

If Walls Could Talk:
**A Practical Guide to Uncovering
the History of your Home**

PARTICULARS.

LOT 1,

ALL THAT

FARM HOUSE,

BARN AND OUTBUILDINGS, YARD, GARDEN,

Productive Orchard, in full bearing,

AND SEVERAL CLOSES OF

WARM ARABLE AND RICH PASTURE LAND

Admirably situate in the Parishes of Caldicot and Ifton, in the several occupations of Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Nicholas Price, and Mr. John Phillips, adjoining and at the junction of the roads from Caldicot to Magor and Caldicot Moor, bounded by the South Wales Railway and by lands of Mr. Richard Phillpots and others.

No. on Tithe Map	Description.	Tenure.	State.	Quantity.		
				A.	R.	P.
IN CALDICOT.						
215	House, Garden, Outbuildings, Field, &c. ...	Freehold ...	Pasture ...	2	1	6
215A		Ditto			
215B		Ditto			
216	Old House Orchard ...	Ditto ...	Orchard ...	1	1	22
112	Old House Ground—part of ...	Ditto ...	Pasture ...	8	2	13
1.0A	Summerway—part of ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1	2	17
222	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	0	1	10
246	The Three Acres ...	Copyhold ...	Arable ...	3	0	4
IN IFTON.						
No. on Estate Plan	A Field ...	Freehold ...	Arable ...	4	1	36
71	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	2	0	30
72	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	2	1	9
73	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	0	2	18
74	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1	0	27
ACRES ...				27	3	32

No. 246 is Copyhold of Inheritance of the Manor of Dewstow. The fine and heriot are merely nominal.

Nos. 215, 215A, and 215B, are subject to a Chief Rent of 6d. payable to Lord Tredegar.

The Purchaser to pay £26 for the Timber.

The lands in the Parish of Ifton are Tithe Free. A considerable portion of the land is staked out for the purpose of the New Line to the projected Severn Tunnel.

LOT 2

ALL THOSE TWO CLOSES OF

RICH PASTURE LAND

Situate in the Parish of Caldicot in the several occupations of Mr. Nicholas Price and Mr. John Phillips, adjoining the road from Caldicot Moor to Caldicot, and bounded by the South Wales Railway and lands of Col. Rooke, Mr. Daniel Baker and others.

No. on Tithe Map.	Description.	Tenure.	State.	Quantity.		
				A.	R.	P.
110	Summerway—part of ...	Freehold ...	Pasture ...	3	2	6
221	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	0	3	3
Acres				4	1	9

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PictorialCollection-Chepstow/25

Introduction

Tracing the history of a property can be a rewarding and exciting pastime. Whether the property you are interested in is 50 or 500 years old, Gwent Archives may hold something useful. This guide provides information on what records we hold at Gwent Archives and what resources can be used to benefit your house history research. What do you want to find out?

When it comes to any research, a great place to start is to think about what you would like to find out, whether that is:

- the age of a property
- who built the property
- the previous occupants and owners of the property

Starting small can help to collect clues that can build up a bigger picture.

Initial Background Information

The easiest way to carry out research is to start with what you know and work backwards in time. To help you trace a house amongst our records it is useful to gain prior information such as the following:

The location: Properties have fallen within various administrative areas over time, whether these be parishes, manors or modern-day county boroughs. These can be identified by using historical boundary maps. Write down any house, street or road names that the property was located at as it may have changed over time and can ensure that you are researching the correct building.

Existing Title Deeds: Are you in possession of any existing title deeds? If so, then they can provide a lot of information on previous owners and occupiers, or occasional changes to the property. Legal jargon may appear in title deeds or old-style writing which can be hard to decipher, our staff will be able to assist with this.

Local knowledge: Speak with local history groups, your neighbours or search for a social media page, as they may reveal information about the local area that will help in building up valuable background and context. We have a wide selection of local history books within our library which can provide vital knowledge to help plan out how to begin your house history research.

House clues: Your house can provide you with information that will inform your research. Look at the internal and external architecture for clues about its age. Does the house have a name? This could help to identify and trace information about the house and to indicate if the house name has changed over time.

