

## **Wigan Archive Service**

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## WIGAN UNION

### Board of Guardian's Records (G/Wi)

The Union came into being on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1837; it comprised of an area of 45,000 acres and 58,000 people in 20 parishes. (Listed below) There were three workhouses in existence, at Wigan, Pemberton and Hindley, two of which were rebuilt in the 1850's.

The Union was subdivided into districts, each with a Relieving Officer and Collector; records for the Wigan, Standish and Hindley district officers survive. The Board of Guardians was finally dissolved in 1929, and the workhouse premises in Frog lane, Wigan, converted into a welfare home, from where the records were deposited on its closure in 1969.

### Parishes in the Union

- Abram
- Ashton-in-Makerfield
- Aspull
- Billinge Chapel End
- Billinge Higher End
- Blackrod
- Dalton
- Haigh
- Hindley
- Ince-in-Makerfield
- Orrell
- Parbold
- Pemberton
- Shevington
- Standish-with-Langtree
- Up Holland
- Wigan
- Winstanley
- Worthington
- Wrightington

CLERK TO THE GUARDIANSThe Board and its officers

1 - Statement on proposal to form union		1837
5 - Bonds of Employment:		
a Workhouse Master		1844-1856
b Assistant Overseer		1847-1854
c Relieving Officer		1838-1849
d Collector		1838-1846
e Statement of Officer securities		1867-1868

Minutes and Agenda

## 8 - Minute Books

a Guardians' Minute Books	87 vols	1837-1930
b Finance Committee	1 vol	Oct 1886-Jul 1889
c Assessment Committee	1 vol	Apr 1863-Jun 1875
d Removal Committee	1 vol	Jan 1888-Dec 1895
e Workhouse Committee	3 vols	Apr 1884-Jan 1896
g Various Committees:		
Rough Minutes	4 vols	May 1877-May 1900
Printed	70 vols	1895-1930
Printed Papers	1 file	Oct 1922-Aug 1924
h Workhouse Building Committee	1 vol	Apr 1856-Nov 1858
j Estate Committee	1 vol	Apr 1882-Sep 1897
k Notice of Motions	1 vol	Jul 1871-Dec 1891

I	Clerk's Agenda for Board Meetings	1 vol	Jan 1891-May 1899
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**Accounts**

9 - Ledgers

a	General ledgers	22 vols	Sep 1838-Mar 1884
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b	Treasurer's Account: Receipt and Payment books	5 vols	Jun 1882-Mar 1885 Oct 1889-Mar 1901
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c	Parochial ledgers:		
	Separate charges	3 vols	Sep 1848-Mar 1867
	General	1 vol	Apr 1867-Sep 1881
	Special expenses	1 vol	Oct 1873-Sep 1894
	Amount of calls	1 vol	Jun 1878-Jan 1896

10 - Clerk's accounts:

Petty cash book	1 vol	Apr 1883-Sep 1893
Postage books	3 vols	Apr 1867-Jan 1896

13 - Statement of Expenditure	1 vol	Oct 1867
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Abstract of Expenditure	1 vol	Sep 1877-Mar 1896
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15 - Annual Poor Rate Returns	2 items	Apr 1890 Apr 1897
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**Lunacy**

19 - Maintenance of Lunatics Claims for Repayment	2 vols	Oct 1886-Sep 1887 Oct 1890-Sep 1891
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**Statistics**

23 - Statistical returns: Inspector's Weekly Return of Persons	4 vols	Jan 1890-Jul 1891 Aug 1893-Dec 1899
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24 - Miscellaneous returns to central authority	1 file	1867-1871
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25 - Pauper classification books	2 vols	Jan 1893-Mar 1900
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# Register of inmates

c 1920's to 1949

(Large Ledger  
Loose on  
Shelves)  
SRI

## Out-Relief

27 - Relief Order Books	1 vol 2 vols	Apr 1891-Jun 1894 Oct 1895-Mar 1897
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## Provision of Workhouse

