



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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Please see the website www.lancashirehistory.org for more contact details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Just a reminder: membership is due for renewal on 1 January. Zoë Lawson, the Membership Secretary, will be sending out a notice at the beginning of December with the details for renewing your membership. The fees are unchanged at £8 for a society, £5 for an individual, and £8 for joint membership.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Recently, the M6 near Preston was closed both ways because of an accident. It happens occasionally, and produces mayhem, with the city and neighbouring areas such as Leyland gridlocked. Everything, literally and metaphorically, grinds to a halt; there are miles of queuing traffic, and even when the motorway reopens it's hours before things get back to normal.

My 1-inch Ordnance Survey map sheet no. 94 Preston (1961 edition) shows the early stages of the motorway: the Preston bypass, which we all know was Britain's

first motorway, had been opened in December 1958 (it's now 64 years old, which seems remarkable). And there it is, curving round the east side of the town from a half-finished roundabout at Broughton via (in retrospect) a clumsily-designed interchange with the A59 at Samlesbury, to another half-completed junction with the A6 at Bamber Bridge.

Further north, the Lancaster bypass had just been opened and is shown on the map running north from a roundabout at Hampson Green, past Bailrigg where Lancaster University would spring up before long, and then to an even more awkward junction by the River Lune on the A683. That junction was an afterthought, not in the original design, so it was hastily inserted at the last minute – finally to be upgraded at enormous cost a few years ago when the Lancaster northern bypass was built.

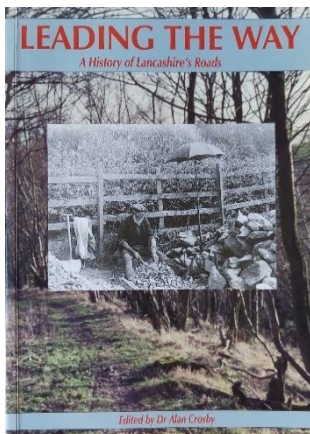
Motorways are part of our history, as well as a fundamental element of the county's geography, economy and society in the 2020s. That road closure, and the ensuing mega-congestion, emphasise just how essential the road has become – it is the backbone of Lancashire, and for many of us a key element of our mental map of the region. With the other motorways – the M62, M61, M60, M65, M66, M55, M57, M58 – it serves as the framework for Lancashire's 21st century existence, to the extent that it is really quite difficult to imagine the county without those roads.

The 1961 Ordnance Survey map shows what it was like on the brink of that revolution – the narrow, winding A6 and A49 taking the traffic through the very centres of Chorley, Bolton, Wigan, Warrington and a host of smaller communities. No Thelwall Viaduct, no great road slashing through the Pennine crest east of Rochdale – though Lancashire's pioneering 1930s arterial route, the A580 East Lancs Road, is there slicing cross-country from Walton on the Hill, passing to the north of St Helens, to the congested streets of Pendlebury.

No matter how controversial they were, and are still, the story of these roads is fascinating, a key part of the local history of the past three-quarters of a century – the typically lengthy and hesitant planning, the stop-go financial regimes of their construction, the environmental and landscape impact, the physical remodelling of towns and cities, the emergence of new nodes and focal points for economic growth, retail development, warehousing and office parks, as well as the geography and architecture of the roads themselves.

That gridlock in Preston earlier in the year was related to a vital historical process of the post-war period. It's one which (like those same retail parks, warehousing and edge of town developments) merits the attention of all of us as local historians.

Sadly, to those of us who have reached a certain antiquity, the 1950s and 1960s are no longer seen as recent ... they are ancient history!



[Alan is too modest to mention that he is the editor of a book *Leading the way: a history of Lancashire's roads* (Lancashire County Books, 1998) whose contributors built a comprehensive account of the county's roads from the Romans to the motorway era – Ed]

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

News from **Alex Miller**

NEW LANCASHIRE HISTORY PUBLICATION – *ARCHIVES*

Our new magazine, *Archives*, is well in hand and will be available to purchase in early December, just in time to fill Christmas stockings!

We would like to thank all the contributors who sent in submissions and suggestions – it was fascinating looking over them all and we hope you will enjoy reading them very soon – and the Friends of Lancashire Archives for supporting the project.

For more information, keep an eye on our Twitter page, displays in the Archives searchroom and Lancashire Libraries, or contact us for purchasing details.

Archives will be published twice per year and sold widely throughout Lancashire at library, museum and archive venues, priced £3.

We plan to publish the second edition in Spring 2023. We welcome submissions by **Friday 17 March 2023**. If you would like more details on how to submit a story or to talk through an idea, please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

LANCASHIRE LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTIONS

We are delighted to announce that we successfully recruited to two new roles within the Archives team: a new Archivist (Local Studies), Hannah Turner, and a Collections Assistant, Lynne Wainwright.

