

Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 19

Summary of the Great Yarmouth Borough Archives

1. Introduction

Most of the archives are now held at the Norfolk Record Office in Norwich and all queries should be directed there in the first instance. Exceptions are the 'current' records relating to the Borough, which are at Great Yarmouth Town Hall.

The archives are described in the *Guide to the Great Yarmouth Borough Records* by Paul Rutledge (Norfolk Record Office, 1972). There are more detailed lists, and also lists of more recent deposits, at the Norfolk Record Office and also in the National Register of Archives at the National Archives.

This summary is divided into the following sections: unreformed corporation (before 1835), reformed corporation (after 1835), inherited records, maps and plans, and private deposits.

2. Unreformed Corporation (before 1835)

- Borough charters, 1207/8-1836 (see Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 21, Great Yarmouth Borough Charters).
- Borough court rolls, 1263/4 or 1273/4-1675/6.
These record the main administrative functions of the Borough, including (at various dates) enrolled deeds, local customs accounts, enrolments of freemen, chamberlains' accounts. There is a detailed calendar in the Norfolk Record Office and at the National Register of Archives.
- Borough court books, 1535-1931.
- Borough court files and papers, 1689-1931.
- Borough sessions records from 1640.
- Admiralty court records, 1712-1835.
- Assembly Books, 1550-1833.
- Records of freemen and apprentices (see Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 22 The Freedom of Great Yarmouth).
- Chamberlains' records from 1491/2.
- Customs accounts (also known as Water Books), 1617-1700.

- Customs journals, 1708-1835.
- Registers of leases of Corporation property, 1753-1812.
- Rate Books (of various kinds) from 1741.

3. Reformed Corporation (after 1835)

- Council minutes, 1840-1946.
- Council committee minutes, 1836-1904.
- Borough Treasurer's Department:
 - Abstracts of accounts, 1837-1931.
 - Large quantity of other financial records.
- Borough Engineer's Department:
 - Large number of very detailed plans.
- Health Department:
 - Medical Officers' annual reports, 1878-1970.
 - Draft Health Committee minutes, 1906-53.
- Education Department:
 - School Board minutes, 1875-1903.
 - Education Committee minutes, 1903-65.
 - Log books and other records of Yarmouth schools.
- Transport Department:
 - Papers mainly relating to tramways.
- Welfare Department:
 - Weekly Register Bills (transcripts of parish registers, 1773-1841).
 - Guardians' minutes, 1837-1930.
 - Public Assistance Committee, 1930-46.
 - Social Welfare Committee, 1946-8.
 - Children's Home records, 1910-43.
 - Civil Defence records, 1939-45.
- Clerk of the Peace (Quarter Sessions):
 - Sessions books, 1567-1969.
 - Papers and files, 1700-1971.

- Clerk to the Justices (Petty Sessions) records:
 - Court registers, 1916-59.
- Vehicle Licensing records, 1921-54, (vehicle numbers EX 1 to EX 8300).
- Port and Haven Commissioners:
 - Minutes, 1750-1932.
 - A vast quantity of records about the Haven, fishing industry etc.
- Borough Gaol Records, 1798-18769 (see Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 29, Crimes and Trials in Great Yarmouth).
- Building Control Plans:
 - Indexes, 1885-1989.
 - Plans, 1949-59. (Earlier and later plans are held by Yarmouth Borough Council.)
- Charity Trustees:
 - Minutes, 1836-1905.
 - Children's Hospital records, 1679-1900.
 - Fisherman's Hospital records, 1776-1817.

4. Inherited records

- Paving Commissioners minutes, 1810-51.
- Local Board of Health minutes, 1851-73.
- Urban Sanitary Authority minutes, 1874-1903, with Medical Officer of Health annual reports, 1875-1902.
- Yarmouth Burial Board minutes, 1855-65.
- Gorleston Burial Board minutes, 1879-81.
- Cemetery registers are at Great Yarmouth Town Hall but microfiche copies are at the Norfolk Record Office.
- Runham Vauxhall School Board minutes, 1876-83.
- Manor of Gorleston court books, 1666-1935.
- St George's Chapel baptisms register, 1894-1958.

5. Maps and plans

Maps and plans of Yarmouth survive from the sixteenth century onwards. The Norfolk Record Office has originals or xerox copies of many of them. See Information Leaflet 25 Old Yarmouth in Maps and Plans for more details.

6. Private deposits

Many collections of local records have been placed on deposit by private individuals. The most important are:

- The diaries of William Youell, 1765-1815 (with gaps). Very detailed diaries with a great deal of local information (see list Y/D 87).
- Records of Grout and Company, silk manufacturers, c.1819 to c.1946 (see lists Y/D50, 86, 92 and BR 237).
- Letters of Thomas Pengelly, a London merchant, to his agent in Great Yarmouth, 1656-74 (see lists Y/L 13; Y/PP 7, 19 and 27; BRA 529; MC 44, MC 265, MC 375, MC 388, MC 411, MC 484).
- Records of Great Yarmouth Grammar School (Y/ED 163-268(a); D/ED 9.).



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Produced by:

Norfolk Record Office
The Archive Centre
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DQ

Tel: 01603 222599
Fax: 01603 761885
E-mail: norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk
Website: <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk/>



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