

TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES

USER GUIDE 22

PAUPERS' RECORDS

Introduction

This User Guide details sources relating to the poor, including Poor Law, Guardians and Overseers records. *See also User Guides 7 (Guilds), 9 (Medicine) and 14 (Law and Order) for related material.*

Until 1597 there was no statutory poor relief, although parishes and religious houses dispensed alms and some ran 'hospitals' where paupers could gain relief. Following the Poor Law Act of 1597, parishes first appointed Overseers of the Poor, but it was the Poor Law Act of 1601 which formally constituted what became known as the 'Old Poor Law'. According to this second piece of legislation, parishes were responsible for levying a rate with which to dispense outdoor relief to their poor. Growing costs led to the Settlement Act 1662 which restricted relief to those paupers who could prove settlement in a particular parish.

The continued spiraling cost of administering the poor law eventually led to the Poor Law (Amendment) Act 1834, also known as the 'New Poor Law'. This created unions of parishes, each with a board of guardians. The unions provided both outdoor and more notably indoor relief to the poor, the latter via the workhouse system.

Unions and Guardians were abolished by the Local Government Act 1929 and their functions transferred to public assistance authorities run by county boroughs and county councils. These authorities were short-lived, however, and the poor laws were finally repealed in 1948. Note that the Old Poor Law continued to operate until this date as well as the New Poor Law; settlement cases can be found latterly in Petty Sessions records.

This user guide generally takes the reforms of 1948 as its end date, although later records are outlined in the case of some collections to indicate continuity.

Some records may have restrictions on access. In addition, it may not be possible to produce unlisted collections for consultation in the Searchroom. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

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Note: sections B to F are divided under the following sub-headings: Parishes and Townships; Guardians / Public Assistance; Charities.

A. REGIONAL SOURCES

Asylum for Female Penitents for Northumberland and Durham, Newcastle and Gateshead

financial / administrative records 1841-1919
[586]

Northern Counties Joint Poor Law Committee

minutes 1912-1930
[227/79-93]

Northern Police Orphanage, Harrogate (St George's)

List of inmates <http://www.stgeorgharrogate.org/stg23list.htm>

Northern Poor Law Unions

conference reports etc 1918-1927
poor law records 1890-1927
[604/902-909]

Petty Sessions courts

NB overseers and unions were accountable to the justices.
registers include poor law cases to 1948
[MG. - see User Guide 14]

Quarter Sessions courts:

NB poor law cases were occasionally referred to quarter sessions, although this decreases with the formalisation of petty sessions courts in the mid 19th century
[QS. - see User Guide 14]

Children North East

records, incl. homes 1888-1989
[CH.CNE]

B. GATESHEAD

Parishes and Townships

Birtley St John / civil parish

apprenticeship indentures 1886-1895
overseers accounts 1797-1818
poor rates 1848
valuations 1833-1837
vestry meetings 1818-1936
[CP.BI/1, 20-23]

Chopwell township

overseers meetings 1856-1927

overseers accounts 1826-1849

[CP.CH, DX1048/1/1-2]

Gateshead St Mary / civil parish

examinations / removal orders c1843-1848

High Ward out-relief book 1830

Low Ward payment accounts 1827-1828

opinions re poor rate assessment n.d.

overseers accounts 1910-1929

overseers meetings 1869-1901, 1925-1927

poor rate 1860

valuation list c1826-1829

[3419/CXXIII (unlisted); CP.GA/1-6; T371/10-12; T440 (unlisted)]

Lamesley St Andrew / civil parish

apprenticeship indenture 1761,1834

bastardy bonds 1771-1819

payments to paupers 1821-1831

permission to pay relief 1796

poor accounts 1814-1815, 1830

poor distributions 1851-1864

vestry meetings 1833-1886

[819; MF440-441, MF447]

Ryton civil parish

correspondence re settlement appeal 1795

overseers meetings 1914-1927

[CP.RY/2; T214/173]