Lancashire libraries hold a range of local history collections, mainly in larger libraries. These collections offer residents the opportunity to explore local history within their communities, and contain some amazing material. The two new postholders will lead work across libraries and archives to assess existing local studies collections and help shape a strategy for the development of these important local collections.

We will be refreshing and updating collections, creating new displays and exhibitions, and engaging residents in volunteer projects to develop access to resources.

CAN YOU HELP KEEP LANCASHIRE IN THE PICTURE?

Lancashire County Council's archives, museums and libraries take care of hundreds of thousands of historic photographs of our county, and you can look at many of them online at <https://redrosecollections.lancashire.gov.uk/>

However, many more are not yet available online. Gone are the days when some people printed their photographs and handed copies in at their local library. Digital

cameras and smart phones are capturing images of Lancashire every minute of the day, but very few are being added to the council's collections.



Next year a project is planned to digitise and catalogue photographs in the existing collections so everyone can enjoy them.

People will also be asked to donate more recent images, and help further by taking photographs that show what Lancashire is like now. It will be important to ensure that the images in the collections reflect the diversity of Lancashire's communities.

Taken from the Skelmersdale New Town Collection, Lancashire Archives (NTSK/27/1/43)

If you are interested in lending a hand - by helping with digitisation, donating images or taking photographs – just drop a line to archives@lancashire.gov.uk and we will keep you updated as the project takes shape.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

This month the Outreach and Engagement team will launch a revised version of our schools offer for KS1 and KS2. With four schools already booked for a visit, we hope to continue to develop the sessions with the help of feedback from pupils and teachers.

The ambition in the year ahead is to develop a session to offer at secondary level and to continue working with Lancashire Professional Development Service and the Heritage Learning Team.



Take a look at the wonderful film produced following our recent work with The National Archives and Hyndburn Park Primary School in Accrington – [20sStreets](#)

CUMBRIA ARCHIVES

Cumbria Archive Service is 60 years old this year. On **Saturday 12 November** there will be a celebratory event at the Centre. There will be several elements to the day including:

- A local and family history fair in the foyer and searchroom.
- See behind the scenes at Cumbria Archive Service: Tours/demonstrations of the Archive Centre and Lady Gilford House.
- Family zone full of fun activities for all ages: Activity room for families and all ages to have a go at a variety of activities.

- A series of talks about our work and collections and how to use the service.
- Food and drink in the Victorian Kitchen.

A tree will be planted as a long-term legacy of the commemoration.

The event will be open to the public but attendance can be registered in advance by contacting Carlisle.Archives@cumbria.gov.uk.

CHESHIRE ARCHIVES

Many of the records held in the Archives are accessible online via the website www.cheshirearchives.org.uk . They include:

- Cheshire First World War servicemen's index
- Overleigh cemetery
- Rolls and registers of freemen 1747-1925
- Railway staff registers 1869-1950
- Chester city goal registers 1808-1865
- Crewe railway works 1890-1928
- Cheshire military records - 16th-19th centuries
- Runcorn crew lists (every ship registered in the port) 1863-1913

SPEAKERS' CORNER

We are inviting speakers who wish to publicise their talks to contact the newsletter so that their details can be included to reach a wide audience.

If you would like to do so, please send:

- Name
- Contact details
- Subject(s) covered
- Areas where you are willing to give talks
- Whether you would deliver over Zoom, if asked
- Any other relevant information

Please do not include details of fees, as this can be discussed with the organisation when you make contact.

Any agreement will be made between the speaker and the group, so the Lancashire Local History Federation cannot accept responsibility for any aspect of the arrangement. Inclusion in the newsletter does not imply endorsement.

We look forward to hearing from you.

mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk Marianne Howell, Newsletter editor.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Friday 18 November 7.30pm: Recent excavations in the Wyre Area, with David Hampson, Secretary of Wyre Archaeology Group.

Wyre Archaeology is a group of amateur archaeologists which focuses on active field work in Wyre, Fylde, Preston and surrounding areas. They aim to encourage the local community to explore and value their archaeological and historical heritage.

The meeting is to be held at St Margaret's Church Hall, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU.
www.wyresearch.org.uk.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Wednesday 7 December 2.00pm: Old photographs of Manchester and the Wirral (via Zoom)

Dr Ian Mitchell, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Wolverhampton, Centre for Historical Research, will speak about his grandfather's photographs of Manchester and the Wirral taken in the 1890s and 1900s. Ian inherited 7 albums of photographs by this keen amateur photographer.

