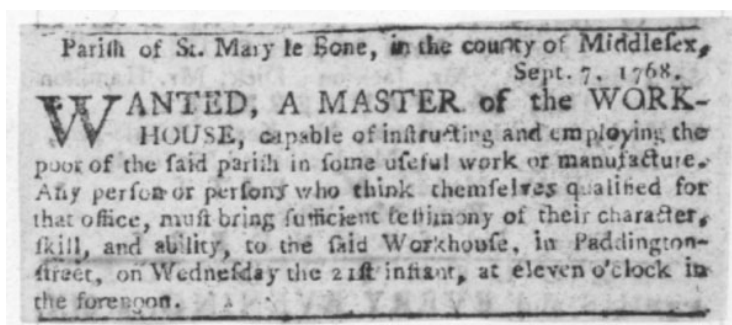


Poor Law, philanthropy and charity - a bibliography



Advertisement for Workhouse Master at St Marylebone Workhouse, 1786

Finding and understanding the sources

FOWLER, S – **Using poor law records.** Richmond: Public Record Office, 2001. [929.341]

A pocket guide to the main sources for using poor law records at the National Archives for family history research.

GIBSON, J [et al.] – **Poor Law Union records. Vol. 1: south-east England and East Anglia.** 2nd ed. Bury: FFHS, 2005. [Family History Pamphlets]

An indispensable reference guide for locating existent Poor Law Union records.

HOLDSWORTH, W – **The handy book of parish law.** New ed. Devizes: Wiltshire Family History Society, 1995.

Writing in 1859, Holdsworth unravels the complexities of parish law for the lay Victorian reader. Chapters 19 to 33 are dedicated to an explanation of the Poor Law, its Union system and other mechanisms.

McLAUGHLIN, E – **Illegitimacy.** (A McLaughlin Guide) London: FFHS, 1985. [Family History Pamphlet]

This useful guide explains how illegitimacy was perceived in the 19th century and introduces the main sources for tracing illegitimate children. As many illegitimate children were given over to the care of the parish, parish Poor Law records are a key source for this area of research.

McLAUGHLIN, E – **Annals of the poor.** (A McLaughlin Guide) 3rd ed. London: FFHS, 1986. [Family History Pamphlet]

Guidance on how to find records of poor ancestors before the commencement of civil registration and census records (pre-1837).

Contemporary accounts and studies of London poverty

MARRIOTT, J & MATSUMURA, M (eds.) – **The metropolitan poor: semi-factual accounts, 1795-1910.** (6 vols). London: Pickering & Chatto, 1999. [305.569]

An extensive compendium of articles and extracts from factual and fictional accounts of London poverty from the late 18th to early 20th centuries.

SIMS, G – **How the poor live and Horrible London.** Facsimile ed.: New York ; London: Garland, 1984. Originally published: Chatto & Windus, 1889. [301.441]

Sims describes this collection of papers of the poor of London as a journey 'into a dark continent that is within General Post Office'. Sims' collection of anecdotes serve to highlight the insensitive and ineffective application of social reform that fails to tackle the root of poverty, and promotes the need for social housing.

LONDON, J – **The people of the abyss.** London: Pluto, 1998. Originally published: 1903. [305.569]

Jack London's first-hand experiences of London's 'underworld' in 1902 left him deeply critical of the public and social legislation at that time.

MAYHEW, H – ***London labour and the London poor***. London: Griffin & Bohn, 1861. Facsimile ed.:New York: Dover, 1968. [301.441]

A remarkable study in 4 volumes, accounting in great detail the occupations, working and social conditions of London's poor. Mayhew's account shed light on a socio-economic group 'of whom the public had less knowledge than of the most distant tribes of the earth'. An extremely comprehensive survey of the diverse jobs done by the poor of Victorian London, with many first-hand accounts.

MAYHEW, H –***The Morning Chronicle survey of Labour and the Poor: the metropolitan districts***. (6 vols) Firlie: Caliban, 1980. [301.441]

From 1849 to 1850, Mayhew wrote about 80 letters to the *Morning Chronicle*, detailing the life and work of London's poor. The basis for these letters were a series of interviews with labourers, street-sellers, entertainers and tradesmen. A fascinating source for learning about the daily lives of working-class Londoners.

O'DAY, R & ENGLANDER, D – ***Mr Booth's inquiry Life and Labour of the People in London reconsidered***. London: Hambledon, 1993. [305.56]

Examines original material from Booth's vast archive, and investigates how the survey was conducted. Highlights the influential role of Booth's associates, including Octavia Hill.

ORWELL, G – ***Down and out in Paris and London***. New ed. London: Penguin, 2003. Originally published: Gollancz, 1933. [301.4494]

Orwell's first-hand, eye-opening account of life on the streets of Paris and London in the 1930s.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL – ***London Statistics***. (1891-1964) [314.211]

These annual reports are a mine of statistical information, covering all aspects of London administration. Include data on 'pauperism', housing, sanitation (public baths and washhouses), workhouses and education. Covers the whole of London, although statistics are given for individual boroughs and Poor Law Unions.

