



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 36, AUGUST 2021

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: 25 OCTOBER

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I was going to write about the pandemic, the continuing uncertainties about what will happen during the next few months, and the difficult decisions faced by the officers and committees of local history societies – notably, at which stage to venture a return to real-life meetings. But we are probably reminded of that often enough, so I will stop! Instead, let me recall what I have been doing in the field of local history research, heroically in the face of such adversity.

First, there is the attempt to find out more about the life of an Essex vicar who died in 1605. How strange, you might think – why is he wasting his precious time on that? But there is a good reason: on his death the burial entry for Richard Schofield records that he was '*lancastriensis*' (and with a surname like that his geographical origins came as no surprise). My curiosity was piqued, and I wanted to find out more. I suspect that he came from Rochdale, or nearby, for that is where the surname was concentrated four centuries ago. And I know for certain that he went up to Christ's College Cambridge in March 1578. Yet apart from parish register entries, such as the baptisms of his children, there's little else so far, despite creative exploitation of

online resources and a couple of 'between lockdown' trips to Lancashire Archives to look at probate records. I will keep trying, though – it's one of those research projects that is purely for personal interest, and which is like a detective trail.

A different sort of detection is involved in another project, which centres on a cotton mill on the River Slaney in County Wexford. This falls into the category of 'one thing leads to another'. I had been researching a locally-significant cotton manufacturer, well known in Preston during the 1820s and 1830s for his string of commercial and financial misfortunes. He left town, perhaps rather hastily, when his business affairs collapsed in the mid-1840s. Mysteriously, or so it at first appears, his will of 1852 gives his address as Clohamon, Co. Wexford, but the document is among the archdeaconry of Chester wills held at Preston. So here was a tangent from which to go off: how could I resist exploring the delights of online Irish newspapers and the diverse and eclectic online resources which try to fill the gaping void in Irish research? - in 1922, during the Irish civil war, the Public Record Office in Dublin was destroyed, along with all but a tiny fraction of its unique and irreplaceable contents.

Piecing together the story of the cotton mill at Clohamon and its Preston connections has been like fitting together an incomplete jigsaw puzzle with no picture on the box lid. There are tantalising clues in newspapers and in some surviving records, and it's proved to me that, if treated with care and a bit of lateral thinking, even fragmentary sources and imperfect hints may reveal a good deal. I'm getting there, slowly, and I hope that before long I can draw the various threads of the story together.

Then there's my research into the Rochdale food riots of 1795 ... but no, this is not the occasion to explain about that – Marianne wants to put the Lancashire Local History Federation *Newsletter* together and I must send this off!

Alan Crosby

MARTIN RAMSBOTTOM, 1939-2021

An appreciation by Diana Winterbotham

Members will have been saddened to hear of the recent death of Martin Ramsbottom of Kirkham, after an extended period of deteriorating health.

Martin was born in Kirkham and attended Kirkham Grammar School. He started his working life assisting his father, a motor engineer who ran a garage in the town; my own father was also a motor engineer, and Martin and I often shared happy recollections of the uncompromisingly high technical standards of our parents, not least when it came to requiring us to drive with polish, which Martin certainly did.

Before long Martin decided to become a librarian and was appointed as an assistant at Kirkham Library. He took his qualifying examinations and spent the rest of his working life as a librarian in Kirkham and the Fylde, where he became widely known. He became interested in local history, taking an active part in Kirkham Local History Society. He organised local history exhibitions at Kirkham library, and was one of the organisers in the preparation of many exhibitions held in different parts of the Fylde.

Martin also wrote several books about his local area, including “Kirkham and around through time”, an informative history containing many illustrations. Another popular title was “Kirkham, a local history trail”, which has remained in print for many years. He also contributed the notes accompanying the reprints of several Ordnance Survey sheets of places in the Fylde.

One of Martin’s special interests was the history of the poor law in Kirkham and Wesham, which he explored in detail in his thesis for a master’s degree later in his career, following this with a doctorate taken at Oxford Brookes University.



Despite increasing disability in his later years, Martin was an irrepressibly cheerful companion, always ready for a good gossip over a prawn sandwich. I will greatly miss our continued occasional meetings. Martin leaves five daughters, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, who have been a warm, supportive family to him and his friends. I know that Federation members who knew him will share with me in extending our sympathy to all of them. Martin’s contribution to local history in the Fylde has been enormous, and he will be affectionately remembered by us all.

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES Most legal restrictions to control Covid-19 were lifted on 19 July. In order to mitigate the risk of both contracting and spreading the virus in Lancashire, careful and cautious measures are being taken for staff and visitors in the Archives. Access will continue to be by appointment only. **As circumstances may change, please look at the [website](#) for the latest information.**

Archives staff will:

- continue to wear a face covering
- respect other people's personal space and keep a safe distance
- Use hand sanitiser, wipe high touch areas and clean desks and lockers

We ask customers and visitors to:

- wear a face covering when moving around the building, unless exempt
- wash hands and/or use hand sanitiser
- respect other people's personal space and keep to a safe distance
- avoid visiting while self-isolating or while showing any Covid-19 symptoms
- participate in the NHS Test and Trace scheme

A Liquid History Mirador Arts and the Ribble Rivers Trust are about to submit a funding application for an ambitious and exciting 5-year arts and heritage project. *River Ribble Heritage Expo - A Liquid History* will look at the Ribble’s natural, cultural, historic and social heritage, highlighting its international significance and aiming to connect diverse communities in the 21st century. Lancashire Archives has been a longstanding supporter of the project and, if the bid is successful, will no doubt have a big part to play in exploring the Ribble's historic heritage. The application to the NHLF needs to demonstrate support for the project through a

simple questionnaire. Please do fill it in **before midnight on Sunday 8 August**. Just click: <https://bit.ly/3z2e7tA> and then hit submit at the end of the form.

