



## Subject Guide 11 – Poor Law Records

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### Introduction

This leaflet is a guide to Poor Law records held at Durham County Record Office, in particular those that might have potential for family history research. The aims are: to indicate which of our catalogues should be consulted for further information about record holdings relating to particular places; to explain some of the terminology in use; and to list records which may contain personal information.

Many poor law records are subject to a 100 year closure under data protection legislation. Sensitive volumes where the latest record is dated within the last 100 years have a restricted access; contact us for details. Research can always be carried out, for relatives, by our Research Service.

### Historical development

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century there have been many innovations in statutory provision for the care of the poor (whether homeless, unemployed, disabled, orphaned, widowed or bankrupt). Each change in the law affects the records that might be kept. At one time it was mainly the responsibility of the church, through the local ecclesiastical parish authorities, collecting tithes and the poor rate, and distributing relief. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the Poor Law Unions were created, uniting the responsibilities of groups of parishes for a more efficient and equitable system paid for through local rates.

## Old Poor Law

1547 *Act of Legal Settlement* – provision of parish relief and homes for “impotent poor” – administered by the vestry meeting of all rate-paying men in the parish.

1576 *An Act For Setting of the Poor on Work, and for the Avoiding of Idleness* – institution of the House of Correction (a hostel for the unemployed and homeless). For children born out of wedlock the parish could try to establish the identity of the father, through a bastardy examination, and force him to pay for support, through bastardy bonds and filiation orders, later called maintenance orders.

1597 *An Act for the Relief of the Poor* – determined parochial responsibility and appointment of unpaid overseers to administer parish relief (paid for by local taxation) providing work for the poor.

1601 *Act of Relief for the Poor* – consolidation of previous acts.

1662 *An Act for the better Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom* (The Settlement Act) – settlement and removal regulations mean those moving home between parishes needed a certificate from their home parish and could be removed back to their place of origin if they became destitute.

1697 *An Act For supplying some Defects in the Laws for the Relief of the Poor* – issuing of pauper badges (till 1810)

1723 *Knatchbull's Act* (The Workhouse Test Act) – allowed “indoor relief” through a parish or district workhouse.

1777 a parliamentary report listed existing poorhouses.

1782 *Gilbert's Act* – a board of guardians for “Gilbert Unions” providing workhouses for unions of parishes.

1819 *Sturges Bourne's Act* – select vestries to scrutinise relief giving.

1831 *The Vestries Act* (Houbhouse's Act) – elected vestries.

## New Poor Law

1832 Royal Commission on the Poor Laws.

1834 *Poor Law Amendment Act* – national network of poor law unions with annually elected board of guardians replacing overseers and vestries.

1844 *Outdoor Relief Prohibitory Order* – an attempt to end outdoor relief

1847 *Consolidated General Order* – the main rulebook for running workhouses

1852 *Outdoor Relief Regulation Order* – a further attempt to end outdoor relief

1857 *Industrial School Act* – care and education of vagrant, destitute and disorderly children at industrial schools.

1866 *Poor Law Amendment Act* – civil parishes, which gather income for Unions, defined as all areas levying a rate; workhouses now to keep creed registers.

1875 Rural Sanitary Districts established.

1894 *Local Government Act* – end of vestries; urban and rural district councils; elections for civil parish councillors

1913 Poor Law Institution Order

1929 *Local Government Act* – poor law unions replaced by the public assistance committee of the local council.

1948 National Health Service Act – end of poor law.

## Scope and Organisation of this Leaflet

Poor Law Union boundaries were based on population and communications and did not always respect parish or county boundaries. This leaflet is organised by Union, with records for parishes listed under the most appropriate.

## Old Poor Law Records

Records of Poor Relief between 1547 and 1832 (and even through to 1894) may appear in Vestry Minutes and Accounts, Overseers' Minutes and Accounts, and Churchwardens' Minutes and Accounts for any Ecclesiastical Parish or, occasionally, Chapelry or Township. This leaflet lists existing records of all parishes that existed in 1832.

For Settlement Certificates and Removal Orders, Apprenticeship records and Bastardy Bonds the names of the persons concerned will appear under the appropriate parish reference in our on-line catalogue. Filiation and

maintenance orders may be found in Petty Sessional court records. Apprenticeship records are listed in Index 617.

