



### Wirral Archives Service

#### Contact Details

Wirral Archives Service  
Cheshire Lines building  
Canning Street  
Birkenhead  
Wirral CH41 1ND  
Tel: 0151 606 2929  
Fax: 0151 606 2928

Email: [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)  
(please go to Leisure and Culture -> Records and Archives).

#### Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9.30 - 16.30  
Saturday, 10.00 - 13.00

Please note that access to the Service is via Shore Road.



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.  
Licence number 100019803. Published 2008

## About Wirral Archives Service

A guide to Wirral Archives Service



### Your visit

- Please telephone in advance if you wish to book a microfilm reader or a computer
- Upon arrival you will be asked to show some form of identification, and to sign our visitors' book
- Lockers are available to store your personal belongings
- Please bring a pencil with you to make notes (pens are not allowed in the search room)
- The search room is accessible to wheelchair users
- Please let us know what you think of our service by filling in a feedback form



## About Wirral Archives Service

Wirral Archives Service cares for and offers public access to thousands of historical records relating to Wirral's past. Researchers are welcome to consult original documents and other sources free of charge. We can provide records for those interested in family history, local history, and maritime and industrial history.

Wirral Archives Service was founded in 1974 upon the creation of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, a borough of Merseyside. Previously the Wirral peninsula had been a subdivision (or 'hundred') of the County of Cheshire.

In 2008, the service relocated to a state-of-the-art facility, based in the Cheshire Lines building on Canning Street in Birkenhead, not far from Hamilton Square Station.



*Courtesy of National Museums, Liverpool (Merseyside Maritime Museum)*

### Our holdings

Documents held in the archive date back to the fifteenth century, with most dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They include:

- Records of Wirral local government (i.e. borough and district councils), including minutes, building plans and rate books
- Records of the Poor Law and of local workhouses
- School records
- Hospital records
- Court records, including Quarter Sessions and County Court
- Business records, including the extensive collection of Cammell Laird shipbuilders
- Records of local clubs, societies, organisations and individuals

- Solicitors' records, including title deeds
- Maps and plans, including tithe maps, Ordnance Survey maps, and Marine Maps of the Wirral coastline
- Local newspapers



In addition to these original documents we also hold, on microfilm or microfiche, a number of sources of particular use to family historians, including:

- Census returns for Wirral, 1841-1901
- Electoral registers for Wirral, 1842-1900
- Records of burials in municipal cemeteries

Researchers requiring parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials should contact Cheshire Record Office or Birkenhead Reference Library. Those requiring birth, marriage and death certificates should contact the Superintendent Registrar's Office.

### Our services

- Public search room where original records can be consulted during opening hours
- Research advice for both new and experienced visitors
- Computer access - please ask staff for further details
- Copying service: photocopies, laser copies and photography options are available - please ask staff for details of charges
- Research (to a reasonable extent) undertaken by staff in response to telephone, e-mail and postal enquiries - please see our Enquiries Policy for further details
- Group visits can be catered for. Contact the Archivist for more information
- School visits welcomed, with hands-on activities available

- A series of user's guide leaflets are available, free of charge:
  1. Tracing your family history
  2. School records
  3. Poor Law records
  4. Cemetery records
  5. Tracing the history of your house
  6. Records of the home front