Online talks 1-1.30pm (email archives@lancashire.gov.uk for login details)

- **Tuesday 24 Aug: Oh I do like to be beside the seaside** – Victoria McCann
- **Thursday 30 Sep: A summer of sport, celebrating Sports Heritage Day** – Victoria McCann

TUESDAY 21 SEP 6.30: FRIENDS OF LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES AGM.



Followed at 6.30 by a talk: **The Hewitson diaries: how they got here, how significant they are, and how they can be used**

by Margaret Dickinson and Andrew Hobbs.

Hewitson (1836-1912) was a foremost Preston journalist, whose work is invaluable for researchers in local history.

Contact the FLA for logon details. [Friends of Lancashire Archives - Home \(flarchives.co.uk\)](http://Friends of Lancashire Archives - Home (flarchives.co.uk))

Love, Hate, and the Law in Tudor Lancashire: The Three Wives of Ralph Rishton *by* Professor Lawrence R Poos, of the Catholic University of America
The Friends have made this talk (46:23 min) available via their website [Friends of Lancashire Archives - Home \(flarchives.co.uk\)](http://Friends of Lancashire Archives - Home (flarchives.co.uk)). The site also has details of a Q&A session on **Wednesday 29 September**.

Ralph Rishton (*circa* 1522-1573) came from an East Lancashire family of minor gentry, and would have remained obscure if his marriages had not left a substantial trail in law court records. First married at aged nine, to a wife who soon went insane while he was away at war, he bribed officials of Chester diocese to obtain a forged annulment in order to marry another woman he had impregnated. Within a few years he repudiated her to marry a third woman, with whose help he defrauded a cousin of a substantial inheritance. As he lay on his deathbed, a court case was pending in York to determine which (if any) of his marriages was lawful. Litigation over his property continued long after his death.

This presentation is based upon a forthcoming book about the many legal cases involving the Rishtons. The case records tell their remarkable stories, and reveal much about violence, marriage and property during the 1500s. They were a recurring part of local history through columns in Blackburn, Accrington, and Burnley newspapers in the early 20th century; this presentation considers the role of antiquarians and the local press in helping to form historical memory.

WIGAN AND LEIGH ARCHIVES

As a result of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Leigh Town Hall has been completely remodelled to house an inspiring exhibition and an enhanced space for archives, to welcome visitors and volunteers. This is the main location for archives of the entire metropolitan borough, which also provides archives and a museum at the Museum of Wigan Life in Wigan town centre.

Welcome to Wigan Borough's brand new archives facilities based in the refurbished historic Leigh Town Hall

Featuring:

- NEW FREE family-friendly Exhibition
- Programme of events and activities
- Modernised facilities and local history Searchroom
- Family History research support
- Education sessions for schools
- Range of volunteering opportunities

OPEN FROM 24 JUNE 2021: Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Booking information:
To keep everyone safe, all visitors will need to pre-book a time slot for the Exhibition and Searchroom in advance of your visit. Please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/archives for further information and to book.

How to find us:
Leigh Town Hall, Market Street, Leigh, WN7 1DY
24 hour parking is available at Town Hall car park, Bengal Street, Leigh, WN7 1YA. Free parking on a Saturday.

Contact us:
archives@wigan.gov.uk
01947 404430
www.wigan.gov.uk/archives

For the latest updates follow:
@ArchivesWiganLeigh
/ArchivesWiganLeigh
wiganandleigharchives

Wigan Council ARCHIVES: WIGAN & LEIGH

Heritage Fund

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE



Anna Hills, a student working on a placement at the Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster, has produced research entitled **London Links: the Hulton family in the 17th century**.

The museum contains a series of portraits of members of the family, who were an immensely important group of landowners and politicians in the 17th to 19th centuries. The blog can be read at <https://bit.ly/3h1rX2X>. Image: Geni (Wikipedia)

[The Judges' Lodgings museum is maintained by Lancashire County Council. Lancashire Archives contains the significant Hulton of Hulton collection c.1190-1998 (DDHU) which was purchased with assistance from various bodies including the Friends – Ed.]

Volunteers required for the Humphry Davy Research Project

Lancaster University is taking part in the £1m project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to transcribe Davy's 75 notebooks.

During his remarkable life (1778-1829), Davy discovered more chemical elements than any other individual has ever done, famously invented a safety lamp for miners which has saved countless lives, and rose to become President of the Royal Society.

Volunteers can transcribe as much or as little as they wish. The transcriptions will be available on a free-to-access website, as part of Lancaster Digital Collections. For more information on this Zooniverse project, visit <https://bit.ly/3eRr8OO>



Learning from the Past Peace Heritage Exhibition

Lancaster City Museum until 5 September

RHC in collaboration with Global Link

This is the outcome of a 2.5 year Erasmus+ project, during which partners from 7 countries worked with volunteers in order to document stories of people's efforts to promote peace and internationalism after WWI. Young people then used creative arts to respond to the themes raised.

As well as this work, there are also a number of archive items on show, relating to peace and internationalism in the north west.

WHITWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recent **newsletters** feature interesting articles:

The Orama Mill lock-out strike: one family's experience. In 1932 a reduction in wages at the mill resulted in union-led industrial action. The article concerns Stanley and Irene Bacon, the writer's parents, so is a combination of the general situation and the effect it had on one family.

An account of the Butterick family, pioneers of paper clothing patterns. The museum houses many early patterns, as well as a 1930 book, 'Constructive pattern making', for those who wanted to make their own patterns.

An account of the life and work of the engineer Sir Joseph Whitworth (who, despite the name, has no known connection with the place!).

The Avro Vulcan bomber

The article gives a sketch of the life of John Keiley, the son of a local farmer.

It details the role he played in the development of the plane.



The background to the memorial on Crook Hill to ‘the lost boy’, Alec Jenkinson, who in 1930 at the age of six became detached from a group of friends and died on the hill.