Details of disputes arising from poor law decisions can also appear in Quarter Sessions records and in local Solicitors' papers held at the Record Office.

## **New Poor Law Records**

From 1834, parishes and townships in County Durham were organised into fifteen Poor Law Unions. Each Union had at least one workhouse, to house the homeless and destitute: their actual locations and layouts are given in Peter Higginbotham's excellent website ([www.Workhouses.org.uk](http://www.Workhouses.org.uk)) and can be seen on our collection of O/S maps in the record office or on our map viewer ([Search Interactive Maps](#)).

Surviving Poor Law Union records are mostly concerned with rating assessments and valuations and, while these are useful for house history, they are not listed here. There are some surviving plans of offices, workhouses and hospitals; search our database for the words workhouse and plan. Relief Committee minutes record decisions about local relief, both indoor (workhouse) and outdoor (at home). Guardians' minutes are chiefly administrative but may sometimes list recipients of relief; there will be various other sub-committee minutes and administrative records. Workhouse masters' reports can contain personal details. There are also some registers of births and deaths (both for workhouses and for union hospitals), admission and discharge registers, creed registers (listing all inmates) and apprentice registers.

## **Other Records**

County council social services records, such as those for the cottage homes, are not included in this leaflet. We hold registers from 1901 onwards for childrens' homes in Medomsley, Stockton, Houghton, Peshaw, Lanchester and Birtley, and also records of various convalescent homes and hostels. These have restricted access.

Durham County Council's Public Assistance Committee minutes are held here. These have restricted access. Most workhouses had hospitals attached (many of which continue as such today). These often had a postal address so that hospital births could be recorded with an address rather than an institutional name. We also hold some other hospital records, including Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland, Wolsingham, Stanhope, Chester-le-Street, Darlington, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Lanchester, Durham County Hospital, and Winterton (the county mental asylum). These have restricted access.

Charity records may occasionally indicate recipients, though most are administrative. These can sometimes be found with parish records and borough records. Workhouse inmates are listed in census returns for 1841 to 1911.

## **Records Held, by Union**

### **Auckland Poor Law Union Area**

**New Poor Law** (U/Au) - workhouse "100 Cockton Hill"; later Oaklands, now General Hospital

Register of apprentices 1875-1897 (UD/BA 266)

Visiting Committee book 1930-1937 and Register of deaths in poor law institution 1943-1951 (H/SWD 375-376)

Guardians' minutes 1863-1948 – inc. lists of persons unable to work on medical grounds plus some details of lunatics.

Other minute books (inc. hospital committee), financial records and rates assessment books.

Lady Eden Hospital records (also in H/SWD 178-211)

### **Old Poor Law**

Auckland St Andrew [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Au.SA): Vestry Minutes 1720-1847; Overseers Accounts 1733-1743

Auckland St Anne: no records

Auckland St Helen (EP/Au.SH): churchwardens' accounts 1776-1916

Crook and Billy Row: [see Brancepeth parish, Durham Union]

Escomb (EP/Es): overseers' and churchwardens' accounts 1683-1784, overseers' accounts 1822-1831, vestry and parochial church council minutes 1888-1930

Hamsterley (EP/Ham): vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts 1728-1905, Lynesack and Softley township account book, South Bedburn township account book, early parish registers include vestry resolutions relating to the poor

Merrington (EP/Mer): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1621-1955

Whitworth (EP/Whi): vestry accounts 1918-1968

Witton le Wear (EP/WW): churchwardens' accounts 1689-1941

## **Chester le Street Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/CS) – workhouse on Front Street; now General Hospital

Relief Committee minutes for Birtley 1911-1923, Chester-le-Street 1904-1922 and Harraton/Washington 1904-1923

Relief order books for Chester-le-Street district 1928-1930 and Washington district 1914-1915

List of claimants, 1915; discharged soldiers, 1916; Records relating to "Birtley Belgians", 1916-18

Particulars of applications of relief, 1929-30; register of outdoor relief, post-1922; names of those who have started work, 1928-1929; outdoor relief payment book and lists, 1929-42; relief payment cards (Witton Gilbert), 1931-38

