

Sources at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library for studying the Whitstable area

This is a selective listing of sources for the Whitstable area (including Seasalter, Swalecliffe and Tankerton). Foremost amongst records relating to this area, held at the Cathedral Archives, are the collection of the local historian, Wallace Harvey (**U467**), and the records of Whitstable Urban District Council (**UD-WT**). These have recently been catalogued as part of the 'Oyster Sources' project, and are now available in the search-room and online.

Other material relating to the Whitstable area is held with the records of Kent County Council at the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone, with some further estate papers at the East Kent Archives Centre.

The Cathedral Archives' catalogues are available online at <www.kentarchives.org.uk>, together with catalogues from the Centre for Kentish Studies and the East Kent Archives Centre. Researchers will also find material of interest on Kent's 'Here's History' website at <<http://www.hereshistorykent.org.uk/>>, including historical information, and digital images of photographs and trades directories.

Local government

Canterbury Cathedral Archives holds the archives of the post-1974 Canterbury City Council (**CC2**) and its predecessor bodies, including Whitstable Urban District Council. The UDC records include material of interest for the study of local administration, the history of buildings, and the development of the town. We collect parish council records for Canterbury District, including for the Whitstable area (**PC**).

The Wallace Harvey collection includes material relating to the fire and police services, and sewerage, drainage, gas and water supplies.

Churches and religion

The Cathedral Archives holds the records of Church of England parishes for the archdeaconry of Canterbury. Thus, it holds records for Seasalter St Alphege ('Old Church', **U3/137**), Swalecliffe St John (**U3/144**), Whitstable All Saints (**U3/131**), Whitstable St Alphege ('New Church', **U3/290**), Whitstable St Andrew (**U3/284**) and Whitstable St Peter (**U3/285**). These include registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, rate books, poor relief records, school and charity records, settlement papers, and records relating to church property and fabric. Amongst the records of the Diocese of Canterbury, also held at the Cathedral Archives, are records relating particularly to church buildings, property and clergy, for instance consecration deeds, faculties and ordination papers (**DCb**).

Further records relating to Church of England parishes are found in the Wallace Harvey collection. The collection also includes material relating to other churches, including the Evangelical Church and the Free Church in

Tankerton, the Free Church in Seasalter, Swalecliffe Baptist Church, and the Baptist Church, Congregational Chapel, Evangelical churches and Methodist church in Whitstable.

Records of the Whitstable and Herne Bay Methodist Circuit are held at the Cathedral Archives (**U345**), as well as microfilms of Non-Conformist registers held elsewhere.

Charities

Some records relating to charities are included in the records of Church of England parishes. Amongst the papers of Wallace Harvey are records relating to the Seasalter Parish Charities, Fagg's Charity, the Frederick Goldfinch Trust, Tilley's Trust and Charities Fund, the Whitstable Charities, and the Wynn Ellis Almshouses.

Businesses and industries

The Cathedral Archives holds some collections of personal and business records for the Whitstable area. Particularly significant amongst these are the records of the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company (**U372**). The Seasalter Oyster Fishery belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and leases and other records survive, particularly from the 18th and 19th centuries (**DCc/BB**). We also hold some records relating to the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway (**CC/W9**).

The Wallace Harvey collection includes material on local businesses, including shipping, oyster fisheries, boat builders, builders, butchers, confectioners, furnishers, hotels, photographers, and undertakers. Also covered are local industries, including the copperas industry, diving, fishing, and salt production.

Clubs and Societies

The Wallace Harvey collection includes records relating to a wide range of societies, including the Amateur Minstrels, the Angling Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Choral Society, the Lindley Players, and the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes. Further records of societies (for instance, the Girls' Friendly Society) can be found amongst the records of Church of England parishes. The Cathedral Archives also holds records of the Thanet Way Campaign (**U455**).

Genealogy

The Wallace Harvey Collection contains innumerable files on individuals and families connected with Whitstable. Material includes apprenticeship indentures, birth, marriage and death certificates, correspondence, genealogical notes, family trees, newspaper cuttings, photographs and probate material. There is a large section on Wallace Harvey and the Harvey family genealogy.

Manorial records

The Wallace Harvey Collection contains original and copy documents relating to the Manor and Royalty of Whitstable—the boroughs of Whitstable, Bullen, Bourn and Gringill—and other manors holding lands in Whitstable. Material includes accounts, court rolls, lists of freemen and constables, rentals, and views of frankpledge.

Canterbury Cathedral owned Seasalter manor until the 19th century, and thus the Dean and Chapter's archive includes manorial and estate material relating to Seasalter from the medieval period onwards. In addition, there are also some records relating to Thornden in Swalecliffe, where the Dean and Chapter also owned land.

Poor Relief

Records relating to poor relief before the 1834 Poor Law are included amongst the records of Church of England parishes. For post-1834 poor relief, Whitstable fell in the Blean Poor Law Union. Please note that the records of this Poor Law Union and its Board of Guardians are housed at the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone (**CKS-G/BL**). These include records relating to poor relief and the workhouse at Herne, and rate books.

Some records relating to poor relief and the workhouse are included with the Wallace Harvey papers.

Property

Material held within the Wallace Harvey Collection useful for the history of property or local development patterns includes directories, general histories and guides, subject files on buildings, and surveys.

There are some collections of deeds in the Cathedral Archives relating to the area (eg **U7**, **U187**, **U212**, **U338**, **U434**).

Schools

Material relating to church schools can be found with the records of Church of England parishes. The Wallace Harvey collection includes histories, correspondence, subject files and newspaper cuttings relating to various Whitstable schools. Further records relating to schools are found with the records of the County Council at the Centre for Kentish Studies.

Smuggling

The Wallace Harvey papers include histories of smuggling, and information on the Battle of Borstal Hill, the smuggling out of French Prisoners of War, and the Seasalter Company, and the customs and preventative service.

Maps

Tithe maps, dating from the 1830s or 1840s, are held at the Cathedral Archives, and are available on CD. These give information on topography and land ownership. Some Ordnance Survey maps for the area are held in the Cathedral Archives, as well as some estate maps. Further maps are held in the Wallace Harvey Collection.

Electoral rolls

The Cathedral Archives holds electoral registers from 1948; registers from 1918 are held at the Centre for Kentish Studies. Electoral registers are subject to closure periods.

Printed and other sources

The Cathedral Library offers a range of books and pamphlets to support researchers studying the history of Whitstable. These range from trade directories and general histories of Kent such as *The history and topographical survey of the county of Kent* (1797) by Edward Hasted to more specific works on Whitstable. The catalogue to the library's holdings can be accessed via the Templeman Library at <www.ukc.ac.uk/library>. The Cathedral Library also holds copies of census returns for the Whitstable area (which was in the Blean registration district). There are some newspapers in the Wallace Harvey collection; however, Whitstable Library holds copies of the *Whitstable Times* from 1864.

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