The **Museum** re-opened in June, and is open on Saturdays from 11.00 to 16.00.

NEWS ROUNDUP

DR MIKE NEVELL HAS FACILITATED ONLINE TALKS

Mike Nevell, formerly of Salford University, has made available these resources:

Talks:

- Professor Nigel Linge, University of Salford. Nigel reviews the industrial archaeology of the mobile phone.
- Norman Redhead provides a round-up of archaeological fieldwork and research across Greater Manchester in 2020.
- Dr Mike Nevell looks at conservation and community archaeology work in and around the Bridgewater Canal at Worsley over the last few years.

They can be downloaded FREE from YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3z9pkIP>

Podcasts at <https://bit.ly/3BjdQ7k>

- Digging up Hulme Barracks and the Peterloo Massacre
- Buckton Castle mysteries
- The founding of Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit

DIG GREATER MANCHESTER

The blog site now includes:

- pdfs of all 27 of the Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklets, including the latest two published this year (No.26 'Life on Marr' and No.27 'Salford Regeneration') <https://bit.ly/3ktSY7F>
- a wide range of archaeology information panels deriving from development schemes and community projects <https://bit.ly/3wNNpn1>
- all of the GM Archaeology Federation newsletters <https://bit.ly/2UnatMc>

MANCHESTER HISTORIES

Manchester Histories organised a series of Salons online, which have been uploaded to their YouTube channel and can be viewed here:

[Environment and Access to Green Spaces with Dr Jenna Ashton and Helena Craig of Black2Nature](#)

[Death and Mourning with Dr Michala Hulme and Dr Sam McCormick](#)

[Migration and Communities with Dr Carl Emery and Dr Rachel Lichtenstein](#)

[Pets and Pet Loss with Professor Julie-Marie Strange and Diane James of Blue Cross charity](#)

There will be a further series in the autumn.

The 2021-24 business plan can be read here <https://bit.ly/2U69LTp>

Sunday 22 August: BY THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL: a walk led by Mike Nevell. To express an interest in the walk, or find out more details, contact Alice Lock at malicelock@hotmail.com.

SALFORD HISTORIES FESTIVAL will be held on Saturday 30th October 2021 in Fletcher Hall, Vicarage Rd, Swinton M27 0WA. More details from Paul Hassall paul.hassall14@talktalk.net or phone 0161 790 5164

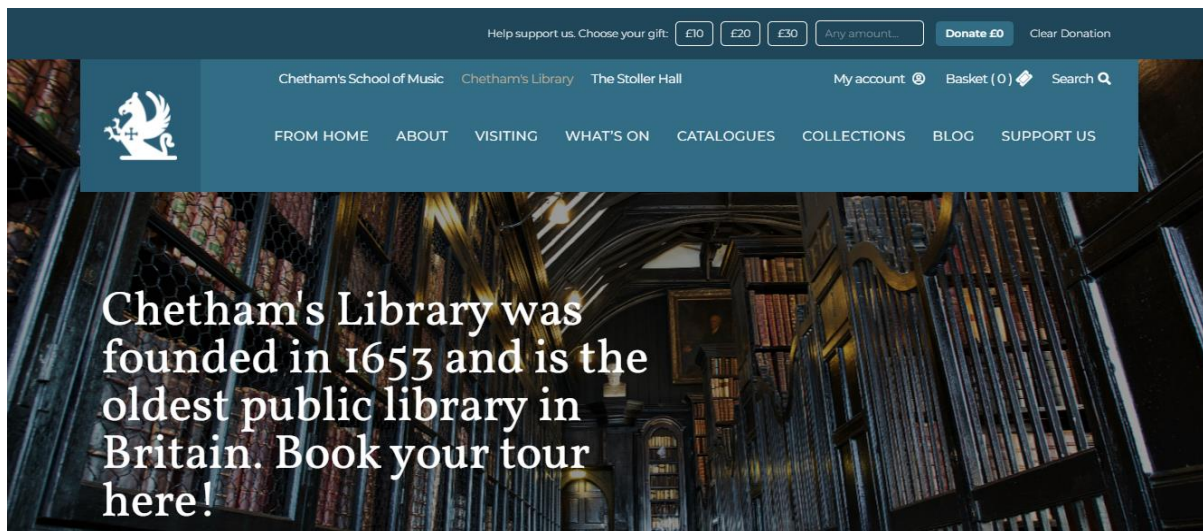
MURDER, MYSTERY AND MY FAMILY Each episode of this BBC series examines a historic crime, with the aid of two present-day barristers, representing the prosecution and defence cases. After re-evaluating the facts (if possible involving family members of the perpetrator and the victim), they present their cases to a judge who gives his opinion as to whether he believes the original verdict was sound.



In the programme first broadcast on 8 July, the case concerned a miner at a pit near Wigan, James Barton, who was brutally murdered in 1863, for which crime a Chorley man, Thomas Grime, was hanged three years later. The case largely rested on the discovery of the watch which had been stolen from the dead man (the watch still exists, and can be seen in the programme).

As your editor had researched the case, she took part in the programme, along with a descendant of Thomas Grime. There is more information about the programme here [BBC One - Murder, Mystery and My Family, Series 5, Grime](#). It can now be viewed on the BBC iPlayer.

CHETHAM'S LIBRARY, MANCHESTER



The library is recognised as being of national and international importance.

It is housed in what was a medieval college house for priests, with parts of the building dating back to the second quarter of the 15th century. In addition to an exceptional and growing collection of books, there are ephemera, diaries, letters, deeds, prints, photographs, paintings, glass slides....

It is truly a public library – there are no fees, no membership and no conditions for entry. No stock is on open access, so all visits have to be pre-booked with details of the requested items to study.

