

In 1886, Edward Taylor, from St Leonard's Gate, was jailed for 2 months for stealing cigars

- Who was he stealing from?
- Did he get a chance to smoke them?
Or sell them?
- Imagine how the police caught him?

In 1845 Richard Owen was commissioned to report on the sanitation and sewerage of the Mill Race area. He said: “The entire contents of Lancaster’s sewers...are delivered into the mill race, which may be compared to a prolonged cesspool. With the tide, the flow is reversed, and the contents seep into the cellars of houses and into the adjacent wells... There was fever in almost every one of the well-built houses near the mill race’.”

- *Describe life in one of these houses?*
- *Imagine Richard Owen visiting a slum house. What do the residents think of him?*

In 1742, slave-trader and wealthy merchant, Thomas Butterfield bought 9 and 10 Chapel Street to build a house on the site. Thomas was part-owner of the “Expedition”, the first recorded Lancaster slave ship. Several of his family including William and Christopher Butterfield became mayors of Lancaster.

- *Imagine Thomas receiving news of this year's profits. How does he react?*
- *Imagine the household and servants in Chapel Street. Do they know where their wages come from? Do they care?*
-

In 1841, 10 people were recorded as living in one tiny house on Sugar House Alley. They included Sarah Kelvin and her three daughters: Mary, Fanny and Ellen. Also, Anne and Hugh Sheilds and their children: Hugh, Betty, John and Sarah. Both families had immigrated from Ireland.

- *Imagine life in the house? What is it like in the day and at night?*
- *How did the families feel when they arrived from Ireland. What did they think of Lancaster?*
- *Imagine the children. What do they think of the house and the town?*

In 1784, Abraham Rawlinson gifted an ornate mahogany organ case to St John's Church. Abraham was a wealthy slave-owner who had been disowned by the Quaker church for privateering (piracy) and later became MP for Lancaster. Isaac Rawlinson was a black enslaved servant for the Rawlinson family who may have been part of Abraham's household.

- *What if Isaac was required to attend the unveiling of the organ. What would he think about it?*
- *Imagine Abraham offering the organ to the church. Why does he do it? How does he act?*
- *What does the congregation think of Abraham and Isaac?*

In 1891 Christopher Slater is recorded as living at 48 North Road. Like his father, John, and daughter, Mable, his profession was Hairdresser and Umbrella Manufacturer.

- Imagine the family shop. What does it look like and sound like?
- What links hairdressing and umbrellas?
- Imagine the family working together. What does Mable think of her father?

In the 1870s, the Phoenix Foundry was involved in manufacturing iron bicycles. These bikes were so rigid and uncomfortable, they were known as “Bone Shakers”.

- *Imagine a worker trying out a bicycle and cycling down Phoenix Street.*
- *What did the customers think of their bicycles? Were they high quality or not?*

**In 1884, Mary and William Birch of
Wood Street were fined for
obscene language**

- Were they having a fight? What was it about?
- Imagine what they said to each other
- What did the neighbours think?

From 1712-1791, illegal Catholic masses were held in a barn opposite the current site of the Grand Theatre on St Leonard's Gate. A series of Catholic priests (William Winckley, Nicholas Skelton, James Tryer, Richard Edmondson, John Rigby) were housed in neighbouring properties

- Why did people risk breaking the law to attend?
- Imagine one of the priests walking down St Leonard's Gate. How would people treat him?
- Imagine the congregation packed into the barn

In the 1740s, Robert Gillow began importing mahogany felled by enslaved Africans in the Caribbean colonies to produce luxury furniture in his workshop on North Road.

- *Imagine the workshop. What does it sound, smell and look like?*
- *Do Robert or his workers ever consider the production of the mahogany?*
- *Imagine the journey of a single piece of mahogany.*

In 1857, Edmund Sharpe (owner of the Phoenix Foundry), in a letter to the local Conservative candidate, expressed his frustration with his workers for voting for the Liberal Party. He reports that only 2 of his employees voted Conservative, one of whom, named Hodgson, was “sent to Coventry [ostracised] by the rest, for deserting his colours”.

- Why did Hodgson not vote the same as the other workers?
- Imagine when they found out he voted Conservative. What did they say or do?

Ira Aldridge, the first black man to play Othello, performed at the Grand theatre in 1827, 1832 and 1841.

- Imagine him waiting backstage at the Grand. How did he feel? What was he thinking?
- Describe Ira walking down the cobbles of St Leonard's Gate through the crowds to the theatre.
- Imagine how the audience reacted to his performance

**Isabella Hutt of St Leonard's Gate held
dissenter religious meetings in her
home in July 1817**

- Imagine a meeting. What was it like? Did people preach or pray aloud?
- Why were they meeting in her house?
- Imagine Isabella. What was she like?

**Jeremiah Wane held several dissenter
religious meetings at his house on
Damside Street in 1817**

- *Imagine Jeremiah Wane. How did his voice sound?*
- *Were the meetings popular? Illicit? Calm? Raucous?*
- *Imagine the people attending the meetings. How did they feel?*

In 1911, the Phoenix Foundry Swimming Team won the Workshops Squadron Knockout Competition

- Who was on the team? What were they like?
- Imagine the team walking down Phoenix Street returning to the Foundry after winning.
- How do the rest of the workers react?

