

Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

Wirral Coroners Office
Midland Bank Buildings
Grange Road
West Kirby
Wirral CH48 4EB
0151 625 6538

NB: Covers Wallasey and Birkenhead.

Lancashire Record Office
Bow Lane
Preston
PR1 2RE
(01772) 263039

This office holds the records of the West Derby Coroner
1882-1974

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8FW

General enquiries 0151 233 5817
 0151 233 5811
Fax (Central Library) 0151 233 5886
E-mail recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk

For opening hours, some catalogues and development news, please
visit our website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives

Appointments are not essential for viewing sources on microfilm and
on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books,
maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name
and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before
consulting original material.

Annual closure for stock-taking and special projects 3rd and 4th weeks in
June.



May 2008

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CORONERS' RECORDS

INFORMATION LEAFLET - 10



INTRODUCTION

Deaths are reported to the Coroner by the police, medical authorities and by registrars of death. The circumstances of the death will dictate the type of papers created and the Coroner then has a legal obligation to retain all files for fifteen years. Individual Coroners then decide what should happen to the papers, and this explains regional variations in survival.

Different types of information can be gained from the main categories of documents listed below. For more detailed information and for national listings of records see *Coroners' Records in England and Wales, 2nd Edition, 1997*, by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers. A copy of this book is available in the Record Office.

It should be noted that papers under seventy five years old are closed to the general public for reasons of confidentiality and permission to view them must be sought from the Coroners' Office. Access may be granted to view the papers in the public search-room of the Record Office or the Coroner may handle individual requests himself.





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Permission is usually only granted to close relatives of the deceased, and it should be borne in mind that the contents of inquest papers can prove to be distressing. The rules and regulations relating to Coroners' papers are covered by the Public Records Act 1958 as amended by the Public Records Act 1967, s44 and Coroners' Rules (1984) Rule 57.

INQUEST PAPERS

An inquest is carried out on a body when the cause of death is suspicious, unexplained or sudden. The papers contain the name and personal details of the deceased as well as the cause of death. The Coroners' Court will have examined medical evidence as well as hearing from witnesses, who may have found the body, witnessed an accident or been related to the deceased. These files are very detailed and are the most valuable source of information. The Merseyside Record Office retains them in archives as follows:

Liverpool:	1937-1985
Wallasey:	1950-1974
Wirral:	1974-1999
Southport:	1974-1993

New deposits are received at regular intervals.

INQUEST REGISTERS

These registers provide basic information including date, place and cause of death. They are a popular source for family historians. The seventy-five year closure rule does not apply to this class of document and the registers are readily available.

Liverpool	1852-1865 (available on microfilm only)
Liverpool	1898-1970 (available on microfilm only)
Birkenhead	1898-1972
Wallasey	1937-1976



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PASSING DEATHS & POST-MORTEMS

A post-mortem is carried out to ascertain the exact cause of death if there is any room for doubt. When the cause of death is known to be natural, for example, if a person was being treated for an illness, a post-mortem is not carried out. In both cases, the details of the death are recorded in brief and are kept for 15 years. The information contained is not considered to be of sufficient long-term value for these papers to be retained in archives and these papers are destroyed in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Act. The Merseyside Record Office on behalf of the various Coroners' Offices has stored some of these papers. Permission to consult them must be sought by contacting the Coroners' Office direct.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Liverpool, the archive contains presumptions of death for the Second World War, as well as the papers for the Henderson's fire inquest of 1960. Associated material is also contained within this archive, including newspaper cuttings and Coroners' Society Reports.

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Liverpool Coroners Office
The Cotton Exchange
Old Hall Street
Liverpool L3 9UF
0151 233 4707

Southport Coroners Office
Gordon House
3-5 Leicester Street
Southport PR9 OER
01704 531 643