Tours of the building are also offered, again by prior booking. During a tour, it is made clear that the area around Long Millgate was the centre of medieval Manchester. There is the opportunity to see where Marx and Engels researched *Das Kapital*. From where they sat they could see through the window the dense smoke and soot from countless mill and factory chimneys, and the slums where people endured appalling poverty and deprivation. <https://library.chethams.com>

MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM

190 Cheetham Hill Road
Manchester M8 8LW

The museum has re-opened after major restoration and enlargement, housed in a Grade II* listed synagogue and a new extension.

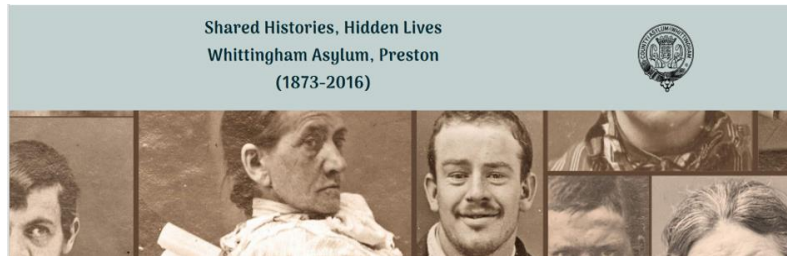


As well as the beautifully restored interior, a new gallery provides space for exhibitions and events. The centre houses a collection of items telling the story of

Jewish migration and settlement in Manchester, through oral testimonies, photographs, objects and ephemera.

The Museum aims to take an active role in the local community, and is open to all. To book a visit: www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com.

Whittingham lives



The Whittingham Lives Association has launched its new website, which is the legacy of a two-year arts and heritage project which explored the 150-year history of Whittingham Asylum in Preston.

Whittingham Asylum was a psychiatric hospital in the parish of Whittingham, six miles from Preston city centre. It opened in 1873 as the 4th Lancashire County Asylum and grew to be the largest mental hospital in Britain.

The project researched and critically reviewed the culture and legacy of the asylum, reflecting on the influence of the past on the present, with the aim of provoking critical thinking and public debate on mental health, to help make a better future.

The website has been designed and produced by [The PDF](#) digital co-operative made up of University of Central Lancashire staff, alumni, current students and freelancers. It showcases the many events, exhibitions, performances, and conferences which took place, all of which made the project a huge success, bringing together local community groups, service users and members of the public.

Professor Mick McKeown, Chair of Whittingham Lives Association said, “The new website details the many different facets of a hugely successful arts and heritage project focused on the archives of Whittingham Asylum, and has shown us how an interest in our shared history can be an incredibly powerful starting point for addressing vital issues concerning how to better shape the response of our communities to mental distress.”

“We are grateful to all our funders and partners including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, University of Central Lancashire, Unison, Music and the Mind, Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire Archives and Lancashire County Museum Service.”

www.whittinghamlives.org.uk

Facebook: Whittingham Lives Association

Twitter: @WhittinghamLA

[The records of the asylum are housed at Lancashire Archives. As part of Whittingham Lives, a project was undertaken to conserve and repackage the records, and the staff registers and death registers were indexed (reference HRW). Because they contain sensitive personal information, they are not available to the general public. - Ed]

MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HISTORY AND HERITAGE



The Centre encourages communities and people to engage actively with history. They produce a blog with fascinating stories about the people and places of Manchester and beyond. One (by Dorothy Bintley) is about Olive Claydon (*left*), a pioneering doctor who was the first female GP in Oldham.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Special offer for Federation members

The Society is offering copies of *Making Manchester* and *Printing and the Book Trade in Manchester* to members of the LLHF and constituent societies at £5 each - or £1 each for anyone who joins the Antiquarian Society (members will also receive the next volume of *Transactions*).



Making Manchester is a volume of the Society's *Transactions* published in 2006 on the theme of architecture in Manchester. It contains the following articles -

Hartwell, Clare and Wyke, Terry. *Appreciation and perspectives*

Hartwell, Clare. *Manchester and the golden age of Pericles. Richard Lane, architect*

Hyde, Matthew and Petford, Alan. *George Shaw of St Chad's: the making of a provincial architect*

Cooper, Alyson. *Natural and artificial lighting in the Manchester textile warehouse*

Anderson, James. *The Great Northern Railway Company Goods Warehouse, Deansgate, Manchester*

Wyke, Terry. *The Albert Memorial and the making of civic Manchester*

Beenstock, Rhona. *Edward Salomans: an eclectic Anglo-Jewish architect*
Holder, Julian. *Emmanuel Vincent Harris and the survival of classicism in inter-war Manchester*
Redman, Austen. *Bolton Civic Centre and the Classical Revival style of Bradshaw, Gass and Hope*
Kelsall, Frank. *John Swarbrick, architect and antiquary*
Brunskill, R W. *Header bond brickwork*
Crompton, Andrew. *The destruction of Durnford Street School, Middleton*
Hartwell, Clare and Wyke, Terry. *Bibliographical note*

Printing and the Book Trade in Manchester was published in 2001 and includes:

Cass, Eddie and Garratt, Morris. *Introduction*
Wyke, Terry. *Publishing and reading books etc. in nineteenth century Manchester*
Horner, Craig. *'That great fountain of Truth, Good Manners and what not': competing for the hearts and minds of newspaper readers in Manchester, 1730 – 60*
Ramwell, Julie. *Joseph and James Harrop of Manchester*
Maidment, B E. *The Manchester common reader – Abel Heywood's 'Evidence' and the early Victorian reading public*
Powell, Michael. *Towards a history of book ownership in Manchester*
Collins, Steve. *'An Eminent Bibliophile and Man of Letters': James Crossley of Manchester*
Gibb, Tony. *Secondhand bookselling in Manchester: a personal backward glance*
Cass, Eddie. *The G R Axon collection of broadsides*
Evans, Rod. *Manchester book trade: a preliminary bibliography*

Membership of the Society is currently £18 a year which entitles you to a copy of the *Transactions* and notification of events.

