Oxfordshire History Centre

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Oxfordshire Health Archives. Email omht.archives@obmh.nhs.uk Web-site: www.oxfordshirehealtharchives.nhs.uk

What will you find at Oxfordshire History Centre?

On computer - free access - Ancestry Library and Find my Past family history websites covering the UK and beyond. Heritage Search for our collections. Oxfordshire Family History Society's baptism, marriages and burial indexes. Census returns and indexes 1841-1901. 19th Century British Library Newspapers. Large scale digital mapping (1876-2010)


Images and Voices - over 400,000 Photographs from 1850s to the present, and oral history recordings for Oxfordshire.
Did you know?

Where two airmen met their deaths in Wolvercote?

Airmen’s bridge in Godstow Road in Wolvercote has a stone memorial. There is a picture of a monoplane with an inscription –‘In deep respect for the memory of Lieut. C A Bettington and Second Lieut. E Hotchkiss of the Royal Flying Corps. who met their deaths in the wreck of a monoplane 100 yards north of this spot on Tuesday Sept. 10th 1912’.

Sympathisers in Oxford and Wolvercote to the number of 2226 have erected this stone as a tribute to the bravery of these two British Officers who lost their lives in fulfillment of their duty.’

The Bristol two-seater monoplane left Larkhill, Salisbury Plain early on 10th September, to go to Hardwick, near Cambridge. It was over Port Meadow at 2000 feet, coming steeply down to 500 feet, then when at about 200 feet the fabric of the right wing fell away in pieces. The plane hit the ground and Lieutenant Bettington and Lieutenant Hotchkiss were killed instantly.

Newspapers at Oxfordshire History Centre

A selection of the newspapers now available on film -

Oxford Times 1862 - 2003
Abingdon Herald 1868 - 2003
North Berkshire Herald 1910 - 1974
Didcot Post 1933 - 1935
Faringdon Advertiser 1862 - 1964
Guardian or Poor Law Monthly Register 1838 - 1843 (continues as Banbury Guardian)
Banbury Guardian 1878 -2009
Bicester Advertiser 1855 - 66; 1879 - 2002
Bicester Herald 1855 - 1917
Bicester Review 1891 - 2007
Henley Advertiser 1870 - 1908
Henley Chronicle 1904 - 1913
Henley Standard 1892-2006
Isis 1919 - 1984
Jacksons Oxford Journal 1753 - 1928
OXford Journal Illustrated 1910 - 1928
Oxford Chronicle 1837 - 1929
Oxford Mail 1928 - 2006
Oxford Star 1876 -1995

Images and Voices

Images - over 400,000 Photographs from 1850s to the present, including large collections by Henry Taunt (c1860 - 1920); Frank and Basil Packer (c.1910 - 1970s)
J W Thomas (1946 - 2000)
Also Prints and engravings from before the age of photography.

Voices - Oral history recordings, including BBC Radio Oxford programmes back to 1970, and many reminiscences of local residents

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Pictures taken during the major works at the creation of Oxfordshire History Centre

- Reception
- Building of new Strongroom
- Staff camped in the Searchroom
- Rubble upstairs
- Exhibition room to workroom
- The compound
Catalogues completed during closure

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<td>B27</td>
<td>Symm &amp; Co.</td>
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<td>B25</td>
<td>Morrells Brewery, Oxford</td>
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<td>B31</td>
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Catalogues in progress

Oxford Preservation Trust; Stockton & Fortescue Solicitors

Written enquiries completed during closure

Letters 326, emails 1193; total 1519

Morrells Brewery, Oxford

The Brewery was established in c.1673, the exact date is unknown, but it is known that brothers Mark and James Morrell took over a brewery established by the Tawney Family. The ‘Lion Brewery’ occupied the same site in St Thomas throughout its history and was a significant employer. Morrell’s trade remained concentrated in and around Oxford. They preferred to deliver to supply pubs which could be reached by horse-drawn dray.

James Morrell built Headington Hill Hall in the early 19th Century.

The brewery was run by a board of trustees from 1863 -1943. James Morrell and his wife Alicia died within months of each other leaving their child Emily an orphan, James’ will created the Trustees until she was adult. Emily married her distant cousin, George Herbert Morrell but the Trusteeship continued.

Morrells became a limited company in 1943. It remained a family brewery until it closed in 1998. When it was sold to Green King, based in Suffolk.

The records were rescued from the remaining brewery buildings shortly before redevelopment commenced. Archive staff had no opportunity to appraise the collection or identify gaps at the time. Many documents were destroyed in fires in c.1902 and 1938. The catalogue has been arranged into 4 sections:

1; Administrative, Production and Financial Records of the Brewery
2; Personnel and Employment Records
3;Staff Social Activities
4: Records of Individual Public Houses (arranged alphabetically by Parish)

This catalogue is completed and available in the searchroom.

Take a break and try a coffee in our coffee shop, we have fair trade coffee and tea, biscuits, crisps and cakes.

oxfordshire history