

Collection Level Description: Durham Cathedral Muniments

Collection name: Durham Cathedral Muniments

Collection code: GB 033 DCD

Date range: 11th-20th century

Extent: 357 metres

Language: English; Latin

Created by: Durham Cathedral Priory and dependent bodies before the dissolution of the priory in 1539, and thereafter the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

The exceptionally well preserved muniments of Durham Cathedral Priory, and its dependent bodies, and of the priory's successor, the Dean and Chapter of Durham, together with significant extraneous material.

The muniments have always played a vital role in administration at Durham. It was the responsibility of the monastery's office-holders to maintain a complete record of property held, payments due and special privileges accorded to them, and this is reflected in the care with which the documents were organised and preserved. A smooth transition from monastery to cathedral allowed the documents to remain undisturbed, and their continued use as a record of the institution's endowment helped to ensure the survival of a remarkably extensive archive.

The great bulk of the collection falls into two broad sections, dividing at 31 December 1539 on the dissolution of the Benedictine priory. Extraneous material forms a small third section. Each of these three sections is briefly described below.

A. The medieval muniments of Durham Priory (124 metres, plus medieval muniment boxes) One of the most extensive medieval archives in Britain. As well as documents of importance for national history and for the history of the Western Church, the estate records, in the broadest sense, are of major significance for the social and economic history of north-east England. The collection is notable for the large number of original documents to which seals are still attached. Maps of local areas include four dating from the fifteenth century. The collection also includes a small group of fragments of medieval manuscript books (liturgy, canon law, etc.) used in archival and other bindings.

[There are also some medieval documents in all the Extraneous classes now part of the collection except Hunstanworth deeds (copies excepted), Durham & Yorks deeds, and Chapter office-holders' papers.]The principal elements in the medieval muniments are:

Deeds and other documents, such as records arising from litigation, that gave the monks title to their possessions and privileges, a high proportion of which survive as originals as well as in cartulary copies.

Records generated by the administration and exploitation of these possessions and privileges, ranging from accounts, rentals, court-rolls and court-books, to registered copies of documents sent out in the name of chapter or the prior, documents arising from the exercise of such functions as electing bishops of Durham and confirming episcopal grants, and inventories or repertories of various groups of deeds. Materials reflecting the fact that the monks formed one of the most important Benedictine communities in medieval England, strategically placed in relation to the Border with Scotland, with a number of widely dispersed dependent cells, including a college in Oxford, which entailed involvement in a wide range of business, formal and informal, in England, Scotland and at the papal curia. A range of this material is printed in the long appendix to *Historiae Dunelmensis scriptores tres: Gaufridus de Coldingham, Robertus de Graystones, et Willielmus de Chambre*, ed. J. Raine, (Surtees Soc. 9, 1839).

The medieval arrangement of the material, still substantially in use, broadly follows these three divisions. For the first two of these divisions, however, this is considerably complicated by the existence of the separate departments or obediences typical of a large Benedictine house, and of the dependent cells, each supported by their own endowments and separately administered from the main estate. So, for instance, there are the deeds from which the almoner drew his income, a repertory of these deeds and two cartularies, the older of which also functioned to a limited extent as the almoner's register, rentals of his estate, and account-rolls recording his income and expenditure. The same pattern of material is found to a greater or lesser extent for the main monastic estate, administered by the terrar and bursar, on whom the cellarer and granator largely depended; the departments controlled by the almoner, the chamberlain, the communar, the feretrar, the hostiller, the infirmarer, and the sacrist; and the cells at Coldingham, Farne, Finchale, Holy Island, Jarrow, Lytham, Stamford, and Wearmouth, and Durham College in Oxford.

B. The post-dissolution muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham (ca 225 metres) Like the medieval material, the post-dissolution muniments constitute a significant source not just for the history of one of England's major cathedrals, but for the social and economic history of the north east of England, and for church history in the north and nationally. They include important holdings of maps and architectural drawings. The bishop of Durham and the Dean and Chapter were the largest landowners in the north-east of England, and the chapter's estate records provide information on fluctuations in agricultural prosperity, the progress of inclosure, and the development of coal-mining in the north-east (which helped to swell the chapter's revenues through the exploitation of mineral rights on their lands).

C. Extraneous material (6 metres) The priory was recognised as a safe place for depositing valuables. In some cases, deeds and valuables appear to have been left there by local families and not retrieved. These, along with stray registers (one fragmentary) of bishops Richard de Bury, Thomas Hatfield and Thomas Langley, and some documents of local administration, make up this third section of the Dean and

Chapter Muniments, although they do not form part of the Cathedral chapter's direct administrative history.

About the creator:

In 1083 the bishop of Durham, William of St Calais, founded a Benedictine monastery at Durham, on the site where, in 995, the community of St Cuthbert had established itself, after a period of moving around northern England with Cuthbert's body after the community's departure from the monastery at Lindisfarne in 875. The shrine of St Cuthbert became the focus of the present cathedral, begun in 1093, and much of the status and power which the Durham priory acquired was founded on the saint's reputation. Extensive gifts of land in the region formed a major endowment for the monastery, and it is the maintenance and augmentation of this estate, the position held by the senior monks in the region, and the obligations this placed upon them, that are reflected in the muniments. The care with which these have been preserved reflects the value accorded to them as records not just of the land holdings of the institution, but of the rights and privileges which, once acquired, it guarded jealously.

As well as its extensive lands, the priory acquired the advowsons of numerous churches scattered over an area from the Scottish borders down into Lincolnshire. Through the entitlement to tithes, these spiritualities provided a substantial income. To the income from its lands and its church livings, the priory could also add the profits of the prior's secular and spiritual courts, some pensions, and some income from the sale of surplus produce, livestock, timber and coal. By the early sixteenth century Durham was among the three richest cathedral priories in England. After the loss of Coldingham priory, north of Berwick, in 1462, it had eight dependent cells: the priory of Holy Island and small cell of Farne off the Northumberland coast, the small houses of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth in the north-east of Co. Durham, Finchale priory near Durham, Lytham priory on the Lancashire coast, and Saint Leonard's priory near Stamford in southern Lincolnshire. To these it added its own college - Durham College - at Oxford.

The institution remained a Benedictine priory until 31 December 1539, when it surrendered to Henry VIII, who re-established it as a cathedral administered by a chapter, comprising a dean and twelve canons, which came into formal existence on 12 May 1541; the great majority of the estates belonging to the former monastery were granted to the new body. During the Commonwealth the cathedral chapter was abolished, much of the land was sold off, and the cathedral building was used for a time to hold Scottish prisoners of war; virtually no records survive from this period. After the Restoration in 1660 the cathedral chapter was reinstated, and the estates were reacquired. This situation was maintained until the nineteenth century, by which time Durham's wealth had become proverbial, and a prime target for the advocates of church reform. Some of the chapter's resources were used to found the University of Durham in 1832, but it was the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who effected the most profound changes.

First, in 1840, statutory provision was made to reduce the number of canons, and the estates with which the deanery and canonries were individually endowed were

transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This left untouched the estates with which the chapter was corporately endowed, but in 1868 the bulk of the chapter's land holdings were taken over by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who removed many estate records to London. As these cease to be relevant to current administration they are returned to Durham, and the returned material now forms the separate Church Commission Dean and Chapter deposit.

Arrangement:

[**Note:** The numbering of sections and classes below is used for convenience, to give a concise explanation of the overall arrangement, and has no other significance. For the forms of reference currently in use for citing classes and documents see the detailed online guide to the Durham Dean and Chapter Muniments (<http://endure.dur.ac.uk:8080/fedora/objects/UkDhU:EADCatalogue.0068/datastreams/XTF/content>)]

A. Medieval muniments The arrangement of the material remains to a considerable extent as it was in 1539, although subject to major alteration in the nineteenth century in the case of the group of subject sub-classes known as "Locelli". In the nineteenth century a new class, Miscellaneous Charters, was created and this includes some post-dissolution material, almost all of it sixteenth- or seventeenth-century. This is the only class of medieval material to which additions have routinely been made during modern work on arranging the muniments; in the course of such work, a substantial number of items have also been removed from the Miscellaneous Charters class to recreate the medieval classes formed by the deeds of the almoner, the sacrist and Finchale priory.

The classes of the Medieval Muniments:

A1-11. Original deeds, etc.

A12-16. Inventories or repertories

A17-27. Cartularies

A28. Locelli [chiefly documents of legal and administrative business, arranged to bring together in a single group or locellus materials concerning a particular subject]

A29. Miscellaneous charters [this class includes a substantial amount of post-dissolution material]

A30-79. Accounts: Durham office-holders or obedientaries (A30-43), manors (A44-59), livestock (A60-63), coal-mining (A64-65) , proctors of churches (A66-69), cells (A70-79).

A80-102 Rentals

A103-111. Court rolls and books

A112-119. Registers

A120. Formularies, etc.

