amalgam of two firms each originally founded by the Woodcock family, another family firm set up at Blackburn in 1878 by the Haworth Brothers and an Accrington Solicitors called George Nuttall who joined the Haworth firm in 1931. The oldest branch actually was started by Samuel Woodcock in Bury, whilst the nephew of the original founder began to practice as a solicitor in Haslingden in 1821. It was the Haslingden firm that later became known as Woodcock and Sons. Woodcocks merged with Haworth and Nuttall in 2012.

Bury is outside the present administrative local authority area of Lancashire, but since the Haslingden branch (inside Lancashire) gave the name to the present company, it has been decided to include it in the list of old Lancashire firms.

The business has seven branches of which six are within the Lancashire administrative area.

Southerns Solicitors

Mackenzie House
66/68 Bank Parade
Burnley
BB11 1UB

Website southernssolicitors.co.uk

Established 1792

The website states that it is one of the longest established firms of solicitors in north east Lancashire and has offices in Burnley, Nelson and Colne. The origins of the firm can be traced back to the formation of a legal practice by one Lawrence Shaw in Burnley. After a number of changes of name the firm has practised under the name of Southerns since 1999.

Southerns is a general firm of solicitors and the firm aspires to embrace new methods of legal practice and technology in order to offer all its clients a first class service.

Napthens Solicitors

7 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3JD

Website www.napthens.co.uk

Established 1800

Napthens has a proud heritage stretching back over two centuries, and today offers a broader range of services and represents a greater variety of clients than ever before.

One of the oldest and largest solicitors in Lancashire, the firm offers a range of services to meet the needs of both business and private clients and is structured into specialised departments, which aim to provide a fast, accurate service on a range of legal issues. The company considers that its enduring success is largely attributable to its emphasis on delivering a consistently customer-focused approach. It strives to continue to embody traditional professional values, whilst embracing the best of modern business practices.

From 1st November 2006, Napthens merged with Roscoes, a former very old established firm of solicitors, to create a larger commercial outfit with its headquarters in Preston. The combined firm is known as Napthens and, with branch offices in Blackburn, Bamber Bridge and Longridge, it covers a catchment area encompassing central, east and south Lancashire and the Ribble Valley. The combination of the firms is intended to create a firm large enough to accommodate all clients' needs, without them having to use Manchester or Liverpool firms.

Mears H (Furnishers) Ltd

The Oaks Business Park
Longridge Road
Ribbleton

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Preston
PR2 5BQ

Website www.mearscarpets.co.uk/

Established 1802

The company website states that the business is now under the control of the sixth generation of the Mears family. Originally brush manufacturers and wholesale and retail hardware merchants, the company soon added other ranges including toys, carpets and house furnishings. After a fire in 1984 that severely damaged their town centre premises, the company carried on trading from their warehouse and started to specialise solely in carpets and floor coverings. In 1999 they moved to their present site on the Longridge road close to junction 31A of the M6.

Daniel Thwaites PLC

New Thwaites Brewery
Myerscough Road
Mellor Brook
BB2 7LB

Website thwaites.co.uk

Established 1807

The brewery industry has seen enormous change over the past few decades, but up and down the country there are still small- and medium-sized locally run businesses that have long and distinguished trading histories.

Daniel Thwaites PLC is one of the oldest Lancashire firms, being founded in 1807 and incorporated in 1897. It remains an independent family-controlled business operating from its new brewery site at Mellor Brook, some miles from the original brewery in the centre of Blackburn.

The principal activities of the brewery division used to be brewing, canning, bottling, wholesaling and retailing of beers, wines and spirits. Most of the well-known brands were sold to Marston's in 2015 but a selection of traditional beers are still brewed at the new brewery. It operates over 200 tied houses and a range of hotels.

Dickinson Parker Hill

22 Derby Street
Ormskirk
L39 2BZ

Website www.dphlaw.co.uk

Established c. 1810

The firm considers that it is probably one of the oldest firms of solicitors in the area and can trace its origins back to the early 1800s. The association with the founding family of the firm lasted until 1999 when the great, great grandson of the original Mr Hill retired.

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The firms asserts that it offers a wide and extremely comprehensive range of legal services, including domestic and commercial conveyancing, wills, probate, accident work and family work.

Oglethorpe Sturton & Gillibrand

Lancaster Office

16 Castle Park

Lancaster

LA1 1YG

Website www.osg.co.uk

Established 1810

The website confirms that the firm has been in existence for over 150 years but Lancaster City Council kindly provided the date of establishment of 1810.

The firm of Oglethorpe Sturton & Gillibrand has a long tradition of satisfying generations of clients, while striving to move with the times and keep ahead of the competition by providing expertise and professionalism.

S Carr & Son

High Street

Garstang

PR3 1FA

Website www.carrsjewellers.co.uk

Established 1820

The logo in the top left hand corner of the website is the source of the establishment date. S Carr & Son is a family jewellers with a wide selection of jewellery in gold, silver and platinum, along with diamond rings and gem set rings and jewellery.

The company has an extensive collection of wedding rings, watches, quality giftware and are trophy-makers and engravers. With hand making jewellery on the premises we are able to create your own unique piece of jewellery.

Askam Construction Ltd

3 Hampson Lane

Hampson

Lancaster

LA2 0HY

Website www.askam.co.uk

Established 1831

The present-day company was only established in 1986, but is included in this list of established firms because in 2001 it acquired the old Lancaster firm of J Parkinson & Sons (Contracting) Ltd. Therefore there is a continuous trading history that can be traced well back into the 19th century.

Askam Construction is a civil engineering, industrial and commercial building company that specialises in housing and county council projects.

ET Birtwistle & Sons Ltd

29 Queen Street
Great Harwood
BB6 7SA

No website

Established 1832

In 1832 ET Birtwistle & Sons was started by Daniel Birtwistle in premises in Club Street, Great Harwood. The business was passed to his nephew Edward Thomas whose four sons, Walter, James, Thomas and Hartley all worked for the funeral directors firm, which became a limited company in 1936. The business then passed to Hartley's son Edward and his son-in-law Joseph.

In 1962 the congregational church in Queen Street was purchased and converted into a chapel of rest.

Brierley, Collier & Hartley (BCH)

Spring Place
Millfold
Whitworth
OL12 8DN

Website bchltd.com/our-history

Established 1835

This company is now part of the larger Coates Engineering Group, but in 2016 the website reverted back to the BCH name, itself a merger of 3 companies founded by entrepreneurs in the 19th Century, the earliest of which under Luke Collier had its origins in 1835. BCH was the first company to produce liquorice presses and the website asserts the company is still the world leader today.

The acquisition of this firm in 1993 led to the establishment of the Coates Engineering Group. Whether a firm should be included because of the purchase of an older company can be difficult to judge. The fact that the heritage and present-day operation of BCH receives such a high profile on the company website leads to their inclusion.

The company has a diverse range of businesses that cover three main areas: mechanical engineering, automation and food science. In 2000, the Coates Engineering Group invested in a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre. The centre has provided the opportunity to demonstrate the company's success in integrating these three pillars of process knowledge and how this process knowledge is applied in five specialised areas, i.e. liquorice, marshmallow, caramel, jam and marmalade, and chilled and ready-made meals.

J Atkinson & Co. Ltd

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China Street

Lancaster

LA1 1EX

Website thecoffeehopper.com

Established 1837

The company was originally established as the Grasshopper Tea Warehouse and has occupied these premises on China Street since 1901. It has been supplying tea and coffee to the citizens of Lancaster since its inception.

According to their website, five generations of continuous trading in the city have resulted in a marvellous collection of tea and coffee artefacts, such as tea canisters from the 1820s, an original spice drawer-run complete with uranium glass knobs, and in the window the famous small roaster dating from just after the Second World War that still wafts its delicious aroma out into the streets of Lancaster today.

Everything from scoops to scales have been lovingly mended and cared for over the years and are still very much in use on a daily basis.

EH Booth & Co. Ltd

Longridge Road

Ribbleton

Preston

PR2 5BX

Website www.booths.co.uk

Established 1846

Founded in 1846, the company is still owned by the Booth family. It opened its first shop in Blackpool, and nowadays has more than 25 modern food stores across Lancashire, Cumbria and beyond. It continues to abide by its long-standing philosophy to "sell the best goods available, in attractive stores, staffed with first class assistants", and also specialises in offering locally-sourced products. According to the firm, at least 25% of the products in Booths at any one time are locally produced. 100% of the company's fresh meat comes from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumbria and Cheshire and the company is also strong in local fresh fruit and vegetables.

An efficient company making a success in a sector that contains such big rivals and has been around for so long cannot have avoided coming to the notice of its major competitors. The company has never accepted any takeover approaches and its continued survival is due to the strong family tradition and the overriding passion to continue with that tradition.

J Robinson & Sons (Plasterers) Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

[1875-1899](#)

[1900-1924](#)

lists

4 Eshton Terrace

Clitheroe

BB7 1BQ

No website

Established c. 1850

The company does not have a website but the firm has done work for Ribble Valley Borough Council's Surveyors Department, who have kindly confirmed that it is an independent trading company.

The firm states that it is an established family business that is over 150 years old and which is involved in plastering, roof, floor and wall tilers and slating for new work, housing, schools and general repairs.

Tomlinsons Chemists

11 Market Square,

Lytham

FY8 5LW

Website tomlinsonscchemist.co.uk

Established 1850

Tomlinsons Chemists is an NHS community Pharmacy, but the premises reflect the heritage of the business. Customers enter past a display of over 100 antique mahogany apothecary drawers, shelves of old poison bottles, antique remedies and curios.

Reed Family Linens

2 Gisburn Road

Bolton-by-Bowland

Clitheroe

BB7 4NP

Website www.reedfamilylinen.com

Established 1852

The website provides details of the five generations of the same family that have managed the business since its inception. The firm has claimed to be synonymous with superior linens for the home and hotels ever since its beginnings as a cottage industry in Nelson. The motto "Good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better and your better best" is used as a guiding principle that underpins the development of the business in striving for higher quality and comfort.

ESSE Engineering Ltd.

Ouzledale Foundry

Long Ing

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Barnoldswick

BB18 6BJ

Website www.esse.com

Established 1854

The company's website states that it has been making cookers and stoves longer than any other manufacturer, and in comparison with a number of other old established firms, the company has a very colourful past. Details of the firm's history (and its association with famous people) are worth studying in full on the website. The website details the path from its beginnings with the establishment of a hardware store in Jackson, Mississippi, by Scottish entrepreneur James Smith, to it becoming a Lancashire business in 1984 when it was acquired by the Ashby family who own the Ouzledale Foundry Company in Barnoldswick.

AMA DataSet

50 School Lane

Bamber Bridge

Preston

PR5 6QE

Website www.ama.uk.com

Established c. 1855

Six generations of the Mather family have been involved in typesetting and printing over the past 150 years. Printing was actually discontinued in the 1980s, and AMA DataSet now provides a specialist typesetting, database design and consultancy service for publishers and other organisations throughout the UK.