His main area of research and publications for the past forty years has been retailing and consumption in 18th and early 19th century England. He is currently working on retailing in provincial England between 1850 and 1914 and his recent focus has been on markets and market halls.

Contact Alice Lock at secretary@landcas.org.uk or via the website at www.landcas.org.uk.

MANCHESTER GROUP OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Saturday 12 November 2.00pm for 2.15pm: The Arts and Crafts Museum at the Manchester Municipal School of Art: a guided tour from 1903. A talk by **Stephanie Boydell**, Curator of the Manchester School of Art Collection, Manchester Metropolitan University Special Collections Museum (and PhD candidate).

Stephanie will examine the history and rationale behind the establishment of the museum in 1898 and explore the variety of objects that were acquired for display. The talk will take the form of a virtual tour of the gallery as it was arranged in 1903.

Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0LG. £7 (pay on the day). Please book with Anne Hodgson at anne.hodgson@hotmail.com.

Saturday 21 January 2023. 2pm for 2.15pm. AGM. Stretford Public Hall. All members are entitled to attend the AGM free of charge. More details to follow.

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held in Yealand village hall, Footeran Lane, Yealand Conyers, LA5 9SU.

Wednesday 30 November 7.30pm: Lancashire Archives, Past, Present and Future. Join Archivist **Keri Nicholson** for a look back at over 80 years of record keeping in Lancashire. Celebrate our history, learn more about our new ways of working in the wake of the pandemic, and look forward to the challenges of an increasingly digital age.

Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm: Arnside Maritime Heritage, with Alasdair Simpson. Arnside has a long maritime heritage. The estuary was the port for Kendal, and the Victorians held regattas there. Crossfields built Morecambe Bay Prawners, and other boats from the 1840s to 1940s, including Arthur Ransome's *Swallow* and Arnside Sailing Club's *Severn*. Arnside's maritime heritage featured in a BBC TV *Villages by the Sea* programme in 2021.

Wednesday 25 January: Roman Roads 7.30pm: The old roads through Carnforth, with Brian Jones.

The routes northwards from Lancaster pass through Bolton-le-Sands and Carnforth, largely because of the geography. The changes in the style of transport and the coming of the canal and railways led to both small and large modifications to the network, but clear traces have been left behind.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday 26 November
Study day at Carlisle Cathedral
To mark the 900th anniversary of the
foundation of the priory in 1122



Tickets can be booked at <https://bit.ly/3SaEbfc>

Speakers:

- Marta Alberti will examine the evidence for early Christianity from Vindolanda and Hadrian's Wall
- Professor Fiona Edmonds (Director of the RHC) will discuss the Church in early medieval Carlisle
- Professor Janet Burton (University of Wales, Trinity St David) will speak about the origins and spread of the Augustinians in England and Wales
- Dr Henry Summerson will look at Carlisle in 1292, before it was destroyed by fire.



Saturday 4 February 2023: Study event

Dr Alan Crosby will be in conversation with UCLan Emeritus Professor Geoff Timmins.

Part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the RHC and its predecessor.

Geoff is a regional historian with a particular interest in the built environment, especially in the Lancashire textile districts, and its impact on people's everyday lives. Alan and Geoff will be discussing the rise of regional and local history studies, and considering how to ensure there will be a vital community of historians and researchers in future. A representative of the next generation of researchers will discuss their own research and then join Alan and Geoff for a discussion and Q&A.

This will be a hybrid event, with an audience at the venue (Lancaster University), with others joining via Microsoft Teams. More details to follow.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS. Members free; guests £3.

Wednesday 9 November 7.30pm: A Gartside sent to Van Diemen's Land: Man's inhumanity to man, with Sheila Goodyear.

Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm: Early textile factory conditions: An Oldham doctor and some etceteras, with John Fiddler.

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM



The full programme for Heritage Open Days was affected by the Queen's death, as many venues decided to cancel or offer a more low-key event.

Many of those which went ahead had fewer visitors than usual, but Forum members and Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society members enjoyed a walk round Park Bridge led by Mike Nevell. Mike described the industrial heritage of this tiny hamlet, which included making the rivets for the Eiffel Tower.

Tuesday 6 December: Talk on industrial Archaeology, with Mike Nevell, at the Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre in Ashton.
(Email archives@tameside.gov.uk to book.)

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Friar's Green Methodist Church, Cairo Street, Warrington, WA1 1EH. Talks start at 7.30pm and free tea or coffee is served afterwards. The cost is £4 per talk payable on the door, or annual membership costs £18. All are welcome. For more details please check the website: www.warringtonlitandphil.org.uk

Monday 7 November: Ruskin and his legacies, with Dinah Birch (Liverpool University). Fifty years ago, Ruskin's reputation was at a low point. Celebrated in his lifetime as a critic and eloquent reformer, he seemed too verbose and moralistic for the modern world. The response to his achievement is now far more positive and his enthusiastic followers include gardeners, furniture makers, architects, poets, journalists, smallholders, artists, writers, teachers, and academics. The talk will reflect on what makes Ruskin's work distinctive, and why his legacies seem so valuable today.