Charities

JORDAN, W – ***The charities of London, 1480-1660: the aspirations and the achievements of the urban society***.

London: Allen & Unwin, 1960. [361.7]

Early modern London was the commercial centre of the world, yet a burgeoning population, poor housing and a series of catastrophic epidemics heightened the disparity between the city's wealthy inhabitants and its poor. This book details early systems of assistance for London's poor.

BOSANQUET, H – ***Social work in London, 1869 to 1912: a history of the Charity Organisation Society***. (Society & the Victorians). Brighton: Harvester, 1973. Originally published: London: Murray, 1914. [361.9421]

A chronicle of how and why the Charity Organisation Society was founded, describing the challenges faced by the philanthropic institution both in the past and in the future.

HUMPHREYS, R – ***Poor relief and charity, 1869-1945: the London Charity Organisation Society***. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001. [361.8]

Humphreys applies a critical eye to the Charity Organisation Society, a philanthropic movement which attempted to alleviate the problems of poverty through charitable works rather than direct government intervention.

BERRIDGE, C – ***The Almshouses of London***. Southampton: Ashford, 1987. [362.5]

Photographs of London almshouses accompany a well-researched text, which explores the history of London's almshouses by area. Chapter 2 covers Central London and Westminster.

ANSON, M – ***The St Clement Danes Holborn Estate Charity: the first 450 years***. London: Landmark, 2004. [362.5]

This book charts how the provision of poor relief by the Holborn Estate Charity has evolved, covering in particular its provision of almshouses and schools.

BELCHER, V – ***The City Parochial Foundation, 1891-1991: a trust for the poor of London***. Aldershot: Gower, 2004. [362.582 BEL]

An indepth history of this independent charitable foundation, established in 1891.

Reports of the commissioners appointed in pursuance of Acts of Parliament [...] to inquire concerning charities and education of the poor in England and Wales [...]. Vol. 22, London and Westminster. London: House of Commons, 1815-1839. [f361.76]

Entries for charities existing in Westminster and City of London in the early 19th century. Gives historical details, as well as offering information on the type of poor relief available from each charity and details of its administration.

VESTRY OF ST MARGARET & ST JOHN – **The parochial charities of Westminster [...].** London: Vestry of St Margaret & St John, 1890. [361.76]

The first report of the Trustees of the Parochial Charities, 1899, with detailed notes on the foundation and administrative history of Westminster's charities, including charity schools, home nursing, almshouses and other funds. Lists major bequests, and also 'lost' charities no longer in operation.

Health

WADDINGTON, K – **Charity and the London hospitals, 1850-1898.** (Studies in History). Woodbridge: Royal Historical Society, 2000. [362.1109421]

Waddington explores the development of London's hospitals, from their roots in philanthropic activity and voluntarism to the end of the 19th century, with increased state intervention on the horizon.

Search for histories of individual hospitals via the online Library Catalogue: <http://elibrary.westminster.gov.uk>

Schooling

MACLURE, S – **A history of education in London, 1870-1990.** 2nd ed. London: Allen Lane, 1990.

From the establishment of the London School Board in 1870, this book charts the movement away from philanthropy and voluntarism in education and towards state control. Although there is no particular emphasis on poverty, this is a useful text for understanding the movement towards state-directed welfare in the 20th century.

KAY, J – **The training of pauper children: a report published by the Poor Law Commissioners in their fourth annual report.** London: Clowes, 1839. [371.96]

Report proposing the establishment of workhouse schools by James Phillips Kay-Shuttleworth, prominent social reformer who perceived education as the key tool in "eradicating the germs of pauperism".

Search for histories of individual schools via the online Library Catalogue: <http://elibrary.westminster.gov.uk>

From slums to social housing

TARN, J – **Five per cent philanthropy: an account of housing in urban areas between 1840 and 1914.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973. [f301.54]

Tarn's excellent account of urban housing covers philanthropic movements, private housing, local authority housing and model communities.

WOHL, A – **The eternal slum: housing and social policy in Victorian London.** (Studies in Urban History, 5). London: Edward Arnold, 1977. [301.54]

Looks at the housing of Victorian London's poor, and how local government and philanthropists sought to ameliorate living conditions. Draws on evidence in contemporary surveys of poverty and parish records.

YELLING, J – **Slums and redevelopment: policy and practice in England, 1918-45, with particular reference to London.** London: UCL Press, 1992. [711.590941]

Explores influences that led to a revolution in town planning and housing in the early 20th century, covering issues such as post-war regeneration, population displacement and the government's financial considerations.

HILL, O – **Homes of the London poor**. New ed. London: Cass, 1970. Originally published: Macmillan, 1883. [301.441]
Octavia Hill was a leading figure in the movement to improve the sanitation and living conditions of London's poor. 'Homes of the London Poor' brings together five of her magazine articles looking at practical aspects of housing.