The company's experienced team of typesetting operators, and database and systems designers are supported by its associate company Exeter Premedia Services in India, providing assistance to undertake the larger projects.

The management and conversion of digital data are at the heart of every business, and AMA DataSet pride themselves on being at the forefront of digital technology which, linked with a wide range of skills, meets the demands of today's markets.

Dugdale Nutrition

Bellman Mill

Salthill

Clitheroe

BB7 1QW

Website www.dugdalenutrition.com

Established c. 1855

Dugdale Nutrition is the UK's leading regional ruminant feed manufacturer. Dugdale Nutrition offers cutting edge management and nutritional advice together with feeds of excellence and quality.

Centrally located to dairy, beef and sheep farms in the heart of the North West, Dugdale Nutrition focuses on building long-term business partnerships with its customers whether their business is large or small.

Dugdale Nutrition is an independently owned family company, which has focused on innovation in the ruminant sector for more than 150 years.

Althams Catering Butchers

Northgate

White Lund Industrial Estate

Morecambe

LA3 3AY

Website www.j-c-althams.com

Established 1856

Established in 1856 by local farmer Thomas Altham who opened a butcher's shop in Morecambe. His son's widow Mrs JC Altham took over the business and opened three more shops with her two sons, Thomas and Robert.

In 1975, the running of the farming and butchery business was taken over by one of the present directors, the great-grandson of the founder. The company, seeing a decline in retail trade, expanded further into the catering sector, moving further afield to service hotels in the Lake District and surrounding areas.

The development of the catering business was so successful that the company moved the butchery business to larger premises on White Lund Industrial Estate.

As a result of being a specialist supplier to the catering trade of the north's leading supplier of quality meat, game, poultry etc., the company's profile among the general Lancashire public is somewhat lower than other firms that sell direct to the public.

Altham and Sons (Lancaster) Ltd

Anchor Buildings

Penrod Way

Heysham

LA3 2UZ

Website jaltham.co.uk/contact-us/

Established 1856

This firm has the same family origins as the company now called Altham's catering butchers. John Carr Altham, the son of Robert (mentioned above) returned from National Service in the Royal Navy in 1952. He set up a chandling service in a warehouse on St Georges Quay, Lancaster, to service the increasing number of vessels into Heysham Harbour. 1966 saw the move to larger premises in Morecambe for the ship stores.

A company directory states its business activity as 'Ships store merchants and bonded warehousemen'.

The two branches of the business formally split in 1984, but with both still bearing the name of Mrs John Carr Altham, widow of Thomas Altham's son.

R Slinger & Son Ltd

Ribble Saw Mill

Paley Road

Preston

PR1 8LT

Website www.slingers1858.co.uk

Established 1858

R Slinger & Son Ltd was founded in 1858 by Richard Slinger and is today run by the sixth generation of the family. The website states that, "We are Architectural Ironmongers who specialise in door scheduling from our team of Guild of Architectural Ironmongers trained staff".

The company has over 10,000 lines in stock and its office and warehouse in Preston includes a large trade counter and extensive display.

T Snape Printers

Boltons Court

Preston

PR1 3TY

Website www.tsnapeprinters.co.uk

Established 1858

First established in 1858, the company now has an exceptionally long tradition of providing innovative quality work within specified timeframes. T Snape Printers is a traditional commercial printer that produces a wide range of printed products and one that specialises in the production of magazine and book work.

The firm boasts large premises on two floors providing the full spectrum of services that its customers demand.

Although long established, the company is not stuck in the past, and continues to reinvest in state-of-the-art equipment to provide a faster more convenient method of satisfying customer requirements.

Chorley Building Society

Key House

Foxhole Road

Chorley

PR7 1NZ

Website www.chorleybs.co.uk

Established 1859

A small mutually owned building society with three branches, one in central Chorley, one in Leyland and the modern head office branch on Foxhole Road in Chorley.

The society has managed to retain its mutual status and independence when many others have either merged or decided to lose their mutual status.

T Gillibrand (Blackburn) Ltd

Furthergate Works

St Clement Street

Blackburn

BB1 1NW

Website www.gillibrand.co.uk

Established 1859

Gillibrand was originally established by Mr J Gillibrand, who started building horse-drawn carts in a small workshop very close to where the business is currently located. The firm had its own wheelwrights shop and blacksmiths forge. As more sophisticated modes of transport developed the business adapted accordingly and nowadays undertakes the repair of motor vehicles as well as repairing and painting of large commercial vehicles. It is a classic example of a business that has moved with the times and adapted to the demands of the Repair Industry and its customer's needs.

In the early part of the 1950s the business was acquired from the Gillibrand family by Thomas Ellis, who had originally worked for the company as an apprentice in the 1920s.

The ongoing success of the business was reflected in the expansion of the workshop to accommodate the new car repair business and the building. There were a number of extensions carried out during the 1960s and 1970s, which provided the 20,000 square feet of workshop space still used today. The business has traded as Fix Auto Blackburn, but has since reverted to the family name.

Frank Littler & Sons Ltd

5a Mellor Lane,

Mellor

Blackburn

BB2 7JR

Website www.franklittler.co.uk

Established 1860

The Yellow Pages advert for the business confirmed the date of establishment and a stall sign on Blackburn Market asserted that it was the oldest family butchers in the town. When the market moved from its old Ainsworth Street site in 2011 the Littler business instead located to a shop in Mellor in nearby Ribble Valley.

Marsden Building Society

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Principal Office
6-20 Russell Street
Nelson
BB9 7NJ

Website www.themarsden.co.uk

Established 1860

The society has been in existence since 1860, and has grown steadily as a strong independent regional building society with assets in the hundreds of millions of pounds. As a mutual it is run entirely for the benefit of its members who now exceed forty thousand. It's a company that remains true to the principles of its founders to encourage home ownership and savings.

The company states that it places emphasis on using local suppliers and provides jobs for over 150 people in 15 branches across the North West of England.

Waterloo Timber Co. Ltd

Waterloo Road
Clitheroe
BB7 1LR

No website

Established 1860

Waterloo Timber Co. is an independent timber supplier since 1860 that supplies a range of imported hardwoods and sheet materials including softwoods, blockboard, chipboard, mouldings and architraves, hardware and tools. The company also manufactures window frames, doors, stairs, balustrades, conservatories and summerhouses.

W Robinson & Son (Seeds & Plants) Ltd

Sunny Bank
Forton
Nr. Preston
PR3 0BN

Website www.mammothonion.co.uk

Established 1860

The founder, William Robinson, started the nursery by growing soft fruit, apples, plums and pears to onions and leeks.

The next generation started to improve the size of onions and leeks in particular which were exhibited at local Flower Shows. Soon other exhibitors wanted to grow the strain and the business was born.

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

The nursery seed bank holds many varieties of unusual vegetables. Some grown over the years for their looks, others for their taste. All are still maintained by the same stringent criteria as for the past 140 years.

The company is pleased and proud to be a true family business and assures all customers that seeds are grown using natural methods.

The ground where the exhibition vegetables are grown is the same and indeed has been prepared to the same formula for all the 140 years, using natural products. All varieties sold are well known not only for size, but for flavour and quality, and have given many gardeners results to be proud of over a long number of years.

Vegetable Seeds and Plants can nowadays be ordered by fax, phone, post or via the website.

WS Rothband & Co. Ltd

4-6 Knowsley Road
Haslingden
Rossendale
BB4 4RX

Website www.rothband.com

Established 1860

The website states that the firm is a family business and that it may be a few years older than the stated dated of establishment. The product range has undergone significant developments over the years with the emphasis being in the field of health care. The company website list the wide range of items available, but it is not clear whether all or some are manufactured in-house or if the business is primarily a wholesaler. The assumption has been made that the firm should be classified in the latter category.

First established by the company's namesake in Manchester, the firm initially manufactured small makeup/sponge bags from waterproof cloth. The business grew and diversified into other rubber products (sheets, aprons, enema bags, "Gentlemen's preventives" etc.), medical glassware and surgical items.

Rubber sheeting for bed protection was the mainstay of the business by the turn of the century and continued to be a major line until the 1950s.

It was however around 1910 that a relative introduced the firm to lead rubber for use as an "X-RAY CLOTH". Other developments since have seen the introduction of leaded gloves, double-sided aprons, shoulder fastenings, coat-style aprons for all-round protection, closed-side aprons and theatre aprons.

The X-ray side of the business continued to expand, which led to the move to larger premises in Rossendale.

In 1994, the company acquired Duffield Medical, which enabled the firm to expand into physiotherapy sales and led to a new range of variable-height couches suitable for echo-cardiography, ultrasound and outpatient use.

In 1998, the company commenced manufacture of fixed lead screens together with the supply of Pb glass and perspex, so they can now cater for most X-ray protective needs.

Peter Reed International Limited

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Butterworth Mill
30B Churchill Way
Lomeshaye
Nelson
BB9 6RT

Website www.peterreed.com/

Established 1861

The website provides an extensive history of the company that commences with Peter William Reed starting the business with water powered looms. The business grew and by 1891, it moved into a new mill in Nelson that was at the time, the second largest weaving shed in the world. By 1968, the company purchased the first automatic looms in the UK. In 2003, the company changed hands, but there is nothing on the website to suggest that it does not remain an independently owned firm.

Thomas Banks & Co. Ltd

Deepdale Street
Preston
PR1 5BD

Website www.thomasbanks.gbr.cc

Established 1862

Thomas Banks & Co. Ltd is a family firm still managed by members of the Banks family. The company specialises in the sale of coal, and oil for domestic heating needs and also offers a comprehensive spare parts service for domestic heating appliances

James Hall & Co. Ltd

SPAR Distribution Centre
Bowland View
Preston
PR2 5QT

Website <https://www.jameshall.co.uk>

Established 1863

The company's aim is, "To build lasting partnerships with our SPAR members. We will work hard to provide quality products and to give excellent service at reasonable prices. We will continually strive to develop a business environment where we and our SPAR partners can successfully grow together."

James Hall & Co. (Southport) Limited was founded by its namesake in 1863 when Mr Hall opened a bacon cutting business and retail shop in Southport. The business prospered and the company began to supply other shops with its products.

By the 1950s, the third generation of the family had assumed control, and in 1966 the company consolidated its operations into a single new warehouse on Blackpool Road, Preston.

It was among the first five distributors to be instrumental in introducing SPAR to the UK, and has over the years expanded its operation to cover the whole of the North of England. The company has since gone through a £30 million relocation to a state-of-the-art facility just off Bluebell Way near Junction 31a of the M6.

J Fairburn Ltd

Waterloo Works
Trafalgar Street
Burnley
BB11 1RF

Website www.pulverisers.com

Established 1864

The website provides brief details of the company and its range of services but does not contain information on the history of the company. The date of establishment was confirmed by the Regeneration and Economic Development unit of Burnley Borough Council, and the assumption is that it is an independent firm.

The company specialises in precision engineering, print machinery spares, repairs, reconditioning of machinery and rubber covering of rollers, gear cutting etc.

