

Solicitors' records

These fall into two broad categories: documents created through the administrative work of the solicitors' office and papers of their clients, who may be individuals, families and organisations.

The commonest types of documents are title deeds (buying, selling or leasing property), which form the bulk of most solicitors' collections. See under [Estate records](#) <<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/deposited-records>> for details about deeds.

A solicitors' office may hold deeds relating to several counties: in general, when these are deposited as archives, they are split up among the counties to which the properties relate.

In addition, you may find testamentary papers, maps, manorial court records, legal case papers, correspondence, business records, financial records, and personal papers.

Interesting Examples

Among the Stockton & Fortescue collection are papers relating to the disputed parliamentary election for Banbury of 1865, at which the industrialist and educationalist Sir Bernhard Samuelson was petitioned against by his opponent as being an alien (and so not eligible for office). The defence case papers include marriage and other registration documents written in Hebrew.

Image: S&F Box 42 Bundle J item 6: Text: Draft proof of Bernhard Samuelson

Other records?

Many other such historical records are still held by solicitors' offices. Recent transactions can be traced through the [Land Registry](#) <<http://www.landregistry-titledeeds.co.uk/#title-registers>>

Where is the catalogue?

The records themselves are not online, but the catalogues of many of the records are available on [Heritage Search](#) <www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch>. However, a number of the earlier catalogues are only available on index cards in the History Centre searchroom. Copies of the online catalogues are available in the searchroom.

[Visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre](#)
<<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/visiting-oxfordshire-history-centre>>