

## The Whitaker Collection

This huge and very generous donation of objects came from historian Dr Marjorie Reeves, last surviving member of her family line. The Reeves and Whitaker families united in 1900; both families came from the Bratton area near Trowbridge and were farmers, iron founders, ministers and schoolmasters. The collection donated to the museum consists of a wonderful array of everyday items from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries including amongst other things books, underwear, letters, jewellery, sewing implements, christening gowns and toys. Some of the Whitakers were talented artists and a lovely selection of watercolours and sketchbooks survive. The collection also gives a fascinating insight into the lives of children of the past; how they were schooled, the religious education they received, what books they read for both pleasure and instruction and the sort of toys available to them.



Victorian Portrait

A portrait showing an elderly member of the Reeves and Whitakers families. The Whitaker case in the museum is full of wonderful Victorian toys, games and ephemera.



### Children's Toys

A cast metal Gypsy caravan and horse and a turned wooden whipping top.

**Just some of the many children's toys and games in the Whitaker Collection**



## Victorian Clothing

An example of Victorian clothing from the Whitaker Collection. All our clothing is wrapped in protective acid-free tissue and stored in archival boxes.

## Early C20th Missionary Society Poster

The Whitaker and Reeves families were prominent Baptists and contributed to the welfare and improvement of the people of Bratton



## A Blue Glass Scent Bottle

The collection is particularly strong in domestic objects and ephemera.