Briggs Shoes

205 Marine Road West
Morecambe
LA4 4BU

Website www.briggsshoes.co.uk

Established 1865

The website confirms that the origins of the firm actually predate 1865, but this was the year when Thomas Briggs joined the staff of John Gorrill as an apprentice shoemaker. Gorrill's shoes of Penny Street Lancaster had been established for some years and on his retirement in 1865 Mr Gorrill sold his business to Thomas Briggs. The business flourished and in more recent times expanded throughout the North West opening as "K Shoemines" in Morecambe on Regent Road in the early 1980's. A move to much larger premises saw the business relocate to its current home on Marine Road West.

The Briggs Business was sold to a management buyout in 2004 but was bought back by the Powney family in 2009. Mr Powney (Great, Great Grandson of Thomas Briggs) has re-established the Clarks Brand, opening a large Children's department in July 2009 providing a full measuring and fitting service to the children of Morecambe once more.

Further shopfitting in 2010 saw the opening of a dedicated Men's and Ladies Clarks Department. The Morecambe store is the largest of the five operated by the family.

Lofthouse of Fleetwood Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)**lists**

Maritime Street

Fleetwood

FY7 7LP

Website www.fishermansfriend.com

Established 1865

Perhaps more than any other long-established Lancashire firm, Lofthouse of Fleetwood has managed to carve out a distinct market niche with a well-known product.

The company makes the famous Fisherman's Friend Lozenges. It was founded by James Lofthouse, a resident of Fleetwood who created an extremely strong liquid containing menthol and eucalyptus, which helped fishermen working in freezing conditions. To make it easier to transport, the liquid was made into small lozenges.

The company remains family owned and is still resident in Fleetwood where it is a significant local employer.

Moorhouse's

4 Moorhouse Street

Burnley

BB11 5EN

Website www.moorhouses.co.uk

Established 1865

William Moorhouse founded Moorhouse's in 1865, in premises not far from the present production site, on the opposite side of Accrington Road in Burnley. He produced mineral waters, which were sold in bottles and half-gallon jars. By 1870 the business was doing so well that William decided to build his own premises and relocated to the building that is today occupied by the company. By the early 20th century the company was producing hop bitters that were low in alcohol, less than 2% abv, and deemed to be "non-intoxicating liquors".

The company remained in the hands of the Moorhouse family until 1978 and then entered a short period of constant change of ownership. In 1982 a local businessman, Alan Hutchinson, bought the business and, with the introduction of Pendle Witches Brew, production grew steadily. Unfortunately Mr Hutchinson died quite suddenly in 1985 and Moorhouse's was faced with extinction. The company was saved by William Parkinson, who originated from Burnley, and who since then he has invested in a new brew plant in 1988 and a new warehouse/distribution depot in 1995.

According to the website, the company has six pubs and supplies beers to Free Trade outlets within a 50-mile radius of the brewery. It also enjoys national distribution through a comprehensive wholesale network including the local supermarket chain Booths.

Bolton Hall Estate (King Henry VI Spring Water)

Gisburn Road

Bolton-by-Bowland

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

[1875-1899](#)

[1900-1924](#)

lists

Lancashire

BB7 4LT

No website

Established 1866

An entry that is somewhat different from the norm, and which could also have been placed in the food and drink section. The privately owned Bolton Hall estate in the Ribble Valley comprises around 1,300 acres, and the Wright/Bosonnet family has been custodians of the Estate since 1866.

Today the Estate comprises a number of let farms, dwellings, a village shop, tearooms and a gift store. Fishing and shooting rights are let to local syndicates. It is said to represent the principal source of local employment, which is augmented by the production of King Henry VI Spring Water.

Halewood & Sons

37 and 68 Friargate

Preston

PR1 2AT

No website

Established 1867

The business was initially founded by William Halewood as a second hand bookshop, and is still run by the descendants of the original owner. Nowadays, the company sells to academics worldwide and has a vast range of stock covering an enormous range of topics. The company states that they are 'Antiquarian, New and Export Booksellers since 1867'.

Attwater Group

PO Box 39

Preston

PR1 1TA

Website www.attwater.co.uk

Established 1868

The Attwater Group has been a market leader in the manufacture and supply of insulation materials for over a century, and has expanded over the years to supply materials to industries worldwide.

Founded on a tradition of quality and innovation, the company has been at the forefront of engineering plastic laminates and coated electrical insulation materials since 1868.

Today, the Attwater Group is established as a leading world player in its specialist field, with a global reputation for high-quality products, particularly engineering plastic laminates and electrical insulation.

S&A Blackwell Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

10 Market Square

Lytham

FY8 5LW

Website www.sandablackwell.com

Established 1869

The company was for more than 100 years run by the Blackwell family, but in 1972, the present business was formed following the takeover of the family firm.

The firm has customers worldwide and supplies a comprehensive range of metals, chemicals and minerals. It also offers packaging and re-packing services, grinding, blending and storage services etc.

HM Sowerbutts & Co.

10 King Street

Clitheroe

BB7 2EP

www.sowerbuttsfurniture.co.uk

Established 1870

Clitheroe is a thriving market town in the Ribble Valley that contains an impressive collection of long-established family firms. One of the most prominent is the home furnishings store HM Sowerbutts & Co., now run by the fifth generation of the family. The store is situated in an old five-storey corn mill right in the centre of Clitheroe. The website states that they have comprehensive displays of both contemporary and traditional upholstery, beds, cabinets and occasional furniture, together with a wide range of carpets to suit all tastes.

Ainsworth Jewellers

Darwen Street

Blackburn

BB2 2BW

Website www.ainsworthjewellers.com

Established 1870

A family jewellers based in central Blackburn since 1870 that specialises in gem-set rings, quality gold and silver jewellery, watches and clocks etc. It has been at its present location since 1964, which is just two doors away from where Joseph Ainsworth originally founded the business.

Marsden Rawsthorn

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Faraday Court,
Faraday Drive,
Fulwood
Preston,
PR2 9NB

Website www.marsdenrawsthorn.com

Established 1870

A leading firm of solicitors with offices in Preston and Chorley that has a direct lineage that can be traced back to the 19th century. The firm aims to provide high quality, friendly and cost effective legal advice to both corporate and private clients throughout the region.

The firm was initially listed as Rawsthorns Solicitors, but a merger in May 2007 with Marsdens led to the creation of the present business.

Hindle & Jepson

10 Borough Road
Darwen
Lancashire
BB3 1PL

Website hindleandjepsonfs.co.uk

Established circa 1870

This website confirms the approximate date of establishment and the fact that the business was established by Thomas Hindle of Darwen. As the business grew, John Hacking Jepson entered into partnership with Thomas Hindle to form Hindle & Jepson. The business has always been in Darwen and moved to its present address in the 1930s. The firm states that it offers a complete range of accountancy and tax services, and also operates as an agent on behalf of the Halifax to provide a full range of banking facilities.

D Byrne & Co.

Victoria Buildings
12 King Street
Clitheroe
BB7 2EP

Website dbyrnwine.com

Established 1871

Considered by many wine aficionados as a little gem of a company, this family firm has been purveyors of fine wine and spirits since 1871. The shop and cellars are packed with an extraordinarily long list of fairly priced wines from both the New and Old Worlds.

John Spencer (Textiles) Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Ashfield Mill

Active Way

Burnley

BB11 1BS

Website www.johnspencer.com

Established 1871

Although the company ceased trading in the early 1970s, the replacement business was formed by original family members and many workers from the former business so the fourth criterion - an uninterrupted 100-year trading history - has been in this case liberally interpreted.

In 1871 John Spencer started in business with his son John and John's brother at Waterloo shed on Trafalgar Street with 110 looms. The business grew substantially over the years and at one stage had over 2,000 looms, but along with the rest of the textile industry in the County ran into hard times. The firm was wound up in 1971, but family interest was maintained and reflected in the name of the new company John Spencer (Textiles) Ltd.

The decision was made that the new business would concentrate on a wide range of fabrics but not more than 10% of any one particular type of cloth, thereby avoiding an over reliance on a small number of large buyers who were increasingly sourcing their products from cheaper options abroad.

In 1991 a major fire engulfed the mill and everything was destroyed except one weaving shed. This became the core centre for production over the next few months, but with the money received from the insurers a modern £million mill has been developed.

Six generations of the family have experience in weaving the finest quality fabrics from a huge variety of different fibres. The company proudly boasts that, "If it can be woven, then we can probably weave it!"

The business produces woven fabrics for industry, furnishing, fashion, shirting, suiting, military, protective clothing, workwear, laminating, coating, filtration and a wide range of other end-uses.

The Travellers Choice

The Coach and Travel Centre

Scotland Road

Carnforth

LA5 9RQ

Website www.travellerschoice.co.uk

Established 1872

The website confirms that the Coach Travel firm has sales offices in Carnforth in Lancashire and Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria. It is assumed that the Carnforth premises form the Headquarters of the company because the website states that it operates from a modern, purpose built coach and travel centre located alongside the M6 motorway.

The company was founded by Robert Shaw in 1872, and the website asserts that the family business continually aims to maintain his objectives for quality and service.

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Travellers Choice has a fleet of around 60 modern vehicles ranging from 8-Seater Mini Coaches to 71-Seater Luxury Coaches for Group travel Educational Visits and Corporate events etc. in the UK and Europe.

Althams Travel

Riverside Office
Netherwood Road
Burnley
BB10 2AN

Website www.althams.co.uk

Established 1874

Althams Travel is an independent travel agent established in 1874. This family run business has grown from its initial founder Abraham Altham's vision into a large network of travel shops across Lancashire and Yorkshire. The Althams Travel booking line, the 31 holiday shops throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire plus the website all mean that customers can either click, call or come in.

Charles Parker Bennett & Co.

17/18 Cannon Street
Preston
PR1 3NR

Website www.charlesparkerbennett.co.uk

Established 1874

Charles Parker Bennett & Co. is an independent firm of Chartered Surveyors and Estate agents. The firm manages an extensive portfolio of commercial and residential property and claims to have management charges lower than those of many larger organisations.

Valuations are carried out throughout the North West of England for bank lending or private purposes for all types of property. Valuations include those for rating, taxation and rent review purposes also.

The company is active in residential sales and commercial sales and lettings.

James Proctor Ltd

PO Box 19
Cow Lane
Burnley
BB11 1NN

Website www.jamesproctor.com

Established 1875

James Proctor came upon the idea for stoking boilers automatically whilst working as an engineer for a local company. His experiments resulted in 1875 in the first patent for his invention, which he named 'Proctor's Mechanical Stoker'. Almost 50 more patents were taken out for improvements, modifications and alterations before the company was registered as James Proctor Ltd in 1902.

In subsequent years coal and ash handling equipment were added to the product portfolio along with new designs for more automated stoking systems which resulted in sales of equipment to the far corners of the world and a reputation as a world leader in coal burning technology.

