



THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE

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Message from the new President -

Dr Arline Wilson

I feel honoured and privileged to have been elected to the office of President of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. I would like to assure all our members that I will do my utmost to continue and expand the initiatives that my immediate predecessors have set in motion. I owe them a debt of thanks.

Having served the Society as Treasurer for a number of years I am aware of just how fortunate I am to have the support of a dedicated and hardworking team of officers and council members. Together we are committed to preserving and maintaining the traditions of the past whilst also moving forward and embracing all that modern technology has to offer.

We are always anxious to hear from any members who feel that they could make a contribution to the running of the Society particularly in the field of Information Technology and publicity. We also welcome suggestions for future events and activities. Please do not hesitate to contact the Society if you feel that there is a particular aspect of the histories of the two counties that you would like us to devote a visit or a lecture to.

For anyone wanting to find out more about the Society or who would like to join us, please get in contact by emailing enquiries@hslc.org.uk



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Centre for Port and Maritime History



Mike Stammers Memorial Lecture

'Small Ports in the Nineteenth Century'
by Dr. Helen Doe

University of Exeter

Friday 20 May 2016 7.30pm

National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port

All are Welcome!



British History Lecture

Wednesday 20 April, 6.30pm (tea, coffee and biscuits at 6pm) Liverpool Central Library Charles Esdaile, University of Liverpool.

Chelsea pensioners and incorrigible rogues: the demobilization of the British army in the wake of the fall of Napoleon

Reports of Society Lectures and Visits

“One of the most remarkable men Liverpool has ever produced” The life and work of James Picton.

“One of the most remarkable men Liverpool has ever produced”: The life and work of James Picton. Roger Hull's lecture on Picton described a driven man, born in 1805 to William and Esther Allanson Pickton. His father, who was a joiner in a business partnership, was bankrupted, the business dissolved, and he was later briefly imprisoned for debt. James's start in life as the son of a feckless father was difficult, so he determined to make his mark on life and the professional world (unsurprisingly Samuel Smiles's *Self Help* (1857), was in his library). He also changed the spelling of his surname. In 1826 he became an assistant to a surveyor; in 1830 he became a partner in the firm, and in 1835 he took it over. He became a successful quantity surveyor, working on the quantities for St George's Hall and other important public buildings. James's obsession with hard work was described in his words: “I was not infrequently at work till ten or twelve at night and up again at four in the morning”. This punishing regime continued throughout his life.

In the nineteenth century professional divisions between surveying and architecture were blurred and although Picton was a quantity surveyor he was soon designing commercial buildings in Liverpool, a field in which he prospered at a time when palatial Italianate offices were in demand by Liverpool merchants.

Elected as a Whig town councillor in 1849, in 1850 he was appointed chairman of the Free Library Museum Committee, a position he held until his death in 1889. His abiding interest was the establishment of a great reference library, ensuring that branch or libraries were not built at the same rate as in other great cities. His obsession with control meant that “every book passed through his hands”. He did not pay for the Picton Reading Room (opened in 1879 and named in his honour), but he contributed £1,000 for its fittings. In spite of his ethos of sheer hard work (he was also a prolific author) he reached the age of 84, dying on his return home from a town hall banquet for the Shah of Persia on 15 July 1889.

Although a councillor for fifty years he was never elected as an alderman or lord mayor, possibly because of his liberal convictions and the fact that he was described as a poor orator, who despite this handicap spoke - at any opportunity - and at length! Although the customary eulogies were printed after his death the usually liberal Liverpool press and journals were much more critical of Picton during his lifetime.

This was an interesting and illuminating description - full of light and shade - of the life and career of an influential Victorian figure.

John Tiernan

Farming and the Domestic Economy of the Smallholder: Richard Latham (1699-1767) and the Agricultural Revolution.

Andy Gritt, Nottingham Trent University

Transactions Editor Andy Gritt fully held the attention of the audience with his lecture at this year's Annual General Meeting. His account of the Lancashire agricultural economy from the 17th to the 19th centuries detailed the significant differences between Lancastrian and the rest of English agriculture. If it can be described in two related main points - the predominance of the smallholder and the consequent small number of agricultural labourers across the county.

Andy outlined how traditional accounts of agriculture in Lancashire saw a backwards area of small farms that had missed out on the advantages of large scale capitalistic agriculture. He then explained how this account had missed the great advantages that smallholding had as it proved to be a source of productive and developmental energy. The combined effect of a rapidly growing economy and population in Lancashire provided an expanding market for food and upward pressure on wages. The price of labourers would have been prohibitive for the system of large farms whose profit base was the low level of labourers' wages across the south east of England - though this poses interesting questions about `free` family labour.