Monday 5 December: The War of Nerves, with Martin Sixsmith. Martin, originally from Warrington, will talk about the subject of his recent book which looks inside the Cold War mind. The psychology behind an age of nuclear brinkmanship terrified a generation. This was the era of mutually assured destruction, when military and political leaders prepared for a global nuclear war in which tens of millions of people would die. Are we going back to that?

NEWS ROUNDUP

THE HEWITSON DIARIES

**Friday 11 November 7.30pm at Moor Space, Dukes Playhouse, Lancaster:
The Hewitson diaries, a journalist's life in Victorian Lancashire:
A one-man show based on the diaries of Anthony Hewitson (1836-1912)**

Written by Derek Martin, performed by John Hickey, pianist Malcolm Sim.

Followed by Q&A with historian Andrew Hobbs and Hewitson expert Margaret Dickinson

Details and online tickets sales here: <https://bit.ly/3gwb493>

Life and death crowded in on a young Lancashire father in March 1865. With his wife about to give birth, Anthony Hewitson was devastated when his three-year-old daughter Ethelind died, two years almost to the week after another daughter had died at the same age. A few days later his first son was born.

Hewitson, a newspaper reporter from a Lancaster family, reacted by doing what he did best – he wrote. He began a diary that continued across 47 years until a few days before his death in 1912.

This one-man play brings the diaries to life, immersing us in Hewitson's world, as he went about gathering news and gossip and making comments on the people he met, his personal views often quite different from what he wrote in the newspaper. He also hired and fired a lot of servants.

Hewitson was a printer's apprentice on the *Lancaster Gazette*, before settling in Preston and buying the *Preston Chronicle*. Later, he became launch editor of another Lancaster paper, the *Standard*.

The first volume of the diaries is now published via open-access, and is free to download here: <https://bit.ly/3TxClB7>. Print copies will be on sale at the performance.

EXPLORE YOUR ARCHIVE: DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

The Archives and Records Association is developing a new podcast series, as part of its advocacy strategy and desire for public engagement.

The series, aimed at the general public, is being planned for delivery through Explore Your Archive [Explore Your Archive — Any Archive, anywhere, anytime](#).

ARA Communications manager, Deborah Mason, and podcast producer and EYA volunteer, Lily Colgan, have started creating the podcasts. If you have a story to tell about your archive and its contents that will engage the non-specialist public, please email Deborah.mason@archives.org.uk.

HOW TO DIGITISE: a collection of guides for (almost) every material: help with digitisation from Townsweb Archiving.

Townsweb Archiving has made the protection of heritage archives a priority for over twenty years. Working with some of the country's rarest archives has allowed them to form a specialised team and a series of tried and tested workflows.

Acknowledging that not everybody who wishes to digitise will do so through a specialist provider, they decided to share these workflows in a series of published guides. These guides have proved so popular that they recently decided to review the content: new contributions have been added, and images updated, and all have now been gathered into their own dedicated resource area, for easy access. The guides can be found at: www.townswebarchiving.com.

BBC REWIND

In its centenary year, the BBC has made available thousands of short films of local events from various decades. Searching for 'Lancashire' retrieves over 200 results. <http://bbcrewind.co.uk>



ECCLES AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY
Wednesday 9 November 7.30pm: Northerners, a history: From the Ice Age to the 21st century – Brian Groom

Meetings are held at Alexandra House, 395 Liverpool Road, Eccles, M30 7HB.

GREATER MANCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Saturday 26 November 9.30am-5pm: Annual archaeology day, hosted by GMAAS in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation

Venue: Peel Building at Salford University. Cost: £10 standard; £50 Student / Unwaged. Book at <https://bit.ly/3V1c18X> or pay on the door.

HISTORIC HOUSES ASSOCIATION

The Association is a not-for-profit, co-operative association. It comprises over a thousand independently owned and operated houses, castles, and gardens of major historical importance.



For a membership fee, people who join are entitled to visit the houses, usually free of additional charges. In Lancashire, some of the participating properties are well known, such as Lytham Hall, Towneley Hall, Hoghton Tower and Elizabeth Gaskell's house, whilst others are family residences not normally open to the public.

Members also receive a handbook and a quarterly magazine, preferential booking for private tours, and members-only lectures and articles online.

www.historichouses.org.