- |     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| 32a | Documents relating to the Hindley workhouse:                                    |            |
| i   | Lease of the dyehouse premises to use as a workhouse                            | April 1830 |
| ii  | Articles of agreement re: purchase of additional erections made to the premises | Nov 1841   |
| iii | Plans and papers relating to the new workhouse                                  | 1847-1850  |
| iv  | Articles of agreement for building of a school                                  | Jul 1849   |
| v   | Articles of agreement for building of a governor's house                        | Sep 1850   |
| 32b | Documents relating to the workhouse   |            |
| i   | Plans of the workhouse  | 1837       |
| ii  | Articles of agreement for letting the workhouse to the union                    | 1839       |
| iii | Correspondence and notices<br>Re: Old workhouse, maintenance and sale           | 1847-1852  |
| iv  | Plans of Fever Wards to be erected  | 1847       |
| v   | Plan for new workhouse  | 1850       |
| vi  | Specifications for the furnishings and fitting of the new workhouse             | 1856-1858  |
| vii | Plans showing line of boundary wall of workhouse land                           | 1857       |

viii	Building accounts for the new workhouse		1857-1858
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### Children

43 - Index to receipt book: Labour certificates	1 vol	1883-1888
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### Election of Guardians

52 - Poll books for parishes of: Ince-in-Makerfield		1890
Wigan		1890-1892
Wrightington		1892

### Correspondence

57 - Statements and correspondence re: averages of the Poor Rate		1833-1862
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Clerks letter books	4 vols	1855-1867 1868-1871 1871-1874 1874-1876
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Circulars and correspondence: Poor Law Commissioners		1837-1847
Poor Law Board		1867-1871
Local Government Board		1871-1876

### Hindley District

138 - Receipt & Expenditure Books	3 vols	Mar 1873-Dec 1878
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### Standish District

134 - Application & Report Books	5 vols	Oct 1875-Sep 1878
	3 vols	Apr 1881-Dec 1882
	1 vol	Mar 1902-Sep 1902

136 - Outdoor Relief Lists	1 vol	Oct 1874-Mar 1875
	3 vols	Apr 1881-Sep 1882
	1 vol	Oct 1885-Mar 1886
	1 vol	Sep 1888-Mar 1890
	1 vol	Apr 1891-Oct 1891
	1 vol	Apr 1895-Oct 1895
	1 vol	Oct 1896-Mar 1897
	1 vol	Jun 1902-Sep 1902
138 - Receipt & Expenditure Books	5 vols	Oct 1886-Mar 1888
		Oct 1889-Mar 1891
		Dec 1892-Sep 1893
		Oct 1896-Mar 1898
		Mar 1902-Oct 1902

### Wigan District

136 - Outdoor Relief Lists	Sep 1894
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### COLLECTOR OF THE GUARDIANS

#### Hindley District

148 - Receipt & Payment Book	Apr 1892-Feb 1898
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#### Abram Township

148 - Receipt & Payment Book	1848-1867
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### NON-POOR-LAW DUTIES

#### Vaccination

155 - Vaccinator's Register	Mar 1899-Jun 1909
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#### Sanitation

164 - Wigan Rural Sanitary Authority Minute Book	Aug 1873-Sep 1890
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165 - Finance Committee	Aug 1873-Sep 1876
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Aspull Parochial Committee	Feb 1873-Apr 1876
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167	General Ledger		1873-1894
	Treasurer's Account	2 vols	Dec 1880-Mar 1902
168	Aspull Treasurer's Book		Sep 1876
	Haigh Treasurer's Book		Dec 1880-Mar 1885

**School Attendance**

174 -	School Attendance Committees:		
	Minute Books	2 vols	May 1877-Jul 1903
	Estimate Book	1 vol	Nov 1889-Jun 1899
178 -	School Fees Application & Report Books - Wigan Parish		Aug 1891-Sep 1891