



Researching in archives

Exploring local history source material, using archive services and Lancashire Archives in particular.



So, what is an archive?

What do you think of?

Archives are the records created by an organisation or individual in the course of transacting its business which are preserved as a record of that organisation or person.

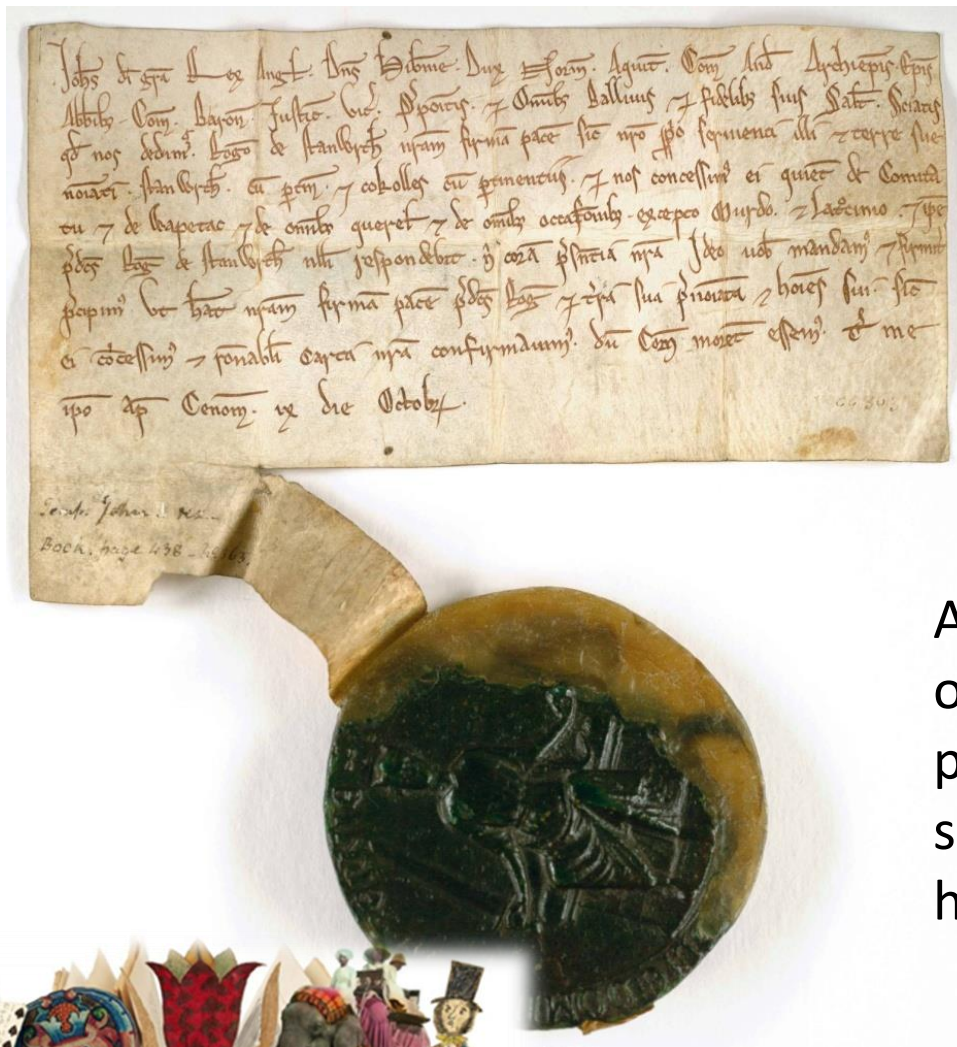


Why would you want to use archives and in particular Lancashire Archives?

- The sheer thrill of using unique documents
- Local evidence to support or challenge national themes and theories



Lancashire Archives has 9 miles of shelving full of the raw material of history – a lot of it unexplored and unexploited



As well as 9 centuries
of Lancashire's past –
places and people;
social and economic
history





What do we have at Lancashire Archives?

Anglican
Roman Catholic
Nonconformist
Tithe
Probate

RO
MEN SERVING THEIR KING
AND COUNTRY ON LAND AND
SEA

❧ *Enjoy the real thing* ❧





Official records:

Local authority
records

Police staff records

Turnpike

School records

Poor Law Guardians



Privately deposited collections:

Family and estate
 Businesses
 Societies
 Charities
 Trade Unions
 Employers Associations
 Individuals
 Miscellaneous
 including political
 papers



Lots of other organisations keep archives relating to Lancashire

Universities and colleges plus Special Collections

Businesses e.g. Barclays, Booths, British Gas

Private estates

The National Archives

British Library

Charities

Schools



How do you access archives?

- TNA, BL and most local archives have online catalogues – LANCAT.
- Always worth emailing in advance
- Always check the website before visiting for access details and double - check
- Security – ID visitors card; photo, ARA Card
- Handling – pencils; laptops; photography; microform; gloves

How do you find what you want?

Ask questions

What are you trying to find out?

What sort of records might include that information?

Who might have created those records?

Use the archives as your starting point when looking for a local history research opportunity





Things to remember?

- Archives are no longer active records so when we use them we're often interrogating them for a completely different purpose and they won't always tell us what we want or hope to find.
- Potential difficulties – handwriting and language, sometimes format and condition



Web site:
www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives

Email:
archives@Lancashire.gov.uk

National Archives:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

ARA Card:
www.archivescard.com