Richard Latham kept detailed account books which Andy has studied in depth. The accounts provided fascinating details not just of a business but also of a family growing and aspiring in status. The Buying and selling of animals and crops, regularly experimenting with new possibilities appear besides the purchasing of silk dressing for his daughters as they entered the marriage market - with some social success apparently.

It is hard to do just to this detailed presentation of a lot of research - suffice to say that there was material enough for several lectures.

Work, Welfare and Poverty

Historic Society Conference - Autumn 2016

There are few nineteenth-century Acts of Parliament as controversial as the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. This Act grew out of a Utilitarian philosophy that argued that welfare was undesirable. It was held that the existence of a welfare system which operated as a right merely encouraged welfare dependency, and that the maintenance of the idle poor was profligate and irresponsible. The New Poor Law sought to discourage welfare dependency among those who were able to work. Union workhouses, in which the able-bodied poor were to reside, were designed to deter would-be relief claimants by operating under the principle of 'less eligibility', thus encouraging self reliance.

Industrialisation in the North West is often associated with acute poverty, and there is ample evidence to illustrate the privations from which the working class suffered. Engels' memorable descriptions of poverty and living conditions in the 1840s, novels such as *Hard Times*, *Mary Barton* and *North and South*, and innumerable public health reports, Select Committee reports and Royal Commissions show that sections of the working class frequently endured inadequate housing, unemployment, low wages and malnutrition. The physical evidence of the scale of poverty also survives in the workhouse architecture of some of our towns. It might be thought that with the weight of such evidence there is little doubt that the nineteenth-century working class lived in conditions of extreme poverty. However, like most things in history, the reality was not so simple.



Despite this association between poverty and industrialisation, there has been relatively little work done on the implementation and subsequent evolution of the New Poor Law as it applied in the North West. There was a spate of work in the late 1960s and 70s which primarily focused on ideological resistance to the New Poor Law, but very little research has been undertaken since. There is, therefore, considerable room, and indeed a great need, for further research to gain a more nuanced understanding of the impact of the New Poor Law in the North West. Some

immediate statistics may surprise readers. Far from being a region mired in poverty, it was in the North West that self-help, friendly societies, sick clubs, rational recreation and the Co-operative movement thrived – the product of a reasonable standard of living for many working class families. In the period 1834-1900, more than 85 per cent of paupers in the North West continued to receive outdoor relief. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that, even in the depths of depression, relief formed only a minor part of the family income for many pauper families. It is also the case that, rather than resisting the implementation of the New Poor Law, some poor law unions in the North West actively embraced it, not least because it had a shared ideological foundation with the Free Trade movement which had Manchester as its capital.

Several scholars are currently working on various aspects of poverty and welfare in the North West, and the work will take years to be complete. However, later in 2016 we will be holding a conference that begins to explore these issues in greater detail.

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Grants and Prizes

The object of the Society, as stated in our constitution, is 'the education of the public by promoting the study of any aspects of the history and archaeology of the area covered by the Palatine Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire and successor local authorities', and in furtherance of that aim an annual grant awards scheme has been set up.

This scheme makes awards under three categories; Research Grants, Publication Grants and Education Grants. Under the last category, the Council of the Society is keen to receive applications from schools for grants towards the cost of visits to museums and other local sites of historical interest.

In 2015 one Liverpool primary school benefited from such a grant, and Council was very pleased to receive a card and letter thanking us for our help in funding their visit to the Museum of Liverpool. They told us 'we learned lots of interesting facts and information and were impressed by how influential our city has been and still is.' Their teacher said that the whole year group really enjoyed their day and gained a great deal from it.

Details of the grant scheme are to be found on our website (currently accessible from the bottom section of the site under 'The Society'). The current application year will end on 31 October 2016, and we would like to encourage our members to publicise the grant scheme to any teachers who feel that their pupils might benefit from funding towards the cost of any visit which aims to promote the study of the history of Lancashire and Cheshire. It is to be hoped that future beneficiaries will gain as much from their visit as these Liverpool children did.

