

# Portsmouth Museums and Records Service

**This catalogue was digitised by The National Archives as part of the National Register of Archives digitisation project**

NRA 30321



The National Archives

JUL 1987



PORTSMOUTH CITY RECORDS OFFICE

536A

PORTSEA BENEFICIAL SOCIETY AND SCHOOLS

#### INTRODUCTION

The Beneficial Society was founded in December 1754 with the purpose of assisting its members in adversity. It was known first as the Beneficial Society of Portsmouth Common, later as the Portsea Beneficial Society and remained in existence until 1933.

In October 1755 the Society resolved to establish a school for educating poor children. Thereafter membership of the Society consisted of both Beneficial Members and Honorary Members. The latter paid an annual subscription towards the educational charity without receiving any benefit.

Until 1837 only boys were educated by the Society. In that year a Girls' School was opened and there was an Infants' School from at least 1873. The Girls' School was discontinued in 1877 but the Boys' School continued until the last war and the Infants' School is still in existence.

536A

SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION

536A/1

Minute Books

[Record names of members and subscriptions paid at each meeting with memoranda of proceedings and resolutions]

1. 9 December 1754 - February 1763  
[at end signed Rules and Orders as agreed at first meeting and revised Laws, 1757]
2. 14 March 1763 - 12 September 1774  
[at beginning, List of Members with dates of admission to Society]
3. 13 January 1783 - 9 December 1790

536A/2

Proceedings

1. 9 December 1754 - 6 July 1818  
[includes Articles or Laws drawn up at first meeting and revisions of the Laws, Regulations respecting the Children, List of members with original signatures 1788 etc. The earlier part of this volume appears to be a 'fair' copy of the memoranda of proceedings and resolutions entered in the Minute Books]
2. 3 August 1818 - 7 December 1846
3. 4 January 1847 - 23 December 1897
4. 3 January 1898 - 6 January 1919
5. 6 January 1919 - 9 April 1927
6. 2 May 1927 - 6 November 1933  
[Society wound up 1933]
7. Index of members of Beneficial Society, 1754-c1900  
[includes lists of officers and school masters and indexes of Honorary and Beneficial Members. The latter index gives date of admission, date and reason for discharge, and amounts subscribed and received in benefit]

536A/2

Proceedings [continued]

8. Printed Annual Reports including list of Officers, Donations, Subscribers, and Beneficial Members [9 items], 1916-7, 1922-4, 1927-30

536A.3

Trust Deed, Laws & Regulations

1. Copy (authenticated 8 May 1922) of original Beneficial Society trust deed 13 March 1737
2. Laws and Regulations (printed booklet) 1878
3. Proof copy of Laws & Regulations c1887
4. Laws & Regulations (printed booklet) [3 copies] 1897

536A/4

Correspondence

1. Letter Book 1874-1876
2. Letter Book 1876-1906
3. Letters re administration, winding up of Beneficial Society and transfer of Schools to new trustees [213 items] 1927-1953
4. Correspondence re Beneficial Society School, also some re Vavasour Charity [78 items] 1928-1945
5. Correspondence re subscriptions by ordinary members of Society and re payments out [89 items] 1925-1933

FINANCIAL RECORDS

536A/5

Ledgers

1. 1754-1761  
[page for each member showing  
subscriptions paid and benefit  
received]
2. c1870-1905  
[page for each member showing  
benefit received]

536A/6

Cash Books

1. 1754-1767
2. 1767-1785
3. 1785-17- -  
[at end list of subscribers to Portsea  
Charity School]
4. 1822-1866
5. 1866-1892

536A/7

Cash paid to sick members

1. 1808-1824
2. 1825-1833
3. 1833-1906
4. 1906-1919
5. 1808-1827  
[duplicate copy]

536A/8

Secretary's Cash Books and records of  
subscriptions

[a record of members' subscriptions]

1. 1835-1853
2. 1863-1881

536A/8

Secretary's Cash Books and records  
of subscriptions [continued]

3. 1882-1908
4. 1908-1929
5. Stewards check book, 1835-1863  
[this appears to be a duplicate of  
the Secretary's cash book]
6. Cash book showing subscriptions paid  
at Meetings 1880-1883 with note inside  
front cover of number of deaths, amount  
paid in sick pay, etc. since 1863
7. Beneficial members' subscriptions  
1906-1928
8. Honorary members' subscriptions  
1903-1930

536A/9

Account Books and Balance Sheets

1. Treasurer's accounts 1867-1876
2. Journal - 1886-1913 with Balance Sheets  
for both Society and Schools 1887-1913
3. Account Book for both Society and  
School 1903-1905 and for Society only  
1906-1913
4. Balance Sheets 1885, 1896, 1901,  
1925-1931 [11 items]

536A/10

Vouchers and Insurance

1. Sun Fire Office Insurance Policy for  
Beneficial Society Hall, Kent Street,  
Portsea 5 August 1874
2. Vouchers [1 bundle] 1877
3. " " 1879
4. " " 1892-1983
5. " " 1894