Other past volumes and offprints of articles are available for sale through our website www.landcas.org.uk

If you are a member of the Federation and interested in this special offer, please contact the Society's treasurer treasurer@landcas.org.uk

FREEBMD <http://www.freebmd.org.uk>

A reminder of a free resource for family history research. It is an ongoing project, transcribing the Civil Registration indexes of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and providing free online access to the transcriptions.

To illustrate how useful it can be to researchers, here are some statistics: it contains 282,917,337 distinct records (over 369 million records in total) and on one day in April 2021 users carried out 180,659 searches.



Dan Irving, Socialist
by Roger Smalley

Pub 2021. Pbk 132pp

Copies may be obtained from the Nelson I.L.P.
Land Society @ £10 plus £2 post & packing.
Enquiries to Carol Hopkins carolhnoe1@gmail.com
– Tel 01282 602186.

Review by Bob Dobson

This is the author's third book on aspects of Socialism in north east Lancashire. He has an in-depth knowledge of the national as well as the regional history of the subject, as is evidenced by the bibliography in this book for which he researched in six archives, read twenty-seven newspapers, periodicals and parliamentary papers and quotes from sixty published books and articles as well as six unpublished theses. These are all quoted as notes at the end of each chapter. (I would have preferred them to have been at the bottom of each page, as footnotes.)

Dan Irving lived between 1854 and 1924. In that period there arose at least ten organisations (parties) supporting different sorts of socialism and labour policies, each with its own name. Smalley wisely refers to these by the initial letters of each word in the name. The sometimes confusing number of these parties is shown as an appendix chart, which I found very helpful.

Irving was born in Bristol and, after a few years in the Merchant Navy, joined the local Liberal Party. Aged thirty and the father of two children, he lost a leg in an accident while working on the railway. He was treated shabbily by the company, a matter which must have strengthened his resolve to see working men properly compensated by their employers. The following year he joined the Bristol Labour League and became secretary of the Bristol Trades Council and the Bristol branch of the Gas & General Workers Union. A few years later, further immersed in politics and the welfare of workers, he organised Bristol's first May Day march.

After a short spell working in the same field in Westmorland, Irving arrived in Burnley and made his way into organisations which interested him in the town, soon getting elected onto the School Board and also the national executive of the Social Democratic Party. Over a few years he worked locally and nationally with the Social Democratic Federation, which supported the Burnley Liberal MP, Philip Stanhope. Irving progressed to being a workhouse guardian and town councillor. He stood without success in general elections in Accrington, Manchester and Rochdale, at the same time becoming an officer in the newly-formed British Socialist Party. Twenty-four years after arriving in Burnley, he became Burnley's MP, though still retaining

his town council office. He was returned in the next two elections in a period of huge growth for the Labour Party. In 1924, a year after being re-elected as MP, he died. Two days previously he had been made a freeman of the borough. He was much liked in the town and admired by his parliamentary colleagues.

Almost a hundred years on, the author has brought this major figure to notice by documenting his work for working men and their families in the fields of working practices and social conditions. Few men have achieved more than Irving in those respects.

NORTHERNERS: A HISTORY FROM THE ICE AGES TO THE 21ST CENTURY

By Brian Groom (To be published in April 2022 by Harper North, a new imprint of HarperCollins)



Northerners is a book which fills a gap in the market, namely telling the history which has shaped the north of England.

It is also very topical, given vexed questions in society such as Brexit and the north-south divide.

This book lays out the dramatic events that have played out in the north: waves of migration, invasions and battles, its impact on European culture and the global economy, and its struggles to assert its identity as modern Britain emerged. It explores what 'northernness' means in the 21st century and the crucial role the north can play in Britain's future. The story is told through the people, famous or unknown, who have built the region.

It reveals a sweeping and vivid narrative, starting from the earliest times, coupled with cross-cutting chapters on fascinating social and cultural themes. Everyone knows about the north's leading role in the Industrial Revolution, viewed by many economic historians as the key event in human history, but there is far more depth to the history of the region: at least six Roman emperors ruled from York and, later, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria was Europe's leading cultural and intellectual centre. The past has shaped the present in myriad ways. The devastation of factory and pit closures in the 1980s, for example, echoed the trauma of William the Conqueror's Harrying of the North. Civil war divisions in the 17th century have surprising correspondence with the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Northerners tells the story of characters such as Cartimandua, queen of the Brigantes, who deserves to be as famous as Boudica or Cleopatra; St Oswald, Bede and Richard III; Richard Arkwright and the Stephensons; Wordsworth, the Brontës and Gaskell; Emmeline Pankhurst and Gracie Fields. It explores topics as diverse as the importance of sheep, the north-south language divide, why the Industrial

Revolution happened in the north, ethnic diversity, the legacy of slavery and the contribution of northern writers, artists and comedians. The north has been almost entirely shaped by waves of migration, which continue today. It explores factors that divide northerners as well as those that unite them, such as rivalries between Lancashire and Yorkshire, Newcastle and Sunderland, Tyneside and West Yorkshire, Liverpool and Manchester. And it charts how the north-south divide emerged and has ebbed and flowed.

'Northerners' is defined liberally: anyone born in the north or who has spent time there and feels an affinity; but the work is aimed at anyone interested in British history, society and culture. It explores the factors that have created the north's modern identities and how these fit into the story of England, the UK and the world.