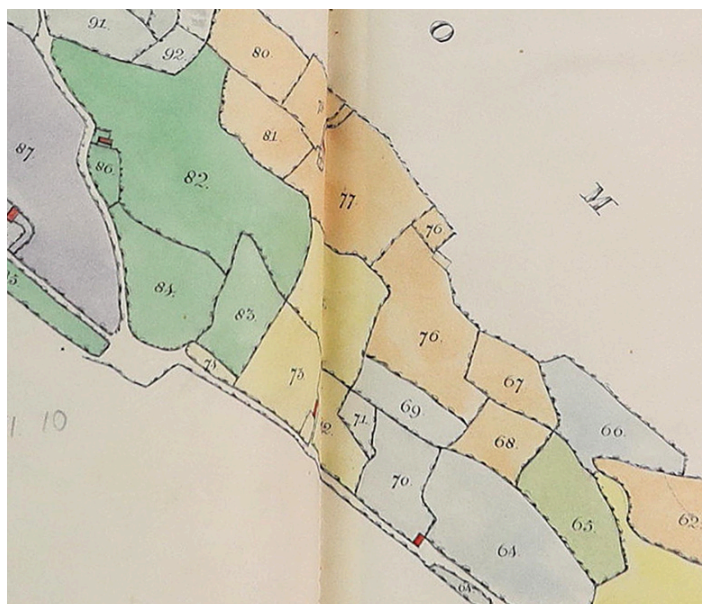
Listed buildings: In Wales, there are over 30,000 listed buildings and structures, meaning that they are of national importance and are given legal protection by being placed on a list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Information about these buildings can be found on CADW's website here at [Search Cadw records | Cadw](#).

Using Records at Gwent Archives

We hold a wealth of information, and many of our records can be used to help trace the history of a property or those who lived in it. The section below lists records available online at Gwent Archives – or at home – as well as original documents that can be viewed in our offices in Ebbw Vale. If you are not able to view records in person, then please contact us Enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk to ask about our research and digitisation services.

Maps and Plans

Maps and plans are a good place to start as they can help to track property or land changes over the years and can provide historical context as to what would have been in the surrounding areas at the time. We have a wide range of maps on offer to view in our research room, from Tithe maps, Ordnance Survey maps to those found within collections, such as estate and survey maps.



Catalogue of the Records of Lord Abergavenny,
Llantilio Pertholey Plans of Cottages and Land
(D1583/188)

Ordnance Survey Maps


Gwent Archives hold Ordnance Survey Maps that cover most of the county and they can assist in locating your property within a given parish. Larger properties may well be named, and they are useful in seeing how houses and street names have changed over time. Gwent Archives hold the first three editions of the County Series:

1st Edition (c.1879)

2nd Edition (c.1900)

3rd Edition (c. 1916)

These are to the scales: 1:2500 (25 inches to 1 mile) and 1:10560 (6 inches to 1 mile). Gwent Archives also holds a revised edition of 1:2500 OS maps for the Newport area (c.1937) as well as some town plans of Abergavenny (c.1880), Monmouth (c.1880) and Newport (c.1882 and c.1920), all at the scale 1:10560. We also hold later maps within the Ordnance Survey, National Grid collection, dating up to the 1990's which vary in size and scale.

 **Online resources:** The National Library of Scotland holds a collection of Ordnance Survey maps that cover the whole of the UK, and these can be accessed online at [Ordnance Survey Maps - Map Images - National Library of Scotland](#). Another useful resource is OldMapsOnline which pulls together maps from varying institutions that users can browse on their website [OldMapsOnline](#).




OS/VI/15/14 Abergavenny Town Map 1881

Tithe Maps and Apportionment's

The Tithe Commutation Act was passed in 1836, and the resulting surveys took place between the 1840s and 1850s, recording land ownership within parishes. The survey is in two parts; a map with each plot numbered individually and an accompanying apportionment, which qualified the map by documenting who owned and occupied each plot, the name and size of it and what it was used for.

These are not as easy to use as Ordnance Survey maps, as the quality of maps and details provided varies considerably. Determined by what we hold within our collection, tithe maps and the accompanying apportionment's are produced as a mixture of originals, photocopies and microfiche. There are gaps within the collection as Tithe maps were not compiled for some areas. A list of the tithe maps and apportionment's that are within our collection can be found in the research room, the list is arranged alphabetically by parish name.