Registers of poor persons suffering from TB, 1928

Register of deaths at the asylum, 1907-1913; inmates of asylum, 1907-1914; admissions to asylum, 1919-1928; list of lunatics, 1923-1927

Registers of cow keepers, 1887-1910

Guardians' minutes, 1840-1926

Rates assessment and valuations and other financial records (see also RD/CS 1-148)

Other committee minutes

Correspondence (inc. Cullercoats children's home)

## **Old Poor Law**

Chester-le-Street [2 workhouses in 1777] (EP/CS): churchwardens' and overseers accounts 1606-1703, churchwardens' and overseers accounts and vestry minutes 1701-1723, churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1722-1837 and 1848-1936, charity memoranda books, vestry minutes 1828-1837

Lamesley (EP/Lam): vestry minutes 1833-1887, churchwardens' and overseers accounts 1634-1715, churchwarden's accounts 1715-1755 & 1815-1869, overseers' accounts 1812-1831, bastardy bonds, removal orders and various other overseers' papers

Penshaw: [see Houghton-le-Spring]

Washington (EP/Wa): churchwardens' accounts 1762-1861, vestry minutes 1823-1894, overseers' accounts 1767-1783 & 1803-1837, list of indoor poor 1854 (UD/Wa/8-10,18), overseers' outdoor relief book 1829-1843, bastardy book 1822-1837 (possibly for Washington township only)

Witton Gilbert (EP/WG): churchwardens' and overseers accounts 1739-1833

## **Darlington Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Da) – workhouse "90-108 Yarm Road"; later Feetham's Infirmary then Municipal Hospital

Register of inmates, and admission and discharge registers, 1912-1958

Creed registers, c.1912-1950

Register of lunatics, 1897-1948; orders for detention of lunatics, 1896-1949

Registers of births, 1911-1939; registers of deaths, 1877-1963

Vagrancy registers, 1941-1957

Hospital reception and departure books, 1949-1956

Medical records, 1931-1948; case histories, 1949-1956

Master's reports, 1927-1958

Guardians' minutes, 1837-1930; Children Committee minutes, 1910-1930

Other committee minutes, correspondence, circulars; assessment and valuation and other financial records

Administrative records for workhouse

## **Old Poor Law**

Coniscliffe (EP/Co): churchwardens' accounts 1767-1890, overseers' accounts 1767-1774, vestry minutes 1859-1945

Darlington St Cuthbert [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Da.SC): vestry minutes 1867-1924; churchwardens' accounts 1630-1948. Also (D/XD 16/30-31) vestry minutes 1824-1835. Also (D/X 666, 667 & 874) apprenticeships, bastardy, settlement, filiation, etc.

Darlington Holy Trinity (EP/Da.HT): vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts 1859-1902

Denton (EP/De): churchwardens' accounts 1767-1884

Dinsdale (EP/Di): vestry minutes 1876-1902, overseers' accounts 1724-1851, apprenticeships, churchwardens' accounts 1836-1847 & 1862-1920

Haughton-le-Skerne (EP/Has): vestry minutes 1658-1925

Headlam: [see Gainford parish, Teesdale Union]

Heighington (EP/He): churchwardens' accounts 1651-1871

Hurworth (EP/Hur): bastardy bonds, register of apprentices 1804-1835, churchwardens accounts 1776-1933

Middleton St George (EP/Mi.SG): vestry minutes 1864-1921, churchwardens' accounts 1895-1920

Piercebridge: [see Gainford parish, Teesdale Union]

Sadberge (EP/Sad): vestry minutes 1862-1920, churchwardens' account book 1743-1890, overseers' accounts 1747-1763

Sockburn (EP/Soc): churchwardens' accounts 1725-1737 & 1805-1860, vestry minutes 1815-1860

## **Durham Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Du) – workhouse “37 Crossgate”; later St Margaret's Hospital

Registers of births and of deaths in the workhouse, 1866-1914 (H/Du)

Admission and discharge register, 1937-1948 (H/Du)

Creed and inmates registers, 1905-1942 (H/Du)

Guardians' minutes, 1837-1902

Valuation lists and ledgers

Financial ledgers (CC/Tr)

Records concerning land on Crossgate (D/X 2/39-53)