PARKER, F – **George Peabody: a biography**. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1971. [920 PEABODY]
One of the most prominent philanthropists of the 19th century, George Peabody was instrumental in improving housing standards on both sides of the Atlantic. Documents the origins of the Peabody Housing Trust.

QUIGLEY, H & GOLDIE, I – **Housing and slum clearance in London**. London: Methuen, 1934. [301.5409421]
Writing at a boom-time for social housing development in London, Quigley and Goldie investigate into local government's and housing trusts' work in this field. Includes extremely useful statistical appendices.

The poor law and the workhouse

OXLEY, G – **Poor relief in England and Wales, 1601-1834**. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1974. [362.5 OXL]
Charts the development of social legislation to the early 19th century, covering how poor relief was distributed through both outdoor and institutional systems.

ROSE, M – **The English Poor Law, 1780 – 1930**. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1971. [362.5 ROS]
A collection of primary source material on poor relief, from the reform of the old Poor Law Act of 1601 to the break-up of the Poor Law in the 20th century.

FOWLER, S – **Workhouse: the people, the places, the life behind doors**. Kew: National Archives, 2007. [362.585]
An insight into the life of staff and inmates inside the workhouse. Explores how the workhouse assumed its role as the principal source of poor relief, yet garnered a reputation for exacerbating the condition of the poor.

MORRISON, K – **The Workhouse: a study of poor-law buildings in England**. Swindon: English Heritage, 1999. [f363.596942]
A illustrated investigation into the architectural design of workhouses and other poor-law buildings, arranged by period and building function.

NEATE, A – **St Marylebone Workhouse and Institution, 1730-1965**. Rev ed. London: St Marylebone Society, 2003. [Enquiry Desk]
Informative illustrated history of the St Marylebone Workhouse, from its beginnings until its demise in the 1960s, with the advent of the Welfare State.

Other useful sources at City of Westminster Archives Centre – a quick checklist

- **Records of institutions, including charities, schools and hospitals** - searchable via our online catalogue WESTCAT: www.calmview.eu/Westminster/CalmView
- **Parish records**, including vestry minutes and poor relief administration such as settlement examinations – searchable via our online catalogue WESTCAT: www.calmview.eu/Westminster/CalmView
- **Newspapers** – Local newspapers often contain valuable information, be this parish vestry meetings, or incidents at the local workhouse.
- **Original prints and photographs** – searchable via the card index in the Archives Search Room. Indexed primarily by street.
- **Booth Poverty Maps** – Reproductions of Charles Booth's poverty maps are available; please ask at the Search Room desk to view. Colour-coding shows relative levels of affluence and deprivation in the London of the 1890s.

Useful websites

Westminster City Archives website – www.westminster.gov.uk/archives

The Westminster City Archives website offers in-depth listings and catalogues of its collections. Free downloadable help sheets for family historians include information on poor law and workhouse sources.

St Martin in the Fields Settlement Examinations Index – www.westminster.gov.uk/archives/indexes/sett_intro

Settlement examination books were an assessment of where the poor in the the parish were legally 'settled' (had resided for 1 month or more), and therefore which parish was liable to provide them with poor relief. Examination books often include details of a person's birthplace, working career and the names and ages of any dependent children. They also frequently document other incidental detail of a person's life story. This index to the St Martin in the Fields examination books, held at City of Westminster Archives Centre, allows you to search the books by surname.

Westminster Gateway to Websites – www.westminster.gov.uk/gateway

Use this webpage as a shortcut to a wealth of quality resources. Westminster Libraries and Archives users can get free access to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, a useful tool for researching the life and work of London's principal social reformers, philanthropists and activists.

Charles Booth Online Archive – <http://booth.lse.ac.uk>

Digital copies of Charles Booth's famous poverty maps can be browsed on this site, along with other material from the survey and police notebooks.

The Workhouse – <http://www.workhouses.org.uk>

Peter Higginbotham's website gives details of workhouse life for inmates, staff and administrators, and includes the full text of the Poor Laws and associated Acts of Parliament.

Ancestry – www.ancestry.com [Free in any Westminster Library or at Westminster Archives Centre]

This vast international family history database includes census returns for England and Wales, which are a useful way of tracing workhouse inhabitants. Board of Guardians records held by the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library are also available in digital format on this site.

National Archives – www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The UK government's official public archive, The National Archive's collections are some of the most extensive in the world. In addition to catalogues and guides to its own collections, The National Archives' website provides a number of useful databases for locating archival material in other UK archives, including Access 2 Archives and the National Register of Archives.

Mapco – www.mapco.org.uk

An outstanding online source for historic maps of London, with each map reproduced as a series of high quality digitized images.

London's poverty profile - <http://www.londonspovertyprofile.org.uk/>

An indepth analysis of poverty and inequality in London today



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