536A/10Vouchers and Insurance [continued]

6.	Vouchers [1 bundle]	1895
7.	" "	1898
8.	" "	1901
9.	" "	1902
10.	" "	1929-1930
11.	" "	1932-1933

536A/11Bank Books with National Provincial Bank

1. Deposit Account, 1914-1933
2. Current Account, 1925-1929

## SCHOOL RECORDS

[Matters concerning the Schools are also to be found in the preceding listed records]

536A/12School Managers Minute Books

1. 26 September 1878 - 2 July 1909
2. 3 September 1909 - 2 December 1927
3. 3 February 1928 - 2 April 1937

536A/13Account Books etc for Schools

1.	Receipt & Payment Book with Balance Sheets	1876-1884
2.	" " " " " " " " "	1884-1892
3.	Receipt & Payment Book	1903-1920
4.	School Balance Sheets [5 items]	1928-1932
5.	Scholarship Fund Account Book	1888-1902
6.	Sun Insurance Office Policy for Beneficial Day School, Kent Street, Portsea	6 November 1949
7.	Inventory of stock and furniture in schools.	March 1904

536A/14School Vouchers [bundles]

1. 1893-1894
2. 1895
3. 1896
4. 1898
5. 1899-1900
6. 1900-1901
7. 1901-1902
8. 1902-1903

536A/15Boys' School Registers

1. "Record of Old Scholars" - lists a few old scholars who later became trustees of school, also notes financial history of school and summarises admissions 1780-1888
2. Register of Boys educated in the School under Wilmot's Charity. At reverse end receipts by master for his fee, 1826-1836 1824-1890
3. Copy of will of Richard Wilmot of Portsea with notes on working of charity for Charity Commissioners 11 October 1866 22 January 1805
4. Register of Boys educated in the School under Vavasour's Charity with copy of correspondence concerning founding of charity in 1809 1862-1889
5. Admission & Withdrawal Register 1892-1908

536A/16Boys' School Log Books

1. 25 January 1862 - 23 December 1892
2. 2 January 1893 - 20 December 1907
3. 6 January 1908 - 3 September 1937



536A/17

Boys' School Report Books

1. Superintendents' Report Book  
21 February 1827 - 11 January 1847
2. Book of Monthly Reports of Headmaster  
February 1896 - November 1903
3. Report of Headmaster  
September 1931
4. Book of Quarterly Reports of Headmaster  
July 1932 - May 1938

536A/18

Girls' School

1. Admission & Withdrawal Register  
1837 - 1865
2. Log Book  
12 January 1863 - 19 July 1877
3. Remark Book of the Committee of  
Lady Visitors  
1 May 1837 - 1 December 1840

536A/19

Infants' School

1. Admission & Withdrawal Registers
  1. June 1913 - April 1929  
[includes list of teaching staff]
  2. April 1929 - October 1947
  3. September 1946 - April 1953  
[includes list of teaching staff]
  4. Quarterly summary of attendances  
December 1955 - April 1962
2. Medical Inspection Register 1906-1961
3. Log Book  
24 May 1873 - 1 September 1931
4. Head teacher's annual reports  
1929, 1931 [2 items]

536A/19

Infants' School [continued]

5. Stock & Stores Books
  1. Apparatus and Equipment  
1951-1957
  2. Reading & Arithmetic Books  
1951-1956
6. School Penny Bank Books with Post  
Office Savings Bank
  1. February 1922 - September 1923
  2. October 1923 - June 1925
  3. October 1925 - June 1927
  4. June 1927 - July 1929
  5. November 1961 - March 1964

536A/20

Miscellanea

1. Booklet to commemorate opening of  
New Building at Beneficial Society's  
School by Princess Alexandra of Kent 29 October 1962
2. Letters in reply to Petition and  
Loyal Addresses to members of the  
royal family
  1. From Sir Henry Ponsonby, Secretary  
to Queen Victoria November 1884
  2. From Sir Francis Knollys on behalf  
of Prince of Wales on occasion of  
wedding of Duke of York 12 July 1893
  3. From M.W. Ridley on occasion of  
Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 13 July 1897
  4. From Edward Troup on behalf of  
Queen Alexandra on death of  
Edward VII 4 August 1910
3. Ticket for Musical Entertainment by  
Beneficial Society's School April 1896

4. Photographs
  1. Portsea Diocesan School Room  
1875
  - 2.a Beneficial Football Club  
1910-1911
    - b Beneficial Football Club  
1910-1911 [copy of original]
  - 3.)
    - ) Groups of boys who have
    - 4.) taken part in school
    - ) plays, c1920s
  - 5.)
  6. Staff at Infants' School c1919
  7. Children in fancy dress c1920
5. Wooden plaque commemorating John Friend  
Pratt JP [d 1869]
6. Letter from Walter F. White concerning      22 November 1928  
Referendum System of Government
7. "Student's Atlas of Ancient & Modern      1883  
Geography" by William Hughes