 **Online resources:** The National Library of Wales has published a collection of Tithe maps and apportionment's of parishes in Wales that can be viewed online. You can search via an address or by pin pointing on a modern map. There is also an option to overlay modern and older maps which can be useful to compare and highlight any changes over time. You can find the website at [Tithe maps of Wales - National Library of Wales](https://www.library.wales/england-wales/tithe-maps).



Caerleon Tithe Map, National Library of Wales - [Tithe maps of Wales - National Library of Wales](https://www.library.wales/england-wales/tithe-maps)

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Number referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.
Jethro William Clement	Reva Edward	9		
	David John			
	Paul	146	3 cottages & garden	
	Whitney William Edward Richards			
	Paul			
	Lewis Elizabeth	129	3 houses & garden	
	Thomas Mary			
Hughes Ann	Forber William	141	House and garden	
	Paul Cornelius			
	Mathias William	160	4 cottages & garden	
	Richard William Edmund John			
	Thomas Robert		George Tithe House &	
	and	53	House and garden	
	In Hand		adjoining	
	Morgan James	111	cottage and garden	
Hughes Mary	In Hand	134	House and garden	
Harris David	In Hand	711	The Surgery field	ava 18.4.


Caerleon Tithe Award D1602

Map Index

We hold a range of miscellaneous maps which have been indexed (available to view in the research room at Gwent Archives) alphabetically by parish and includes records such as Estate Maps or maps from Title Deeds and Sales Particulars.

Valuation Records

The 1910 Finance Act or 'Domesday' survey took place between 1910 – 1915. The 2nd Edition OS Maps were used as a basis for the survey, with accompanying Valuation Books recording owners, occupiers and a short description of the properties. Gwent Archives holds Finance Act maps for most of the county and Valuation Books for roughly half of the county which can predominately be found in collection D1763. The National Archives holds other records created by the survey, such as plans printed on Ordnance Survey maps with annotations from the survey and accompanying Field Books with further details from landowners and surveyors.

 **Online resources:** The National Archives provide a useful online guide explaining the Valuation Office Survey 1910-1915, as well as a link to their catalogue to search for relevant records - [Land use, value and ownership: Valuation Office Survey 1910-1915 - The National Archives.](#)

Enclosure Maps and Awards

When land was enclosed through local Acts of Parliament known as Enclosure Acts, a survey was produced to indicate changes to ownership and boundaries. Private Acts were sought as early as 1750, whilst General Enclosure Acts began in 1801. The enclosure awards present details such as:

- The name of landowners for each plot
- The area and types of holdings the landowner acquired
- Description of tenure (whether it was freehold, leasehold etc)
- Details of roads, waterways and drainage



Enclosure Map of Whitson Common in the Parish of Whitson, Q/INCAW/15

Whilst any accompanying enclosure maps indicate the boundaries of enclosed land, roads and waterways, as well as properties such as farms and buildings. A Guide to Parliamentary Enclosures in Wales, by John Chapman [LIBRARY/1303] is available in the research room and details what Gwent Archives holds for the county. Enclosure Maps and Awards can be found in the Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions collection with the reference beginning with Q/INCAW.

Local Administrative Records

Electoral Registers

Gwent Archives holds an excellent collection of electoral registers running from 1832 right through to the 21st century. The records we hold cover most of the county and were typically produced annually, occasionally twice a year. The registers can be useful to see who previously lived at a property as they provide the names of occupants who were entitled to vote and lists the name of the property which could be beneficial if researching house name changes. There are some pitfalls to using electoral registers as it's important to note that historically not everyone living at a property had the right to vote. For example, these individuals will not appear in certain registers:

- Men under the age of 21, until 1918
- Women under the age of 30, until 1918
- Women under the age of 21, until 1928
- Residents under 18 years old

🖱️ Here is a great online resource that outlines the history and changes of voting in the UK - [Electoral Register Timescales.](#)

You can find early electoral registers from 1832 – 1889 in the Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions collection with referencing beginning with [Q/ROFE]. Later electoral registers can be found in the Monmouthshire County Council collection 1890-1974 [C/ROFE] and then the Gwent County Council collection 1975 – 1996 [G/ROFE]. After 1996 electoral registers were produced by the new unitary authorities:


- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Newport County Borough Council (later Newport City Council)
- Torfaen County Council

Electoral registers for these authorities run from 1996 and are also listed under the series [G/ROFE]. It's important to note that we only have registers for Newport Borough Council up until 1992 as the remaining registers are held at the National Library of Wales.