Successive generations of the Proctor family have steered the company over the decades with new designs and innovative products serving the demands of a changing world. Today, this philosophy of invention and innovation continues apace with the current emphasis on energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

James Proctor Ltd has a commitment to developing biomass and renewable energy combustion systems. By burning biomass the CO₂ emitted is equal to the CO₂ originally taken in by the plant to grow. But the systems must be able to burn the fuel in its raw form, which often includes a high moisture content in the fuel.

The company has developed an efficient, cost-effective boiler package which enables high moisture content biomass to be utilised as a low cost, environmentally friendly fuel. This can often be a waste biomass that is currently landfilled, leading to huge cost savings for the customer if used as a fuel both in terms of fuel costs and taxation from landfill and carbon taxes, which must only rise in the future.

Mere Brow Smithy (Ironworkers)

29 The Gravel

Mere Brow

Preston

PR4 6JX

Website www.merebrowsmithy.com

Established 1875

The origins of the firm were in two separately run smithy and wheelwright businesses located in adjoining buildings. They merged in the early 1900s, and were owned by local man Thomas Moss, then by his sons Sam and John who took over in 1950. The two brothers were skilled craftsmen and much in demand in a largely agricultural area of heavy horses which needed shoeing and even heavier machinery which needed mending.

By the late 1990s the smithy's function had changed with, ornamental metalwork being the mainstay of the business when brothers Tom and Danny Murphy took over in 2000. The business now specialises in fashionable and artistic metalwork for the home and garden.

Pembertons Dairies

Birks Farm

Ballam Road

Lytham St Annes

FY8 4NL

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Website www.pembertonsfarmshop.co.uk

Established c. 1875

The website contains only brief details, but states that it has been a family run firm for over 130 years. The site states that they provide a local doorstep milk delivery service and also offer eggs, fruit juice, potatoes and mineral water.

Waters & Atkinson

The Old Court House

Clark Street

Morecambe

LA4 5HR

Website www.watersandatkinson.co.uk

Established c. 1875

The firm was formed by one Henry Waters and has been serving the business community as accountants and business advisors since its inception. The company states that it aims to "make it our business to know your business because our success depends on your success".

Banks Lyon Jewellers

36-40 Church Street

Lancaster

LA1 1LH

Website www.bankslyon.co.uk

Established 1876

The website contains only brief details about the history of the firm but does confirm the date of establishment. This long-established jeweller takes pride in its display of watches and diamonds, and considers that its success has been founded on the peerless advice and friendly service it gives to all its customers.

Talbot Funeral Services

Harwood House

341 Whalley New Road

Blackburn

BB1 9SR

No website

Established 1876

A company that has operated from same the location ever since it was first founded by Thomas Talbot, although the business has continued to develop it really began to flourish in the early 1950s, under the stewardship of qualified Funeral Director and Embalmer John Bentley and his wife Edith.

Ashton's of Fleetwood

London Street

Fleetwood

FY7 6JE

No website

Established 1877

Established by WH Ashton and still run by the same family, the company claims to be the Fylde's leading wedding stationery retailer.

Its own specialised range of day and evening invitations, order of service, thank you and reply cards etc. is printed 'in house' and the company can tailor requests to suit the particular needs and budgets of customers. The showroom on London Street is open six days a week to allow customers to browse at their leisure, and the company is also an agent for top names such as CCA, Collisons, Lantz, Fine Impressions and Talking Pictures.

Garratts Insurance Brokers

Camden House

2 Camden Place

Preston

PR1 3JL

Website www.garrattsinsurance.co.uk

Established 1877

George Garratt started selling insurance to the individuals and businesses of Preston and the surrounding and following in his footsteps, Francis, Charles, John and now Richard Garratt have provided bespoke insurance solutions to many of the North West's leading companies.

Richard and co-Director John Grindley have overseen the company's recent growth which resulted in the expansion into larger premises in central Preston in 2004, however the company remains just a few hundred yards from where George Garratt first opened his premises.

The larger premises have enabled Garratts to invest further in additional technology and staff developing delivery of service and complexity of product to its clients.

Our relationships with insurance companies continue to flourish locally, nationally and now internationally opening up unique markets for the benefit of the expanding client base.

Garratts Insurance Brokers has always concentrated solely on the corporate and commercial insurance markets.

Henry Alty Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

[1875-1899](#)

[1900-1924](#)

lists

Station Road
Hesketh Bank
Preston
PR4 6SS

Website www.altys.co.uk

Established 1877

The vast majority of websites for old established firms detail the history of the firm and emphasise their record of independent trading. The website for Henry Alty gives the establishment date for the firm and briefly mentions its long and distinguished history of which it is proud, but it does not confirm that it is still independently owned nor does it mention how the firm has developed over the years. The balance of opinion however appears to be that this is the case so it has been included.

The company's head office is in Hesketh Bank, whilst there are two other branches close by in Hoole and Burscough, and a further branch in Cheshire.

The company has two main sections of business: building and horticulture. The building side of the business has five sections supplying materials under the headings of heavy and lightside building materials, tool hire, timber products, and landscape and garden products. The firm's horticultural business covers products under the headings of growing media, fertilisers, crop production, pots and trays, baskets and planters, and sundries.

The company emphasises its determination to offer a first-class service to customers at a competitive price.

Leonard Dews

43-47 Market Street
Blackpool
FY1 1SU

Website www.leonarddews.co.uk

Established 1877

The firm has premises in Blackpool and Lytham and also Places in Blackpool and Lytham and there is also an affiliate business in the Isle of Man.

The website states that company has been operating as a family business since the 1920s, but offers no details of the firm's history prior to this date. In addition to offering jewellery, timepieces and diamonds, it also provides repairs and valuation services.

Bernard Watson

170 North Road
Preston
PR1 1YP

Website www.bernardwatson.co.uk

Established 1878

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

The company states that it is one of the North West's leading painting firms that undertakes work in the domestic, leisure, industrial, commercial and local authority sectors.

The website confirms that it has a history spanning more than 100 years, and that its trading heritage can be traced back to the time of establishment of J Corbishley & Sons, a former business that is now incorporated into Bernard Watson

T&W Garner

3-5 Witham Road
Skelmersdale
WN8 8HR

Website www.twgarner-ironmongers.co.uk

Established 1878

The business has been sold to new owners on a relatively small number of occasions given the length of time that the shop has been in existence. It was originally opened in 1878 to service the then small mining village of Skelmersdale, by brothers Thomas and William Garner. After their deaths, the shop was sold to Peter Seddon in 1935, and after his death in 1957 to Edward Hodges, who had worked at the shop from leaving school. On Mr. Hodges' retirement in 1980, it was sold to Walter and David Oakley, who in 1989 and 1998 carried out extensive building work that included extending the shop and storage area.

T&W Garner is said to be renowned for its wide and varied range of goods, and the friendly and helpful who are always ready to offer help and advice.

Wilcocks & Sons

49-51 Chapel Street
Chorley
PR7 1BU

Website www.wilcockandsons.co.uk

Established 1878

According to the website, Wilcock and Sons was run by the same family for over a hundred and twenty years. In 2000 the store was taken over by Arthur Adlam who had worked for the Wilcock family for twenty years.

Ever since its inception, the store has had the same intentions, to be a 'one stop shop' for hardware needs, and to provide a friendly, professional service from staff that really know about the business.

Armistead Barnett

Market Place
Garstang
Lancashire
PR3 1ZA

Website www.abarnett.co.uk

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Established 1880

The firm has offices in Garstang and Burscough and specialises in property valuations, lettings and management, agricultural law, utilities easements and wayleaves, compulsory purchase, and single farm payments and environmental schemes. The website confirms the company's date of establishment and the fact that it operates throughout the North West.

Henry Halstead

Unit 492

Holly Place

Walton Summit Centre

Bamber Bridge

Preston

PR5 8AX

Website www.kanbanexperts.co.uk

Established 1880

The website states that the head office is at the Bamber Bridge address, but the website gives only brief details of the heritage of the company. The assumption has been made that it appears to be an independent business.

Henry Halstead has the aim to be the very best supplier of Total Component Management Systems to manufacturing industries. The company originated from a manufacturing base, but moved into distribution in the early 1970s.

The firm seeks to assist organisations in seeking 'World Class' manufacturing status. The firm offers a supply service (the kanban system) that is said to be radically different to the "old" procurement philosophy. This system is said to guarantee continuous stock availability on an enormous range of products, working with minimum stocks conveniently sited at point of use.

Companies in sectors such as Automotive, Electronics, Furniture Manufacturing, Domestic Appliances and Machine Tool Builders are said to have benefited from this system.

K Supplies Ltd

Hill End Lane

Cloughfold

Rossendale

BB4 7PP

Website www.ksupplies.co.uk

Established 1880

The company has seven outlets, five of which are in the Lancashire administrative area. The website gives the phone number of the Rossendale branch as the contact for new accounts, therefore it has been assumed that this is the head office.

K Supplies Ltd is a company able to trace its origins back to when William Edward Kay first set up in business. It remains a family owned business, which continues to provide customers with a competitive personal service. Its policy of working closely with

customers and suppliers is said to have produced continuous growth, and has led to K Supplies Ltd becoming the leading independent, industrial distributor in the North West.

The company's buyers are said to deal only with leading manufacturers and suppliers when purchasing top quality branded tools, machinery and equipment, which helps the company maintain a consistently high level of service at competitive prices.

The company prides itself on being the best source for unusual items as well as the more common ones. Computerised stock control locates tools and equipment held by the company at the touch of a button. The fleet of vans gives a twice-daily delivery service from most branches guaranteeing a rapid response to our customers' demands.

J Trickett & Son (Insurances) Ltd

13 Bank Street
Rawtenstall
Rossendale
BB4 6QS

Established 1882

Website www.trickettsinsurance.co.uk

The website confirms the date of establishment of the firm and appears to assert that it is not owned by a larger organisation.

The company states that they are UK Based Independent Financial Advisors that have been providing financial advice to individuals and businesses since its inception.

Cherry Tree Machines Ltd

Imperial House
Gorse Street
Blackburn
BB1 3EU

Website www.cherrytreemachines.co.uk

Established 1882

Originally a manufacturer of domestic mangles and hand operated washing machines, the company now produces large goods such as high capacity washing machines as used in hospitals, prisons, laundries, etc. and specialised devices like the towel folding machine for industrial laundries.

The company's prime objective is to provide a premium service to the laundry industry. Whether it is the provision of an individual spare part or the design and installation of a turnkey plant, the company aims to deliver the best value combined with ongoing commitment.

Cherry Tree Laundry Solutions now has a range of service and supply to meet the most demanding of requirements and they intend to develop partnerships with customers to provide long-term mutual benefit.

Stevenson Memorials

381 Preston Old Road
Blackburn
BB2 5LL

Website www.stevensonmemorials.co.uk

Established 1883

The Stevenson Family has been memorial masons for six generations and the website states that the business remains strong in quality, professionalism and the understanding of the needs of the bereaved. With extensive knowledge of the industry, the company is able to advise on all aspects of memorial inscription, erection, types of design, maintenance, insurance and cemetery and churchyard regulations.

