

Useful Reference Books and Other Sources

Compiled by the Conwy Branch

1. Archive Collections

For general inquiries try this website first. You may find some relevant documents and where they are held.

Archives Hub Wales - <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/?field=place&terms=%22Wales%22>

Anyone can upload pictures and documents to the following website. Sometimes you can discover items which may not be found anywhere else.

Peoples Collection Wales - <https://www.peoplescollection.wales>

National and County Archives

National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth - https://discover.library.wales/discovery/search?vid=44WHELF_NLW:44WHELF_NLW_NUI

Conwy Archives - <https://conwyculture.com/about-culture/archives>

Bangor University Library & Archives - Bangor University, College Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DG (01248) 382966/383276 - <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/archives-and-special-collections>

Gwynedd Archives

1. Caernarfonshire Archives and Special Collections – Victoria Dock, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH 01286 679095
2. Merionnydd Record Office – Ffordd y Bala, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2YF 01341 424682
<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Libraries-and-archives/Archives-and-family-history/Archives-and-family-history.aspx>

North East Wales Archives

<https://www.newa.wales>

Denbighshire Archives - The Old Gaol, 46 Clwyd Street, Ruthin, LL15 1HP – 01824 708250

Flintshire Archives – (01244) 532364 – The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 3NR

Anglesey Archives – Industrial Estate road, Bryn Cefni Industrial Estate, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 7JA 01248 751930

Each Record Office has its own online searchable catalogue. If possible order documents before you visit so that they are available as soon as you arrive.

2. Free downloadable 'Out of Print Books

N.B. Some have a searchable facility.

The local libraries can usually obtain copies of these books. The Record Offices also are likely to have copies.

Survey of the Honour of Denbigh; Paul Vinogradoff & Frank Morgan – 1914

The Records of Denbigh and its Lordship – John Williams 1860
Ancient and Modern Denbigh – A Descriptive History of the Castle, Borough and Liberties: John Williams 1856
History of the Gwydir Family by Sir John Wynne Knt & Bart 1878
History of the Princes, The Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog by J.Y.W.Lloyd of Clochfaen, Esq. M.A. K.S.G. - Vol IV 1887
Y Cwtta Cyfarwydd – The Chronicle written by The Famous Clarke, Peter Roberts notary public for the Years 1607-1646 with an appendix from the register notebook of Thomas Rowlands vicar choral of St.Asaph for the years 1595-1607 and 1646-1653 – pub. 1883
 Conwy parish registers in the Rural Dean of Arllechwedd, Diocese of Bangor, Caernarvonshire 1541-1773 - Alice Hadley 1900
The History and Antiquities of the town of Aberconwy and its neighbourhood – Rev. Robert Williams 1835
Kalendars of Gwynedd or Chronological lists of lords-lieutenants, custods rotulorum, sheriffs and knights of the shire for counties Anglesey, Caernarvon and Merioneth. - Edward Breese 1873
An Inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire: East Vol.1 1956
The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient nobility of Powys Fadog
The Royal Tribes of Wales – Philip Yorke esq. of Erddig 1799

3. Transactions/Journals

Some volumes are available to download online. Record Offices and Libraries often have copies.
Y Cymmrodor – The magazine of the honourable society of Cymmrodorion.
Caernarvonshire Historical Society Transactions – 1939 - 2008
Denbighshire Historical Society Transactions
Anglesey Historical Society Transactions
Merionethshire Historical Society Transactions
Archaeologia Cambrensis – The journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association

4. Books

Houses of the Welsh Countryside – Peter Smith 2nd ed.1988
The Welsh Cottage: Building Traditions of the Rural Poor 1750-1900 – Eurwyn William 2010
Introducing Houses of the Welsh Countryside – Richard Suggett and Greg Stevenson 2010
Discovering the Historic Houses of Snowdonia – Margaret Dunn and Richard Suggett 2014

5. Pedigrees/Families

Heraldic visitations of Wales and part of the Marches: between the years 1586 and 1613 Vol 2 North Wales – Lewys Dwnn ed. By Samuel Rush Meyrick 1846.
Pedigrees of Anglesey & Caernarvonshire families (1914) J.E.Griffiths
The Family of the Griffith of Garn & Plas Newydd in the County of Denbighshire T.A.Glenn 1934
The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog – J.Y.W.Lloyd 1881– 887 - 6 volumes.

6. Background History

A History of Caernarvonshire 1284 - 1900 A.H.Dodd – 1968 sec. ed. 1990
Wales Through the Ages Vol.1 & 2 (1965) ed. A.J.Roderick
The Heart of Northern Wales – W.Bezant-Lowe Vol.1&2 - 1912 & 1927
North Wales in the Civil War – Norman Tucker 1958
The History of the Abbey of Aberconwy - R.W.Hayes 1963

Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales – David H. Williams 1990

The Welsh Cistercians – David H. Williams 2001

Welsh Manors and their Records - Helen Watt (Aberystwyth, 2000). An introduction on the origins and development of the manorial system in Wales to the 16th century. The manorial system did not apply in Gwynedd except on ecclesiastical estates, but useful for Denbighshire and with a good set of references to manorial records. The National Archives' Manorial Documents Register is good for tracking down what manorial records exist and also covers Wales:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/finding-records-in-discovery-and-other-databases/manorial-documents-register/>

7. Estate Collections

Bangor University Archives

Baron Hill	Bodorgan	Bodrhyddan	Cefn Amlwch
Dinam Hall	Garthewin	Henblas	Henllys
Kinmel	Lligwy	Llysduelas	Maesyneuadd
Mostyn	Nannau	Penrhos	Penrhyn
Plas Carreg	Plas Coch	Plas Gwyn	Presaddfed
Plas Newydd	Rhiwbach	Trallwyn	Tregayan
Wynn Hall	Yale		

Denbighshire Archives

Brynkinallt	Brynkinallt Irish estate	Cefn Park
Chirk Castle	Foxhall	Galltfaenan
Kinmel Hall	Llanysilio Hall	Pen-y-lan
Oliver Ormrod of Halliwell Hall, Bolton and Pickhill Hall		Plas Coch
Plas Heaton	Plas Nantglyn	Plasnewydd
Plas Power	Plas yn Rhos	Plas yn Iâl
Rooper (Llanerchrugog)		Rowley Williams
Ruthin Castle	Vivod	Wynnstay

Flintshire Archives

Bodelwyddan	Bryn – y Pys	Golden Grove
Grosbvenor (Halkyn)	Gwysaney	Hawarden
Iscoyd Park	Leeswood	Mostyn of Talacre
Nantlys	Nerquis Hall	Panton of Plas Gwyn
Penbedw	Plas Onn	Plas Teg
Rhual	Soughton Hall	Trevalyn Hall