

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MUSEUM OF NORTH CRAVEN LIFE, SETTLE

New exhibition: 'Journeys Through a Family Archive' from 1 July 2014

22 June 2014

'Journeys Through a Family Archive' explores the story of the Riley family and their many involvements in the life of Settle and district over a period of nearly 100 years. We are fortunate that the present generation of the family have donated papers, photographs and other memorabilia to the museum to provide a wonderful insight into the changing life of the area and a source of endless fascination. Among them are original diaries and scrapbooks, detailed sketches of the Settle townscape. and such long-forgotten items as an old tinder-box, complete with flint striker. Frederic Riley - generally known as Fred - was a prolific writer of books and pamphlets and well-known for his lantern-slide lectures on many different topics. His best-known book, published 100 years ago this summer is *The Ribble from its Source to the Sea*, which features prominently in the exhibition along with a remarkable hand-drawn map showing the whole course of the river.

There are sure to be a good handful of people in and around Settle who still remember Fred Riley, his wife Bessie and their two children Marjorie (later Longstaff) and James and their connections with Zion Congregational Church, Upper Settle and the family bookshop in Church Street. Although their lives took them along many different paths, the family all shared the same gifts for observing, recording and communicating their surroundings and activities in great detail.

In today's world we are constantly being urged to 'de-clutter' and consign our past lives to bin bags. Fortunately for us, the Riley family of Settle did not believe in de-cluttering and their amazing collections have been passed on to be enjoyed and shared by everyone.

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