Ryton Urban District

poor rates 1914-1921

unpaid rate statements 1911-1925

[UD.RY/41-42]

Whickham St Mary / civil parish

overseers accounts 1725-1837, 1849-1927

overseers meetings 1895-1904

poor rates 1677-1926 (incomplete)

vestry meetings 1818-1871

[CP.WH/2-3; T213/322-331, 412-488; MF901-903]

Whickham Urban District

poor rates 1875-1926

relieving officer's accounts 1881-1911

vaccination registers 1872-1912

[T213/169-185, 278-331]

Winlaton township

poor rates 1853, 1911-1927

valuations 1869-1926

[T214/112-117, 132-133]

Guardians / Public Assistance**Gateshead Borough Council**

public assistance minutes 1929-1974

slum clearance minutes 1930-1932

[CB.GA/44-49; HA.GA]

Gateshead Union

guardians minutes 1836-1930

correspondence etc 1837-1891

children placed in homes 1906-1949

[T371]

Gateshead Union Workhouse (later High Teams Institution and Bensham General Hospital)

admissions and other records 1921-1948

papers re workhouse buildings 1885-1891

plans of Poor Law Institution 1922

[HO.BS; HO.FV; T371; 1266/27]

Shotley Bridge (Medomsley) Cottage Homes – records at Durham Record Office

Charities**Gateshead Dorcas Society**

minutes 1916-1936 **[CHX32]**

Guilds

charity records (incl. poor relief)

[GU.; see User Guide 7]

King James' Hospital

records, incl. membership 1800-1967 **[CH.KJH]**

Pickering Trust

minutes 1888-1948 **[CHX33]**

Robert Spence Pensioners Charity

records 1880-1938 **[CHX26]**

Thomas Powell's Almshouse Charity

secretary's correspondence 1900-1913 **[CHX34]**

Winlaton Christmas Charity

minutes and subscriptions 1863-1931 [CHX27]

C. NEWCASTLE

Parishes and Townships

Benwell township / parish

overseers accounts 1868-1913

overseers meetings 1913-1914

poor rates 1870-1900

valuation lists 1884, 1888

vestry meetings 1851-1908

[183/566-575; MF398]

Byker township / parish

overseers accounts 1796-1805 1895-1907

poor rates 1731-1891

valuation lists 1880-1901

vestry meetings 1820-1913

[183/576-606; 593/65; MF392-395]

Coxlodge township

poor rates 1880-1901 [UD.GO/64]

East Denton civil parish

overseers and assistants 1908-1920

poor rate collection accounts 1917-1926

vestry meetings 1870-1911

[CP.ED/1-5]

Elswick township / parish

overseers meetings 1897-1914

poor rates 1850-1880, 1906

vestry meetings 1847-1872

[183/607-617, 850-853; MF395-397]

Fawdon township

poor rates 1891-1896 [UD.GO/64]

Gosforth Urban District

poor rates 1880-1928

relief minutes 1914

[UD.GO/38, 64-65]

Heaton township / parish

poor rates 1860-1890
valuation list 1895
vestry meetings 1890-1914
[183/618-622; MF398]

Jesmond township / parish

overseers accounts 1821-1836
poor rates 1851-1900
vestry meetings 1867-1914
[183/623-633]

Newcastle All Saints parish

agreement for poor house at Manors 1735
applications for relief 1836
apprenticeship register 1790-1844
bastardy bonds 1783-1827
charity school records 1807-1909
examination books 1820-1837
guardians meetings 1840-1848
overseers accounts 1778-1914
Pandon Ward overseers accounts 1797-1808
poor house accounts (incl. clothing) 1788-1835
poor house admissions / discharges 1779-1809
poor house minutes 1801-1828 (incomplete)
poor rates 1766-1880; 1805-1811
Quayside ward overseers accounts 1796-1812
removal orders 1771-1826, 1833-1836
select vestry meetings 1819-1844
vestry meetings 1766-1914
[183/1-188; 465/13-42; 466/10-12; 544/8; 595/54; E.NC36; T241; MF355-357]