MANCHESTER HISTORIES

THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL HOUSING

Manchester Histories is launching a new project in partnership with Great Places Housing Group, Oldham. The project will explore the history of social housing in four distinct areas of the borough: Primrose Bank, Crossley, Fitton Hill and Westwood.

People involved will have the chance to:

- Learn how to research local history and gather stories
- Share their memories of the local areas and the communities that live there
- Help steer the project

The project will culminate in a book and exhibition produced by the people taking part, working alongside artists and local historians.

If you live or have family in the areas, or are a local historian who knows a lot about them and would like to become involved, please email janine@manchesterhistories.co.uk.

MANCHESTER'S CONNECTION WITH THE TITANIC

A blog available from Manchester Histories www.manchesterhistories.co.uk tells how a blue plaque for Crewman William Watson started a journey of discovery to find out more about residents of Greater Manchester who were aboard the Titanic.

It's estimated that there were around 30 to 40 passengers and crew with links to Greater Manchester who were on board the ship on its fateful journey. Each one is a life and a story worth discovering and telling, but each with a degree of mystery.

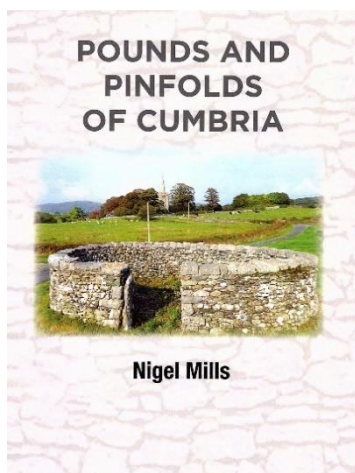
POUNDS AND PINFOLDS

A pinfold was a pound in which stray animals were kept, usually at the edge of a village or by a village green. The manorial officer in charge of the pinfold was the pinder, who kept the animals until the owner paid a fine to reclaim his stock.

Nigel Mills has compiled a website www.poundsandpinfolds.co.uk to try to register as many of these features as possible from around the country. Each example is described, its grid reference is given, and where possible there is an illustration. Sometimes the location is known, but with no trace of the feature remaining.

Under Lancashire there are at present 13 examples.

Nigel gives a comprehensive introduction to the history of pinfolds, their structure and location, their function and decline. He invites people to contribute any information they have about pounds and pinfolds in their area, via email at nigelmillspp@gmail.com

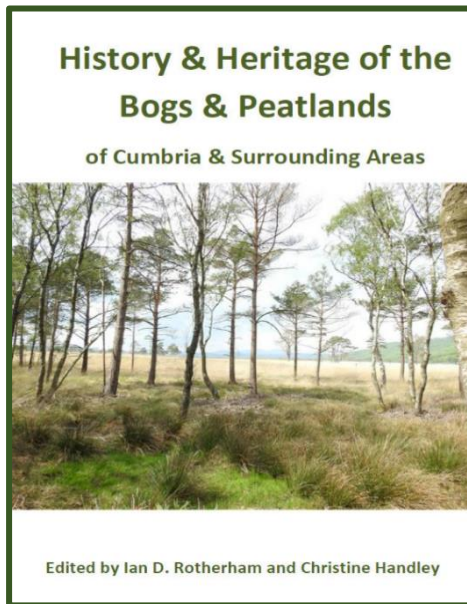


Pounds and pinfolds of Cumbria By Nigel Mills

£10.00 from the author

In the book the author explains the purpose, use and management of pounds and pinfolds from original and secondary sources. He has included information on the present state of over 160 sites. This could be used as a template for others to investigate sites in their area.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



History & heritage of the bogs & peatlands of Cumbria & surrounding areas

Ian D Rotherham & Christine Handley (Eds.)

This book will be published in paperback later in the year.

One paper is by Dr Bill Shannon:

Angerton Moss: a peat resource from the thirteenth to the twentieth century (pp. 95-113).

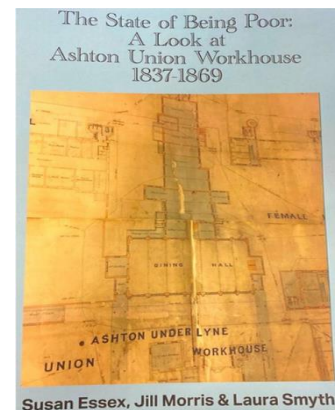
It is based on work he carried out for the Victoria County History project.