Brian Groom is a journalist, and formerly assistant editor of the *Financial Times* and editor of *Scotland on Sunday*. Originally from Stretford, he was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford. He now lives in Saddleworth and is a member of Saddleworth Historical Society. Brian hopes to arrange illustrated talks across the north during the course of next year (any time from January) to promote the book. Any societies wishing to book Brian can contact him at groombrian@hotmail.com. More information on the book is available here: [Andrew Lownie Literary Agency :: Book :: Northerners: A History. From the Ice Ages to the 21st Century](#)

**ZENON VANTINI:
From Grand Tour to Package Holiday**

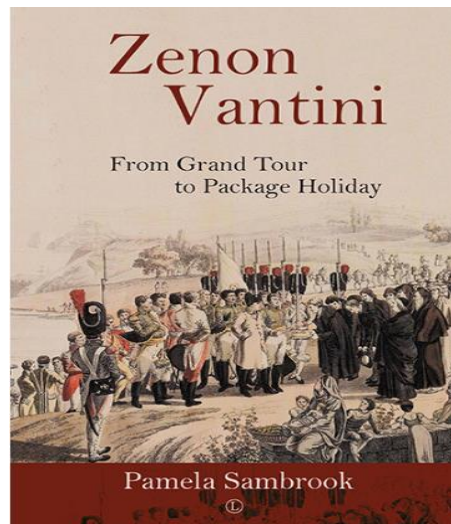
By Pamela Sambrook

Lutterworth Press 2021

xiv+177pp. ISBN 978 0 7188 9576 1

£20

Review by Alan Crosby



Fleetwood is probably not a place which most people would immediately associate with one of Napoleon's most steadfast supporters, a key member of his inner circle and a loyal personal companion. A young Elba-born member of the Imperial Guard, with the exotic name of Zenon Vantini, this man had a quite extraordinary and colourful life which falls into two totally separate parts. Act One was his life on Elba, before and during the Emperor's exile on the island, a time when Zenon entered Napoleon's service and proved his value to his charismatic and notorious master. This service continued after Napoleon's escape, in which Vantini was closely

involved, through to the cataclysm of Waterloo, Napoleon's capture, and his banishment to St Helena. That, surely, was enough excitement to last a lifetime.

No, it wasn't. Remarkably, Zenon was still only 18 at the time of Waterloo, a young man of prodigious energies and unique experience who was not destined for a quiet life. In this fascinating biography, based on a wealth of published works and contemporary documentary sources from Italy, France and England (including the Sutherland Papers at Staffordshire Record Office), Pamela Sambrook traces his story. This took him first to London, and service in high-class households, leading eventually to the prodigiously wealthy Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Trentham in Staffordshire, where he remained—an opinionated and divisive figure—until the end of the 1830s as house steward, managing the household and supervising its numerous large-scale journeyings in Britain and Europe.

This role led him to a radical change of direction in his career. At the end of 1839 Vantini took charge, as part-leaseholder and manager, of the new hotel which the London & Birmingham Railway Company had just opened at its London terminus. The Euston Hotel, the first railway hotel in the world, was twinned with the Victoria Hotel on the opposite side of Euston Place, and soon Vantini was managing both. This inspired him to further ventures, and he quickly embarked on a project at the other terminus of the line which extended from London to Lancashire. His plans for the North Euston Hotel at the new town of Fleetwood came to fruition in 1841, a prestigious establishment in a splendid building designed by the great Decimus Burton. Meanwhile, at Wolverton in Buckinghamshire (now within Milton Keynes) Vantini had opened the world's first railway refreshment rooms, which in 1843 and 1845 were patronised by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert – Vantini personally supervised the royal refreshments.

The story goes on, with more firsts and more extraordinary achievements: Vantini opened a grand railway hotel at Folkestone; the Palatine Hotel and refreshment rooms – and a chop house - at Victoria Station in Manchester; and the Hôtel des Chemins de Fer in the very heart of Paris. In 1844 he organised what appears to be the world's first foreign package holiday, a 20-guinea two-week tour of France. His hotel business in France continued until his death in 1870.

In all of this, his contribution to Lancashire's history was significant, if largely unsung. Many of us will remember the great bulk of the Palatine Hotel opposite Victoria Station, pulled down about 12 years ago to make way for the expansion of Chetham's School. But we can all still gaze in wonder at the superb glass dome in the refreshment rooms at Victoria, created by Vantini almost 170 years ago – and of course, the grand semi-circular sweep of the North Euston Hotel is still 'the jewel in Fleetwood's crown' (according to its website, at least!). But there's so much more to this accessible and very well-written biography, for Pamela Sambrook tells a riveting tale of Vantini's exotic, varied and colourful life. No less interesting, I think, is the way she describes the long and complicated research process which lies behind it – how she pieced together the fragments, tracked down obscure references, and pursued the detective trail. I freely admit that she is a friend of mine – and declare that this makes no difference to my judgment, which is that this is a fine book!

THE MANORIAL DOCUMENTS REGISTER The [Manorial Documents Register \(MDR\)](#) is the official index to English and Welsh manorial records and provides brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands. The MDR is maintained by the National Archives (TNA) on behalf of the Master of the Rolls.

Manorial documents are defined by the Manorial Documents Rules as court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and books of every description relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor. Title deeds are not included.

The Register can be searched by the name of a manor, a parish or by historic county. Several hundred records can be found under Lancashire, giving the locations which house them, including a great many in Lancashire Archives.

ARTICLES ON LANCASHIRE SUBJECTS IN *THE LOCAL HISTORIAN* 2000-2020

Alan Crosby highlights topics of local interest

The Lancashire Local History Federation is a member of the British Association for Local History (BALH).

The quarterly journal of BALH is *The Local Historian*, of which I have been the editor since 2001.



Each issue has between five and eight major papers on a very diverse range of local history topics; many are case-studies based on particular localities, often on themes which could well be followed up in other places. Over the years there has been a good and varied selection of papers on aspects of Lancashire history, and I thought it would be useful to list (below) all those that have appeared during the past two decades. Many other articles have Lancashire relevance and/or examples, but those listed focus specifically on an aspect of the county's history or a particular Lancashire place.