Winter & Kidson Multimedia

28 Broadgate
Preston
PR1 8DX

Website www.wkm.co.uk

Established 1883

If the website did not mention that the company was founded in 1883, it would seem impossible to suggest from the content of the site that the company had such a long history. It seems somewhat of an understatement when the company states that it has constantly evolved to achieve its position at the forefront of modern day multimedia design. Services are split in to the following categories: web design, design and print, photography, exhibitions, display, video.

Cunningham Jewellers

2 Damside Street
Lancaster
LA1 1PB

Website www.cunningham-jewellers.co.uk

Established 1885

Cunninghams Jewellers is said to be Lancaster's oldest jeweller. It was originally established by James Cunningham, but in 1945 the business passed to David and Eveline England (relatives of the current owners), then in 1962 to Peter and Marian Gregg. In 1983 Anthony Gregg became a partner in the business in advance of his becoming proprietor in 1986.

Rushtons Chartered Accountants

Shorrock House

1 Faraday Court

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 9NB

Website www.rushtonsaccountants.com

Established c. 1885

The practice of Rushtons was first established in Preston during the 1880s, and the present partners steadfastly maintain the philosophy which has been inherent in the practice for so many years. The company's overriding priority is that of close personal attention to the affairs of all our clients, whether they be large organisations or individuals.

As the financial environment becomes ever more complex, the company has recognised the need for specialist assistance to enable and therefore are members of the UK 200 Group, which is a nationwide network of independent firms of Chartered Accountants. This Group exists to pool the considerable resources, experience and knowledge of its member firms.

Edward Dewhurst

Grierson House

Anchorage Business Park

Chain Caul Way

Riversway Docklands

Preston

PR2 2DG

Website www.dewhurstgroup.co.uk

Established 1887

Edward Dewhurst Ltd is a well-established family-owned private company. Founded in 1887 by Mr Edward Dewhurst, the grandfather of the present chairman and the great-grandfather of the current joint managing directors, John and Paul Dewhurst.

For over 100 years the company has been committed to building a solid reputation within the electrical engineering industry and has now successfully developed into a multi-faceted organisation.

The company offers a comprehensive range of quality engineering specialist services, tailored to meet individual customer requirements, operating within the following four key market sectors: electrical contracting, airfield services, sheet metal fabrication and civil engineering.

JW Fish

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

[1875-1899](#)

[1900-1924](#)

lists

62 Lord Street
Fleetwood
FY7 6DT

Website www.jwfish.co.uk

Established 1887

The kind assistance of a member of the public who stated that it is one of her favourite shops led to this firm being identified for inclusion.

JW Fish is said to be a family run business which the current owners bought in 1982 from Rob Winstanley.

The website unfortunately contains little information on the history of the firm, but it does highlight the list of cookware products sold online at the Fleetwood premises and reveals that the firm has an important online presence.

Beaumont Textiles

Unit B, Lower Heavy Business Park,
Froom Street,
Chorley,
Lancashire,
PR6 9AR

Website beaumonttextiles.co.uk

Established 1888

The website states that (Bill) Beaumont Textiles can trace its history back over four generations of family ownership to when Joseph Blackledge set up a small weaving shed in Chorley to supply niche products to the local cotton markets.

Subsequent growth and diversification resulted in a move towards merchant converting and more recently, under the guidance of the current owner, into household textiles with particular focus on curtains and upholstery fabrics.

Beaumont Textiles specialises in jacquard weaves and the company also offers custom-made curtains and blinds on a wide selection of its most popular fabrics.

Conveyor & Elevator Company Ltd

Grange Works
Wellington Street
Accrington
BB5 2NT

Website www.conveyor-and-elevator.co.uk

Established 1889

The website states that this engineering business specialises in the field of mechanical handling. The company's aim is to offer a comprehensive, first class service from the supply of individual spares through to design, manufacture, installation and commissioning where required.

The website confirms the date of establishment, but does not provide any details of the ownership and general heritage of the company. There is however nothing to suggest that it is not an independently owned company therefore it has been included in this list.

George Haffner (Foods) Ltd

14 Keirby Walk
Burnley
BB11 2DE

Website www.haffners.co.uk

Established 1889

George Kristian Haffner, a German immigrant, arrived in England in 1879 and in 1889 he opened a pork butcher's shop in Burnley. The company's website charts the family's involvement in the business up to the present day and the fortunes of the business, which nowadays has three outlets in Burnley.

The company sells all kinds of meat and states that it takes particular care to buy from local wholesalers and farmers. In addition to the retail trade, the company also supplies local caterers such as restaurants, public houses, residential homes, canteens, etc.

The website states that the seasoning recipe for the sausages remains the same as the one brought to England from Germany by John's great-grandfather in 1879.

George Speight & Sons Ltd

Queen Street
Lancaster
LA1 1RX

Website www.georgespeights.co.uk

Established 1889

The company specialises in supplying fresh fruit, vegetables, potatoes and par-fry chips directly to companies. Since the firm does not have a retail presence, it is somewhat less well known than many other old Lancashire firms.

The website states this is a family-run firm that has customers throughout the North West of England.

Mr Fitzpatrick's

Unit 7
The Courtyard
270 Grane Road

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Haslingden

BB4 4PB

Website www.mrfitzpatricks.com

Established 1890

Fitzpatrick's Temperance Bar in Rawtenstall has been making soft drinks for more than 100 years. The shop is believed to be the last of the original temperance bars that were set up as alternatives to pubs in the 1890s.

The Fitzpatricks were a family of herbalists who emigrated from Ireland to Lancashire in the 1800s. They opened a chain of shops throughout Lancashire selling herbal remedies and gained popularity through the temperance movement. At their peak the Fitzpatricks owned a total of 24 shops.

The Rawtenstall shop has managed to survive through the dedicated support of the local community and the affection they have for both the shop and its drinks. The proud tradition is continued today by the new owners, with a new dream to make Fitzpatrick's cordial available to all. Their headquarters is now in Haslingden.

Granthams

Head Office

Graphics House

Charnley Road

Blackpool

FY1 4PE

Website www.granthams.co.uk

Established 1890 Granthams has been established in the graphics industry for over 100 years. Originally a sign-writing business based in Blackpool. Today Granthams has operations in two locations based in Blackpool and Preston and split into three divisions: art and reprographics supplies, copy and print, and graphic technology. Each has many years' experience and focuses on offering a professional and highly competitive range of products and services to customers across the UK.

Gorrills of Lancaster

61-63 Penny Street

Lancaster

LA1 1UD

No website

Established 1891

Gorrills of Lancaster is an independent family run shop, passed down through four generations, that sells a huge range of homewares and gifts.

Roberts & Co.

The Coffee Roastery

Cedar Farm

Back Lane

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Mawdesley

L40 3SY

Website www.e-coffee.co.uk

Date of establishment 1891

The firm has its headquarters in Lancashire, though much of its heritage originates from outside the county.

This family business has been involved in the tea and coffee trade since the present owner's grandfather, who originated from North Wales, moved to Liverpool to work in the tea trade. The business originally targeted markets back in North Wales but slowly the port of Liverpool became the main area of business.

Famous shipping lines like Cunard, Blue Star Line, Elder Dempster and others were customers, along with the Navy and numerous ship stores and chandlers. From around 1960, the decline of the port and the advent of supermarkets meant that new markets had to be found

The growing catering trade became the biggest element of sales and the company moved into speciality tea and coffee shops in the 1980s. Shops were opened in Wigan, Chester, Manchester, Southport and London. Cedar Farm in Mawdesley is the main base for the company.

Moore & Smalley

Richard House

9 Winckley Square

Preston

PR1 3HP

Website www.mooreandsmalley.co.uk

Established 1892

Moore & Smalley is one of the region's leading independent providers of accounting and business advisory services to corporate and private clients.

In 1869, William Francis Moore began practising as an accountant, opening an office at 9 Chapel Street Preston. After some years his two sons joined him and business grew. However, the growth proved problematic and the business was amicably wound up.

Mr Moore Sr. then offered a partnership to his chief clerk, Robert Edwin Smalley, who had been apprenticed to Mr Moore as an office boy in 1880. On 1 January 1892, the firm of Moore and Smalley was established.

The small practice founded by William Moore all those years ago had now grown into the largest Preston-based firm of Chartered Accountants.

Whether its services for growing businesses, business support, corporate finance, strategic consultancy, business advice, corporate financial planning, taxation services or financial planning and wealth management, Moore & Smalley aspire to exceed expectations in providing a first-class, cost-effective and dependable service.

Droyt Products Ltd

Progress Mill
Progress Street
Chorley
PR6 ORZ

Website www.droyt.com

Established 1893

An old Lancashire firm that has managed to survive some challenging experiences that would have proved overwhelming for most businesses.

The family firm was initially founded in Minsk, Belarus, in 1893 under the name of "The Victoria Fine Soap Works". After the Russian Revolution, the company was forced to move and settled in Berlin, in a factory building just off the Kurfürstendamm, at Joachim-Friedrich-Straße 37. With a name change to Danico Glycerinseife Gesellschaft, the firm was based in Germany until 1937, when it was again forced to move. A new home was made in England, in a former yarn mill in Chorley.

Raw materials were scarce during the first few years after arriving in England, due to wartime rationing. The company survived on small allocations and made anything from tooth powder to cough medicine. Soap production did not start again in earnest until the late 1940s.

Nowadays, Droyt is an established private label and the company manufactures glycerine soaps, both solid and liquid, and is entering a new era of organic soap production.

The company remains a privately owned independent company and states that it uses the best quality vegetable or mineral ingredients to make a soap which is aesthetically pleasing and very well regarded.

Lydall Industrial Filtration

Hareholme Mill
Bacup Road
Rawtenstall
BB4 7JL

Website www.lydallif.com

Established 1894

The company traces its roots back to when it started as a weaving operation. In the 1960s, it began producing high-specification needlefelt primarily for the filtration industry, and the website asserts that the firm has ever since been at the forefront of filtration technology.

With effect from 2 October 2006, the group's two UK-based businesses, Andrew Textile Industries Ltd and Webron Marling Ltd, merged to become one single business, Andrew Webron Ltd, its headquarters in Rawtenstall. In 2014 it was taken over by Lydall Inc. who are based in Manchester, Connecticut, USA.

Lydall IF exports approximately 65% of its annual production worldwide, and the customer base includes many leading global filtration equipment manufacturers and major fabricators of filtration products

Carrington Textiles Ltd.

Market Street
Adlington
near Chorley
PR7 4HJ

Website www.carrington.co.uk/

Established c. 1894

The company website states that the firm has over 125 years in the industry, but there is no confirmation of the actual date. It mentions that Carrington is the largest producer of workwear fabrics in the UK, producing over 55 million metres of fabric annually, and exporting to more than 80 countries worldwide. Textile production at the site can be traced back to the 1760s. It is adjacent to the Pincroft Dyeing and Printing works, and the two businesses appear to be very closely related

Pincroft Dyeing & Printing Co. Ltd

Market Street
Adlington
near Chorley
PR7 4HE

Website www.pincroft.com

Established c. 1894

The company website states that the firm has over a century of tradition, but there is no confirmation of the actual date. Pincroft Dyeing & Printing Co. Ltd has for the last 25 years specialised in the production of workwear fabrics and is said to be an acknowledged leader in this field. The factory is adjacent to the Carrington Textiles works, and there is a joint reception area, so the two companies appear to be very closely related.