The State of Being Poor: A look at Ashton Union Workhouse 1837 – 1869

by Susan Essex, Jill Morris and Laura Smyth

Published by the authors, (2022)

£10 +£2 p&p, available from
thestateofbeingpoor@gmail.com



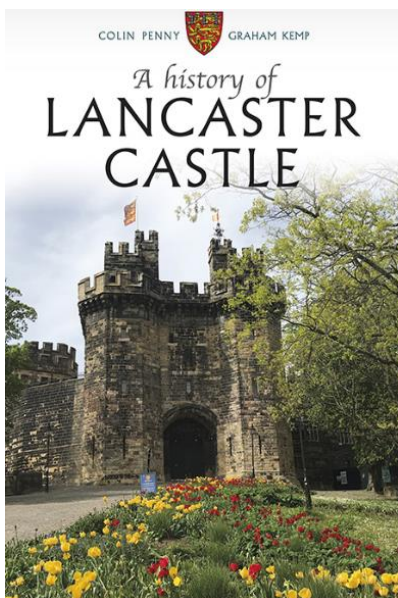
This new book is designed to allow the historical sources to speak for themselves and to give a voice to the “paupers” who were forced to use the workhouse system. The book makes it clear that the sources are limited because the Ashton Workhouse records were destroyed, but the Guardians’ minutes and local newspapers provide a treasure trove of interesting stories.

Unfortunately the Guardians’ minutes survive only from 1837. This is probably a little late to document J R Stephens’ important campaign against the poor law in Ashton, though his involvement in the development of the Parish Farm is clear. The book covers the period up to 1869: new legislation in the 1870s changed poor law provision. Unrelated quirky snippets from the newspapers are also included (easily identified in boxes), which help to give a flavour of the source material. The text is complemented by a wide range of illustrations. The history of the poor law in Ashton was marked by a series of disputes, and the use of the minutes and the newspapers allows the authors to give both sides of arguments, especially as the local paper often seemed quite hostile to the Guardians.

All aspects of Victorian poverty are covered, each section having a very clear and useful introduction, including the building of the workhouse, daily life there, the parish farm, funding, biographical material on the individual Guardians, the staff, disease, children, mental health, Irish immigrants and the Cotton Famine. All the extracts are clearly referenced and there is a reading list and glossary at the end.

Anyone studying Victorian attitudes to the poor, the history of Ashton or who has an ancestor who came in contact with the poor law will find this book of interest - and the authors also hope that readers will be able to relate the Victorian response to these problems to contemporary discussions of how to care for vulnerable people.

Alice Lock



A history of Lancaster Castle

By Colin Penny & Graham Kemp

ISBN: 978-1-910837-42-9 (Pbk)

Palatine Books, 2022

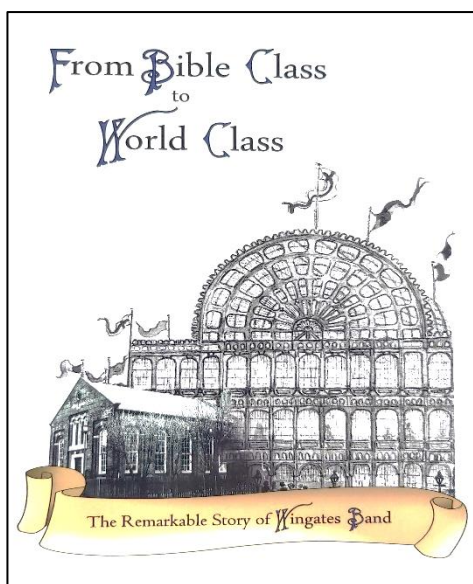
176pp., 80 ill.

www.carnegiepublishing.co.uk

£9.99

Lancaster Castle is one of Britain's major historic monuments. For over 900 years it has dominated the hilltop looking out over the river Lune and the city of Lancaster. Owned by Her Majesty the Queen in her role as Duke of Lancaster (sic), the castle has a unique history. The authors are very well qualified to tell the history, as between them have almost 40 years of experience in managing the museum of the castle, researching its history and telling its tales to tourists from around the world.

This book charts the growth and development of the castle from medieval times to the present day, but also explores the use of the site during the Roman period. Colin Penny and Graham Kemp give us an accurate historical account at the same time as bringing Lancaster Castle to life with their sometimes amusing and occasionally macabre anecdotes. This is a riveting story written by two people who have a passion for and intimate knowledge of this iconic building.



**From Bible Class to World Class:
The remarkable story of Wingates Band
1873-2013**

David Kaye

Wingates Band, 2013.

ISBN 978 0 9927003 0 0

Available from the author: email
dkaye43@btinternet.com

Original price £12.45. Now a donation to the
Band would be acceptable (via the author).

Wingates Band was formed in 1873, one of innumerable similar bands from the same era. Wingates is part of Westhoughton, in the borough of Bolton.

They were originally known as the Wingates Temperance Band, as the founders were members of the Bible class of the local Independent Methodist church.