A121. Fragments of manuscript books

There are also some medieval documents in the Extraneous classes

B. Post-medieval Muniments [Note that the Miscellaneous Charters class in the medieval section also includes a substantial amount of earlier post-dissolution material]

B1. Chapter Act Books and Minute Books

- B2. Congés d'elire
- B3. Chapter confirmations of episcopal acts
- B4. Dean and Chapter Registers
- B5. Installation Books, Minor Canons; and Lay Clerks' undertakings
- B6. Registers of cathedral baptisms, marriages and burials
- B7. Registers of services
- B8. Inventories of plate
- B9. Offertory accounts
- B10. Records of Chapter spiritual jurisdiction
- B11. Records of leases sealed
- B12. Deeds
- B13. Material formerly in St Helen's Chapel (largely deeds)
- B14. Valuations, surveys, terriers and rentals
- B15. Original inclosure awards
- B16. Maps and plans
- B17. Contracts Books
- B18. Manorial records
- B19. Tithe material
- B20. Receiver's Books and Receiver's Rolls
- B21. Registrars' and agents' letter-books
- B22. Payments to Ecclesiastical Commissioners and records of 1870 Commutation
- B23. Arrears Books
- B24. Day-books of Receiver's receipts
- B25. Farm Committee records
- B26. Wood Fund records
- B27. Grain accounts
- B28. Records of Receiver's payments
- B29. Treasurer's Rolls and Treasurer's Books
- B30. Audit records: Audit Books and Audit Material
- B31. Records of Treasurer's payments
- B32. Loose Papers
- B33. Office files (nineteenth and twentieth century)
- B34. Records of building work
- B35. Architectural drawings: Miscellaneous (including Anthony Salvin, Charles Hodgson Fowler), and drawings from firms of architects to the cathedral (Hayton, Lee & Braddock; George Pace; Donald W. Insall; Ian Curry)
- B36. Architect's files (Hayton, Lee and Braddock; Curry)
- B37. Deanery and Prebendal Rentals and Accounts
- B38. Minute Books and financial records of Durham School
- B39. Chorister School financial records
- B40. Records of Chapter benefactions and administration of trusts and charities

C. Extraneous material

- C1. Register of Bishops Bury (fragmentary) and Hatfield

- C2. Register of Bishop Langley
- C3. Register of recognizances
- C4. Haswell Deeds (Claxton family; other Claxton property records now in Miscellaneous Charters)
- C5. Sherburn Hospital Deeds
- C6. Silksworth Deeds
- C7. Hunstanworth deeds
- C8. Durham and York Deeds
- C9. Business papers of Chapter office-holders

Provenance:

Placed in the care of the University's Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic (from 1990 part of the University Library's department of Archives & Special Collections) in 1948, with subsequent further accessions of twentieth century material. From 1951-1993 the muniments were located in the Prior's Kitchen, Durham Cathedral. Before 1948 the muniments were commonly referred to as being in the Durham Treasury.

Access:

Includes some manorial records Open for consultation. Advance booking essential. Restricted access to records less than 100 years old, and no access to records less than 30 years old.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Accruals:

Further accruals of modern material are anticipated

Catalogues:

Almost a millennium of sorting, organising and listing these muniments has produced many different catalogues. Some of this work is still incomplete, only recording the existence of a document without further description: some categories and classes have very full catalogues, while others have only been listed in part. An online Guide to the Durham Cathedral Muniments, with links to catalogues for each class as they become available can be found at

<http://endure.dur.ac.uk:8080/fedora/objects/UkDhU:EADCatalogue.0068/datastreams/XTF/content>

Related collections held at Durham:

Church Commission Durham Dean and Chapter Estates Deposit

Related collections elsewhere:

This information is given under each relevant class in the online guide to the archive to which a link is provided under catalogues above.

Bibliography:

[For a more extensive bibliography see the online Guide to the Durham Cathedral Muniments, described under catalogues above] Accounts of the archives Davies, J. Conway, "The muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham", *Durham University Journal*, 44 (1951-52), 77-87

Powicke, F.M., and Pantin, W.A., *The muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham* (printed for the Pilgrim Trustees, 1939). [The only published general account; printed for private circulation and not widely available. Its focus is on the history of the archive and its arrangement; it is not so easily used as a means of identifying the types of material the archive contains, and it barely mentions the post-dissolution material.]

Studies Dobson, R.B., *Durham Priory 1400-1450* (Cambridge, 1973), especially the Bibliography

Piper, A. J., "Dr Thomas Swalwell: monk of Durham, archivist and bibliophile (d. 1539)", in *Books and Collectors 1200-1700: Essays presented to Andrew Watson*, ed. J. P. Carley & C. G. C. Tite, (London, 1997), 71-100

Marcombe, D., "The Dean and Chapter of Durham 1558-1603", University of Durham Ph.D. thesis, 1973

Mussett, P. and Woodward, P.G., *Estates and money at Durham Cathedral 1660-1985*, Durham Cathedral lecture 1988 (Durham, 1988)

A substantial number of the publications of the Surtees Society contain texts of original documents found among the Dean & Chapter Muniments Accounts of the archives Davies, J. Conway, "The muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham", *Durham University Journal*, 44 (1951-52), 77-87

Powicke, F.M., and Pantin, W.A., *The muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham* (printed for the Pilgrim Trustees, 1939). [The only published general account; printed for private circulation and not widely available. Its focus is on the history of the archive and its arrangement; it is not so easily used as a means of identifying the types of material the archive contains, and it barely mentions the post-dissolution material.]

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Mussett, P. and Woodward, P.G., *Estates and money at Durham Cathedral 1660-1985*, Durham Cathedral lecture 1988 (Durham, 1988)

Index terms

Aungerville, Richard d', d.1345.

Claxton family, of Co. Durham.

Curry, Ian.
Fowler, Charles Hodgson 1840-1910.
Hatfield, Thomas, d.1381.
Insall, Donald William, b.1926.
Langley, Thomas, d.1437.
Pace, George, 1915-1975.
Salvin, Anthony, 1799-1881.
Durham Cathedral.
Durham College (Oxford)
Durham Priory.
Farne (Monastic Cell)
Finchale Priory.
Hayton Lee & Braddock (architects and surveyors, of Durham)
Holy Island Priory.
Jarrow Monastery.
Lytham Priory.
Monkwearmouth Monastery.
Stamford Priory.
Durham (England : County) -- Church history.
Durham (England : County) -- Economic conditions.
England -- Charters, grants, privileges.
Scotland -- Charters, grants, privileges.
Great Britain -- Church history.
Lancashire (England) -- Church history.
Northumberland (England) -- Church history.
Coldingham (Scotland)
Farne Islands (England)
Holy Island (England)
Jarrow (England)
Stamford (England)
Lytham (England)
Monkwearmouth (England)
Haswell (Durham, England)
Hunstanworth (England)
Silksworth (England)
Architects' drawings and papers.
Charters.
Estate papers.
Inclosure records.
Manorial records.
Maps.
Administration of estates -- England.
Agriculture -- England.
Benedictine monasteries -- England.

Cartularies.
Cathedrals -- England.
Chapters, cathedrals, collegiate etc.
Church architecture -- England.
Church archives -- England.
Church finance -- England.
Church property.
Church records and registers -- England.
Coal mines and mining -- England -- Durham (County).
Courts -- England -- Durham (County)
Ecclesiastical courts -- England.
Economic history -- Medieval, 500-1500.
Economic history -- 16th century.
Economic history -- 1600-1750.
Economic history -- 1750-1918.
Formularies.
Inclosures -- England -- Durham (County)
Land tenure -- England -- Durham (County)
Land tenure -- England -- Northumberland.
Land tenure -- England -- Yorkshire.
Land tenure -- Scotland.
Manors -- England.
Monasticism and religious orders -- History -- Middle Ages, 600-1500.
Monastic and religious life -- History -- Middle Ages, 600-1500.
Registers of births.
Seals (Numismatics)
Tithes -- England.

Date last modified: 16 November 2008

Collection Level Description: Church Commission Durham Dean and Chapter Estates Deposit

Collection name: Church Commission Durham Dean and Chapter Estates Deposit

Collection code: GB 033 CCD

Date range: 17th to 20th century

Extent: 75 metres

Language: English; Latin

Created by: Church Commissioners for England

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

Estate records of the Dean and Chapter of Durham and of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, relating to property as detailed under Administrative history.

The bulk of the collection is deeds. A valuable key to these exists in four Renewals Books (1660-ca.1800 - CC nos. 235423-235426) and six Notitia Books (ca.1800-ca.1860 - CC nos. 167098-167103), which list lease renewals for each holding on the Dean and Chapter's estates. The plans and books of survey (CC nos. 167051-167097) form another key to the deeds, often making it possible to establish a link between a group of deeds referring imprecisely to "a tenement in the township of X" and a particular area on the ground. The deeds include a high proportion of counterpart leases (some for leases of tithes), the earliest dated 1722; the latest deeds in the 1956 deposit date from the earliest years of the 20th century, but the vast majority of this deposit dates from before 1890.

The 1981 deposit consists of deeds mostly between 1850 and 1940 in date. The collection contains some valuations and surveys, which have been listed and are kept with similar documents among the Dean and Chapter post-Dissolution Muniments, and three Enfranchisement Registers (CC nos. 235427-235429) recording sales of property made between 1804 and 1839 in order to redeem Land Tax. The bulk of the material in the 1981 deposit relates to the main estate of the Dean and Chapter, but some concerns property which belonged to one of the prebendal estates or "canonries".

About the creator:

Descent of the estates The estates of the Dean and Chapter of Durham were inherited, after some trimming, from those amassed by the priory of Durham. The Dean and Chapter and the bishop of Durham were by far the largest landowners in the Palatinate of Durham (which included parts of Northumberland as well as the historic county of Durham). Land was the prime source of wealth for such institutions, who could rent it out for agricultural use (with a growing revenue from the mineral rights as quarrying and mining expanded) and as tenements in the larger villages and towns. By the nineteenth century the wealth of Durham was a prime target for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who had been established with the aim of making a more equitable division of the Church of England's income amongst its priests. Some of this wealth had been diverted to fund the founding of the University of Durham in

the 1830s, but large areas of land and its income, as well as rights to minerals and tithes, were transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the 1850s, amid an accompanying flurry of legal disputes.

This division means that the collection complements both the Durham Dean and Chapter Muniments, where it is possible to trace the earlier history of some properties, and some property records of the University of Durham. Although the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were administering the property only from the mid-nineteenth century, there is often a bundle of earlier material (usually referred to as "old deeds") filed with the records, and sequences of eighteenth century leases, which would have been required to prove rightful ownership.

Location of the estates The property concerned nearly all relates to the former Palatinate of Durham. Most of the material relating to North Durham (part of Northumberland since the nineteenth century) concerns places where the priory had held the advowson, and concerns tithes, fisheries and similar rights in the parishes and neighbouring hamlets of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Norham, Holy Island and the Farne Islands in the north, and Edlingham and Ellingham near Alnwick. On the banks of the Tyne in Northumberland there were similar holdings surrounding the rectory at Bywell. To the south of Co. Durham, similar property at Bossall, Fishlake, and Brantingham in Yorkshire was a relic of priory holdings north of the Humber. The Dean and Chapter held property throughout Co. Durham, particularly on the south bank of the Tyne, the north bank of the mouth of the Wear, the upper Derwent valley, Weardale, Durham City and the villages to the south and east of it, the villages around Aycliffe and those on the north bank of the Tees, near its mouth and inland.

