

TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES

USER GUIDE 17

VOTING RECORDS

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)

ER: 1863-4, 1867-1915, 1918-1959, 1965-1974, 1980 (MD.NC/D/2, part 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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