Dr Patricia Cox

Historic Society visit – 18th June 2016

Guided visit to the Lion Salt works, Marston, near Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6ES (SJ 671755). Historians of Cheshire should see the Lion salt works, the last working open-pan salt boiling plant in Cheshire, which has recently been restored. Salt has had a major impact on the landscape of, especially, the centre of the county, and has been a raw material used in industry in surrounding counties. Salt has been made in Cheshire since at least Roman times for domestic use, and consumption of Cheshire salt in this way and as a food preservative (despite British and overseas competition) continued and expanded in an international market until the twentieth century. Once iron pans had replaced lead pans for salt boiling, coal replaced wood as the fuel. (Wood, in the form of charcoal, then helped to expand iron smelting and working in Cheshire in the century or so after 1650 on a nationally significant scale – another story.) Though there was coal in the eastern and western extremities of Cheshire the need for a large-scale supply of fuel in central Cheshire was one of the stimuli to the economically revolutionary development of water transport (by canalised river and then canals). The Sankey Navigation from the south Lancashire coal field into the Mersey and so connecting with the canalised River Weaver pre-dates the more famous Bridgewater canal. The technology used on the Lion site was superceded elsewhere by a vacuum based process, from 1905. The Lion site continued with the old technology until it closed in 1986.

Brine and rock salt were also foundations of the Cheshire and south Lancashire chemical industries of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (and so glass and soap). Rock salt is still mined in Cheshire, famously for roads. The production of chemicals continues in the county and there is still plenty of evidence of its manufacture to see around Northwich, where the industry was a major employer, and an innovator in so many ways. Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) was perhaps the most famous company name. If you take lunch on site or in Northwich, you can go as an individual (extra charge) to the Weaver Hall Museum (open from 2pm) to see its displays on the technical, and social, aspects of this industry. The nearby Anderton boat lift connecting the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey canal is another optional extra visit for individuals.

Notes will be provided for a self-guided tour of the Northwich area.

There is plenty of modern literature on salt (shop on site). Owen Ashmore, *The industrial archaeology of north-west England* (Manchester University Press, Manchester, 1982) remains a good regional summary and gazetteer of the salt industry.

Colin Phillips



PLEASE RETURN SLIP TO:-

Dr Fiona Pogson, Department of History, Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD.

Please book me places at £8 a head on the HSLC's visit to the Lion Salt works, 18 June 2016.

I enclose a cheque for £..... NAME:.....

Email address for confirmation of booking and notes

Email:

OR, please enclose SAE if you want a paper version of the confirmation of booking and notes.

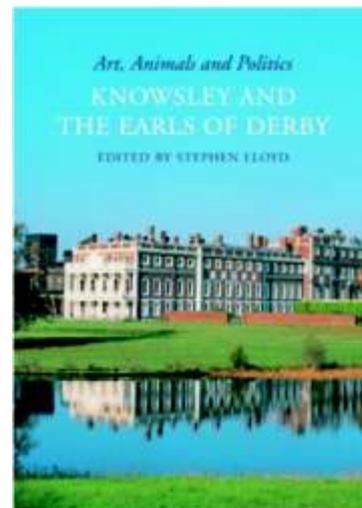
Bookings will be confirmed, and notes sent, about 8 June. Charges for Individuals to visit the Weaver Hall Museum and/ or the Anderton boat lift NOT included.

Books and Library

Art, Animals and Politics Knowsley and the Earls of Derby.

Edited by Stephen Lloyd Unicorn Press ISBN: 9781910065822 366pp with 100 colour photographs. Price: £60.00

About the Editor. Stephen Lloyd is Curator of the Derby Collection at Knowsley Hall, with responsibility for the art collections, the celebrated natural history library and the family archive. In 2013, he organised a major conference at Knowsley, bringing together historians, art historians and natural historians to celebrate the wide-ranging achievements of the Stanley family and to raise the research profile of their legacy. The Contributors Power, Play & Performance: David Starkey, Elspeth Graham, Gill Perry Patronage & Collecting: Richard Stephens, Jonathan Yarker, Xanthe Brooke Animals & Edward Lear: Sir David Attenborough, Clemency Fisher, Colin Harrison Politics & Foreign Affairs: Geoffrey Hicks, Angus Hawkins, Bendor Grosvenor, Jennifer Davey Thomas, Lord Stanley, was created Earl of Derby in 1485 after the Battle of Bosworth Field. Since that time the Stanleys – a great Lancastrian family, whose seat, Knowsley Hall, is near Liverpool – have been significant in the life of the nation as patrons and collectors, sportsmen and politicians. These absorbing essays by a distinguished cast of contributors led by historian David Starkey, writing about the political significance of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the first Countess of Derby, and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, on Edward Lear's zoological watercolours, many of which were done at Knowsley – cover key facets of the family's diverse achievements.