## **Old Poor Law**

Brancepeth (EP/Br): vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts 1735-1926

Croxdale (EP/Cr): churchwardens' accounts 1845-1900, vestry minutes 1901-1927

Durham St Mary the Less (EP/Du.ML): churchwardens' accounts 1709-1850, overseers' accounts 1828-1837

Durham St Mary le Bow (EP/Du.MB): churchwardens' and overseers' accounts 1678-1868, vestry minutes 1819-1843 & 1881-1943, records of apprenticeships, bastardy, settlement and removals

Durham St Nicholas [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Du.SN): churchwarden's accounts 1666 onwards, vestry minutes 1603-1620 & 1818-1966

Durham St Giles [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Du.SG): overseers' accounts 1723 - 1848 (incomplete), vestry minutes 1790-1945, removal orders

Durham St Oswald [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Du.SO): overseers' accounts 1720-1857, churchwardens' accounts 1580-1822 & 1898-1920, vestry minutes 1715-1838, bastardy bonds, removal orders, settlement certificates

Durham St Margaret [2 workhouses in 1777] (EP/Du.SM): chapelwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1665-1910

Durham St Cuthbert (EP/Du.SC): churchwardens' accounts 1863-1924, vestry minutes 1863-1892

Kelloe (EP/Ke): no records

Kimbleworth (EP/Ki): no records

Pittington (EP/Pi): overseers' accounts, vestry minutes, churchwardens' accounts 1584-1699, 1838-1922. Also (CP/She 1) vestry minutes 1829-1835

## **Easington Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Ea) – workhouse on Seaside Lane; later Leeholme Hospital

Relief Committee minutes: North District 1898-1930, Mid District 1925-1931, South District 1905-1933

Relieving officers pay books and cash books, 1939-1948

Guardians' minutes, 1837-1939 (except 1847-1862)

Hospital Committee minutes, 1897-1939; Boarding Out Committee minutes, 1910-1925; other committee minutes

Some financial records (also ledgers in CC/Tr)

Plans (ND/Ea and RD/Ea and CC/Arch)

### **Old Poor Law**

Easington (EP/Ea): churchwardens' accounts 1805-1873, vestry minutes 1802-1836 & 1875-1983

Castle Eden (EP/CE): vestry minutes 1794-1882

Monk Hesleden (EP/MH): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1685-1922

Dalton-le-Dale (EP/DD): overseers' accounts 1690-1762, vestry minutes 1834-1883, churchwardens' accounts 1698-1877

Murton (EP/DD.HT): vestry minutes 1885-1963

Seaham (EP/Sea): churchwardens' & overseers' accounts & vestry minutes 1857-1956, overseers' accounts 1759-1805

### **Gateshead Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** – workhouse in Bensham; later Bensham Hospital

Records are held by the Tyne and Wear Archives

Winlaton plan (D/HH 10/1/2)

### **Old Poor Law**

Gateshead [poorhouse in 1777] (EP/Ga.SM): vestry minutes 1681-1976, churchwardens' accounts 1626-1678 & 1847-1903

Heworth [poorhouse in 1777] (EP/Hew): overseers' book 1823-7, vestry minutes 1807-1868, churchwardens' accounts 1820-75

Ryton [poorhouse in 1777] (EP/Ryt): overseers' accounts 1728-1771, poor relief 1811-1816, churchwardens' accounts 1597-1822, vestry minutes 1683-1972

Whickham [poorhouse in 1777] (EP/Whm): vestry minutes 1818-1958, churchwardens' and overseers' accounts 1699-1921, poor law disbursements 1768-9

### **Hartlepool Poor Law Union (created from Stockton Union in 1859)**

**New Poor Law** – workhouse on Holdforth Road; later Howbeck Hospital, now University (former General) Hospital

Records are held by the Teesside Archives (Middlesbrough).

