This User Guide details land tax assessments, electoral registers and poll books held at TWAS, which can be used to locate individuals and find out about their economic situation, and are especially useful where census records do not exist.

**LAND TAX RECORDS**

The Land Tax was introduced in 1692 and was a tax on the land which people owned. Land Tax assessments are a record of all taxpayers in each parish or township, and give the names of the owner and occupiers of the land, a description of the property and the tax levied. From 1780 to 1832 the assessments were the only means of listing voters, with those who owned property worth two pounds or more annually qualifying to vote.

From 1798 landowners were able to redeem the tax with a payment equal to 15 years tax, and the Land Tax Redemption Certificates describe the property, the occupiers and the sum redeemed. However, the names of these owners remained in the assessments for voting purposes.

In 1832 land tax assessments lost their electoral function when separate electoral registers were introduced. This meant that the assessments became only partial lists of owners and occupiers and may not be reliable. In 1949 redemption became compulsory on property changing hands, and the tax was abolished in 1963.

**ELECTORAL REGISTERS**

From 1832 separate electoral registers began to be kept. The registers are arranged by wards within the county or borough, and then alphabetically by name or by street within the wards. A map showing the boundaries of the Newcastle wards is available for consultation in the searchroom.

Durham County Record Office holds registers covering parts of County Durham now in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland Record Office holds registers for Northumberland county and central libraries have the registers for their respective boroughs.

The registers, compiled annually except in wartime, give the name, address and voting qualification plus any land owned within the area by the voter, but voting qualifications were restricted as follows:

- 1832 Men owning property worth at least 2 per year
- 1867 Men owning or renting property worth at least 5 per year
- 1884 Men owning or lodging in property worth at least 10 per year
- 1918 Men over 21, women over 30, soldiers and sailors over 19.
- 1928 All men and women over 21
- 1969 All men and women over 18
BURGESS LISTS

The burgesses were the electors of the borough councils. To qualify as a burgess, a man had to have lived and paid rates in the borough for two and a half years, although in 1869 this was reduced to one year and women could become burgesses. The burgess lists were recorded separately from the electoral register until the first world war.

POLL BOOKS

From 1696 onwards the sheriff had to compile a record of the poll in county elections, which was made available for all to see. In 1843 a similar provision was made for borough elections. These poll books were printed by private entrepreneurs rather than clerks, but tend to give the name of the voter, his occupation, where he lived and which candidate he voted for. The Newcastle Borough poll books include voters entitled to vote in the borough who came from other areas, including Gateshead, North and South Shields, Sunderland and places in Northumberland. The Northumberland poll books cover the whole county apart from the Borough of Newcastle.

Abbreviations used throughout this guide :-

LT = Land Tax  
PB = Poll Book  
ER = Electoral Register  
BL = Burgess List  
AV = Absent Voters List

NB: MF = microfilm – a microfilm reader should be booked in advance to view these records

Backworth
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Barmston
  ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Benwell (see also Newcastle)
  LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/10)
  ER: 1936 (MD.NC/D/2/8)

Bishopwearmouth
  ER: 1835-6, 1846-7 (MF895, MF827)

Bishopwearmouth Panns
  ER: 1835-6, 1846-7 (MF895, MF827)

Blackcallerton
  LT: 1833-1936 (G.TAX1/8)

Burdon
  ER: 1835-6 (MF895)
Burradon
LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Butterlaw
LT: 1833-1936 (G.TAX1/8)

Byker (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1833-1937 (G.TAX1/3)
ER: 1863-1900 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)

Camperdown
LT: 1833-1937 (G.TAX1/7)

Chirton
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)

Chopwell
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Crawcrook
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Cullercoats
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)

East Herrington
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

East Rainton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Elswick (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/10)
ER: 1863-1900 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)
BL: 1835-1879 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)

Fenham (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/10)
ER: 1936 (MD.NC/D/2/8)

Fulwell
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Gateshead
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Gateshead, High and Low Wards
LT: 1701 (3415/CN/1/62)
Glendale
PB: 1826 (3408/2)

Gosforth
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/5)

Harton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Harraton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Heaton (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1833-1937 (G.TAX1/3)
PB: 1741-1860 (MD.NC/D/2, MF 340)
ER: 1863-1900 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)

Hebburn
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Hedworth
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Heworth
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Houghton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Jarrow
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)
BL: 1853-4 (MF897)

Jesmond (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1799-1898 (G.TAX1/15), 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/6, up to 1873 MF381)
ER: 1863-1900 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)
BL: 1835-1879 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)