All issues of *The Local Historian* more than three years old are freely available online – and the paywall on recent issues (2018 to 2020 inclusive) has been temporarily suspended, as a contribution by BALH to keeping us all active during the crisis. To find out more, and to access online articles, go to the BALH website:

<https://www.balh.org.uk/thelocalhistorian>

Paul di Felice, '**Italians in Manchester 1891-1939: settlement and occupations**', vol.30 no.2 (May 2000)

Viv Caruana and Colin Simmons, '**The promotion and development of Manchester Airport 1929-1974: the local authority initiative**', vol.30 no.3 (August 2000)

J. D. Marshall, '**A cooperative local history project and some lessons learned from it**', vol.31 no.2 (May 2001) [Silverdale]

Geoffrey Oxley, '**Robert Whitworth (1734-1799): canal engineer of Calderdale**', vol.32 no.1 (February 2002) [Leeds and Liverpool Canal]

Peter Lucas, '**Elementary headteacher and inter-war social entrepreneur: the case of Barbara Benson**', vol.32 no.2 (May 2002) [Barrow in Furness]

Mary Presland, '**A historian and his community: an appreciation of Theo Barker 1923-2001**', vol.32 no.2 (May 2002) [St Helens]

Jonathan Oates, '**Sources for the study of the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745 in England**', vol.32 no.3 (August 2002)

Pamela Russell, '**Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Lancashire connection**', vol.33 no.2 (May 2003)

Fergus Wilde, '**Chetham's Library, Manchester 1653-2003**', vol.33 no.4 (November 2003)

Sharon Lambert, '**Making it personal: community history on the Marsh estate**', vol.34 no.1 (February 2004) [Lancaster]

Lisa Snook, '**A professional occupation? The training of teachers in Liverpool 1899-1901**', vol.34 no.3 (August 2004)

William D. Shannon, '**Producers and consumers: the market for local history**', vol.34 no.3 (August 2004) [Preston]

John Cantrell, '**The Bridgewater Foundry 1836-1940: the rise and fall of a famous firm**', vol.34 no.4 (November 2004)

Zoë Lawson, '**Look after the pennies! Savings banks and the working class in mid nineteenth-century Lancashire**', vol.35 no.3 (August 2005)

Dick Hunter, '**"Then we turned our noses homeward": Merchant Navy officers and their families 1841-1941**', vol.38 no.4 (November 2008) [Liverpool]

John Dunleavy, '**Nationalism and illuminated addresses: an Irish Catholic community in Victorian Lancashire**', vol.39 no.1 (February 2009) [Haslingden]

Kay Parrott, '**The apprenticeship of parish children from Kirkdale Industrial Schools, Liverpool, 1840-1870**', vol.39 no.2 (May 2009)

Michael Powell and Chris Hunwick, '**The Manchester Cathedral sextons' registers**', vol.39 no.4 (November 2009)

James Bowen, '**The carriers of Lancaster 1824-1912**', vol.40 no.3 (August 2010)

Chris Watson, '**The early administration of the Old Poor Law in Leyland hundred, Lancashire: the importance of the township**', vol.40 no.4 (November 2010)

William D. Shannon, '**Dispute maps in Tudor Lancashire**', vol.42 no.1 (February 2012)

Murray Steele and Mike Benbough-Jackson, '**Civic pride on an international stage: the Liverpool "Shipperies", 1886**', vol.42 no.3 (August 2012)

John Dunleavy, '**"With right good will": Haslingden Catholics celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee**', vol.42 no.3 (August 2012)

Sarah Hutton, '**Anxiety, dread and disease in the ports of Liverpool and Tynemouth during the mid-nineteenth century**', vol.42 no.3 (August 2012)

Andrew J. Gritt, '**Marriage, family and property accumulation during the agricultural revolution: a case study of a Lancashire parish 1700-1850**', vol.43 no.2 (May 2013) [Altcar]

Chris Jones, '**Dr George Stuart Hawthorne of Liverpool and his "infallible" treatment of Asiatic cholera 1848-1849**', vol.43 no.4 (October 2013)

Alan G. Crosby, '**Perceptions of Liverpool 1530-2010: the historical evidence of contemporary observers**', vol.44 no.1 (January 2014)

John Dunleavy, '**England's glory: the Sunday school centenary in 1880**', vol.44 no.2 (April 2014) [Lancashire examples]

Josette Reeves, '**The Liverpool Women's War Service Bureau and its work 1914-1918**', vol.44 no.4 (October 2014)

Mike Derbyshire, '**The organisation and records of the Palatinate of Lancaster, and their use for local historians**', vol.46 no.4 (October 2016)

Michael Hughes, '**A patchwork of dissent: conscientious objectors in Lancashire during the First World War**', vol.47 no.4 (October 2017)

Peter W. Hampson, '**Industrial finance from the working classes in later nineteenth-century Lancashire**', vol.48 no.2 (April 2018)

Joyce V. Ireland, '**Quasi-careers for ladies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: schools in Chester and Warrington**', vol.48 no.3 (July 2018)

Sam Riches and Fiona Edmonds, '**The launch of the online resource for the Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive**', vol.48 no.3 (July 2018)

Chris Jones, '**Whistling in the dark: the local press response in Liverpool to Spanish 'Flu 1918-1919**', vol.48 no.4 (October 2018)

Michael Hughes, '**An uneasy peace? Peace celebrations in Lancashire in 1919**', vol.49 no.2 (April 2019)

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

SKELMERSDALE HERITAGE SOCIETY The Society joined the LLHF last year and was featured in the May newsletter. This is a relatively new society which is now in a position to start building a website and is now looking for advice on how to do so, preferably with some professional design input. Can any society give advice on how they manage their website? Please send any information to Carol Fenlon carolfenlon6@gmail.com.