Although registers are open for the public to view, only registers more than ten years old can be photographed or photocopied. Many records may have restricted access due to the content and the date of record creation. We have a guide that outlines restricted access which can be found on the Archives page of our website here at [Archives | Gwent Archives](#).



Mr R. T. Jones of Blackwood, Records,
Hall Street, 1955 (D4415/19/4)

 **Online resources:** You can also find electoral register between the years 1832-1969 for Gwent and 2003 – 2010, 2011-2018 covering the UK on subscription websites such as Find My Past [Findmypast - log in or sign up](#) and Ancestry [Family History | Free Family History Search | Ancestry UK](#), which are available to access for free in the research room at Gwent Archives and most local libraries.

Land Tax Records

As a precursor to Electoral Registers, Land Tax records provide details of ownership and residents of given properties. The coverage is countywide and listed by parish. Land Tax Assessment records can be found in the Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions series [Q/LT], although Land Tax was introduced in 1692, records in this collection only survived from 1793 -1832. A catalogue for the Land Tax Assessment records can be found on our website, [Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions 1719-1956Q](#) and the physical catalogue can be found in the Quarter Sessions Calendar of Land Tax in our research room. We also hold Land Tax records within parish collections and in smaller collections such as **D414**, **D416**, **D421** and **D469** which cover most parishes in Monmouthshire, the catalogues for these collections can also be found in our research room.

Rate Books and Valuation Lists

Rate books and valuation lists were produced to detail who was chargeable for local taxes that would pay towards the upkeep of churches, gaols, hospitals, roads and other local amenities. These types of records detail names of occupiers and ratepayers, whether the property was owned or rented, the rate paid and house name. The largest collection of rate books and valuation lists are within District and Borough Council collections which run from 1894-1974. The Poor Law Act of 1601 introduced that rates were to be paid for the maintenance of the poor and there are examples of rate books being produced by parishes and Board of Guardians. Catalogues for the varying council series, Board of Guardians and parishes can be found in our research room at Gwent Archives. Within each council series you will find the rate books with the reference including [RB] and valuation lists with the reference including [VL].


Proprietors	Occupiers	Premises	Rate
Richard's Stead	same	The gaol	3 8
Richard's Stead	do	Partridge lane	3
Richard's Stead	do	do	2 10
James James	James Thomas	do	1 10
Reynolds Wm	Chas Miles	near the church	9
Reynolds Wm	same	Park end	14
Robert Philip	same	Carvil	7 5
Reynolds do	do	do	3
Haft Eytken	do	New Farm	80
Stephens Wm	do	Passage through	10
Stephens Jm	St. Gore	Mill & Curd	11
do	St. Griffiths	Meadow	3 10
do	Joseph Dunster	House Hand	11 3 4
do	do	Coffice, poor	1 18
East M	do	Paper Mill	30
do	do	House Hand	3 10
East M	same	do	4
Thomas James	do	Land	7 10
Thomas Mary	do	do	7 10
East M	do	do	2 2
East M	do	House Hand	3

Church in Wales Parish of Penallt: Surveyors Rate Book (DPA62/B/3/4)

National Census and Registers


Census

The Census has captured information about people since 1801 and has been recorded every 10 years since then. The earlier census forms did not capture much information about each civilian, although since 1841 it began collecting richer information such as address, names, ages and occupations of all members of a household. The census is an extremely useful tool for tracking who lived in your house at a certain time, as well as providing an insight into the social and economic background of the occupants. To comply with the Data Protection Act, the census adheres to a 100-year closure period which means that the most up to date census that is available for public access is 1921. There will be quite a wait to view the next available census due to a substantial gap; the 1931 census was destroyed by fire, and the census was not taken in 1941 due to the Second World War. The next census that was taken was in 1951 and under current legislation will become available in 2051.

 The census is available to view on subscription websites such as Find My Past [Findmypast - log in or sign up](#) and Ancestry [Family History](#) | [Free Family History Search](#) | [Ancestry UK](#), which can be accessed for free in our research room at Gwent Archives. Find My Past released a search tool where users can search for addresses directly to reveal information on who previously lived at your property.