Lamesley
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Longbenton
LT: 1799-1937 (G.TAX1/7, G.TAX1/16)

Middle Herrington
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Monkseaton
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)
Monkton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Monkwearmouth
ER: 1835-6, 1846-7 (MF895, MF827)

Murton
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)

Newbottle
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Newburn
LT: 1833-1936 (G.TAX1/8)

Newcastle
LT: 1737-1946 (G.TAX1, G.TAX2)
PB: 1741-1872, some gaps (3408, MD.NC/D/2, see MF)
BL: 1835-1879 (MD.NC/D/2, see MF)
AV: 1920-1939 (MD.NC/D/2/4; for 1918-1919 see main ER)

North Shields
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/9)
PB: 1747/8, 1774, 1832, 1852 (3408/1, MD.NC/D/2/6, 3408/4, 3408/5)

Offerton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Penshaw
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Preston
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)

Ryton
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Scotswood (see also Newcastle)
LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

South Shields
PB: 1830-2 (MF895)
ER: 1835-6 (MF895), 1848 (T179/594)
BL: 1853-4 (MF897)

Southwick
ER: 1835-6 (MF895)
Sunderland
   ER: 1835-6, 1846-7 (MF895, MF827)

Tindale
   PB: 1826 (3408/2, 3408/5)

Tynemouth
   LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11, G.TAX1/13)
   PB: 1747-8, 1774, 1832, 1837, 1852 (3408/1, DX641/1, MD.NC/D/2/6 - MF340)

Usworth
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Walbottle
   LT: 1833-1936 (G.TAX1/8)

Walker
   LT: 1833-1937 (G.TAX1/7)

Wallsend
   LT: 1833-1913 (G.TAX1/12)

Warden Law
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Washington
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Weetslade
   LT: 1833-1937 (G.TAX1/7)

West Denton
   LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/8)

West Herrington
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Westoe
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)
   BL: 1853-4 (MF897)

Whickham
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Whitburn
   ER: 1835-6 (MF895)

Whitley
   LT: 1833-1946 (G.TAX1/11)
Whorlton
  LT: 1833-1936 (G.TAX1/8)

NORTHUMBERLAND

Allendale
  PB: 1832, 1852 (3408/4, 3408/5)

Bamburgh
  PB: 1826 (3408/2, 3408/3)

Bellingham
  PB: 1832, 1852 (3408/4, 3408/5)

Coquetdale
  PB: 1826 (3408/2)

Haltwhistle
  PB: 1832, 1852 (3408/4, 3408/5)

Hartley
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Heddon
  LT: 1799-1874 (G.TAX1/14)
  PB: 1826 (3408/2, 3408/3)

Hexham
  ER: 1980 (T193/11)
  PB: 1832, 1852 (3408/4, 3408/5)

Holywell
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Morpeth
  PB: 1826 (3408/2, 3408/3)

Newsham
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Seaton Delaval
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Seghill
  LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)
South Blyth
LT: 1836-1946 (G.TAX1/4)

Stamfordham
PB: 1832 (3408/4, 3408/5)

VOTING RECORDS AT OTHER REPOSITORIES

ER = Electoral Registers  PB = Poll Books
LT = Land Tax  BL = Burgess Lists

RECORD OFFICES

Durham County Record Office
ER : Whole of County Durham, 1832 to present (microfilm)
LT : 1759-1831 (microfilm)

Northumberland Archives
ER : Whole of Northumberland County, 1832 to present
PB : Northumberland, 18th and 19th century
LT : 1748-1885

LIBRARIES

Gateshead Central Library
ER : Gateshead, 1832, 1837, 1842, 1847, 1851, 1918-39, 1945 to present
BL : Gateshead, 1835-1915
PB : Gateshead, 1837, 1852

Newcastle City Library
ER : Newcastle, 1832-77, 1880 to present
       Sunderland, 1832, 1835
PB : Gateshead, 1837, 1852
       Newcastle, 1715-1859
       Sunderland, 1833
       Northumberland, 1705-1852

North Shields Central Library
ER : Tynemouth, 1861-69, 1876, 1887-1910, 1926-39, 1946 to present
       Wallsend, 1931 to present
PB : Some for Northumberland

South Shields Central Library
ER : South Shields, 1850 to present
       Also some for Jarrow, Cleadon, Boldon
BL : Some for South Shields
For western parts of South Tyneside, see Durham Record Office
Sunderland City Library
ER: Sunderland, 1841 to present
    Bishopwearmouth, 1850
    Monkwearmouth, 1842, 1844-45

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