On the Tyne the township of South Shields was divided between the Commissioners and the nascent University of Durham: South Shields itself is heavily represented in the deposit, charting the growth of housing estates in the area, as well as the nearby villages of Westoe and Harton. Moving up the Tyne, Jarrow also contained significant amounts of property held by the Commissioners, as did its neighbours Monkton, Simonside, Hedworth and Hebburn. Between there and Gateshead, where some houses were owned, there was Commission property at Felling and Heworth. At the mouth of the Wear, the Commissioners held land on the north of the river, at Monkwearmouth, Roker, Southwick, Fulwell and Hilton.

Within the city of Durham the Commissioners owned residential property in all districts and land in most of the surrounding area; West Rainton and East Rainton, Houghton-le-Spring, Pittington, Dalton-le-Dale, Shincliffe, Croxdale, Hett, Aldingrange, Rely, Broom, Lanchester and Sacriston. To the south, was property at Spennymoor, Ferryhill, Aycliffe, Coatsay Moor, Westerton, Middlestone, Kirk Merrington, Nunstainton, Chilton and Auckland St Andrew. Near the mouth of the Tees was land at Hartlepool, Billingham, Cowpen Bewley, Wolviston and Newton Bewley.

Land held in the Derwent valley around Edmundbyers, and in Weardale near Muggleswick, would have complemented the far larger property of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in that vicinity derived from the bishopric of Durham. Here they were

able to exploit the mineral royalties in the form of limestone, lead, ganister and fluorspar. Their major mineral rights, however, related to coal, which they exploited throughout Co. Durham, and at Wallsend on the north bank of the Tyne, the Commissioners usually renting the royalty and taking a revenue indirectly. These were the most extensive industrial enterprises undertaken on Commission property, although there are indications of other activity taking place, notably salt pans at South Shields and negotiations for wayleaves, as well as wind and water mills.

Arrangement:

The material is kept in the order in which it was deposited with each deposit forming a separate sequence (except for the few volumes which have been shelved together). Within each deposit the material retains the arrangement and numbering imposed by the Church Commission. The arrangement of the principal deposit follows two patterns: groups of documents concerning the same property, some dating back to the early eighteenth century, and a block of counterpart leases arranged chronologically for the period 1722-1799 (bundles 77-251) regardless of the property involved. A similar, but less clear pattern applies to the 1981 deposit (often consisting of more recent documents relating to the same properties).

Provenance:

When the Ecclesiastical Commissioners took over the greater part of the Dean and Chapter's estates in the 1860s they removed records to London, to facilitate their administrative work, the counterpart leases relating to individual properties dating back to 1722 (leaving older material in Durham where it still forms part of the Dean and Chapter Muniments. They and their successors the Church Commissioners added to this material from their own administrative activity, before returning some 60 metres of non-current material to Durham in 1956. In 1977 a further small amount of material was deposited. In 1981 they deposited 8 metres of material mostly of the late 19th and early 20th century. Material deposited in 1981 which relates to both bishopric and chapter properties is kept with the Church Commission Durham Bishopric Estates Deposit. Documents are occasionally recalled by the Commissioners, sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently.

Location of originals:

A few items are photocopies of documents retained by or returned to the Church Commissioners.

Access:

Open for consultation.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Accruals:

Material is deposited periodically by the Church Commission

Catalogues:

Online catalogue available at

<http://endure.dur.ac.uk:8080/fedora/objects/UkDhU:EADCatalogue.0055/datastreams/XTF/content>.

There is a card index of place-names, with a few subject entries; for the smaller townships this index is valuable, but for South Shields in particular it lists so many pages of the list that the latter might almost as helpfully be read *passim*.

Related collections held at Durham:

Durham Cathedral Muniments.

Smiths Gore Papers

University of Durham Records: Surveyor's Deposit

Related collections elsewhere:

Documents relating to these properties which are still required for administrative purposes remain in the custody of the Church Commissioners.

Bibliography:

Best, G.F.A., *Temporal pillars. Queen Anne's Bounty, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the Church of England* (CUP, 1964)

Index terms

Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England.

Church Commissioners for England.

Durham Cathedral.

South Church (England)

Aycliffe (England)

Billingham (England)

Coatsay Moor (England)

Cowpen Bewley (England)

Dalton-le-Dale (England)

East Rainton (England)

Edmondbyers (England)

Ferryhill (England)

Fulwell (Tyne and Wear, England)

Harton (England)

Hett (England)

Heworth (Tyne and Wear, England)

Houghton-le-Spring (England)

Jarrow (England)

Kirk Merrington (England)

Middlestone (England)

Monkton (Tyne and Wear, England)

Monkwearmouth (England)

Muggleswick (England)

Newton Bewley (England)

North Durham (England)

Pittington (England)
Shincliffe (England)
South Shields (England)
Southwick (England)
Wallsend (England)
Weardale (England)
West Rainton (England)
Westerton (Durham, England)
Westoe (England)
Wolviston (England)
Estate papers.
Deed collections and solicitors' accumulations.
Administration of estates -- England -- Durham (County)
Administration of estates -- England -- Northumberland.
Coal mines and mining -- England -- Durham (County)
Coal mines and mining -- England -- Northumberland.
Land tenure -- England -- Durham (County)
Land tenure -- England -- Durham.
Land tenure -- England -- Northumberland.
Mineral industries -- England.
Salt industry and trade -- England.
Tithes -- England -- Durham (County)
Tithes -- England -- Northumberland.
Tithes -- England -- Yorkshire.
Church finance -- England.
Housing -- England -- Durham (County)

Date last modified: 15 November 2008

Collection Level Description: Palatinate of Durham Records

Collection name: Palatinate of Durham Records

Collection code: GB 033 PAL

Date range: ca.1617-1952

Extent: 70 metres

Language: English and Latin

Created by: records of the Bishop of Durham's administration of the palatinate of Durham

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

The collection is arranged in four major groups as described below, where the various accession dates of each class of material are also briefly noted.

PAL/1 Durham Court of Chancery Records - Inclosure records [From 1954/1955 accession unless otherwise stated]

PAL/1/1 Inclosure awards by Chancery decree - awards: PAL/1/1/1-26 Series of 26 items, chiefly inclosure awards by Chancery decree but also including an inclosure agreement, a wayleave award and a few bills of complaints and orders, 1617-1767, together with the inclosure award and plan under an Act of Parliament of 49 Geo III for Middlehope Moor, 1816, and an apportionment of tithe at Shotton, 1690.

PAL/1/2 Inclosure awards by Chancery decree - volumes: PAL/1/2/1-4 Four volumes containing certified copies of the entries in the Durham Chancery registrar's entry books of decrees and orders (books K-N, nos.480-483: TNA DURH 4/8-11) concerning inclosure awards by Chancery decree and related documents, 1634-1686, 1716-1717. [1978 accession]

PAL/1/3 Inclosure by Act of Parliament: PAL/1/3/1 Park and Forest of Weardale (Act 39 Geo III): volume containing draft award, 29 September 1815. PAL/1/3/2 Park and Forest of Weardale (Act 39 Geo III): award, 29 September 1815, with 11 plans.

PAL/1/3/3 Gateshead Fell (Act 49 Geo III): award, 26 December 1822, with plans.

PAL/2 Durham Court of Chancery Records apart from Inclosure records (including some stray records from other palatine courts) [From 1954/1955 accession unless otherwise stated]

PAL/2/1 Chancery registrar's records [1986/1987 accession]: Bills of costs, 1701-1775.

PAL/2/2 Cursitor's records [1986/1987 accession]: 7 packets of writs of *Dedimus potestatem* and warrants of attorney thereon for recoveries, ca.1710-1785.

Miscellaneous documents, chiefly writs, ca.1714-1727 and 1760-1820, but also including abstract of the marriage settlement of George Rose of Gateshead, 1766.

PAL/2/3 Causes and related material (pre-1878): Indexes of plaintiffs in the Court of Chancery, 1720-1742. 1 small tray and 2 boxes of pre-1880 cause papers arranged chronologically, 1708-1878 (with gaps).

PAL/2/4 Causes and related material (1878 onwards): 11 cause books, 1878-1913; from 1881 onwards a series of numbers (running up to no.1024 at the end of the last book) was assigned to the first entry relating to a case in these books and was used as the means of reference to the related cause papers and other connected documents. 141 boxes of cause papers arranged numerically up no.1257 (going beyond the last cause book kept in Durham), 1880-1929. 13 boxes of draft orders, nos.4-1110, from the period 1880-1920. Receipts, nos.5-1086, from the period 1880-1920, and notifications and receipts into the court account, 1902-1917. Requests for sale or purchase of consols from the period 1880-1920. Certificates from the period 1880-1920.

PAL/2/5 Miscellaneous books up to 1882: PAL/2/5/1 Court of Chancery enrolment book of solicitors' admissions, ca.1821-1882. PAL/2/5/2 Seal book, 1830-1837.

PAL/2/5/3 Cash book, 1860-1864.

PAL/2/6 Miscellaneous books etc., 1878-1918: PAL/2/6/1-4 Fee books (4 volumes), 1878-1911. PAL/2/6/5-15 Chancery registrar's rough minute books (11 volumes), 1879-1897, 1899 and 1901. PAL/2/6/16-19 Chancery registrar's minute books (4 volumes), 1882-1897. PAL/2/6/20-27 Letter books (8 volumes), 1886-1889, 1891-1901. PAL/2/6/28-30 Summons and warrant books (3 volumes), 1889-1915.

PAL/2/6/31 Authorizations for postal payments, 1902-1918.

PAL/2/7 Miscellanea: 5 boxes of unsorted and unlisted Court of Chancery miscellanea, also known to include some strays from other palatine courts, e.g. a few records of the Durham Court of Pleas.

PAL/2/8 Material relating to Bishop Wood's Charity. [1977 accession]: Thomas Wood, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 1671 - died 18 April 1692, by his will dated 11 November 1690 left money to trustees appointed by the Durham Court of Chancery for the relief and release of poor prisoners for debt in Durham gaol. In 1882 this was changed to a subscription to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Durham. See also Publication note. Legal papers of actions in the Court of Chancery relating to Bishop Wood's Charity, 1779 (copy of order) to 1883. Deposited with these papers are various records of the charity, including: trustees' minute book, 1827-1859; correspondence, 1834-1874; annual accounts, 1896-1949 (with gaps); and miscellaneous material, ca.1883-1952.