1939 Register

The 1939 Register was compiled at the beginning of the Second World War to list personal details, much like a census, of every civilian in Great Britain. The information collected from the register was then used to issue records such as identity cards and ration books during the war. The register states the names of individuals, their age, address and occupation, this can be a great tool for tracking down previous occupants of your home, how many people lived in the house and what they did for a living.

 The 1939 register is available to view on subscription websites such as Find My Past [Findmypast - log in or sign up](#) and Ancestry [Family History](#) | [Free Family History Search](#) | [Ancestry UK](#), which are both free to access in our research room at Gwent Archives and in many local libraries.

The 1939 register is searchable on Find My Past through individual names or addresses, whereas on Ancestry it's only searchable by individual names. It's important to note that not everyone will be searchable as the register adheres to Data Protection legislation and entries will be closed for individuals born less than 100 years ago. The Register was updated until 1991, meaning that anyone who was born less than 100 years but died prior to 1991 will have their record opened automatically. Although, for individuals who died after 1991, the records may still be closed as the Register is yet to be entirely updated since 1991.

Estate and Personal Papers

Manorial and Estate Records

Many parts of the county were at one time part of a large estate or manor. The Tithe Apportionment records may help to indicate if this were the case and, on whose Manor, or Estate your property may have been situated. Estate records may include rentals, leases, maps and accounts. These are listed in catalogues available in our research room. Manorial records may include Court Books, Surveys, and Accounts. These are indexed in a card catalogue system available in our research room. The records themselves can be difficult to use, but staff will be on hand to give guidance. Many estate records are held by the National Library of Wales, and their catalogue is at [NLW Catalogue](#).

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246	The Three Acres	Copyhold	Arable	3 0 4
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70	A Field	Freehold	Arable	4 1 36
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The Grondra Estate, Sales Particulars for freehold and copyhold estates (D4523/81)




The Grondra Estate, Sales Particulars for freehold and copyhold estates (D4523/81)



Online resources: The online Manorial Document Register [Manorial Documents Register](#) lists many of the Manorial Records throughout the country including Monmouthshire, the former name of the area covered by Gwent Archives.


Sales Particulars

These records were produced when a property of a larger estate went to auction. They name the property, provide maps and give detailed descriptions of what the property contains e.g. stables, barns etc. What we hold can be found within the card index under the term Sales Particulars in the research room.

 **Online resources:** The National Library of Wales have digitised Welsh newspapers that are available to view online. Newspapers dating from 1804 to 1919 may include adverts and descriptions of properties which can be found at [Welsh Newspapers – Home](#).

Wills

If you are aware of the name of the previous owner/occupiers of the property, then it may be worth seeing whether they left a will. A will may assist in finding out the descent of the property and help in dating a house. Sometimes an inventory is attached to a will, which lists the contents of the house, occasionally room by room. Gwent Archives hold a collection of draft and copy wills, usually found within solicitor collections, for example **D4272 Lloyd and Pratt, Solicitors, of Newport**. Any wills dated from January 1858 are held at the Principal Registry in London, you can search and purchase copies of wills online at [Search probate records for documents and wills \(England and Wales\)](#).

 **Online resources:** The National Library of Wales holds original wills, inventories and bonds proved in the Welsh Ecclesiastical Courts before 1858, which you can search on their website at [Welsh Wills Search - National Library of Wales](#). You can also view directories of probates for England and Wales on the Ancestry website [Family History](#) | [Free Family History Search](#) | [Ancestry UK](#), which can be found within the National Probate Calendar with records dating from 1858-1995.

Title Deeds

Title deeds are records that show the chain of ownership for a particular land or property. Abstract of title deeds provides a summarised history of all previous recorded transactions and legal proceedings. Many of the title deeds in our collection can be found in our topographical index cards and have come to us through family estates papers or solicitor records.

Further Records

If you have exhausted all of the records above, or fancy having a break from looking at quite complex documents, photographs and newspapers are great tools to help in capturing what life was like in the town you live in.

Photographic Collection

If you believe your house is of historical significance to a local area, or your house is near the centre of a town – it may be worth searching our photographic collection to gain visual evidence and changes to your home over the years. We have a collection of photographs within our archival collection, which can be searched by using our subject index cards under Pictorial Collection and are categorised by town/area.