Newcastle St Andrew parish

overseers accounts 1903-1904
poor rates and valuations 1811-1870, 1906
valuation list 1895
vestry meetings 1851-1882
[183/189-225, 854; MF388-392; MF1782]

Newcastle St John parish

overseers accounts 1872-1901
poor rates and valuations 1829-1907
vestry meetings 1800
[183/234-299]

Newcastle St Nicholas parish

apprenticeship register 1802-1844
correspondence re poor relief 1817
papers re apprenticeship case (Gloucester Quarter Sessions) 1724
poor rates 1742-1911

poor relief accounts 1791
vestry meetings 1819-1914
[43; 183/300-537; 1236; MF371; MF382-385; MF657; MF1807]

South Gosforth township
poor rates 1883-1902 [UD.GO/64]

West Brunton township
township meetings 1872-1937 [T75/38]

Westgate township
overseers accounts 1900-1914
rate book 1861
vestry meetings 1856-1904
[183/731-733]

Walker township / parish
poor rates 1866-1882 [183/635-640]

Guardians / Public Assistance

Cottage Homes, Ponteland
see Newcastle Union

Highfield House
see Newcastle Union

Manors Poor House
see All Saints parish

Newcastle Borough / City Council
maternity and child welfare records 1934-1944
non-settled poor accounts 1922-1939
public assistance, financial, relief and institutional records c1930-1948
rate department poverty appeals 1914-1944
vaccination registers 1935-1948
vagrant's pass 1653
[51; 183/805-840; 392/4; 492/11-13; MD.NC/280-283]

Newcastle Union
apprenticeship / children's records 1808-1930
bastardy registers and orders 1844-1961 [568]
birth registers 1840-1923
chaplain's hospital reports 1921-1931
committee (various) minutes (include some admissions/discharges/deaths) 1905-1930
correspondence 1895-1923
emigrants records 1922-1930
financial and rating records 1838-1930

guardians minutes 1836-1930 (sometimes include information concerning admissions/discharges/deaths)
lunacy records 1848-1928
medical / vaccination records 1907-1930
miscellaneous printed material 19th-20th centuries
old people's records 1895-1931
property and institutions' records (incl. workhouse) 1752-1930
records of the unemployed 1888-1928
relief and resettlement records 1848-1930
staff duties 1880-1896
staff records 1873-1929
vagrancy records 1864-1921
workhouse inventory 1930
workhouse punishment books 1893-1913, 1923-1936
[359; 444/12-13; 568; 1699; 3493 (unlisted); HO.NGH; T1]

Newcastle Union Workhouse (later Newcastle Wingrove Hospital and Newcastle General Hospital)

administrative / property records 1868-1948
deeds 1835-1901
patient records 1889-1948
[646/1-16; HO.NGH]

Charities

Brandling Place Home for Penitent Women

records, incl. minutes and reports c1860-1897 **[584]**

Cathedral Nursing Society for the Sick Poor

reports 1886-1948 **[CHX20]**

Davisons' Hospital

pay books 1727-1940 **[595/36-40]**

Dispensary

administrative records 1777-1980 **[HO.ND]**

General Hospital

minutes and inventory 1764-1785 **[595/54]**

General Soup kitchen

financial records 1820-1901
minutes 1862-1901
[CHX3]

Gosforth WJ Sanderson Home for Destitute Crippled Children (later Sanderson Hospital):

administrative records 1890-1970
financial records 1938-1948

minutes 1904-1973

[HO.SA]

Guilds

charity records, incl. poor relief **[GU. - see User Guide 7]**

Holy Jesus Hospital

lists of poor c1695-1801

miscellaneous records 1683-1874

[595/49-51]