PAL/3 Durham Court of Pleas Records (including some stray records from other palatine courts and elsewhere) [From 1986/1987 accession unless otherwise stated]

PAL/3/1 Prothonotary's records: Praecipes for recoveries and draft recoveries (bundles 6-7, 9-10, 10A and 11-35), 1689-1833 (with 8 booklets compiled ca.1913-1914, after the transfer of these documents from the PRO to Gateshead Library in 1912, and containing numerical lists of the praecipes etc. in the above bundles, and in the missing bundles 1-5 and 8, together with details of the parties and places involved in each recovery; for the extant bundles, these lists etc. have been incorporated in the catalogue). 2 packets of draft recoveries (nos.427 and 429), ca.1770-1777 and 1824-1833. 12 packets (one empty) labelled "Long writs", not yet

sorted but sampling suggests the dates are ca.1714-1828. 2 files of appearance pieces (nos. 560 and 566), 1812-1815 and 1832-1840.

PAL/3/2 Articles of clerkship [1954/1955 accession]: Affidavits for articles of clerkship, 1768-1792. Register of articles of clerkship, 1792-1875.

PAL/3/3 Lists of justices etc., with some non-Palatinate material [2002 accession, formerly Phillipps MS 20285]: Lists of names of justices for the County Palatine of Durham and Sadberge: the Commission of Pleas, 1800 and 1817-1818; the Commission of the Peace, 1800-1801, 1810-1811 and 1817-1818; the Commission of General Gaol Delivery, 1800; and the Commission of the Peace and the Commission of General Gaol Delivery, no date. List of fees paid by [Thomas Thurlow], Bishop of Durham, on doing homage to King George III, [February 1787], with attached receipt, 24 February 1787. List of disbursements by Edward Cotterell, [apparently re estate expenses], on account of Francis Canning, Esq, 1 March 1786-18 June 1788. Places mentioned include [Chipping] Campden and Charingworth, [Gloucestershire].

PAL/4 Volumes relating to the conduct of and fees levied in the palatine courts [From 1954/1955 accession]

PAL/4/1 Manuscript volume containing details of and agreements relating to the fees levied in the various palatine courts, ca.1810-1841 and n.d.. The volume also contains several loose and pasted in inserts on related topics. Bound in is a copy of a 56pp. printed pamphlet, *Tables of fees to be taken by the cursitor of the Court of Chancery, and prothonotary of the Court of Pleas, at Durham; and the measure of costs in actions and proceedings in the court of Pleas, as the same were allowed and confirmed by that court, by an order dated the 21st day of November, 1775* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1776).

PAL/4/2 Volume containing another copy of *Tables of fees to be taken ... the 21st day of November, 1775* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1776), annotated in manuscript (inter alia with the name Henry Donkin) and bound with an 8pp. printed pamphlet, *A table of the fees to be allowed upon taxation of costs in actions and proceedings in the Court of the Chancery of Durham, by a rule or order, made in open court, at a jury day, held at the City of Durham, in and for the said county, the seventh day of June in the year of our Lord, 1809* (Durham, 1809). The volume also includes several pages of manuscript notes re fees, fines and recoveries and the location of County Durham inclosure records, n.d. [ca. early 19th century].

PAL/4/3 Manuscript volume entitled "The practice of the court of Chancery of the county palatine of Durham. By a solicitor of that court" , n.d. [ca.1805-1807]; (published anonymously under an almost identical title, Sunderland, 1807 - see Publication note).

About the creator:

The palatinate of DurhamThe Palatinate or County Palatine of Durham consisted of the pre-1974 County Durham (sometimes referred to as the land between the rivers Tyne and Tees or "the Bishopric"), together with an area known as North Durham

(made up of Holy Island and Islandshire, Norham and Norhamshire and Bedlington and Bedlingtonshire), which was a detached part of County Durham until it was transferred to Northumberland in 1844, plus Crayke in North Yorkshire, which also formed a detached part of County Durham until 1844, when it was transferred to Yorkshire. The ecclesiastical peculiars of Allerton and Allertonshire and Howden and Howdenshire in Yorkshire did not form part of the Palatinate, although they are sometimes wrongly described as such. The boundaries of the Palatinate differed from the boundaries of the diocese of Durham and from the boundaries of the Durham bishopric estates.

A palatinate is the territory of a count palatine, that is a magnate who has certain rights of local jurisdiction which, unusually, are exclusive of the royal courts. An English palatinate was an independent franchise with judicial and administrative systems which were modelled on the system of royal courts and government but which came under the control of the count palatine rather than of the crown (although in practice the power of the palatine courts in Durham was always limited by the paramountcy of the royal prerogative).

Durham, where the Palatinate was held by the Bishop of Durham (or by specially appointed royal officials during vacancies in the see) is generally regarded as the most ancient of the great English exempt jurisdictions (which also included the palatinates of Chester and Lancaster). No charter of its creation is known to exist, and the powers of its ruler seem to have been based on prescriptive rights and on the need for a powerful lord to be based in the border areas, able to exercise justice efficiently and effectively in times of frequent wars and skirmishes and poor communications. The survival of the independence of the Durham Palatinate long after those of Chester and Lancaster had been absorbed into the national system of government doubtless reflects not just its strategic importance as a buffer between England and Scotland and the remoteness of the region, but also the status and influence of Durham and its shrine of St Cuthbert.

The Palatinate's judicial institutions, modelled on those of the kingdom but formally independent of them, developed rapidly during the 13th century, although the term "palatinus" was not used until the late 13th century, during the episcopate of Anthony Bek (1284-1311). As well as running their own courts and appointing their own temporal chancellor and justices of the Peace the bishops also exercised within the Palatinate such regalian privileges as exacting mineral rights, enforcing forest jurisdiction, minting their own coins and granting charters for markets and fairs. The bishop also had the right to claim wrecks, royal fish, treasure trove, waif and stray and deodands, as well as the lands of convicted felons.

The bishops of Durham were at the height of their powers as counts palatine between 1300 and 1400, although even then certain of their claims to power were disputed by various kings. The Palatinate's independence lingered on because national government was weakened by long-running disputes during the 15th century, but it could not withstand unscathed the centralizing forces at work from the late 15th century onwards. By an Act of 1536 the bishop of Durham effectively lost his criminal jurisdiction and his judicial supremacy. The palatine courts remained as

before, and continued to be organized separately from other courts, but they were now the king's courts, not the bishop's. Even after 1536, however, the bishop still retained his right to nominate justices of the peace for the Crown to appoint (and the bishop's nominations were generally accepted). The bishop and his temporal chancellor were themselves justices *ex officio*. The bishop also still retained his supremacy over civil jurisdiction and civil government in the Palatinate and was still automatically lord lieutenant of Durham. Until 1836 he also seems to have either himself continued to serve as *custos rotulorum* or else at certain periods to have appointed representatives to carry out the duties of this office on his behalf. He still kept his chancery and admiralty jurisdictions and continued to appoint various officials, e.g. the temporal chancellor, sheriff, under-sheriff, county clerk, gaoler, prothonotary, clerk of the peace etc.. He could still preside in some courts and was entitled to receive the fees from various judicial proceedings, as well as retaining rights over boroughs and guilds, remaining the chief feudal lord in the area and maintaining his financial administration. In 1646, during the Civil War, the Palatinate was abolished, but in 1660, at the Restoration, the palatine rights as they had existed in 1646 were restored to Bishop Cosin, who made deliberate efforts to revive the dignity of the Palatinate. However, the 1660 Statute of Tenures ended the bishop's rights as chief feudal lord in the Palatinate. Just before 1688 an attempt was made to abolish the Palatinate by Act of Parliament. This was strongly opposed in Durham, where the local courts were popular, and the attempt failed. At certain periods during the 18th century there was much criticism of the administration of the Palatinate, notably by Gilbert Spearman (see Publication note), although no particular attempt was made to abolish the system itself.

During the period of general reform in the 1830s the government suggested abolishing the Palatinate courts but this proposal met with so much local opposition that it was decided to reform them instead. By an Act of Parliament of 6 & 7 William IV [1836], c.19 the Durham palatine jurisdiction was separated from the bishopric of Durham and vested in the Crown "as a franchise and royalty separate from the Crown", to be "exercised and enjoyed" by the king "as a separate franchise and royalty". The Palatinate's County Court was abolished but, following strong local pressure, led by Lord Londonderry, the separate Durham Court of Pleas and Durham Chancery Court were retained. Both these courts were, however, now under central rather than episcopal control, and the Crown appointed the *custos rotulorum* from 1836 onwards. Thus, with the loss of his civil jurisdiction and remaining regalian rights, the bishop of Durham in 1836 finally ceased to be a count palatine.

The courts and their records

For a more detailed account of the courts see TNA's online guide <http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/default.asp> and K. Emsley and C.M. Fraser, *The courts of the County Palatine of Durham ...* (see Publication note).

1. The Durham County Court: this descended from the medieval shire court attended by all the free men of the Palatinate under the presidency of the sheriff of Durham. It declined from the 14th century with the rise of Sessions of the Peace. From the 17th to the 19th centuries it continued as a court for small civil pleas under

the county clerk, not the sheriff. The Palatinate County Court was abolished in 1836. No records of it are known to survive. From 1836 onwards Durham had a County Court identical to those for other counties. These in turn were abolished by the County Courts Act of 1846 and replaced by new courts; the records of the post-1846 Durham County Court are in Durham County Record Office (DCRO).