In comparison to other websites there is not a wealth of information, but what clearly comes across is the pride the business has in emphasising its environmental credentials. The firm has invested heavily in state of the art machinery that has led to dramatic reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. The investment also allows Pincroft to recover energy from wastewater used during processing and from the hot exhaust air of the drying and finishing equipment.

Ritherdon & Co. Ltd

Lorne Street
Darwen
BB3 1QW

Website ritherdon.co.uk/

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)**lists**

Established 1895

The company website contains a [page that charts the fascinating history](#) of the firm from its foundation in Bolton by Percy Ritherdon. It was initially involved with electroplating and enamelling for the Edwardian bicycle boom, but the company also specialised in the precise fabrication of magic tricks. The web page charts the company's involvement in the First and Second World Wars and its subsequent work in providing products to the nuclear industry and electricity boards.

The company has been at its present site for many years and continues to invest in state of the art machinery. It nowadays specialises in manufacturing enclosures and control panel metalwork, particularly for the electricity distribution industry, but also numbers many other nationally recognised names among its customers.

The county council is grateful to Ben Ritherdon for his help in putting together these two short paragraphs, and for including a link to this list of long established Lancashire firms on the Ritherdon website.

Frederick's Ice Cream Ltd

Bolton Road Dairies

Heath Charnock

PR7 4AL

Website www.fredericksicecream.co.uk

Established 1896

Frederick's is proud to have been in business as a family-run firm for over 100 years. Frederick's Ice Cream is the North West's leading family-owned and -managed ice cream company, manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing Italian-style ice cream.

The family originated from a small village in north-west Italy and the company was established in 1896 by Mattia Federici and his brothers when they arrived in England. Mattia's son, Matthew, married May Amelia Massa, whose family had been making ice cream in the Chorley area since 1892. When they married in 1936, they were bought the shop as a wedding gift and the company is run by their descendants.

The site on Bolton Road is the base for all manufacturing and wholesaling for the company and is also the site of the flagship ice cream parlour. The company also has ice cream parlours in central Chorley and in Wigan.

Frederick's Ice Cream currently produces over 112 different flavours of ice cream with new ones being added constantly. Every year Frederick's Ice Cream enters the National Ice Cream Competition. The company has been delighted to receive many awards including Diplomas, Diplomas of Merit and Special Diplomas of Merit.

Clitheroe Auction Mart

Ribblesdale Centre

Lincoln Way

Clitheroe

BB7 1QD

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Website www.auctionmart.co.uk

Established 1897

The [Company Check website](#) gives a date of incorporation for the company that has been used to derive the date of establishment. The company is somewhat specialised in nature which means that it is a little removed from the competitive commercial pressures that most companies have to face, but it is still open to competition and has to trade profitably to stay in business.

Clitheroe Auction Mart has regular weekly auctions of livestock, antiques, furniture, equestrian items and horses, machinery and plant. The website states that the Auction Mart has over 100 years of history in the Ribble Valley, and includes Silverwoods as a division of the Company, which specialises in the auction of antiques, furniture and fine art and the sale of rural property and quota

Edmondson's (Blackburn) Ltd

99-119 Darwen Street

Blackburn

BB2 2AH

Website www.edmondsonsfurniture.co.uk

Established 1898

Edmondson's is an independent furniture store specialising in the middle to top end furniture market. The showroom is located close to the town centre and has more than 10,000 sq.ft. of display area.

F Brown PLC

Higham Grange

Higham Side Rd

Inskip

Preston

PR4 0TF

Website www.fbrownplc.com

Established 1898

The establishment date was obtained from the Central Lancashire company database managed by the district councils of Preston, Chorley and South Ribble and not from the company's website.

F Brown PLC specialises in the roofing, cladding and interior refurbishment of commercial and industrial buildings. Predominantly known from its origins as an industrial roofing and cladding company, services were extended from the mid-1970s to provide a comprehensive interior fit-out package including suspended ceilings, demountable and metal stud partitions and raised-access floors.

E Taylor Sons & Co. Ltd

691/693 Bacup Road

Waterfoot

Rosendale

BB4 7HB

Website www.taylorsthedecoratingstore.co.uk

Established 1899

The website states that this is an independent family business that values top quality and personal service, and that has been trading for over 100 years. The [Companies House](#) website gives the year of incorporation of the company as 1899.

The firm supplies Paints and Wallcoverings, and are paint tinting specialists, using the latest computer technology to satisfy specific customer requirements. The firm stocks a range of Brushes, Rollers, Tools, Adhesives and Fillers etc., and supplies both trade and retail customers.

D. Sanderson (Bookbinders) Ltd.

Primrose Mill

Primrose Hill

London Road

Preston

PR1 4BX

Website sandersonbookbinders.co.uk/about/

Established 1899

“Sanderson’s Bookbinders” is said to be one of Preston’s oldest businesses and one of the UK’s oldest continually operating bookbinding and print finishers

Shirley's Ltd

24-26 Canterbury Street

Blackburn

BB2 2HP

Website www.shirleystwastepaper.com

Established 1900

The company specialises in recycling so does not fit exactly into any of the broad industrial and commercial sectors used to classify the firms in this article.

The company was founded in 1900, when Thomas Shirley inherited a house at 26 Canterbury Street with an adjoining small warehouse.

The website states that, with the advent of machinery together with the erosion of values of recyclable materials, survival has depended on bulk handling and specialisation.

The company now has a site of 4,000 sq.m. and can process well in excess of 2,000 tonnes of waste of paper and cardboard per week. As part of its continuing growth, and to meet customer requirements, the company also provides general waste services and plastic recycling.

H&P Ascroft, Worthingtons Farm

Park Lane
Holmes
Tarleton
Preston
PR4 6JN

Website www.worthingtonsfarm.co.uk

Established, 1900

An example of one of the long-established farming family businesses in Lancashire, and it is more than likely that a number of others still need to be identified for inclusion in this list. The Ascroft family have been farming in West Lancashire since the turn of the last century. The website states that the firm sticks to the traditional way of growing a variety of arable crops in rotation.

Douglas Marine Ltd

Douglas Boatyard
Beconsall Lane
Hesketh Bank
PR4 6RR

Website www.douglasmarine.co.uk

Established c. 1900

Douglas Marine Ltd is situated on the River Douglas, off the Ribble Estuary, and is accessible by boat from the sea, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, and the Lancaster Canal (via the Ribble Link). The website confirms that it is a family business and that the Douglas Boatyard has been building and repairing boats since around 1900. It was originally established to build and repair timber fishing boats once used extensively on the Irish Sea. In recent years, the boatyard has specialised in building and repairing all types of boats for recreational use, from canal cruisers to ocean-going yachts.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Ocean Boulevard
Blackpool
FY4 1EZ

Website www.blackpoolpleasurebeach.com

Established 1900

William George Bean founded Pleasure Beach, Blackpool in 1896 and bought the forty two acre site on which the Pleasure Beach now stands. His vision was of an, 'American Style Amusement Park, the fundamental principle of which is to make adults feel like children again and to inspire gaiety of a primarily innocent character'.

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Various rides, including the still popular Sir Hiram Maxim Flying Machines, were introduced to the area. The 1930s saw the introduction of many new rides, including The Rollercoaster, The Pleasure Beach Express, and the world-famous twin track coaster, The Grand National. After the war the Company continued to prosper. The '60s saw a resurgence of development projects and it was during this era that Britain's first commercial Monorail was built at the Pleasure Beach and new rides - The Monster, The Astro Swirl and the Log Flume were introduced.

Pleasure Beach, Blackpool has been consistently profitable and these profits have been re-invested in new rides and the development and upgrading of the Park. 1994 saw an investment of £12 million for the Pepsi Max Big One, at the time Europe's tallest and fastest rollercoaster.

The year 2000 saw the biggest investment to date of £15 million when Pleasure Beach, Blackpool opened, Valhalla, the world's biggest dark ride. Another Pleasure Beach first happened in Spring 2003 as The Big Blue Hotel opened its doors at the south end of the park offering luxury accommodation at an affordable price.

Over recent years the Pleasure Beach's Business strategy had moved away from launching a spectacular new ride every few years. The focus moved towards developing its own hotel capacity for short-break visitors and to invest in improved stage shows, to reduce the impact of bad weather and appeal to a wider audience including families. The announcement in 2006 that a new ride called 'Infusion' will open in 2007, and occupy the former Log Flume ride site, represents the emphasis focusing back towards investing in major new rides.

Blackpool has for a while been experiencing a cycle of long-term decline exacerbated by cheap flights to overseas resorts and alternative sources of entertainment. The Pleasure Beach continues to invest and work hard to prosper in a challenging economic environment.

H Lofthouse & Sons

Unit 10
Lincoln Park Industrial Estate
Lincoln Way
Clitheroe
BB7 1QD

No website

Established c. 1900

The company does not have a website but the firm has done work for Ribble Valley Borough Council's Surveyors Department, who have kindly confirmed that it is an independently trading company.

The company is involved in plumbing, painting and decorating, and offers a 24-hour emergency plumbing service to local authorities and domestic properties. The painting and decorating side of the business has been in existence for over 100 years.

John Potter & Harrison

Lytham Office
3a Clifton Square

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Lytham St Annes

FY8 5JP

Website www.jpharrison.co.uk

Established c. 1900

Chartered accountants in Fylde, over 100 years but exact date unknown.

The website has only limited details about the company history, but does confirm that it is over 100 years old and that John Potter was the founding partner.

The firm states that it has developed over the years and in addition to the basic audit and accountancy services, it also advises clients on the many and varied aspects of their financial affairs. From its offices on the Fylde coast, the business provides support and advice for firms and individuals throughout the UK.

Ratcliffe & Bibby

3-7 New Street

Carnforth

LA5 9BU

Website www.ratcliffe-bibby.co.uk

Established c. 1900

For more than a century the firm has been providing independent legal services in a catchment area that stretches from Garstang to north in to South Cumbria. The company provides traditional services such as conveyancing, estate and tax planning, wills, personal injury, commercial, divorce, County Court and High Court work.

Harrison Drury & Co Ltd

Website: www.harrison-drury.com

Established: 1901

1a, Chapel Street

Winckley Square

Preston

PR1 8BU

The firm was started by William Henry Coupe in premises at Lune Street Preston. After the end of the First World War William Harrison joined the law firm as a partner. Thomas Waterworth Drury joined in 1952. Operating from Lune Street and Fleet Street, the firm specialised in conveyancing for some time. The firm moved to the current address in 2012 and now offers a wide range of legal services .

Austin Walmsley Ltd.

No Website

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Established 1902

Leachfield Industrial Estate,
Green Lane West,
Garstang,
Preston
PR3 1PR

A family run firm which began as a blacksmith's and farrier's but evolved into the current welding and fabrication business.