PRESTON GUILD LODGE CENTENARY



June 2022 marks the Centenary of Preston Guild Lodge No 4408 based at Preston Masonic Hall on Saul Street in Preston. It was opened and named to honour the Preston Guild Merchant. Masonry has a long association with Preston: Masons laid the foundation stone of the Town and Guild Hall in 1862, during the mayoralty of the prominent Freemason, Robert Townley Parker. Preston Guild Lodge has the image of that Town Hall on its banner and on the Past Masters' Jewel to this day.

As part of this celebration the Lodge is researching its own history. The lodge would like to hear from any Federation members who have information about its history, but particularly wish to learn more about two distinguished former Masters. They hope to develop a paper and presentation in time for the centenary celebrations next year.

William Edward Ord was the first Master of the newly consecrated lodge. He had served as the mayor of Preston twice in 1906-07 and 1907-08. He was, uniquely for the time, also an Assistant Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire when he took the chair of the Lodge in 1922. He was also the driving force of the Lodge becoming a participant in the Masonic Million Memorial Fund to develop a peace memorial for the fallen of the World War I, but sadly died before its completion. Preston Guild Lodge is the sole survivor of the two Preston lodges to commit to this enterprise. The resulting memorial is now in Freemasons' Hall in London, and the name of Preston Guild Lodge is inscribed on marble tablets in the Memorial Sanctum. More about this can be found on the website www.pg4408.co.uk

James Sidney Howarth was simultaneously mayor of Preston and Master of the Lodge in 1941-42. He and the Lodge would have participated in the 1942 Guild, but for its ten-year postponement because of the war. James Howarth was instrumental in the creation of the Freemasons' Home in Preston. Until the mid-1940s the majority of lodges were based at the Bull and Royal Hotel. James Howarth recognised the need for an independent permanent home and set up the committee and working party that led to the purchase of premises that form the Preston Masonic Temple Limited in 1944.

If you can help with relevant information, please contact David Parker david.parker90@btinternet.com

REMINDER TO READERS Feel free to contact the editor mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk if you wish to:

- Share news about your society
- Contribute a research article (as an individual or on behalf of a society)
- Request help or information from other societies
- Submit news of a publication, with or without a review

RESEARCH ARTICLE

RESEARCHING AND USING PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS IN LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY

Marianne Howell

Everyone involved in local and family history will be aware of the important part that photographs of people and places can play. This item gives a brief outline of some sources.

When making use of photographs it is essential to adhere to copyright requirements. This is a complex matter, but a brief summary can be found at <https://bit.ly/3ostOop>, the website of DACS - the Design and Artists Copyright Society.

HOW TO DATE PHOTOGRAPHS



Find My Past video

<https://binged.it/3iKZrlf>

Science and Media Museum

<https://bit.ly/3qJKnxo> - How to date photographs by fashion

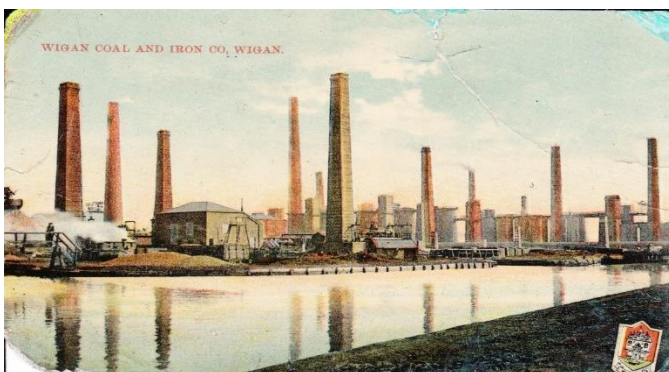
Some of the following books are seemingly out of print and unobtainable, but archives and libraries may have copies for reference or loan:

Robert Pols - **Dating 19th century photographs** (Federation of Family History Societies, 2005) 9781860061882

Jayne Shrimpton – **Tracing your ancestors through family photographs** (Pen & Sword, 2014) 9781781592809

Jayne Shrimpton – **Family photographs and how to date them** (Countryside, 2008) 9781846740992

Gillian Jones – **Lancashire professional photographers 1840-1940** (PhotoResearch, 2004) 0952301156978



DATING POSTCARDS

Sand Grown Glass

<https://bit.ly/3a52siP>

RESEARCHING PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIOS

Royal Photographic Society <https://bit.ly/3xAhs2T> Researching historical photographers; list of resources and sources.

Photographers of GB & NI 1840-1940 www.cartedevisite.co.uk Has an extensive list of photographers in ABC order, but it is not searchable. However, there are 50 biographies on the site, sometimes with extensive illustrated information. It is necessary to contact the site with queries about studio dates and addresses, and other information. The site has other interesting topics such as cartes-de-visite and Victorian photographic studio backgrounds. There is also a wizard to enable you to date your own photographs.

Portrait & studio photographers in the UK: 19th & early 20th century www.earlyphotographers.org.uk The site has useful tips and a list of resources to help in dating photographs. Records can be searched: several counties (but not Lancashire) are listed; the list of resources does include Lancashire but the information is sparse; there is a list of resources in the biography section.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

The National Archives resource: How to look for records of photographers. <https://bit.ly/2YbUnmP> Explains how to search amongst the TNA collection of millions of images, plus a list of collections held elsewhere.

The following links take you to searchable databases of image archives:

Red Rose Collections - Lancashire County Council <https://bit.ly/3baUBAC> An ongoing project to digitise the thousands of images held in Lancashire libraries.

Cheshire Archives [Cheshire image bank](#)

Manchester City <https://bit.ly/2YkpoFq>

Greater Manchester Lives www.gmlives.org.uk/index.html the website allows searches of the holdings of photographs (and other resources) held in archives and local history collections across Greater Manchester.

Liverpool Archives <https://bit.ly/39nMAca> an index to the holdings of watercolours and photographs.

**COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
25 OCTOBER**