2. The Durham courts of common law: the Durham Court of Pleas and the Assizes. These mirrored the similar royal courts. Officers of the Palatinate seem to have regarded the Court of Pleas and the Assizes as two aspects of the same court. After the Court of Chancery the Court of Pleas was the most important Durham court. Its chief officer and custodian of its records was the prothonotary, sometimes called the clerk of the justices itinerant in the County Palatine of Durham. At first the Durham Court of Pleas dealt mainly with civil cases, many of them relating to debt, but by the 15th century it was also dealing with criminal cases, e.g. murder, riot, thefts and horse and sheep-stealing. In 1536 the Durham criminal jurisdiction was resumed by the Crown and thenceforth the Crown commissioned the justices of assize and gaol-delivery, whose business became predominantly criminal. The Palatinate Court of Pleas, now under the Crown, thereafter dealt mainly with civil cases, chiefly relating to debt and the recovery of property, but also with some criminal cases left over from the Assizes. Business often proceeded slowly. From 1690 until 1873 the court was in decline, with a growing number of appeals being made against its decisions. The Durham Court of Pleas was retained in 1836 but in 1873 was abolished as a separate court and merged in the Supreme Court. Most surviving records of the Durham Court of Pleas and Assizes are in TNA but some records of the Court of Pleas are in this collection.

3. Durham justices of the peace and Quarter Sessions. Justices of the peace in the Palatinate of Durham were commissioned by the bishop of Durham until 1536 and thereafter by the Crown (although see also under History and administration above). Records of the justices and of Quarter Sessions were in the custody of the clerk of the peace. They were kept separately from the main body of Palatinate records and were left in Durham in 1868 when most Palatinate Records were transferred to TNA (see Custodial history). The bulk of them are now in DCRO.

4. The Durham Chancery Court. This originally existed as a registry or secretariat, and at first also ruled on certain specific common law matters, but its work increasingly came to concentrate on equity as opposed to common law cases; equity is a distinct system of law, involving recourse to general principles of justice to correct or supplement the provisions of common or statute law. In the 17th and early 18th centuries numerous inclosures of common lands in the Palatinate were also carried out by decree of the Durham Chancery. The chief officer of the Durham Court of Chancery was the temporal chancellor of Durham (different from the spiritual chancellor, who headed the diocesan administration). The temporal chancellor was appointed by the bishop of Durham until 1836 and thereafter by the Crown. He presided in the Chancery Court and had custody of the Great Seal of the Palatinate, used for sealing all documents issuing from the Durham Chancery, as well as writs and mandates proceeding from the Durham Exchequer and the Durham Court of

Pleas. The chancellor was usually a senior lawyer in the royal courts and most of the day-to-day work of the court was carried out by the Chancery registrar (or register), who was also appointed by the bishop until 1836. The secretarial/registry functions of the Durham Chancery were the responsibility of the clerk of the Chancery, later known as the cursitor, who was also an episcopal appointee until 1836. He ranked second to the chancellor and was usually responsible for the care of the Chancery records. He issued most Chancery writs and his remit covered matters such as inquisitions post mortem as well as enrolments of episcopal letters patent and close, charters, fines, recognizances, deeds etc.. His work diminished from the 17th century onwards and, although the office survived the changes of 1836, it was abolished by an Act of 1868. Until 1855 the Chancery Court sat in the bishop's exchequer in the Exchequer Building on Palace Green, Durham (currently part of Durham University Library). In 1855 it moved to a building in Owengate, Durham, which is currently part of Durham University Law Department (2010). The judge's bench from the court has been re-erected in the Durham Heritage Centre. By the 19th century the Durham Chancery Court heard few cases but it was retained in 1836, although it thereafter came under the Crown rather than the bishop. Its procedure was reformed by the Palatinate Court of Durham Act of 1889, which led to increased local use of the court. It survived until 1971, when it was merged with the Chancery division of the Supreme Court. The bulk of the records of the Durham Chancery, including all the medieval material, are in TNA. Many inclosure records and some later court records are here (See Custodial history and Immediate source of acquisition for more details).

5. Admiralty jurisdiction. Matters relating to the bishop of Durham's regalian rights as count palatine in respect of wreck, royal fish, regulation of ports and river commerce and cases arising from various naval and commercial activities were originally dealt with in the regular palatinate courts. In the mid-17th century, however, a separate Durham Vice-Admiralty court, based in Sunderland, developed. After the Restoration appeals from this court went to the royal court of Admiralty. The work of the Sunderland court seems to have ended with the creation by an Act of 1717 of the River Wear Commissioners, who held their own court. Few records of the bishop's court survive (but see Gibson Volumes under Related material - same repository).

Provenance:

The first four instalments of this material were deposited with the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic of the University of Durham.

1954/1955 accession (circumstances of receipt undocumented) consisted of inclosure records and other material left in Durham when the bulk of the non-current Palatinate Records were transferred to London in 1868, and Durham Chancery Records, which were created in Durham after 1868.

28 October 1977 accession received from the Public Record Office.

23 March 1978 accession received from the Public Record Office.

5 & 12 December 1986 / 10 April 1987 accession transferred (with the permission of the Public Record Office) to the University of Durham via Tyne and Wear Archives Service from Gateshead Central Library, where they had been deposited in 1912 (along with a few other items not yet traced) by the Public Record Office. It had been

scheduled for destruction by the Public Record Office in 1912 if no other repository had agreed to take it.

11 June 2002 accession (PAL/3/3, Misc. Acc. 2002/2003 52) deposited by the Director of Arts and Libraries, Gateshead MBC via Durham County Record Office, where the documents had been transferred on 22 February 2002.

Previous ownership history:

Following the submission in 1854 of a highly critical report by T. Duffus Hardy on the arrangements for the care of records in Durham, and of a further report in 1867, most of the Palatinate of Durham Records, together with some other series, were removed to London in 1868 and placed in the PRO, where they now remain. Some pre-1868 records, chiefly Durham Chancery Records, seem to have been left in Durham in error, and most or all of the latter probably ended up in the 1954/1955 deposit with University of Durham.

In 1868 current records of the Durham Court of Chancery, together with most of the inclosure records, were left in Durham for ease of consultation. The court subsequently continued to create records. Some post-1868 material was included in the 1954/1955 deposit with the University of Durham. Following the merger of the Durham Court of Chancery with the Chancery Division of the Supreme Court in 1971 the remaining records of Chancery proceedings held in Durham, together with some other inclosure awards deposited under Acts of Parliament with the Durham Chancery, were transferred by their new custodian, the Newcastle upon Tyne District Registry of the High Court, to the PRO (now The National Archives) in London. A Sessions of the Peace roll, 1628-1629, found in PAL/2/7, which was a stray from the Durham Quarter Sessions Records, was transferred from the University of Durham to Durham County Record Office, where the main series of these records is housed, on 18 July 2000, with the permission of the Public Record Office.

The 11 June 2002 accession (PAL/3/3, Misc. Acc. 2002/2003.52) is labelled "Phillipps MS 20285". In 2002 Tyne and Wear Archives Service had no information from Gateshead Library Records about how this manuscript had reached Gateshead.

Access:

Open for consultation.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Catalogues:

[Catalogue](#)

Typescript and word-processed summary accession lists

Unpublished typescript list (arranged by collection) of inclosure awards and plans in Durham University Library, with many manuscript alterations and additions.

Draft manuscript list (arranged by place) of inclosure records in Durham University Library.

MS Access database version of the extant praecipis and recoveries in PAL/3/1, including details of the parties and places involved in each recovery: this data has now been incorporated into the catalogue. The contents of the missing bundles 1-5 and 8 can be found listed within the eight booklets compiled ca.1913-1914 which are themselves now also part of PAL/3/1.

Other versions:

Hardy, T.D. (ed.), *Registrum Palatinum dunelmense. The register of Richard Kellawe, Lord Palatine and Bishop of Durham, 1311-1316* (4 vols., London, 1873)

[Covers both palatine and diocesan jurisdictions of the bishop.]

Microfilms of some of the Palatinate Records in TNA are held here (shelfmark XM/film Palatinate): DURH 3/2-5, abstracts of Durham inquisitions post mortem, 1318-1625 (with gaps); DURH 3/12-21, Durham halmote court rolls, 1348-1522; DURH 3/29-38, 42-52, 54-134, Durham Court of Chancery rolls, 1333-1854 (with gaps); DURH 3/136-140, Evenwood court rolls, 1406-1494; and DURH 13/222-225, 227-230, plea and gaol delivery rolls, Durham Assizes and Court of Pleas, 1377-1502 (with gaps).

Related collections held at Durham:

Add. MS 1063, agreement in Durham Court of Pleas, [1815]

Booth and Lazenby Papers.

Church Commission Deposit of Durham Bishopric Financial and Estate Records.

Durham Bishopric Halmote Court Records, especially DHC6/IV/1-58, copies of inclosure awards made by decree of the Durham Court of Chancery.

Durham Diocesan Records, especially DDR/EJ/OTH, Other courts (not Consistory).

Durham Land Tax Records.

Eden bundle 1/A27 includes an uncatalogued inspeximus of 10 December 6 pont Wolsey at Durham [1528] with an example of the Durham Palatinate Chancery seal.

Gibson Volumes.

Hogg MSS.

Mickleton and Spearman MSS.

Old University MSS.

SGD 14D and 26/1-2 Exemplifications of recovery in the Durham Court of Pleas (with seals), 1687, 1666 and 1675.

Smiths Gore Papers (land agents to the Church Commissioners).

Related collections elsewhere:

National Archives, London (TNA): Palatinate of Durham Records. The bulk of the Palatinate of Durham Records are held (DURH 1 - DURH 27). TNA's online guide (<http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/default.asp>).

Bibliography:

History and administration of the Palatinate Bonney, M., *Lordship and the urban community: Durham and its overlords, 1250-1540* (Cambridge, 1990).

Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, 1840-1859 (especially report from T. Duffus Hardy to Sir Francis Palgrave on the "Durham Records" in the

appendix to the 16th Report, section 4, pp.44-93, 18 November 1854.
Emsley, K. and Fraser, C.M., *The courts of the County Palatine of Durham from the earliest times to 1971* (Durham, 1994)
Fraser, C.M., *A history of Antony Bek* (1957)
Fraser, C.M. and Emsley, K., "The clerical justices of the peace in the North-East, 1626-30", *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 5th ser., vol. 11 (1974), pp.189-199
Kitching, C.J., "The Durham Palatinate and the courts of Westminster under the Tudors" in D. Marcombe (ed.), *The Last Principality: politics, religion and society in the bishopric of Durham 1494-1660* (Nottingham, 1987), pp.49-70.
Lapsley, G.T., *The County Palatine of Durham* (New York, 1900)
The practice of the court of Chancery of the county palatine of Durham by a solicitor of the court (Sunderland, 1807)
Scammell, J., "The origins and limitations of the Liberty of Durham", *English Historical Review*, 81 (1966), pp.449-473
Spearman, John [largely by Gilbert Spearman], *An enquiry into the ancient and present state of the County Palatine of Durham. Wherein are shewn the oppressions which attend the subjects of this County by the male-administration of the present ministers and officers of the said County Palatine ...* ([Edinburgh], 1729)
Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents removed from the offices of the prothonotary, the clerk of the crown, the cursitor, and the registrar of the County Palatine of Durham, and deposited in the Public Record Office. which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein (1912)
(Bishop Wood's Charity) *Endowed charities ... County of Durham ... reports made to the Charity Commissioners ...*, vol.1 (1904), pp.282-284, 314-315

Index terms

The Palatinate of Durham Records are Public Records as defined by the Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967. Durham (England : County). Assizes.
Durham (England : County). Palatine courts -- Court of Admiralty.
Durham (England : County). Palatine courts -- Court of Chancery.
Durham (England : County). Palatine courts -- Court of Pleas.
Great Britain. High Court of Admiralty.
Durham (England : County) -- History.
Legal records.
Public records.
Formularies.
Courts -- England -- Durham (County)

Date last modified: 4 December 2012

Collection Level Description: Durham Bishopric Estates, Halmote Court Records

Collection name: Durham Bishopric Estates, Halmote Court Records

Collection code: GB 033 DHC

Date range: 16th - 20th century

Extent: 143 metres

Language: English; Latin

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

These extensive manorial court records deal with many aspects of estate administration and community life in great detail in the early modern period, from ca. 1503 onwards (with copies of some earlier material), and with tenancy transactions over a much longer period, into the twentieth century. Although the records in Durham begin only in the early 16th century, there is another overlapping series of Durham bishopric Halmote Court rolls among the Durham Palatinate Records in the Public Record Office in London. That series runs from 1348 to 1619, and microfilm copies are available in Durham of those rolls in the PRO set which predate the start of the Durham set. The exact relationship of the two overlapping series has yet to be ascertained.

Copyhold, which evolved from medieval villein tenure, was commonly an hereditary tenure. Provided that copyholders, or others holding land according to manorial custom, paid their rents, performed the customary services and observed the customs of the manor, their estates would pass on their death to their heirs, if they claimed them. Copyholders might sell or mortgage their property, but the transaction had to be registered in the Halmote Court. In the case of a transaction such as a mortgage which did not involve the absolute alienation of the holding, a defeasance stating the purpose of the surrender and the conditions under which it would be voided was also recorded in the court roll. The records of surrenders and admissions to holdings give a description of the property, often with details such as field names, mention of buildings erected on the land, and names of adjacent landholders. They therefore provide a rich source for the study of local communities, for tracing the history of property, and for the information they provide about humble people, who would not have made a will and have left little trace in other sources. Because of the hereditary element in copyhold tenure, the records of surrenders and admissions often give information in considerable detail on family relationships.

About the creator:

Durham Bishopric estates: The extensive estates from which the bishops of Durham drew their income comprised lands, mines, quarries, and other assets, held on a variety of tenures. They lay not just in the area of modern County Durham, but also in parts of modern Northumberland and Yorkshire - Northhamshire, Islandshire (Lindisfarne and nearby coastal areas) and Bedlingtonshire in Northumberland, and Allertonshire, Howdenshire and the manor of Crayke in Yorkshire. The bishops also

had property in London, including Durham House in the Strand.

Within County Durham (in the modern sense) the bishopric estates lay in all four wards:

Chester ward: manors of Chester, Gateshead, Lanchester, and Whickham.

Darlington ward: manors of Auckland, Darlington, Evenwood, and Wolsingham, and the bailiwick of Sadberge.

Easington ward: manors of Easington and Houghton, and in Durham city.

Stockton ward: manors of Bishop Middleham and Stockton.

The bishops also drew income from other estates from time to time, under wardships and escheats, for example at Hart and Hartlepool. Properties held on different tenures were administered in different ways by separate officers. Northern tenures had their peculiarities, and tenures could change.

After the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (succeeded in 1948 by the Church Commissioners) took over the administration of the Durham bishopric estates, in the mid-19th century, the administrative venues altered. The bishops had had their central administration in Durham, and had used peripatetic manorial courts, and local bailiffs, officers and deputies. The Church Commission, dealing with church land throughout the country, had a London central office, and employed as local provincial agents firms such as Smiths Gore or Clayton & Gibson. The old Durham central office of the bishops' administration became one such provincial office, mainly to handle copyhold business.

The Halmote Court Records: The Halmote Court Records as a group are the records which the Church Commissioners inherited from and kept at the old Durham office (latterly known as the Halmote Court office), and later entrusted to the University of Durham. They are therefore closely related to the Durham Bishopric Estates Church Commission Deposit - those Durham Bishopric estate papers, largely relating to leasehold and freehold holdings, which were taken from Durham to the London central office, or were generated there, and, when no longer required for current administrative purposes, were later returned to Durham, also to the care of the university. (Some Halmote Court material was also, as required, removed to London, but appears to have been returned at least in part to the Halmote Court Office in Durham prior to the transfer of records from there to the university, since some documents now among the Halmote Court Records bear Church Commission numbers).

The Bishop of Durham's Halmote Courts: The bishop of Durham's Halmote Courts were manorial courts which dealt chiefly with the customary or copyhold land and tenants on his estates. In the medieval period the Halmote Courts regulated matters of manorial custom and admissions to holdings, and heard actions for minor offences such as trespass, assault and debt under 40 shillings. Gradually, however, the range of matters coming before the courts contracted, and by the 17th century their business was largely confined to dealing with the surrender and admission of manorial tenants, according to the custom of the manor. When a tenant died, or a holding was transferred for some other reason, the holding had to be surrendered to the manorial lord, the bishop, and the claimant had to prove his or her title. As the

name implies, a copyholder's title to his holding was a copy of the court roll entry on which his or her admission to the holding was recorded. There is evidence that in the centuries before the Civil War admissions to customary land were sometimes made in full court, in front of those who owed suit of court (and who would be fined for absence), but without the admission being enrolled or a copy issued.

In the medieval period halmote courts were held three times a year, approximately in March, June and October, at the different manorial centres within the county, in the presence of the bishop's steward. By the 17th century courts were being held twice a year, in May and October, and as time went by an increasing proportion of surrenders and admissions were transacted out of court, but the particulars were usually subsequently enrolled in the court roll for the appropriate area. The jurisdiction of the Halmote Court was terminated by the act of 1925 which abolished copyhold tenure, but the business of the Durham Halmote Court was not finally wound up until 1952, when the Halmote Office in the North Bailey, Durham, closed.

Arrangement:

Between 1953 and the early 1980's the Halmote Court Records were arranged and listed in considerable detail, but in a somewhat piecemeal fashion, not based on a thorough archival analysis (with, in consequence, some illogicalities in the hierarchy of the arrangement):

DHC 1: Books

DHC 1/I-III: Court rolls, 1519-1925. 302 vols From 1519-1720 (DHC 1/I) the court proceedings for most manors were enrolled roughly chronologically as the court went round the estates, in a single court roll (in physical form actually a volume). From 1720-1925 most proceedings (DHC 1/II) were enrolled topographically under divisions (Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Darlington, Easington, Houghton-le-Spring, Lanchester, Stockton and Wolsingham), each division having a separate court roll. Each division encompassed several townships, some a considerable distance from the one after which the division was named. From various dates, however, certain manors had their own individual court rolls (DHC 1/III) - Bedlington (the only manor north of the Tyne where the bishop held a halmote court) from 1721, Evenwood from 1909, Gateshead from 1703, Middleham from 1909 and Whickham from 1585. The court rolls also cover Bishop Wearmouth Rectory from 1579; this had not belonged to the bishop of Durham, but was administered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from the Durham office. *Tracing entries for particular individuals and families:* From 1720 each volume has an index of persons surrendering and persons admitted. For volumes up to 1720 see the index and alphabet books in DHC 1/VIII. *Tracing entries for particular townships:* From 1522-1720 each volume of the court rolls has an index of townships. A key to the division under which a township is enrolled from 1720 is appended to the guide "How to trace the history of property once part of the Durham bishopric estates" - see Publication note below. *Tracing entries for particular holdings:* From about the middle of the 18th century the bishop's officials introduced a system of call numbers to identify particular plots of copyhold land; see DHC 1/V (Call books) and DHC 11/I and III (annotated maps) below. Prior to 1720 see the alphabet books in DHC 1/VIII; (where the parties to the first surrender after 1720 can

be traced from the later records, it may be possible using the name of the surrenderer to work backwards into the pre-1720 alphabet books). A card index, compiled by Dr. Ritchie in the 1960's, is also available in the Search Room, covering certain townships.

DHC 1/IV: Stewards minute books, 1682-1819. 21 vols These minute books were used at halmote court meetings on circuit (with headings prepared in advance and alterations and additions made on the day), and also later in compiling the formal enrolments of proceedings there in the Halmote Court rolls. They record details of the dates, places and holders of halmote courts, the juries for presentments and actions (usually the same), the names of greeves and collectors, proclamations (calling for heirs to prove their title to holdings, and naming trustees), actions between tenants, and miscellaneous other non-standardised information. They do not, however, contain drafts of surrenders or admissions (except for rare notes). By the period they cover many copyhold land transactions were complicated, and were more conveniently arranged out of court in the office of the steward or his deputy.

DHC 1/V: Call books, mid 17th century - ca. 1891. 131 vols These provide a key from call numbers (used from around the mid-18th century to identify particular plots of copyhold land) to transactions in the court rolls relating to a particular call or plot. For annotated maps on which call numbers can be located topographically see DHC 11/I and III. The earlier call books, prior to about 1760, generally contain little more than lists of tenants names, with, when a property changed hands, the name of the former tenant crossed out and that of the new tenant substituted; marks in the margins sometimes provide a key (usable with some difficulties) to help locate entries for related transactions in the court books.