### **Old Poor Law**

See Stockton

### **Houghton-le-Spring Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Ho) – workhouse on Sunderland Road/William Street

Creed registers, 1887-1914

Inmates' property registers, 1908-1969

Relief Committee minutes, 1903-1930

Indoor revision register, 1912-1938

Medical reports, 1928-1941

Admission and discharge books, and registers of inmates, 1887-1969

Register of temporary residents, 1959-1968

British Legion list, 1914-1919

Register of deaths, 1895-1969

Temporary accommodation register and application books, 1959-1969

Boarding Out Committee minutes, 1920-1930; House Committee minutes, 1918-1935; Cottage Homes Committee minutes, 1930-1944; Institution Committee minutes, 1930-1944; Hostel Committee minutes, 1949-1964

Guardians' minutes, 1837-1930

Other committee minutes

Administrative records including staff files and registers

### **Old Poor Law**

Houghton-le-Spring [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Ho): overseers' accounts 1752-1829, vestry minutes 1863-1923, churchwardens' accounts 1595-1864

Penshaw (EP/Pen): vestry minutes 1881-1948, churchwardens' accounts 1881-1925, list of paupers 1897

Silksworth (EP/Si): no records

### **Lanchester Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/La) - workhouse on Front Street/Newbiggin Lane; later Lee Hill Hospital Settlement and removal forms, 1891

Creed registers, 1892-1930; birth registers, 1847-1930; death registers, 1842-1946 (H/NWD)

Valuation records

Staff records (CC/Tr)

Financial records (D/X 1083 and Cp/Coy)

Plans (RD/La 143)

### **Old Poor Law**

Ebchester (EP/Eb): no records

Esh (EP/Esh): overseers', churchwardens', constables' & highway surveyors' accounts 1711-1804, vestry minutes 1851-1939, churchwardens' accounts 1805-1876

Lanchester (EP/La): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1805-1912

Medomsley (EP/Me): vestry minutes 1836-1917, churchwardens' accounts 1803-1853 & 1875-1950

Muggleswick: any records would probably be held by the Northumberland Archives

Satley (EP/Sat): no records

Tanfield [2 workhouses in 1777] (EP/Ta): select vestry minutes 1819-1837, churchwardens' accounts 1722-1729, 1732-1751, 1755-1760 & 1879-1921, resolutions of vestry meetings fixing poor cess and appointing officers 1750-1788

### **Sedgefield Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Se) – workhouse on King William Street then on Station Road/West End

Admission and discharge registers, 1837-1957

Visiting committee reports, 1893-1905

Lunatic certificates, 1881-1909

Indoor relief lists, 1837-1958

Outdoor relief lists, 1921-1943; relief order books, 1924-1930

Application and report books, 1927-1932

Creed registers, 1869-1945

Registers of inmates and property, 1930-1962

Register of lunatics, 1906-1930

Registers of births, 1837-1931; registers of deaths, 1838-1848, 1866-1930

Medical reports

Register of young persons placed in service, 1875-1888

Boarding out registers, 1911-1928

Register of persons receiving infants for reward, 1923-1928; register of children adopted by DCC, 1930-1948

Master's reports and journals, 1847-1941

Boarding Out Committee minutes, 1912-1933

Relief Sub-Committee minutes, 1930-1943

Visiting Committee minutes

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Financial records, letter books, administrative records  
Ledgers (CC/Tr)  
Plan (D/Br/P 97)

### **Old Poor Law**

Aycliffe (EP/Ay): overseers' accounts 1817-1837, vestry minutes 1849-1903, churchwardens' accounts 1741-1935

Bishop Middleham (EP/BM): vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts 1747-1916, bastardy examinations, Bishop Middleham township select vestry minutes re. poor relief 1826-1888 and overseers' accounts 1838-1889

Bishopton: [see Stockton Union]

Cornforth (EP/Cor): no records

Embleton (EP/Em): no records

Ferryhill (EP/Fe): churchwardens' accounts 1850-1905, vestry minutes 1849-1990

Great Stainton (EP/GS): annual vestry minutes 1883-1933

Sedgefield [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Se): select vestry minutes 1828-1921, churchwardens' accounts 1826-1924

Stillington (EP/St): annual vestry minutes with annual accounts 1879-1892

Trimdon (EP/Tr): vestry minutes 1862-1946 including churchwardens' accounts 1864-1906

### **South Shields Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** – workhouse “1 Moor Lane, West Harton” or “169 Harton Lane”; later Westoe/South Shields Dispensary and Harton Institution