PictorialCollection-Newport/89

 **Online resources:** There are websites that show photographs of Wales. For example, [People's Collection Wales \(A People's Story of Wales | Peoples Collection Wales\)](#) is a free website with photographs that have been contributed by a selection of organisations such as local community groups, museums, archives, libraries and individuals across Wales. In addition to photographs, the website also includes documents and audio-visual recordings which are available to find by searching any key words.

[Coflein \(Coflein – The online catalogue of archaeological sites, historic buildings, industrial and maritime heritage in Wales\)](#) is the online database created by the National Monuments Records of Wales (NMRW) which includes information, maps and photographs of the historic environment of Wales. Using this resource may be particularly useful if you believe that your house is of historical significance.

[Britain From Above \(Home | Britain From Above\)](#) is another excellent online resource which features images from the Aerofilms collection, you can search by area or browse through the collection to find overhead images to aid in understanding what an area looked like during different time periods.

Newspapers

Newspapers can provide historical context and real time account of events that took place in an area. They could detail a house sale or information of previous owners to give you an insight into their lives. At Gwent Archives, we hold a collection of Free Press Newspapers that can be viewed on microfilm:

- Pontypool Free Press/Free Press of Monmouthshire, March 1859-1984.
- Chepstow and Caldicot Free Press, February 1980-1989, 1991-1999.
- Cwmbran Star, June / Cwmbran and District Press, 1981-1998
- Islwyn Free Press, March 1983-1989, 1991-1992.
- Newport Free Press, 1990-1998.
- Monmouth and Raglan Free Press, 1999 (part only)
- Abergavenny and Usk Free Press, 1999 (part only)

We also hold a collection of the Abergavenny Chronicle to view on microfilm in our Research Room:

- Abergavenny Chronicle, 16th December 1871-1973 (this is not a complete series as there are gaps)

Many of the original files of the Pontypool Free Press and Abergavenny Chronicle are now in poor condition and cannot be produced to members of the public. Microfilm copies of the newspapers are, however, available for the dates shown below:

- Pontypool Free Press, 1859-1910, 1912-1945
- Abergavenny Chronicle, 1871-1890, 1892-1894, 1896-1901, 1911.



Online resources: Can't find what you're looking for in our collection? There are historical and contemporary newspapers that can be found online:

The National Library of Wales have digitised historical newspapers and made them available for free on their website. You will find newspapers dating from 1804 to 1919 and can begin your search by typing in any key words here at [Welsh Newspapers – Home](#).

The British Newspaper Archive has an expansive online collection of digitised newspapers, there is a subscription fee to view the full digitised articles, and you can find the website here at [Home | Search the archive | British Newspaper Archive](#).

Directories

Looking at Trade and Street Directories can be handy in tracing addresses and residents, as well as providing an insight into local communities. They provide information such as:

- Brief description of the parish/town, stating what Petty Session Division and parish the area was part of during the time of publication.
- Public establishments and local amenities e.g. places of worship, schools, commercial shops and traders
- Private residents, providing name of residents and address

We hold a range of directories available to view in our research room such as:

- Pigot's Directories of Monmouthshire 1822-23, 1830, 1835, 1842
- John's Directories of Newport 1887, 1890, 1894, 1898, 1923
- Kelly's Directories of Monmouthshire 1891, 1906, 1923, 1926, 1934, 1937.
- Kelly's Directories of Newport 1950, 1955, 1957, 1968, 1973.
- Newport and District Residential Street Directory 1901.



Online resources: The University of Leicester has digitised historical directories of England and Wales and are available to view online at [Historical Directories of England & Wales – Special Collections](#).

Library Collection

We hold a variety of reference and library books that may assist in your research, as many will include photographs and written histories of towns. You can view our library books in the research room, including but not limited to:

Abergavenny Local History Society, *Abergavenny Street Survey 1979-1984* (LIBRARY/1092)

Barber, Chris, *Abergavenny: Historic Market Town* (LIBRARY/1572)

Barley, M.W. *The plans and topography of medieval towns in England and Wales* (LIBRARY/951)

Birbeck, Thomas T. *Caldicot – From Village to Town*, 1977 (LIBRARY/1135)

Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: Abergavenny (LIBRARY/140)

Burrow's Reference map of Newport, Monmouthshire, 1971-72. (LIBRARY/832)