Hesfords DIY, Gardening & Housewares

Moorgate
Ormskirk
L39 4RU

Website www.hesfordsdiy.co.uk

Established 1903

Hesfords has been a family concern since it was founded. The company began by specialising in agricultural engineering, but in 1983 the grandson of the founder decided to set up a retail outlet to supply domestic customers.

The business has been trading from its present location since 1978 and the firm's products range from screws, washers and paint to household and gardening tools. In addition, the company supplies gas air products such as: welding gas, cooking gas and balloon gas.

Wm Hobkirk & Son

118-128 Darwen Street
Blackburn
BB2 2AJ

Website www.hobkirk.co.uk

Established 1903

Founded by Mr William Hobkirk, the company began trading from the Salford area in central Blackburn. William was joined by his son Edgar Hobkirk then in the 60's by Edgar's son and William's grandson Peter Hobkirk.

The company then expanded having another retail shop on Darwen Street on the opposite side of Blackburn's town centre which to this day is the company's head office.

During the '70s and '80s it was Peter Hobkirk who expanded the chain of domestic shops and the 1980s also saw the introduction of industrial sewing machines to the company's already vast range of sewing products, along with the appointment of Mr Brian Buttress as Industrial Technical Director.

2001 saw the opening of 'Hobby's Art and Craft Store' (run by Gillian Holden) which has gone from strength to strength and more recently has doubled in size to expand the range of products on offer.

Mark Hobkirk and Alison Pettinger joined the company in 1993 and in June of 2005 they became Sales Director and Financial Director with Peter Hobkirk as Company Chairman.

The company continues to trade from their head office on Darwen Street, Blackburn, and has reduced the number of satellite branches from six to two

The Old Sweet Shop

4-6 Pedder Street

Morecambe

LA4 5DZ

Website www.oldsweetshop.com

Established 1903

One of the few remaining traditional sweetshops left in the UK, the business was originally established in 1903 as a newsagent and sweet shop and continues to the present day with a range of 250 loose sweets. It is now possible to place orders online which are usually processed within 48 hours.

Birtwell and Co. Ltd

Units 1 and 2

Willow Business Centre

Lower Barnes Street

Clayton-le-Moors

BB5 5SW

Website www.birtwells.co.uk

Established 1904

The website states that Birtwells has led the way in trade printing and is one of the UK's leading trade printers. The company's clients include a wide range of brokers, and the firm is said to provide specialist services to many large and small printers in the UK and offers a rapid turnaround.

The website contains only a limited amount of information regarding the heritage of the company. However, there is nothing to suggest that the firm is not an independent business.

J Mayor & Co Ltd

The Bungalow

Tarleton Boatyard,

Canal Bank,

Preston

PR4 6HD

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Website: none

Established 1904

When there was an active website, it contained only limited details about the history of the company, but confirmed that the business could trace its roots back to 1904 when it was first established by the James Major family. Previously it was known as Tarleton Boatyard, but this name now appears to be dormant in business terms. The company still trading has reverted to the J. Major name. It has now been at its present location since 1924. Nowadays, the business offers a variety of services including building new narrow boats, boat repair and transportation.

Ward Knowles Ltd

Brookside Lane

Oswaldtwistle

Accrington

BB5 3NY

Website www.wardknowles.co.uk

Established 1904

Ward Knowles Ltd has over the years developed from general printer to a specialist business forms printer. For many years a family company, the firm was bought by four senior managers in 2000, and since then it has undergone significant changes and investment in new technology. All the company's products are printed and finished in house at its 80,000 sq.ft. manufacturing facility in Oswaldtwistle.

The firm has no direct sales force but instead relies entirely on the major print management companies for its growth. The company states that it is one of the UK's largest manufacturers of business forms. Their philosophy is said to be one of sticking to what they are good at whilst striving to increase capacity and improve efficiency.

JH Blakey & Sons

Burnley Rd

Brierfield

Nelson

BB9 5AD

Website www.jhblakey.co.uk

Established 1905

The company continues the codes of practice laid down by the founders of the company, James Henry and Mary Blakey and which are now practised by the grandson of the founder: honesty, quality and value coupled with excellence of service.

The company boasts vast showrooms that display all types of locks, handles and safes to suit all applications. Services include trained locksmiths, the design and construction of locks under license, key cutting, exit devices and door controls.

RH Slater & Son Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

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lists

Loud Bridge

Chipping

Preston

PR3 2NX

No website

Established 1905

The website, when live, contained a comprehensive history that charted the family involvement in the firm from its formation to the present day. The company has carried out a variety of work over the years, but the mainstream business is nowadays one of building contractor and joinery manufacture.

WH Oddie Ltd

129 Scotland Road

Nelson

BB9 7XR

www.oddiesbakery.co.uk

Established 1905

Manufacturer and retailer of bread and flour confectionery, with shops across East Lancashire.

Besglos Polish Co. Ltd

Meadow Bank Works

George Street

Burnley

BB11 1ND

No website

Established 1906

Besglos is one of the longest established polish manufacturers in the North, dedicated to creating a safer and healthier working environment through its wide range of hygiene products and equipment.

The firm states that it has been committed from the outset to providing quality products. Nowadays the company occupies a modern 16,000 sq. ft. factory sited adjacent to the motorway network and produces its very broad range of products under one roof.

The company's clients include local authorities, hotels, contract cleaners, flooring contractors, industry large and small, commerce, rest homes, nursing homes, hospitals and the transport industry.

EA Foulds Ltd

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Albert Works
Clifton Street
Colne
BB8 9AE

Website www.fouldslifts.co.uk

Established 1907

The website states that the firm is one of the North West's leading independent lift companies and has been managed by four generations of the Foulds family.

The company was established by Ernst Albert Foulds, and initially gained a reputation as a general engineer and millwright. During the First World War it made shell casings, and then in the 1920s started to specialise in supplying goods lifts. Further diversification in the 1960s led to the manufacture of electrical control panels. Nowadays, the business specialises in all aspects of lift engineering.

Ingles' Dawndew Salad Ltd

Fouldrey Avenue
Poulton-le-Fylde
FY6 7HE

Website www.dawndew.co.uk

Established 1907

The website states that the company is a privately owned family firm that has been based in the area since the founder, Thomas Ingle, started growing various crops on an acre of rented land in Thornton Cleveleys.

Over the years, the firm started to look for customers further afield, and in the 1980s began to purchase vehicles to service these markets.

The company asserts that it has captured much of the country's salad market, and specialises in growing salad cress and beansprouts. It can also supply a wide range of complementary salad produce from Europe to customers across the country with its fleet of refrigerated wagons.

After relocating to Poulton-Le-Fylde in 1990, the company changed its name to 'Ingles' Dawndew Salad', and moved into a single-roofed five-acre greenhouse complex. It states that it operates an efficient service to the highest level of food safety, using an environmentally friendly policy.

John Turner Construction Group Ltd

Head Office
2 Preston Road
Grimsargh
Preston
PR2 5SD

Website www.johnturner.co.uk

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Established 1907

The company is a building and civil engineering contractor that operates throughout North West England.

The website states that the company has divisions covering construction, maintenance, joinery manufacture and electrical services, and that the company has acquired a wealth of experience and a proven track record within the construction industry. The company operates across a broad range of sectors and undertakes a wide diversity of new build and refurbishment projects, ranging in value from £50,000 to £15 million.

Kirk Environmental

Riverside

Bridge Street

Colne

BB8 0DR

Website www.kirk-environmental.com

Established 1907

The firm does not have a website but confirmation that it has a heritage dating back to when it started as a blacksmiths in 1907 and therefore is 100 years old in 2007 was provided by a Lancashire County Council press release commenting on how in 2006, the company accessed a Rosebud Fund loan from the County Council's economic development company, Lancashire County Developments. Rosebud loans are designed to help small and medium sized businesses, which can sometimes find it hard to raise all the investment they need from traditional sources such as banks.

The company has over the years developed into a specialist in water management and water treatment solutions and is now leading the way in its field delivering first class products to the whole of the UK and exporting its technology around the world.

Alan Kirk, the grandson of the founder of the firm, the major shareholder of the company is scaling back his involvement in the company and transferring day to day responsibilities and majority ownership to his management team.

In 2008, the firm changed its name from R Kirk & Sons to better reflect its present day business activities.

Mitchell Interflex Ltd

County Brook Mill

Foulridge

Colne

BB9 7LT

Website www.mitchell-interflex.co.uk

Established 1907

Mitchell Interflex is a family-owned company that celebrated its centenary in 2007.

The Weaving Department has modern productive capacity to meet customer needs. Many of the fabrics produced require a brushed surface and in 1998 a custom-built Raising Department was commissioned. The Raising Department is situated on the M65 at Nelson

and has excellent distribution through the motorway network. The raising factory has the best machinery available for raising both woven and non-woven fabrics with suitable ancillary equipment for crease and lapping and making up.

Waddington & Son Solicitors

28 Manchester Road

Burnley

BB11 1HH

Website www.waddingtonandson.co.uk

Established 1908

A solicitors business with branches in Burnley and Padiham that celebrates its centenary in 2008. The website states that it retains a strong commitment to the traditional family values to private client, as well as supplying a range of specialist commercial services to business clients.

Briggs & Duxbury Ltd

Butts

Barnoldswick

Colne

BB18 5HP

Website www.briggsandduxbury.co.uk/

Established 1909

A family run that prides itself on its reputation and workmanship. The firm specialises Building/ Joinery Works, Building Material Supplies and Funeral Arrangements/ Monumental Masons.

Clark & Sons

46 Ansdell Rd

Blackpool

FY1 5LZ

Website www.hjclarks.co.uk

Established 1909

The firm's website confirms the longevity of the business and that the firm offers a domestic and office removals service plus export services and storage facilities.

J Wareing & Son

Whinbrick Works

Blackpool Road

Kirkham

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

[1875-1899](#)

[1900-1924](#)

lists

Preston
PR4 2RJ

Website www.wareingbuildings.co.uk

Established 1909

Wareing Buildings is a specialist supplier of steel framed structures for an extensive number of applications.

The family business is said to have earned a reputation nationally and internationally based on quality and craftsmanship. Initially, the company was founded to supply products to the agricultural sector but has successfully marketed its expertise to the commercial sector with contracts as far afield as the Falkland Islands and the Sudan.

Today it manufactures purpose-built premises such as storage units, leisure and sports facilities, warehouses, agricultural buildings, stables and retail premises.

KM Chartered Accountants

(KneeShaw Moffatt)
4-6 Grimshaw Street
Burnley
BB11 2AZ

Website www.kmaccountants.co.uk

Established 1909

The website states that KM is a trading name of KM Business Solutions Ltd, a company that is registered at the Grimshaw Street address.

The firm states that it offers all the services expected from an independent firm of Chartered Accountants such as accountancy, financial services, payroll, book keeping and tax services.