Records are held by the Tyne and Wear Archives

### **Old Poor Law**

Boldon (EP/Bo): overseers' accounts 1705-1830, vestry minutes 1876-1967, churchwardens' accounts 1709-1922

Jarrow (EP/Ja.SP): overseers' accounts 1787 – 1801, vestry minutes 1674-1928, churchwardens' accounts 1768-1916 (incomplete)

South Shields [workhouse in 1777] (EP/SS.SH): vestry and select vestry minutes including memo on state of workhouse, overseers' accounts 1766 – 1789, vestry minutes at which matters concerning the poor of the parish were discussed 1771 – 1794, report on All Saints' Workhouse 1824 - 1837

Whitburn (EP/Whit): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1813 – 1887, list of pauper children apprenticed under Dr. Triplett's Charity 1665 - 1666

### **Stockton-on-Tees Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/St) – workhouse “50 Portrack Lane”; later St Anne's Hospital

Relief Sub-Committee minutes, 1939-1942

Application and report books, 1882-1903

Outdoor relief lists, 1887-1926

Stockton Union Children's Homes reports and journals, 1911-1950; admission and discharge registers, 1915-1933; register of children, 1900-1946; register of children in employment, 1911-1929; Stockton Cottage Homes admission and discharge registers, 1933-1949 (CC/Social Services)

Guardians' minutes, 1888-1930

Rates assessment records; administrative records; plans

Staff records (CC/Tr)

### **Old Poor Law**

Billingham (EP/Bi): churchwardens' accounts 1682-1960

Bishopton [2 workhouses in 1777] (EP/Bis): overseers' records (removals, settlement, bastardy, apprenticeships), overseers' accounts 1783-1831, vestry minutes 1827-32, 1858-1907, churchwardens' accounts 1723, 1844-1920

Egglescliffe (EP/Eg): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1810-1892, churchwardens' accounts 1892-1931, vestry minutes 1865-1980

Elton (EP/Elt): no records

Elwick Hall (EP/Elw): churchwarden's accounts 1726-1766 & 1785-1899

Greatham (EP/Gre): vestry and overseers minutes 1880-1905, churchwardens' accounts 1716-1970

Grindon (EP/Gr): overseers' accounts 1784-1811, churchwardens' accounts 1854-1923

Hart (EP/Ha): vestry minutes 1798-1910, overseers' accounts 1736-1839, churchwardens' accounts 1796-1911

Hartlepool [workhouse in early 1800s] (EP/Ha.SH): churchwardens' and overseers' minutes re. property 1894 – 1928, churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1794-1907

Long Newton (EP/LN): churchwardens' accounts 1746-1750 & 1756-1772, overseers' accounts 1746-1749 & 1752-1791, churchwardens' accounts 1629-1653 & 1784-1849

Norton [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Nor): settlement and removal records, vestry minutes 1827-1928, churchwardens' accounts 1755-1915, vestry minutes 1827-1928

Redmarshall (EP/Re): churchwardens' accounts 1757-1815 & 1891-1905

Stockton [workhouse from 1730] (EP/Sto): vestry minutes 1762-1926, churchwardens' accounts 1735-1785 & 1812-1904, overseers' accounts 1751-1868, apprenticeship indentures (not itemised), bastardy bonds (not itemised), settlement, removal and vagrancy certificates (not itemised), appeals for assistance 1739-1817

Stranton (EP/Str): churchwardens' accounts 1697-1867, vestry minutes 1824-1866

Wolviston (EP/Wo): vestry minutes 1830-1935, churchwardens' accounts 1672-1935

## **Sunderland Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** – workhouse on Harley Street then on Hylton Road; later Highfield Hospital, now Royal Infirmary  
Records are held by the Tyne and Wear Archives

Sunderland Workhouse plan (NCB 2/57/27)

Apprenticeships, inc. names (D/X 666)

### **Old Poor Law**

Bishopwearmouth St Michael [workhouse from 1750] (EP/Biw): churchwardens' accounts 1661-1689 & 1750-1884, vestry minutes and relief order book 1805-1836, overseers' accounts 1693-1792 & 1818-1819

Monkwearmouth [workhouse in early 1800s] (EP/Mo.SP): churchwardens' accounts and annual vestry minutes 1814-1907