In 1759, an enslaved servant from Barbados, known as Oxford, was in Lancaster. He was accompanying his master's children, William and Edward Eversly who were attending school in Yorkshire. Their route may have taken them along St Leonard's Gate.

- What is Oxford's impression of Lancaster?
- Imagine the journey? Are they in a coach?
Walking? On horses?
- What is Oxford's relationship with the boys?

Between 1189 and 1194, St Leonards, a leper hospital, was founded at the end of St Leonards Gate by John, Earl of Mortain (later to become King John). By law, leper hospitals had to be situated outside of town boundaries which explains its location beyond St Leonard's Gate.

- Imagine a person with leprosy washing their feet in the Mill Race.
- Who works in the hospital? Are they religious nuns or monks? What do they think of the lepers?
- What do local people walking through St Leonard's Gate think of the hospital?

In 1818, Joseph Grimaldi, a popular entertainer and clown, performed at the Grand Theatre. Whilst in town, he also bailed a fellow actor from Lancaster Jail.

- What had the actor done? Why did Joseph bail him out?
- Can you imagine his act? What would people think of him?
- What would he think of Lancaster?

In 1883, a schoolboy, named Joseph Gardener from Wood Street, was fined for throwing stones and obstructing a footpath.

- Why was he obstructing the footpath?
- Was he throwing the stones at someone or something?
- How did passers-by react?

In the 1880s Jonas Haywood was fined 12 times for allowing his children to skip school

- Why didn't they go to school? Were they working? Was Jonas too busy? Did he care?
- Imagine the Attendance Officer knocking on the Haywood's door delivering the twelfth fine
- What did the children think about it? Imagine a day in their lives.

In 1888, John Wilson Sykes, a labourer from 104 North Edward Street, was arrested and cautioned for stealing flowers

- Why was he stealing flowers?
- Whose flowers were they? How did he steal them?
- How did the police catch him?

John Lawson an early Quaker and sugar dealer was a prominent member of Lancaster society in the 1600s. He built the Sugar House on St Leonard's Gate to process slave-produced sugar shipped to Lancaster from the Caribbean colonies. He was also fined and imprisoned for 12 months for his Quaker faith.

- Imagine John visiting his Sugar House and tasting the product
- Imagine him locked up in Lancaster jail. What does he think about?
- Does he consider the people producing his sugar. How does he imagine them?

The manslaughter of one of the Phoenix Foundry Workers was recorded in 1918 when Robert Armstrong was killed by a blow to the head from another worker, Matthew Walling

- Was it a fight? What were they fighting about?
- Imagine it happening. Describe what you can see and hear?
- Imagine Matthew being carted off to the castle jail. What was he thinking?

In 1905, the Sangers Circus visited Lancaster and two elephants processed through the town past Stonewell.

- Who was in the crowd? What did they think?
- Imagine the sights, sounds and smells of the elephants and the crowds.
- How would local people tell the story of the day they saw two elephants at Stonewell.

In 1733, Sarah Lawson, a Quaker, married Thomas Butterfield, a slave trader and Anglican. She was disowned by the Quaker meeting for marrying a non-Quaker. The family had a house on Chapel Street.

- *Why does Sarah choose Thomas? What does she think of him?*
- *What does Sarah think about how he earns his money?*
- *Imagine her receiving the news that she had been disowned by the Quakers*

In 1785, Sarah Siddons, an actor famous for her portrayal of Lady Macbeth, performed in that role at The Grand Theatre.

- *What would audience members have said and thought as they waited for the performance?*
- *Imagine her waiting backstage. How does she feel?*
- *Would she rehearse or did she think she didn't need to?*

In 1856, Thomas “Blind Tom” Wiggins, a young African American musical prodigy and pianist, performed at the Grand Theatre.

- Imagine Thomas on the stage at the Grand.
- What can Thomas hear as he is led down St Leonard's Gate to the theatre?
- How did he feel? How was he treated? Where were his family?

In 1811, there were a total of eleven confectioners and sweet shops located within the Mill Race area.

- Who were the customers? How did they buy and eat their sweets?
- How were the shops different? Who would go to each one?
- Imagine one sweet shop owner. What did they think of the other shops?

The Ship Inn still stands on North Road and was described as being “contiguous with the old ship yard”. This is the Brockbanks shipyard which in the 1700s and 1800s constructed many slave ships including the Trafalgar, the last slave ship built in Lancaster.

- *Imagine the workers clocking off and heading for a drink at the Ship Inn.*
- *What do the workers think about the ships?
What do they say?*

In 1861, Thomas Tomlinson worked as a clogger and lived at 174 Sugar House Alley with his brother Richard.

- Imagine the sound of people walking in wooden clogs along Sugar House Alley.
- Imagine the brothers' workshop.
- Is Thomas a good clogger? What do his customers think of him?