Hospital of the Blessed Virgin Mary (later St Mary the Virgin)

acts 1846,1888

deeds and rentals c1183-1952

minute books 1882-1960

miscellaneous property record 1810-1938

printed material 1908, 1925

register of leases 1575-1829

[158; 459; 1688; 1944]

Newcastle Aged Female Society

minutes and financial records 1873-1995 **[CHX5]**

Newcastle City Relief Fund

minutes and ephemera 1885-1886 **[CHX30]**

Newcastle Corporation

records re various charities 1863-1956 **[604/126-136]**

Newcastle Ragged and Industrial Schools

records, incl. admissions 1847-1970 **[E.AP]**

Newcastle West End Poor and Aged People's Association

minutes 1922-1964 **[CHX8]**

Poor Children's Holiday Association (later Children North East)

see Regional Sources

Poor Women's Lying-In Hospital (later Princess Mary Maternity Hospital)

records, incl. re patients 1760-1990 **[HO.PM]**

Rev William Turner's School

pupil register 1785-1825 **[2122; MF1216]**

Richard Thompson's Bequest

list of applicants 1868-1869

petitions for loans 1855-1872

[595/105-106]

St Mary Magdalene Home for Incurables
records, incl. property / patients 1611-1932
[547; 595/52-53; 604; HO.HM]

Sir Thomas White's Charity
financial records 1647-1884 [595/77-103]

Sir Walter Blackett's Hospital
pay books 1727-1940 [595/36-40]

William Warmouth's Charity
bond 1742 [595/104]

D. NORTH TYNESIDE

Parishes and Townships

Backworth township
overseers correspondence 1890-1911 [PU.TY/1 (unlisted)]

Camperdown civil parish
poor rate 1905 [643/193]

Chirton township
overseers meetings 1849-1908
poor rates 1847 1850-1900
valuations (supplemental) 1906-1908
[T22/1, 165-179, 275; T171/210]

Cullercoats township
poor rates 1890-1907
valuations 1906-1908
[T22/180-182, 272, 275]

Longbenton St Bartholomew parish
overseers account 1779-1798
poor rates 1779-1806
vestry meeting 1713-1895
[MF497-498]

North Shields township
poor rates 1816-1900
valuations 1860, 1895-1908
[T22/183-212, 266-275; T45; T171/124-209]

Preston township

poor rates 1860-1909 (incomplete)

valuation 1860, 1906-1908

[T22/213-219, 265-274]

Tynemouth township / parish

overseers accounts 1836-1843

overseers meetings 1908-1927

poor rates 1813-1901

valuations 1860, 1896-1919

[T22/3-4, 18, 220-275A; T45; T171/1-122]

Wallsend St Peter parish / civil parish

overseers accounts 1849-1864

poor law rating papers 1895, 1907-1921

poor rates 1838-1839

valuation list 1858

vestry meetings 1759-1939

[609/7-9; 1131/274-277; 1954; T14/69; MF506]

Wallsend Borough

poor rates 1862-1865 **[259/14-18]**

Willington civil parish

overseers accounts 1895-1911

poor law rating papers 1895, 1907-c1917

[259/21; 1131/274-278]

Guardians / Public Assistance**Northumberland Village Homes**

records 1879-1960

registers, financial / administrative material c.1890-1975

reports, rules, photographs etc 1866, 1879-1956

[865; 1831 (unlisted); T375 (unlisted)]

Tynemouth Borough Council

poor rate accounts 1908-1936

public assistance correspondence 1929-1949

public assistance minutes 1929-1948

[644/242-247; 1913/58; T22/292-295]

Tynemouth Poor Law Union

Board of Guardians minutes 1836-1931 (incomplete)