Sunderland [workhouse from 1740] (EP/Su.HT): overseers' accounts, receipts and correspondence 1815-1833, vestry minutes 1719-1919, churchwardens' accounts 1716-1738, 1817-1959

## **Teesdale Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/Te) – workhouse on Galgate, Barnard Castle; now Richardson Hospital

Financial records

Administrative records (EP/Rom 7/17, D/St/X 5/10, RD/BC 35-42)

Ledger (CC/Tr)

Legal poor law cases, all named (D/HH 2/17)

### **Old Poor Law**

Barnard Castle [workhouse in 1777] (EP/BC): bastardy records. Also D/X 1073/1: vestry minutes 1770-1827, UD/BC 108: poor law papers (examinations, bastardy orders, etc.) 1744-1840, D/HH 3/8/97-193: some bastardy orders

Barningham (EP/Ba): overseers' accounts 1783-1820, Hope township overseers' accounts 1784-1837, churchwardens' accounts 1732-1887, removal orders 1819-1832, apprenticeship records 1804 & 1827, filiation/maintenance orders

Bowes [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Bow): vestry minutes 1870-1910

Brignall (EP/Bri): churchwardens', constables and overseers' accounts 1700-1827, churchwardens' accounts 1833-1900

Cockfield (EP/Coc): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1702-1925

Eggleston [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Egn): no records

Gainford [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Gai): overseers' accounts, 1818-1837; churchwardens' accounts 1727-1909. Also (D/X 487/7) poor law documents, (D/Ed 15/1/21) vestry minutes 1863-1873

Hutton Magna (EP/HM): annual vestry minutes 1879-1934, churchwardens' accounts 1892-1932

Middleton-in-Teesdale [workhouse in 1777] (EP/MT): churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes 1831-1923

Rokeby (EP/Rok): vestry minutes 1861-1865 & 1892-1930

Romaldkirk (EP/Rom): churchwardens' accounts for township of Cotherstone with Hunderthwaite including overseers' disbursement 1701-1726, lists of those receiving weekly pensions 1750-1782, annual audit of overseers' accounts 1727-1782, churchwardens' accounts 1771-1917, overseers' accounts 1830-1877, removal orders, apprenticeships, filiation orders

Staindrop (EP/Stai): churchwardens' accounts 1703-1921; vestry minutes 1795-1908; overseers' accounts 1768-1837; settlement and removal; apprenticeship; bastardy examinations

Startforth (EP/Sta): overseers' accounts 1818-1837 & 1848-1868, apprenticeships, lists of paupers, vestry minutes 1819-1822, 1831-1834 & 1867-1894, churchwardens' accounts 1805-1905

Whorlton (EP/Who): church fund accounts 1870-1911

Winston (EP/Wi): parish books, overseers', churchwardens' and highway accounts 1632-1728, churchwardens' accounts 1778-1912

Wycliffe (EP/Wy): vestry minutes 1844-1890

## **Weardale Poor Law Union**

**New Poor Law** (U/We) – workhouse in Newfield, Stanhope

Parochial lists of indoor and outdoor poor for Wolsingham and Tow Law, 1848-1910 (incomplete)

Orders by Justices of the Peace for the excusal of poor rates on the grounds of poverty, 1861-1905

Guardians' minutes, 1865-1868; rate books and other financial records

Ledger (CC/Tr)

### **Old Poor Law**

Eastgate (EP/Eas): vestry minutes 1888-1911

Edmundbyers and Hunstanworth parish records are held by the Northumberland Archives

St John's Chapel (EP/SJ): vestry minutes 1771-1832 & 1866-1951, churchwardens' accounts 1772-1862

Stanhope (EP/St): overseers' account book 1728-1765, militia records, apprenticeships, etc., churchwardens' accounts 1675-1751, vestry minutes 1675-1750, churchwardens' accounts (partial) 1759-1875. Also (D/X 384/1) overseers' accounts 1766-1773

Wolsingham [workhouse in 1777] (EP/Wol): vestry minutes 1821-1835 including churchwardens' and overseers' accounts, churchwardens' accounts 1713-1778, orders of the rector and vestry re. poor relief 1793, vestry minutes 1796-1865