For further information, review copies and orders please contact: Lauren Tanner by emailing lauren@unicornpress.org or calling +44 (0)1892 871 413 Unicorn Press has been a publisher of high quality cultural history and art books since 1985. It is part of the Unicorn Publishing Group.

Additions to our holdings from the Chetham Society's publications

Gratton, J.M. The Parliamentarian and Royalist War Effort in Lancashire 1642-1651

Shapely, P. Charity and Power in Victorian Manchester

Tonkinson, A.M. Macclesfield in the Later Fourteenth Century

Dickinson, J.R. The Lordship of Man under the Stanleys

Turner, M. Reform and Respectability: The Making of a Middle-Class Liberalism in Early 19th-Century Manchester

Wilkinson, J. ed. The Letters of Thomas Langton, Flax Merchant of Kirkham, 1771-1788

De Lacy, M. Prison Reform in Lancashire, 1700-1850

Lowe, N. The Lancashire Textile Industry in the Sixteenth Century



Join/continue membership of The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire - enjoy the benefits of the annual Transactions, lectures, events and access to our extensive library.

To: JE Hollinshead, 28 Tewkesbury Close, Liverpool, L25 9RY e-mail: jhollinshead558@btinternet.com

I/We wish to join the HSLC and enclose cheque/postal order for the annual subscription of £16, payable to:- 'Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire' or money transfer to Account: 83199535 Sort Code: 60 05 25.

For new members - Please send my list of Society Off-Prints, from which I may select three.

Signed:

Name and address:

Email:

Transactions 2015 Update

Volume 164 of *Transactions* is currently with the printers following significant delays in production. These delays have been caused by personal difficulties faced by myself, and I am grateful to the support provided by the Council that expedited production after Christmas. I would like to offer my apologies to all members of the society for the delay. The production of *Transactions* is now largely out of our hands but will hopefully be dispatched in late Spring. Council will be considering ways of managing the production of *Transactions* and the processing of submitted articles in an attempt to ensure that such delays are not repeated. I hope that when the volume is finally dispatched members will be pleased both with the new look and also with the content of the journal.

Andy Gritt, editor, *Transactions*.

Transactions Back Issues

A former member is now down-sizing her property and has some volumes of *Transactions* to dispose of. There are 52 volumes in total - some from 1860s, 1898, 1907, then vols 47-56, and complete from 1960s until 2014. They belong to Catherine Evans. She is open to enquiries and offers for the volumes. She lives in Liverpool area. Can contact either at cathyevans2k2@aol.co.uk or on 0151 724 1548.

Liverpool's Historic Newspapers and Periodicals

A new research project will explore the history of Liverpool's newspapers and periodicals in the Georgian and Victorian periods. Few publications are remembered today but in their time they were a fitting adornment of the Second City of Empire. In matters great and small (whether the promotion of affordable newspapers or the chess column) they pioneered new approaches to newspaper production and journalism. The project's aims include an illustrated book and an exhibition of early newspapers and periodicals. We shall shortly be looking for partners and additional researchers: anyone interested is encouraged to get in touch with Dr Nick Foggo (n.foggo@liverpool.ac.uk).

2016 Grants and Prizes - This Year's Awards

The Society is pleased to announce this year's awards of grants and prizes. Four publication grants were awarded: Dr Pat Cox for a pilot scheme for a website and associated databases on 16th century cause papers from the Chester Consistory Court; Fiona Edmonds for the Lancashire section of a monograph on The Northumbrian Kingdom: Gaelic Influence in the Golden Age and the Viking Age; Dr Sam Riches for the digitisation and online publication of Elizabeth Roberts' Working Class Oral History Archive; and Dr Philip Sykas towards the cost of publishing the Manchester Excise Mark Quilt. Two research grants were awarded: Dr John Walliss for research on the 'Bloody Code' in Lancashire between 1750 and 1830; and Erika Huckestein to work on the papers of Selina Cooper held at the Lancashire Record Office. The undergraduate dissertation prize is awarded to Josh Monk for his impressive study of 'The Farming Inventories of Amounderness c.1750-69'.

All details of the various grants and prizes together with instructions on how to apply can be found on the Society's website.

John Belchem

Volunteers Wanted

The Historic Society is running a stall at the Manchester Histories Festival on Saturday 11th June in Manchester Town Hall. Can you give a hour or two of your time to help staff the stall? The Festival is well worth a visit and you could spend some time on the stall as part of your visit. If you can help contact Chris at jsirhc@hotmail.com. More information about the Festival can be found at www.manchesterhistoriesfestival.org.uk.

