Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

# EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM: SOME SOURCES

**Lancaster Civic Vision Guide No. 112**

Old photographs can tell us a great deal about how a place once was and in what ways it has changed. We can see how today's buildings once were and what buildings now demolished used to look like. We see the styles of clothes and vehicles of the past. Old photographs show us how Morecambe and Heysham have changed.

**Red Rose Collection**

Run by Lancashire County Council, this provides free access to a wide range of pictures at their website:

Search By Field - Red Rose Collections from Lancashire County Council

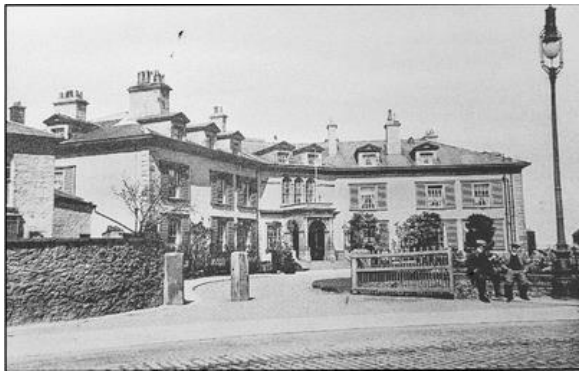
Here are just a few examples.



West End Pier, c.1900



Promenade Station at its peak



The old Midland Hotel before its demolition in 1932




A Morecambe Corporation horse-drawn tram, 1909-1926




Morecambe Trawlers Carnival float, 1920s




West End Illuminations, c.1930s



Heysham Harbour, quayside



The tanker *Linda Giovanna,* the last tanker to leave Heysham Harbour, 1967

**Local newspapers**

The *Morecambe Guardian* provides a wealth of local photographs, especially for the interwar period. Copies of the paper are available in Morecambe Library on microfilm. Online access to various sources of old newspapers can be found at this website:
https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library/newspapers-old-and-new/

**Commercial sources**

The Frith company has a website at which you can view thumbnails of old Morecambe and Heysham photographs. They can also be purchased from the websites:
https://www.francisfrith.com/morecambe/photos

https://www.francisfrith.com/heysham/photos

**Heritage Centres**

The Morecambe Heritage Centre - http://morecambeheritage.co.uk/ -
and the Heysham Heritage Centre - http://www.heyshamheritage.org.uk/ -
both have extensive photographic collections of their areas.

**YouTu**be

YouTube has a short film clip of old Morecambe at:
**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTXL6OrfWsw**
(a colourised, restored Mitchell and Kenyon film of 1901). You can skip the advertisements if you want.

**Google Images**

The right search terms will find old photographs of specific sites on Google Images.

**Lancaster City Museum**

The museum has a good collection in its stores in the City Museum in Market Square, Lancaster, and there are old photographs of Morecambe on display at the Maritime Museum.

**Books of Old Photographs**

Over the years there have been several books of old photographs showing Morecambe and Heysham 'in the old days'. They can often be found cheaply in second-hand bookshops.

**Aerial photographs**

The 'Britain From Above' website has a good range of aerial photographs of Morecambe and a few of Heysham mostly in the interwar period. They can be accessed from the website:
https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/galleries

**There is a parallel guide on early photographs of Lancaster, Guide No. 105.**

**Text – Gordon Clark.**
**Published by Lancaster Civic Vision (©2022).**
**Lancaster Civic Vision is the trading name of Lancaster Civic Society, registered charity no. 258434**