Workhouse Committee minutes 1884-1888, 1908-1929

Finance Committee minutes 1910-1916

Children's Committee minutes 1913-1923

Boarding Out Committee minutes 1922-29

Master's admission and discharge registers 1899-1949

Porter's admission and discharge registers 1854-1947
Creed registers 1885-1949
Birth registers 1868-1948
Maternity registers 1910-1949
Death registers 1896-1949
Alphabetical registers of inmates, c 1914-1943
Registers of lunatics 1911-1948
Children's Home admissions and discharges 1912-1915
Vaccination registers (North Longbenton district) 1877-1892
Posters 1837-1841
Plans, c 1902-1930s
[PU.TY; 1940]

Charities

Royal Victoria Charity School
minutes 1810-1836 **[T83/15]**

E. SOUTH TYNESIDE

Parishes and Townships

Boldon civil parish
poor rates 1914-1921 **[UD.BO/58; T180/269]**

Boldon Colliery civil parish
poor rates 1914-1921 **[UD.BO/58]**

Harton civil parish
poor rate c.1920 **[T180/270]**

Hedworth township
poor rates 1855-1856, 1880, 1887-1900 **[263/54-59; T23/139]**

Jarrow St Paul parish / township
overseers minutes and accounts 1908-1927
poor rate 1787, 1880, 1887-1900
[263/54-59; 3419/CXIX (unlisted); T23/75-76]

Monkton township
poor rates 1887-1906, 1914, 1919 **[263/36-59; T23/140-141]**

South Shields St Hilda parish
apprenticeship indentures 1791-1800
charity (incl. school) records 1769-1958
overseers appointments 1902-1926
poor law papers 1788-1917

poor rates 1660-1791
select vestry meetings 1824-1837
vestry meetings 1794-1954
[T179/491-492; MF858-859; MF872-875; MF878; MF893]

Westoe township
cash book 1804
poor rate 1879
[T81/94; T180/187]

Whitburn civil parish
overseers meetings 1923-1927
poor rates 1914-1915
[CP.WB/12; UD.BO/58]

Guardians / Public Assistance

Cleadon Cottage Homes
punishment book 1909-1949
register 1920-c1944
[PU.SS/3; see also E.CL 1]

South Shields Borough Council
blind assistance sub-committee minutes 1929-1948
case files 1933-1970
public assistance minutes 1929-1948
[T179/417-419, 452-453; 227]

South Shields Union
correspondence and scrapbooks 1836-1929
guardians minutes 1836-1930
objections to rating assessments 1914
property papers 1876-1929
securities register 1876-1897
staff wages books 1923-1926
[PU.SS; T179/652; T180/304]

South Shields Union Workhouse (later Harton Institution and South Shields General Hospital)
administrative records 1889-1948
admissions / patient records (incl. lunatics, births, deaths) 1877-1948
committee minutes 1875-1904
[PU.SS; HO.SSG]

South Shields and Westoe Dispensary
minutes 1846-1874 **[HO.ING/1]**

F. SUNDERLAND

Parishes and Townships

NB Bishopwearmouth parish contained the townships of Bishopwearmouth, Bishopwearmouth Panns, Burdon, Ford, Silksworth, Tunstall and Ryhope; Monkwearmouth parish contained Monkwearmouth, Monkwearmouthshore, Fulwell, Southwick and Hylton townships.

Bishopwearmouth township

apprenticeship indentures 1765-1920

poor rates 1802-1831, 1844-1891

valuations 1862-1901

[209/89-94; 212; 849; T26/3-35, 162ff]

Ford township

poor rates 1847-1914

slum clearance files 1935-1939

valuation lists 1862-1901 (incomplete)

[T12/109-176, 544-582; T26/163ff]

Fulwell township

valuations 1863-1901 **[T26/167ff]**

Great Eppleton civil parish

poor rates 1914-1915 **[CP.GE]**

Hetton-le-Hole township

poor rate 1837 **[T18/147]**

Houghton-le-Spring St Michael and All Angels parish / civil parish

overseers accounts 1774-1818

poor rates 1914

vestry meetings 1853-1927

[CP.HS; MF765]

Hylton township

overseers accounts 1849-1885

poor rates 1904, 1912, 1924

valuations 1863-1895, 1906

[209/75; T12/114, 177-181; T26/168ff]