DHC 1/VI: Rental registers for the four Co. Durham wards (Chester, Darlington, Easington and Stockton), 1804-1857. 84 vols These continue the rentals in DHC 4 below. The series for Easington and Stockton is combined.

DHC 1/VII: Index and alphabet books, 1579-1925. 18 vols An alphabetical means of reference to the names of people surrendering and being admitted in the court rolls of corresponding date; usable with some difficulties

DHC 1/VIII: Registers of post-1925 transactions (mortgages, conveyances, releases, etc.). 16 vols

DHC 1/M: Miscellaneous books, 16th-20th century. 97 vols This important class includes:

M1-8a: Registered copies of inclosure awards; (for other inclosure material see DHC 6 below)

M9-17: Notitia books of plans and surveys concerning leasehold land; these tie in with Notitia in the Durham Bishopric Estates, Church Commission deposit (CCB)

M18-28: Copies of tithe awards and apportionments

M29-37: Halmote Court office ledgers, 1927-1939

M38-44: Material concerning compensation on enfranchisement (i.e. conversion of plots to freehold), 1929-1937

M45-50: Rentals for wards 1882, and various rentals 1856-1927

M51-62: Cash books and account books, 1785-1935

M63-96: Miscellaneous volumes, including rentals, surveys, inquisitions post mortem, inventories of many sorts, charters, presentments, inclosure awards, letter-books, enfranchisements, plans and valuations etc. (sometimes original, sometimes copies), 16th-20th century

DHC 2: Original surrenders (records of transfers of tenancies), 1559-1925. 356 boxes These documents, which are predominantly 17th-18th century, are misnamed, since most are actually admittances. Surrender refers to the transaction whereby a copyhold tenant gave up his holding to the landlord, after which another tenant was admitted to it. These documents, written on separate pieces of paper or parchment, mostly duplicate entries in the court rolls recording the admittance of tenants and the date, and also naming the tenant who had surrendered. They also generally bear the signature or mark of the new tenant, and the signature of the steward or his deputy. These Original Surrenders are to copyhold land what counterpart leases are to leasehold land - the landlord's evidence of the tenant's signed obligation. The series is far from complete, but, where an original surrender exists it can sometimes clarify an entry in the court roll which is difficult to read. The documents are arranged in the main by division and township, and chronologically therein.

DHC 3: Deputations (of authority by stewards or tenants to undertake Halmote Court transactions), 1661-1897. 14 boxes Many other deputations are to be found among the Original surrenders (DHC 2)

DHC 4: Rentals, wards and townships, 1529-1815 (predominantly 17th-18th century). 22 boxes These rentals record names of tenants and amounts of money, but seldom property names. They are arranged chronologically within area of responsibility (so by ward for the four coroners, by township for the many collectors, and by bailiwick or borough). Coroners' rentals cover freehold dues. Collectors' rentals chiefly record the names and rents of those occupying customary or copyhold land in each small township, but may also include leasehold and free rents where other arrangements for payment of these were not in place. Some rentals specify and group the tenants by tenure; others say nothing of tenure. The bailiffs and borough rentals are more varied in content, reflecting the activities, customs and tenures of the different areas of the estates.

These rentals are continued in the rental registers in DHC 1/VI above. See also DHC 1/M and DHC 5.

DHC 5: Rentals, general (mainly leasehold), ca. 1635-ca. 1766. 2 boxes

DHC 6: Inclosure material, 1635-1933

DHC 6/I: Original awards

DHC 6/II: Original award plans

DHC 6/III: Copy award plans

DHC 6/IV: Chancery decree awards. 2 boxes

DHC 6/V: Arbitration awards. 5 boxes

DHC 6/VIA-B: Inclosure Acts of Parliament. 2 boxes

DHC 7: Attested copies of mortgages and conveyances, and affidavits verifying

discharges of mortgages, 1882-1934 (largely post 1925). 14 boxes

DHC 8: Presentments (of offences against the custom of the manor) and proclamations (summonses to heirs to appear and prove title to their holdings), 1617-1851

DHC 8/I: Bundles of presentments and proclamations. 13 boxes

DHC 8/II: Books of proclamations. 1 box

DHC 8/III: Extracts of presentments. 4 boxes

DHC 9: Minor classes of Halmote Court records

DHC 9/I: Alienation fines paid on the transfer of copyholds, 1765-1780. 1 box

DHC 9/II: Abstracts of title. 3 boxes

DHC 9/III: Lists of copyholders by township, ca. 1903. 2 boxes

DHC 9/IV: Gateshead manor miscellanea (admittances, various deeds, call rolls, jurors' lists, presentments, fees, summonses, surrenders, etc.), 1609-1924. 1 tray

DHC 9/V: Notitia, ca. 1788-1862. 3 boxes Small plans and valuations and a few papers and leases, mainly concerning leasehold lands in Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland. Includes some strays from Durham Cathedral Dean & Chapter estates records.

DHC 10: Miscellanea, 16th-20th century (predominantly 19th-20th century)

DHC 10/A: Files from the Halmote Court office. 12 boxes Survivals, kept as samples, of Halmote Court office files, which were heavily weeded before the records were deposited with the university. However, all maps, plans and sketches were first removed from files which were destroyed; for these see DHC 11/VI. The deposited material includes one box on village greens, ca. 1759-1952 (DHC 10/A1). There is a series of keys to subjects of Halmote Court office files 5426-1022 and 15628-20631 in DHC 1/M81-83, and a numerical table of surviving files.

DHC 10/B: Papers. 18 boxes, 1 roll Extremely miscellaneous papers concerning bishopric estates and tenants, 16th-20th century.

DHC 11: Maps There are almost no maps or plans of bishopric copyhold properties among the Halmote Court records predating the Ordnance Survey maps. Halmote Court officials coloured their office sets of the 6 inch and 25 inch O.S. series (DHC 11/I and III) to distinguish bishopric copyhold, leasehold and freehold land, and annotated them with the call numbers used to identify plots of copyhold land, and other administrative information. Working from the annotated maps, therefore, it is possible to discover the call numbers relating to particular areas, and from there go via the call books (DHC 1/V) to the records of transactions relating to those calls in the court rolls (DHC 1/I-III). Conversely, working from a call number it is possible to identify the location of the holding on a map.

DHC 11/I: Annotated 6 inch O.S. maps of Co. Durham, 1st ed., sheets 1-58 (1862-5), covering all the county. 4 trays

DHC 11/II: Some books of reference to 25 inch O.S. 1st ed. maps of Co. Durham. 1 box

DHC 11/III: Annotated 25 inch O.S. maps of Co. Durham, large but incomplete set of 1st, 2nd and 3rd eds, 1856-1922. This set covers those areas of Co. Durham where the Durham Bishopric estates lay.

DHC 11/IV: Other O.S. series (25 inch Bedlingtonshire, 1:1250 Bedlington, 5 ft and 10 ft Co. Durham towns)

DHC 11/V: Miscellaneous maps and plans, 18th-20th century Maps made for or useful to administration of the bishopric estates, with some strays from Durham Cathedral Dean & Chapter estate records

DHC 11/VI: Additional maps and plans, 19th-20th century (including a few copies of earlier plans). 6 boxes Small maps and plans, many originally part of Halmote Court office files of which the other contents were destroyed before the records were deposited with the university - see DHC 10A above

Provenance:

Deposited with the University of Durham's Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic (from 1990 part of the Archives & Special Collections department of Durham University Library) by the Church Commissioners in 1953.

Access:

Manorial records Open for consultation.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Catalogues:

The Halmote Court records were listed in particular printed lists as follows:

DHC 1/I-IV: *Catalogue of Halmote Court books, Palatinate of Durham and bishopric estates*, Halmote Court lists 1 (Durham, 1956) [Online version](#)

DHC 1/V-VIII and M: *Catalogue of miscellaneous books among the Halmote Court Records ...*, Halmote Court lists 2 (Durham, 1957, rev. ed. 1984) [Online version](#)

DHC 2: *Catalogue of Original Surrenders among the Halmote Court Records ...*, Halmote Court lists 8-11, 4 vols (Durham, 1961-2, rev. ed. 1983) [Online version](#)

DHC 3: *Catalogue of subsidiary manorial documents among the Halmote Court Records ...*, Halmote Court lists 5 (Durham, 1959), pp. 51-71 [Online version](#)

DHC 4: *Catalogue of rentals of wards and townships among the Halmote Court Records...*, Halmote Court lists 2 (Durham, 1956) [Online version](#)

DHC 5: *Catalogue of subsidiary manorial documents ...*, Halmote Court lists 5, pp. 82- 84 [Online version](#)

DHC 6: *Catalogue of documents relating to inclosure awards ...*, Halmote Court lists 4 (Durham, 1957) [Online version](#)

DHC 7: *Catalogue of attested copies of mortgages, conveyances, etc. ...*, Halmote Court lists 6 (Durham, 1959) [Online version](#)

DHC 8: *Catalogue of subsidiary manorial documents ...*, Halmote Court lists 5, pp. 1-50 [Online version](#)

DHC 9: *Catalogue of subsidiary manorial documents ...*, Halmote Court lists 5, pp. 72-98 [Online version](#)

DHC 10: *Catalogue of miscellanea among the Halmote Court Records ...*, Halmote Court lists 7 (Durham, 1959) [Online version](#)

DHC 11/I-V: *Catalogue of subsidiary manorial documents ...*, Halmote Court lists 5, pp. 99-115 [Online version](#)

DHC 11/VI: *Halmote Court list of Additional maps and plans*, Halmote Court lists 12 (Durham, [ca. 1976]) [Online version](#)

Most of the Ordnance Survey material is catalogued on the Library catalogue: DHC 11/I-II - <http://library.dur.ac.uk/search/c?SEARCH=DHC&SUBMIT=Search>; the 25 inch Ordnance Survey maps are catalogued by County and sheet number.

A search room card index covers lists 1-11, with the following exceptions, which are indexed separately: DHC 10 (index in Halmote Court list 7), DHC 11 (indexed in Search Room card index of maps). Halmote Court list 9 has its own index, and many individual manuscripts have their own contents lists.