Ashlea Limited

Scotland Road
Carnforth
Lancashire
LA5 9RE

Website www.ashlea-landscaping.co.uk

Established 1910

The website has only brief details of the company's heritage, but does confirm the date of establishment, the fact that Carnforth is the location for the head office, and that it is a privately owned company.

Ashlea Limited undertakes all aspects of hard and soft landscaping, including site clearance, earthworks, top soiling, seeding, turfing, tree, and ornamental shrub planting.

E & W Threlfall

Holt Farm
Rishton
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 4PA

Website www.threlfallsdairies.co.uk

Established 1912

Generations of the Threlfall family have run and managed the dairy and the farm's herd of milking cows and processing plant means that it can supply the local area and welcome new business. Holt farm provides milk and cream to some awarding winning ice-cream makers such as Huntley's Ice creams.

Morris Quality Bakers

Baker Street
Coppull
Chorley
PR7 5UH

Website www.morrisqualitybakers.co.uk

Established 1912

The company serves clients on a daily basis from Cumbria in the north to Staffordshire in the south. It handles over 10,000 orders a week from clients ranging from small sandwich businesses to local authorities. Morris Quality Bakers offers a full range of bakery products from Morning Goods and Breads to speciality products like Chorley Cakes and Confectioneries.

The family business started in butchery, and in 1912 Walter Morris opened a butchers shop in Coppull. The shop thrived and was passed down to his son who continued the family business of supplying the Coppull area with the finest 'home-killed' meats, and in turn it was passed to his son Henry.

In the early 1970s Henry decided to process this meat himself making pasties, sausage rolls and hotpots. By 1975 Henry had increased his range of pies and started extending the shop; so Morris's Pies was born.

In the 1980s the business started to supply local pubs and by 1989 the company moved to larger premises in Coppull. With changes in the food market, and more demanding legislative controls for all high risk ingredients such as meat and dairy products, Henry decided that in 1995 Morris's of Coppull would focus on rolls and morning goods. Now called Morris's Quality Bakers, the company has over recent years won some major orders and since the start of the new millennium has needed to expand its premises in Coppull.

but can trace its history back to 1915. As at April 2023 the company is listed as still being active, but has no working website.

Direct links to old firms

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lists

Blackburn Yarn Dyers

Haslingden Road,
Blackburn.
BB2 3HN.

Website www.bydltd.co.uk

Established 1915

A company that has been dyeing yarn ever since it was first established, and continues to offer a service to some of the biggest names in the clothing and furnishing industry.

Roger Eaves Building

London Street
Fleetwood
FY7 6JQ

Website www.rogereaves.com

Established: 1916

A company that is still run by the founding Eaves family, and offers a wide range of construction-related services.

North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

9-10 Eastway Business Village
Olivers Place
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 9WT

Website: www.lancschamber.co.uk

Established: 1916

The NWLCC provides support to other local businesses which are members. Although this is unlike many of the other firms listed here which often have beginnings as family businesses, we have included this entry because it is a private company, incorporated in 1916 and classed as a membership organisation.

Hargreaves Brown & Benson Chartered Accountants

1, Bond Street
Colne
Lancashire
BB8 9DG

Website: www.hbb.co.uk

Established 1917

The company was founded at Lloyd's Chambers, Market Street, Colne in 1917 by Richard Hargreaves. In 1921 partners John Brown and William Benson joined the firm. Their services are offered to business and individual customers, and to specialist sectors such as solicitors and agriculture.

Lancashire Sock Manufacturing Company

Britannia Mill
Bacup
Lancashire
OL13 9RZ

Website: www.lancashiresock.com

Established 1917

Lancashire Sock is a family firm, founded by the Ormerod family, which has branched out from the manufacture of insoles into many types of textiles including carpet underlay and heat retardant materials such as those used in ironing board covers.

Lantex Manufacturing Co. Ltd

Oxford Court
Oxford Street
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 1GR

Website: www.lantex.co.uk

Established 1918

Lantex Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was founded in 1918 as Scapa Manufacturing Co Ltd. in Haslingden, Lancashire as weavers of wide cloth and yarn doublers. The present Chairman is the founder's son and the company remains largely owned by the Hardman family. The modern sewing company now makes kitchen textiles and cushions, bags for life and other promotional blanks and printed items.

Emerson & Renwick

Peel Bank Works
Church
Accrington
BB5 4EF

Website: www.eandr.com

Established 1918

An engineering firm which began as manufacturers of textile finishing machinery, and through time have added wallcovering printing machines, coating and laminating and heat exchanger technology to their product list.

James Hart (Chorley) Ltd

Clover Road
Chorley
PR7 2NL

Website: jameshartchorley.co.uk

Established 1918

A dealer in commercial trucks who also sell vehicle parts and offer servicing, vehicle recovery and testing. They celebrated 100 years at the same site during 2019.

Kevills Solicitors

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

Astley House
5, Park Road
Chorley
PR7 1QS

Website: www.kevills.co.uk

Established 1919

Founded by John Bertram Kevill, this law firm originally traded from premises in High Street Chorley, and subsequently moved to St. Thomas's Road before the latest move to the present address in 2010. The firm specialises in several areas of law, including family & matrimonial, litigation and conveyancing.

Albert Harrison & Co. Ltd

Unit 14A Mead Way
Shuttleworth Mead Business Park
Padiham
Burnley
BB12 7NG

Website: www.harrisonsdirect.co.uk

Established 1919

A firm who specialise in the distribution of a wide range of wholesale brands including: health and beauty, stationery, toys, gifts and confectionery. Their website maps out the [eventful history](#) of a family firm that had very lowly beginnings.

W H Bowker Ltd

Holme Rd
Bamber Bridge
Preston
PR5 6BP

Website: www.bowkertransport.co.uk/index.php

Established 1919

Bowker is a major national and international transport and warehouse provider which began as a firm with one lorry delivering to the Lancashire area, founded by William Henry Bowker. It is now also involved in car and motorcycle dealerships. The website has a [page](#) chronicling the history of the firm in its centenary year.

Beech's Fine Chocolates

The Chocolate Factory
Fletcher Road
Preston
PR1 5AD

Website: beechsfinechocolates.com

Established 1920

An independent family run business that has been based at the same site in Preston since its establishment. Their website states that their 'longest serving 20 members of staff have a combined experience of over 600 years!' They continue to add new products, winning awards in the process.

W H Good Group

Carrs Industrial Estate
Haslingden
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 5JT

Website: www.whgood.co.uk

Established 1922

The company website does not include a section on its past history. We presume that it was founded within Lancashire. It provides a very wide range of services to industrial and commercial clients including construction and building services. The SIC code listed in the company's official documentation relates to Electrical installation. It was a founder member of the Electrotechnical Joint Industrial Board, the governing body for standards in that industry, in 1968. The automation wing of the group was established in 1988.

Eric Wright Group

Sceptre House
Sceptre Way
Bamber Bridge
Preston
PR5 6AW

Website: www.ericwright.co.uk

Established 1923

The firm started as the construction business Brown and Jackson founded in Fleetwood in 1923. It was taken over by the eponymous Mr Wright in 1979. The group now includes one division that deals with water and wastewater and another involved in facilities management as well as the original areas of business activity. The website mentions that the firm is an award-winning leader in the property and construction industry and highlights the philosophy of caring for their staff and the local community.

Donald Race & Newton

5-7 Hargreaves Street,
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1EA

Website: www.drnlaw.co.uk

Established 1924

Donald Race began practising as a solicitor in Hargreaves Street, Burnley in April 1924. The firm employed two young assistants who, after serving in World War 2, returned to the practice to become articled clerks, then partners in the firm, at which point the name of the firm changed to its current style. The firm has over six teams dealing with many aspects of law. One member of the team is the son of Wilfred Newton, the original 14 year old employee who became a partner.

Whitehead & Howarth

327 Clifton Dr S,
Lytham Saint Annes
FY8 1HN

Website: www.whaccountants.co.uk

Established c. 1925

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

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Between 1923 and 1925, the accountancy practice previously known as Rigby, Bradshaw and Whitehead split into two distinct firms, operating in Preston and the Fylde coast respectively. It provides financial and tax related services to businesses and individuals.

Whitehead & Aldrich

5 Ribblesdale Place

Preston

PR1 8BZ

Website: www.whiteheadandaldrich.co.uk

Established c. 1925

The other part of the above accountancy practice that remained in Preston.

Ashlea Farm

Dawbers Lane

Euxton

Chorley

PR7 6EN

No website

Established 100+years

The Ashlea farm shop is run by the Coomer family that has been farming for more than a century

Cowmans

13 Castle Street

Clitheroe

BB7 2BT

Website www.cowmans.co.uk

Established over 100 years

The exact age of the company is unknown but since the family butchers business is now run by the fifth generation of the family, it is assumed that the firm belongs in the list. Each generation has built their success on the knowledge passed down to them and the firm now has a nationwide reputation for its extensive range of quality sausages. The firm prides itself in never having to diversify or lower its standards and has dedicated employees who share in this pride.

One interesting fact about this company that was kindly confirmed by Ribble Valley Enterprise Agency is that it has only been in Clitheroe since 1959. The company started trading in Prestwich in Cheshire before moving to Lancashire. It first set up in the County in Whitworth before moving north to Nelson and then finally moving once again a few miles further west to Clitheroe.

F&W Burrow & Son

23 Emesgate Lane

Silverdale

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)

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lists

Carnforth

LA5 0RA

No website

Established over 100 years

The website contains only limited information about the firm, but it seems safe to assume that this small butchers shop in the attractive village of Silverdale is an independent business. The limited details on the website state that they only use the finest meats and poultry and that they are proud of their unique homemade Cumberland sausage recipe. Besides serving visitors to the shop, the firm supplies local hotels and restaurants.

J&J Ormerod PLC

Colonial House

Bacup

OL13 0EA

Website www.jjoplc.com

Established over 100 years

The company website only has a limited amount of information about the firm and does not explicitly confirm that it is an independent business. Without any information to the contrary however, it is assumed that it maintains an independent status and therefore has been included in this list.

The website states that the firm was founded over 100 years ago and that nowadays it produces over 600 quality kitchens and bedrooms every week. This makes it the leading supplier to many of the best outlets within the industry.

The firm is a major local employer and operates from a three-quarter of a million square foot factory, where a skilled workforce uses the latest machine technology to produce their product range.

Like many other of the long-established firms in Lancashire, the company makes a point of specifying its sustainable business practices, stating that its principles demand only the use of timbers from managed forests and that all waste materials are recycled.

The Sutcliffe Tool Company Limited

Burnham Trading Park

Blannel Street

Burnley

BB11 4AA

Website www.sutcliffe-tools.co.uk

Established over 100 years

Direct links to old firms

[1720-1874](#)[1875-1899](#)[1900-1924](#)

lists

The website does not confirm that the business is an independently owned company, but without any evidence to the contrary it has been assumed that it is entitled to an entry. Sutcliffe Tools has been supplying tools to trade and public for over 100 years and claims a high level of product knowledge, service quality, excellent prices and has an online ordering facility.

Last updated March 2026