Little Eppleton township

poor rates 1862-1866 **[CP.LE]**

Monkwearmouth township

overseers accounts 1809-1837

overseers correspondence 1833-1837

poor house admissions / discharges 1813-1836

poor rates 1781-1891 (incomplete)

settlement examinations 1812-1822
valuations 1864-1895
[209/95-102; T26/21-36, 171ff]

Monkwearmouthshore township
poor rates and overseers accounts 1776-1806
poor rates only 1842-1891
settlement and bastardy papers 1807-1843
valuations 1863-1895
[209/103-105; T26/2-37, 169ff]

Moorsley township
poor rates 1821-1837 **[T18/150]**

Newbottle civil parish
poor rates 1914 **[CP.NE/2]**

Offerton civil parish
poor rates 1914 **[CP.OF/2]**

Ryhope township
poor rates 1884-1924
slum clearance files 1935-1939
township meetings 1834-1894
valuation lists 1864-1901
[209/76; T12/115-121, 182-220, 482, 584-635; T26/172ff]

Silksworth civil parish
poor rates 1914 **[CP.SI/4]**

Southwick township
poor rates 1837-1838
valuations 1862-1901
[209/79; T26/164ff]

Sunderland Holy Trinity parish
apprenticeship indentures 1765-1920
overseers accounts 1807-1819
overseers meetings 1885-1897
poor house / governor's accounts 1809-1818, 1830-1837
poor rates 1779-1818
vestry meetings 1719-1918
[209/80-88; 212; 849; 1231; MF577-578]

Sunderland-near-the-Sea township
poor rates 1838-1890
valuation lists 1864-1895
[T26/1-287]

Tunstall township

overseers accounts 1839-1907
poor rates 1851-1924
valuation lists 1862-1907 (incomplete)
[T12/122-129, 221-245, 377-380; T26/165ff]

Usworth Holy Trinity parish / civil parish

poor rates 1837-1914
relief accounts 1832-1857
removal order 1834
vestry meetings 1857-1894
[CP.US/1, 5; PU.CS/3-4]

Warden Law civil parish

poor rates 1913-1915 [CP.WL]

Washington Holy Trinity parish / civil parish

overseers accounts 1767-1835
overseers papers 1844-1850
poor rates 1829-1833, 1846-1914
valuations 1908-1928
vestry meetings 1823-1894
[PU.CS/5-6; MF774-775]

West Herrington civil parish

poor rates 1914 [CP.WHG]

West Rainton civil parish

poor rates 1914, 1926 [CP.WR]

Guardians / Public Assistance**Chester-le-Street Union**

poor rates (Barmston, Usworth, Washington only) 1837-1928 (incomplete)
[PU.CS]

Sunderland Union

contracts 1903-1938
correspondence 1848-1872
financial records 1837-1931
guardians minutes 1839-1930
lunacy records 1877-1916
outdoor relief lists 1839, 1917-1940
settlement records 1895-1914 (incomplete)
staff records 1853-1912
[209/445-635]

Sunderland Union Workhouse (later Highfield Hospital)

indoor relief lists 1866-1947
inmate registers (incl. lunatics and deaths) 1866-1974 (incomplete)

list of officers 1895-1933
[HO.HI; T87]

Charities

Bishopwearmouth St Thomas Parish Invalid Kitchen
annual reports 1867-1944 (incomplete) [CHX22]

George Hudson's Charity
records, incl. admissions 1875-1966 [2017]

House of Recovery
see Sunderland Royal Infirmary

Humane Society
see Sunderland Royal Infirmary

Sunderland Independent Sick Society
patients and relief register 1838-1919 [CHX17]

Sunderland Orphan Asylum
records, incl. admissions 1861-1964 [2018]

**Woodcock Charitable Institution Fund for Poor and Shipwrecked Mariners,
Sunderland**
minutes 1843-1931 [CHX10]

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