Within ten years the band made their first visit to compete in London at Crystal Place, and then purchased their own premises in 1896. Two years later they won third place in the newly inaugurated Crystal Palace band contest, and subsequently won the competition in 1906. They seized the opportunity to become known more widely by making their first recording in 1915. In 1929 they were broadcast nationally by the BBC on the radio, and in 1956 they appeared on ITV.

Since then they have travelled widely at home and abroad (winning the French open championship in 2004!).

This brief summary cannot do justice either to the proud history of the band, or to the author's amazing research. He paints the background to the formation of the band in the context of time and place, and includes notable people and occasions throughout their history (up to the time of publication in 2013, to mark the 140th anniversary).

The numerous appendices take the quality of the research to a higher level. They include: The honours board; Conductors and musical directors; Principal cornets; Presidents and chairmen; and Notable firsts. A poignant list gives the names of the many dozens of local bands which have not survived. In addition to the depth of research, the book has copious monochrome and colour illustrations.

A visit to the band's website [Wingates Brass Band – Musical History in the Making..](#) will show that they are as busy and successful as ever, including activities listed for 2023, the band's 150th anniversary.

I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to the band than this comprehensive account, written with such great affection by a local resident.

Marianne Howell

RESEARCH ARTICLES

WOMEN IN STREET NAMES

Issue 32 of the newsletter (August 2020) carried an article by **Carrie de Silva**, who was endeavouring to identify streets named after women, and to find out as much detail as she could about those women. She asked readers to contact her to submit any relevant names. Some are straightforward, such as Barbara Castle Way in Blackburn, whilst others will have needed further research: Queen Vera Road in Blackpool is named for Vera Greenwood, the Cotton Queen of Great Britain in 1937. She has now given an update on progress.

Women in Street Names is a country-wide list including many names from the north west. She is turning her attention to compiling a book of mini biographies of the women. I am sure she would welcome any further information readers would care to give her. (Contact details via the website.)

Carrie (who is Professor of Real Estate Practice Law at the Royal Agricultural University www.rau.ac.uk) has also researched and compiled a list of **First Women**. These are women in this and other countries who were the first in their field of law, government, education and many other realms, and many carry their likenesses. For example, in 1995 in Lancashire, Pauline Clare became the first ever woman Chief Constable.

Both topics can be found on her website <https://carriedesilva.weebly.com/> under the History tab.

BURIED AT WEASTE

We continue the series of mini-biographies by **Pete Kilvert**.

DAVID BALFOUR (1799–1861)

David Balfour was an engineer who for many years was foremen of fitters at Peel, Williams and Peel Company's Soho Foundry, Pollard Street, Ancoats, Manchester.

He was born in 1799 in Haigh, Wigan, Lancashire. His father was Robert Balfour of Wigan who was an agent to a coal mine, and who died in 1833 in Standish, Wigan. His mother was Betty (née Bimson) of Billinge, Wigan; they were married on 25 August 1793 at St Aidan's Church, Billinge.

Very little is known about David's early years, but it would appear that he was married in about 1819. His wife was named Ann (?) who was born in Standish, Wigan in 1799. (The records for Standish Parish Church were destroyed). Their children were:

- Margaret (born 1820 at Standish, m. James Knowles in 1844)

- Cicily (b. 1823 at Standish, m. Aaron Edge in 1845; he died in 1874 and then she married Peter Cliff in 1891)
- Elizabeth (b. 1825 at Haigh, m. 1863 James Bell)
- Edwin (b. 1826 in Wigan, m. Jane Frances (?) born 1831 in Londonderry, Ireland)
- Harriet (b. 1829 in Wigan, m. William Bell 1855 and remarried in 1863, to Thomas Dunn)

In 1841 the family lived at Clare Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester. In 1849 the Manchester rates records show they lived at 11 Fairfield Street, Manchester. In 1861 they were at number 65, where both David and Ann were aged 62, Elizabeth was aged 36 and unmarried, and two of Cicily's children were present – Edwin Edge aged 9 and Thomas Edge aged 5.

Sadly, only 3 months later on 8 July 1861, David Balfour died at Fairfield Street, aged 62 and was buried at Weaste Cemetery in grave number B18/CE/2995.



David had spent many years as foreman of fitters at the Soho Foundry of Peel, Williams and Peel in Ancoats, Manchester. The company was founded in 1798 by George Peel, a cousin of British Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel, and became the biggest engineering firm in Manchester by the 1830s. In 1839 they began manufacturing railway locomotives which were trialled on the Liverpool–Manchester Line. In 1861 they were described as steam engine makers, iron and brass founders, engineers, millwrights, boiler, gasometer and hydraulic press makers. They were awarded a medal for their machines at the Great London Exposition of 1862.