Related collections held at Durham:

Dixon-Johnson Papers

Durham Bishopric Estates, Church Commission deposit (which deals primarily with leasehold and freehold land)

Durham Palatinate Chancery Court Records

Mickleton & Spearman MS 96/2 contains alphabets to three of the PRO set of Halmote Court rolls; ff.30-42 is for PRO Durham 3/24 (1560-1587), ff.52v-67 is for PRO Durham 3/23 (1530-1559), and ff.68-71v is for PRO Durham 3/32 (1523-1529)

Related collections elsewhere:

National Archives, Kew: Durham class (records of the Palatinate of Durham), especially Durham 3/12-28, 135-140 (Halmote Court rolls, 1348-1619). The University Library holds microfilm of those rolls in the set in the NA which pre-date the series in Durham.

Tyne & Wear Archives, MN/GA(2091) Gateshead Manorial Court Book, jurors and presentments, 16 April 1751 - 30 September 1774

Bibliography:

Drury, J. Linda, "How to trace the history of property once part of the bishopric of Durham estates" (Durham, 1997) [typescript, available in search room]

Emsley, Kenneth, & Fraser, C.M., *The courts of the county palatine of Durham from earliest times to 1971* (Durham, 1984)

Fewster, J.M., "The Halmote Court Records of the bishop of Durham", *Journal of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society*, 16 no.2 (1991), 42-3

Lapsley, Gaillard Thomas, *The county palatine of Durham: a study in constitutional history* (London, 1900)

Index terms

Durham Bishopric Estates. Halmote Court.
Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England.
Church Commissioners for England.
Bedlington (England)
Durham (England : County) -- History.
Durham (England : County) -- Genealogy.
Estate papers.
Genealogical sources.
Inclosure records.
Legal records.
Manorial records.
Maps.
Tithe records.
Administration of estates -- England -- Durham (County)
Copyhold -- England -- Durham (County)
Courts -- England -- Durham (County)
Inclosures -- England -- Durham (County)
Land tenure -- England -- Durham (County)
Manors -- England -- Durham (County)
Tithes -- England -- Durham (County)
Village communities -- England -- Durham (County)

Date last modified: 16 November 2008

Collection Level Description: Durham University Library Miscellaneous Photographs

Collection name: Durham University Library Miscellaneous Photographs

Collection code: GB 033 MIP

Date range: 19th-20th century

Extent: 235 items

Language: None

Created by: Durham University Library (collector)

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

Miscellaneous photographic prints, largely relating to the university and city of Durham, and to the north of England. More than half of the prints relate to the University of Durham. Most of the remainder concern Durham cathedral and castle, views of the city and buildings within it, and pictures of people connected with it. Some are professional photographs, others amateur snapshots.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in the following categories:

1. University of Durham Library (sub-categories: buildings, people, other)
2. University of Durham excluding Library (sub-categories: buildings, people, other)
3. People not part of the university
4. Durham castle (building and contents)
5. Durham cathedral
6. Durham city
7. Other North-East
8. Misc. other

Provenance:

Acquired by gift at different times from many sources.

Access:

Open for consultation.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Accruals:

Additions continue to be made to the collection.

Catalogues:

Online catalogue

<http://endure.dur.ac.uk:8080/fedora/objects/UkDhU:EADCatalogue.0535/datastreams/XTF/content>.

Index terms

University of Durham

Durham Castle.

Durham Cathedral

Durham (England) -- Description and travel -- Views.

Durham (England : County) -- Description and travel -- Views.

Photographs.

Photograph collections -- England -- Durham.

Photograph collections -- England -- Durham (County)

Date last modified: 21 March 2011

Collection Level Description: Durham University Library Miscellaneous Albums

Collection name: Durham University Library Miscellaneous Albums

Collection code: GB 033 MIA

Date range: 19th-20th century

Extent: ca. 3 metres

Language: None

Created by: Durham University Library (collector)

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

Miscellaneous photograph albums, covering a wide range of subjects.

A number of the albums relate to the University of Durham (people, buildings, events and activities). Other subjects include Durham city, railways in Co. Durham, staff and students of Bede College, Durham, European resorts, Scottish scenery, British churches, military service in the First World War, and boy scouting. Compilers include Canon H.B. Tristram, and W.A. Bramwell.

Arrangement:

In call number order.

Provenance:

Presented by various donors at various times.

Access:

Open for consultation.

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Accruals:

Additions continue to be made to the collection.

Catalogues:

Available online at

<http://endure.dur.ac.uk:8080/fedora/objects/UkDhU:EADCatalogue.0165/datastreams/XTF/content>

Index terms

Bramwell, William Arthur.

Tristram, H. B., 1822-1906.

University of Durham.

Durham (England) -- Description and travel -- Views.

Photographs.

Railroads -- England -- Durham (County)

Church architecture -- England.

Church architecture -- Scotland.

World War, 1914-1918 -- Pictorial works.

Photograph collections -- England -- Durham (County)

Date last modified: 18 November 2008

Collection Level Description: Printed Maps of North-East England and Cumbria

Collection name: Printed Maps of North-East England and Cumbria

Collection code: Various collections

Date range: predominantly 19th-20th century

Extent: various planfiles

Language: English

Created by: collected by or in collections in the care of Special Collections

Held by: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Contents:

Early (pre-1860) printed maps are often to be found in their original context as an integral part of books, or in atlases. For County Durham there is a comprehensive website, [Pictures in Print](#), which includes most of the collections held in the region and some items from the British Library, with digital images. There are bibliographical reference works on early maps and atlases at Palace Green Library which can help with locating material for other areas.

The most comprehensive holdings of modern maps are of large-scale (6 or 25 inch to the mile - 1:10560 or 1:2500) editions printed in the late 19th and first half of 20th century. Many of them come from estate archives and are marked up with property information - notably the Durham Bishopric Halmote Court (property across County Durham) and the Howard (Gilsland, Cumberland) and Grey (Howick, North Northumberland) family estates - and are stored with these collections. Others have come from solicitors, university and college departments and miscellaneous donations or purchases. These tend to be stored in the Search Room Map sequence. The older Ordnance Survey maps (known as the "old county series") were produced for County Durham between 1855 and 1950. The Durham maps were organised as follows, and the same principles follow for other counties. County Durham was divided into a grid of 60 rectangles (1-58, 30A, 45A), each of which was covered by one 6 inch to the mile (1:10560) sheet and 16 25 inch to the mile (1:2500) sheets. This grid provides the visual key to finding the map for a particular place (copies are available in the Search Room, and for Durham online). Thus Durham Sheet 27 is the 6 inch map covering from Durham City across to Shadforth, Durham Sheet 27.1 a 25 inch map covering the top-left sixteenth of that map (Durham City itself). The sheet name is printed top right (only the first edition is called "Co. Durham", after that it is "Durham"), and the date of printing etc. at the bottom centre. The 1st (1856-60) editions were produced in two versions, either as complete sheets or a set of sheets for each parish leaving blank any area of the sheet not in the parish. A set of field books were printed to accompany this edition. These provide a key to the numbers printed in each field or area, although the information given is very brief and seldom adds to the information on the map itself.

At the same time as it was producing the 1st edition 6 and 25 inch maps, the Ordnance Survey printed very large scale maps (1:500) of many towns and cities (for

a full list see *Ordnance survey maps ...*). Special Collections holds full or part sets of many of these maps for the region, for example Durham City (1856), Bishop Auckland (1855), Morpeth (1866).

About the creator:

Special Collections does not hold a unified collection of maps, so this description covers parts of several other collections, and a group known as Search Room Maps. Our holdings of modern (roughly post 1860, the date when the Ordnance Survey produced the first comprehensive mapping of the region) British maps are almost entirely for the region covered by our local collecting policy - the pre-1974 counties of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland and the North Riding of Yorkshire, with some overlapping into adjacent areas such as Lancashire and the Scottish Borders.

Access:

Open for consultation. Most maps are large, and space in the Search Room is limited so we suggest that booking a visit in advance is a good idea if you expect to be consulting several maps. Most maps are too large to be photocopied, and where copyright permits, it may be possible to take digital photographs (this is an exception from our normal rule which states that digital photography by readers is not permitted).

Usage:

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Catalogues:

For early maps of County Durham, and topographical prints, see Pictures in Print <http://www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/>.

Ordnance Survey maps have often been catalogued with the archive that they form part of, which makes a search for maps in general quite difficult. Printed maps have been added to the Library catalogue for the last few years, so this is gradually becoming a means of finding them. For County Durham a visual key is available at <http://lewis.dur.ac.uk/apps/maps/durhamOS/index.htm>. This can be clicked on to search the Library catalogue for 6 and 25 inch Ordnance Survey maps. Old county series maps are catalogued as county name followed by sheet number, so a title search will find them, for example

<http://library.dur.ac.uk/search/t?SEARCH=northumberland+sheet&search=title> for Northumberland.

The simplest search for town or village maps on the Library catalogue is a subject search for placename and maps, bearing in mind that placenames are usually qualified with the country and sometimes county - so search for "Morpeth (England) maps"

[http://library.dur.ac.uk/search~S1/?searchtype=d&searcharg=morpeth+\(england\)+maps](http://library.dur.ac.uk/search~S1/?searchtype=d&searcharg=morpeth+(england)+maps).

There are two old card indexes in the Search Room that are no longer continued that may be helpful, Ordnance Survey maps by sheet and maps by place (this is mainly of manuscript maps and only covers some collections).

Related collections held at Durham:

Durham Bishopric Halmote Court
Durham Cathedral Archives
Howard of Naworth Papers
Earl Grey Papers: Estate Records.

Related collections elsewhere:

Members of institutions subscribing to EDINA (such as Durham University) can register with EDINA and download digital copies of many OS maps (historic and current) - <http://www.edina.ac.uk>.

Durham County Council have scanned and made available online copies of a wide range of OS maps covering the modern area of the county, available at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/durhamcc/usp.nsf/pws/GIS+--+Online+Mapping>.

Bibliography:

Oliver, Richard, *Ordnance survey maps: a concise guide for historians* (London, 2005).

Index terms

Ordnance Survey.
Durham (England) -- Maps.
Durham (England : County) -- Maps.
Cumberland (England) -- Maps.
Westmorland (England) -- Maps.
Northumberland (England) -- Maps.
North Riding of Yorkshire (England) -- Maps.
Maps.

Date last modified: 27 January 2009