Chapman, John, *A Guide to Parliamentary Enclosures in Wales* (LIBRARY/1303)

Clark, J.H. *Usk and its Neighbourhood*, 1856, (LIBRARY/1571)

Cwmbran New Town, Official Handbook (LIBRARY/831)

Davies, Robert. *The Tithe Maps of Wales: A Guide to the tithe maps and apportionment's of Wales in the National Library of Wales* (LIBRARY/1300)

Edge, David and Seabourne, Nicholas, *Around Crickhowell: Images of Wales series* (LIBRARY/592)

Foster, Brian. *Life in the Eastern Valley Iron Towns and Villages, 1780-1880* (LIBRARY/1274)

Fox, Cyril and Lord Raglan. *Monmouthshire Houses – Part 1. Medieval, Part 2. Sub-Medieval and Part 3. Renaissance* (LIBRARY/1059)

Grannum, Karen and Taylor Nigel. *Wills and Probate Records, a Guide for Family Historians* (LIBRARY/1333)

Gwent County Council Libraries, *Houses, Castles and Churches in Bradney. An index to Bradney, J.A. – History of Monmouthshire 1904-1933* (LIBRARY/1057)

Hay, H. and Fordman, D. *New Coalfields, New Housing: Reviewing the Achievement of the Industrial Housing Association* (LIBRARY/1615)

Historic Caerleon. *The Official Guide to the U.D. of Caerleon, 1955* (LIBRARY/627)

Jones. Richard D. *Caldicot and the villages of the moor in old photographs, including Portskewett, Sudbrook, Roggiett, Llanvihangel, Magor, Undy, on the levels and around and about Netherwent* (LIBRARY/1133)

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Glossary

Parish: an administrative area, if that be a village or an area of a town that has its own parish church and priest.

Local Parish Council: Historically, towns, people and properties would have been governed and administered by its local parish council as the local authority administrative unit, when researching the history of a house, it will be important to know what parish the property was located within, this will make it much easier to find relevant records

Title Deeds: Title Deeds are legal documents that state who owns the right to a piece of land or property.

CADW: The Welsh Government's historic environment service, responsible for looking after historical place, buildings, and landscapes across Wales.

Ordnance Survey: The UK's national mapping organisation which provides maps covering the changes of land over time.

Tithe maps: The Tithe Commutation Act 1836 introduced monetary payments called tithe rentcharge, this was to be charge to landowners with identifiable pieces of land as a form of tax to support the church and clergy. Tithe maps were created in line with the Act to provide visual references of land rateable to pay the tax and were given plot number which could be identified in apportionment records.

Tithe Apportionment's: Tithe Apportionment's were created to go hand in hand with Tithe maps, the apportionment's include the correlating plot numbers and provide details about the plot of land, including landowner and occupiers of land, the extent of the land and amount of tithe rentcharge payable for each plot.

Sales Particulars: Sales Particulars are typically produced by Estate or Land Agents and are in a similar structure and format as a catalogue or printed leaflet. They detail properties that were for sale, sometimes describing each room with photographs included.

Finance Act or Domesday: The Finance Act 1910 was a property tax aimed at raising funds. From this Act, the Valuation Survey was created to produce maps and field books (Domesday books) to provide identifiable plot numbers and to acknowledge the rateable value of land.

Electoral Registers: Electoral registers were first introduced in accordance with the Reform Act 1832, to reform the electoral system.

Land Tax: The Land Tax Act 1692 established the creation of land tax assessment records and were used to state individuals' qualification to vote.

Board of Guardians: Boards of Guardians ran the Poor Law system in England, Wales and Ireland from 1835 to 1930, taking over from the church-based system. Boards administered workhouses within a poor law union which was a group of church parishes. The Guardians were elected by the owners and occupiers of land in the parish who had to pay the poor rate.

Poor Law relief: The Poor Law was created to help provide relief for the poor from taxation on land, property and earnings. Until the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, relief of the poor was the responsibility of the parish. Following the Act, parishes were grouped into sections that were charged to provide a workhouse for the relief of the able-bodied poor.

Data Protection Act: The Data Protection Act 2018 is a piece of legislation which aims to protect sensitive and personal data of individuals being misused and to ensure that organisations handle this information with care and responsibility.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the records we hold, or how to start your research, please contact us at:

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