The 1871 census shows David's widow Ann living at Chapel St, Ardwick, Manchester. Also in the house were two of her daughters - Cicily Edge with her husband Aaron and three Edge children: Edwin aged 18, Thomas Henry aged 15, and Sarah Ann age 11; and Harriet Dunn with husband Thomas. On 20 August 1879, Ann Balfour died of bronchitis, aged 79, and was re-united with her husband David at Weaste Cemetery.

David and Ann's son Edwin was also an engineer and millwright. He married c.1850 Jane Frances (?), born in Londonderry, Ireland. They had three children Edwin (b. 1853 in Boston, Lincolnshire), Jane Frances (b. 1857 in Boston) and David (b. 1860 in Manchester). Edwin died in 1901 in Gorton, Manchester, aged 75.

JOSEPH COLLIER (1867 – 1924)

Joseph was born in 1867 in Flixton, near Manchester. His father was John Edwin Collier (b. 1833 in Manchester, d. 1879 in Regent Road, Salford) who was a leather dealer; his mother was Jane (née Hodgson) Collier (b. 1836 in Manchester, d. 1905 in Pendleton). Joseph's parents were married on 17 May 1857 at All Saints church, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester. John Edwin was aged 24, a leather seller, whose father was Joseph Collier, a hatter. Jane was aged 21, a servant, whose father was John Hodgson, an engineer.

The 1871 census shows the family lived at Chester Road, Hulme, Manchester, where Joseph was 3 years old. Apart from his parents, he had a sister Emily (13) and brothers John Edwin (11), Frederick (6) and Herbert (1). In October 1879 Joseph's father John Edwin died at Regent Road, Salford aged 46 and was buried in plot A5/Diss/202 at Weaste Cemetery. Joseph was only 12 years old. The 1881 census at 150 Regent Road, Salford, shows that Joseph's mother Jane was a widow aged 45; John Edwin jnr was aged 21 and a leather dealer (currier); Frederick, aged 16, was a merchant clerk; Joseph was 13; Herbert was 11. Two more children had been born in the intervening years: Alfred (b. 1875) was aged 6, and Marion (b. 1877) was 4 years old.

On 1 October 1890 Joseph married Eliza Hull at St Bartholomew's church, Salford. Eliza (born 1868 in Walkden, Lancashire) was a 22-year-old housekeeper who lived at 298, Ordsall Lane, Salford. Her father was John Hull, oilcloth manufacturer. In 1891 they lived at Robert Street, Eccles, where Joseph was a clerk. In the same year their daughter Amy Alberta Hodgson Collier was born in Altrincham, Cheshire. In 1894, their second daughter Hilda Marion Collier was born in Salford, but sadly Eliza died shortly thereafter aged just 26 and was buried at Weaste cemetery (Plot A5/Diss/202).

The 1911 census at 21 The Park, Eccles, shows Joseph aged 43 as a financial and insurance broker. He was now married to Mary Paterson (née Munro) born in 1872 in Glasgow. Amy was 19 and a clerkess in insurance; Hilda (17) was a milliner; and James Munro Collier (b. 1903 in Pendleton) was aged 8.



On 26 May 1917 Joseph's 25-year-old daughter Amy married Herbert Hardistry Smith at St Mary the Virgin church, Eccles. Herbert was aged 29, a jeweller of 19 Musfield Drive, Monton, and his father was George Smith, leather merchant.

The 1921 census shows the family still lived at 21 The Park. Joseph was aged 52 and a ledger clerk, his wife was 49; James Munro was aged 18 and newcomer Mary Ewing was aged 8.

On 25 May 1924, Joseph died at Davyhulme, aged 56. He was buried three days later in his mother's grave (A5/Diss/225) at Weaste cemetery. This is an unusual situation: the family has two graves almost next to each other, Joseph's parents are buried in separate graves, and the second grave was purchased before the first one was full.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Manchester Histories are looking for contributors for their blog. Do you have a story to tell about Manchester?

Recent blogs have covered women of Victorian Manchester, the stories behind some of Manchester's most famous statues (including Gandhi, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Alan Turing), and the hidden history of lesbian motherhood in Manchester in the 70s and 80s.

Blogs should be between 600-800 words and can be on any topic, so long as they are linked to Manchester. If you have an idea, please contact ted@manchesterhistories.co.uk

We are pleased to announce that Ribchester Local History Society will be hosting the next "At Home" on Saturday 10 June 2023 at Ribchester village hall. Look out for more details in the next newsletter.

- **Do you have interesting news from your society?**
- **Have you carried out new research which you would like to share with readers of the newsletter across the north west?**
- **Are you searching for information which readers may be able to help you with?**

The editor would welcome submissions:
mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk

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