

## Archive sources

Dr J. Graham Jones lists the archival sources held at the Parliamentary Archive at the House of Lords of potential interest to students of the Liberal Party

# The Parliamentary Archive at the House of Lords

**T**HE PARLIAMENTARY ARCHIVES is the official archive of the House of Commons and House of Lords (UK Parliament).

In 1999, the House of Lords Record Office adopted the subsidiary title of Parliamentary Archives to better represent the department's role as custodian of both House of Lords and House of Commons records. In 2006 the name was officially adopted.

## The Beaverbrook papers

The Beaverbrook papers contain correspondence and a variety of papers, photographs and other images, maps and a few artefacts covering every aspect of the life and work of Lord Beaverbrook, politician and newspaper proprietor, from 1869 to 1972. They include general social and political correspondence and papers in England and in Canada covering Beaverbrook's early years in Canada including his financial dealings (BBK/A), his constituency correspondence as an MP, much detailed correspondence and papers on the Empire Crusade (BBK/B) and also special correspondence with prominent people including politicians, some artists and writers (BBK/C).

## Papers of Henry Bouverie William Brand, 1st Viscount Hampden

Consists of the papers of Henry Brand, Speaker of the House of Commons from 1872 to 1884. The papers comprise firstly a series of approximately 400 original letters or drafts and copies of letters to and from Brand, with occasional memoranda, written between 1855 when Brand was appointed as a whip, and 1892. The second main

series of papers consists of thirteen manuscript diaries, as well as five complete transcript copies. These begin just before Brand's election as speaker and conclude on his retirement from the chair; they span only the sessions of parliament and contain scarcely any reference to his private life. Also included in the collection is a printed book of Brand's decisions, recording rules and points of orders extracted from various parliamentary sources and compiled by Edwin Gordon Blackmore, Serjeant at Arms, House of Assembly, Adelaide. The diaries, even more than the letters, are never indiscreet, but they include brief comments on individual debates and speakers, assessments of his own performance – which often show how he reached particular decisions – and remarks on related subjects such as parliamentary agents or official reporters.

## Papers of Sir Percy Harris

The Rt Hon Sir Percy Alfred Harris, 1st baronet (1876–1952) was a Liberal MP, chief whip and deputy leader of the Liberal Parliamentary Party.

Diaries, correspondence, press-cuttings, photos, literary and miscellaneous papers relating to the life and work of Sir Percy Harris, from 1900 to 1951.

## Correspondence and papers of Sir William Allen Jowitt (1885–1957), Earl Jowitt

William Jowitt entered parliament in 1922 as Independent Liberal Member of Parliament for the Hartlepoons, although he lost his seat in the general election of 1924. In 1929 he was returned to parliament as Liberal member for

Preston, but was then controversially made attorney general in the Labour government, winning his seat a second time as a Labour member. He continued to serve as attorney general in the 'national' government of 1931, and was consequently expelled from the Labour Party. Defeated at the general election of 1931, he resigned his office and resumed his practice at the Bar.

Jowitt was readmitted to the Labour Party in 1936, and in October 1939 he was returned unopposed as member for Ashton-under-Lyne. During the war he served as solicitor general, paymaster general and minister for National Insurance. In 1945 he became lord chancellor in the Labour government, with the title Baron Jowitt, of Stevenage. On relinquishing the office of lord chancellor on the election of the Conservative government in 1951 he was created an earl. From 1952 until November 1955 he served as leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords.

Records of William Jowitt, lawyer, politician and author, including correspondence with colleagues and acquaintances, transcripts of speeches on legal or political issues, newspaper cuttings relating to his career and associated printed items. Also included is a small amount of personal material such as family correspondence.

## Bonar Law papers

Andrew Bonar Law was born in New Brunswick on 16 September 1858, of a Scottish mother and Irish father, who was a Presbyterian minister of the Free Church of Scotland in Canada. In 1870 an aunt took Bonar Law back to Glasgow where he started a career in business, but he always entertained political



Rolls containing Acts of Parliament in the Parliamentary Archives at Victoria Tower, Palace of Westminster (photo by Jeroen – <https://www.flickr.com/photos/-jvl-/6397121215>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64956123>)

ambitions and finally entered parliament as Unionist MP for the Blackfriars division of Glasgow in 1900. He lost the seat in 1906 but quickly found another, safer seat in Dulwich. He rose rapidly through the ranks of the Unionist Party and, following Joseph Chamberlain, became a leading spokesman on tariff reform. He became leader of the Unionist Party in 1911, and subsequently served as secretary of state for the Colonies in 1915, chancellor of the exchequer 1916–1918, leader of the House of Commons 1916–1921, and finally, with Beaverbrook's backing, prime minister in 1922, after the fall of Lloyd George. When he died in the following year, he left all his papers to Beaverbrook in his will.

The Bonar Law papers provide a great deal of interest, particularly in relation to the Unionist Party and Unionist opinion between 1911 and 1923, as virtually all prominent Unionists wrote constantly to their leader at that time. Major topics covered include party organisation, tariff reform, the Irish question, the conduct of the war, relations with the Coalition Liberals and post-war home and foreign policy.

The first seventeen series consist of family, personal and business correspondence and papers from about 1881. The family correspondence includes: letters from his aunt Janet Kidston, from his children, their teachers and tutors, and from personal friends and letters of sympathy on the death of his wife (1909), his mother (1914), and his two elder sons, James and Charles, both of whom were killed in action in 1917. The business papers contain: two early notebooks of business expenses (1881–94), a diary of a business trip to Belgium in 1889, and various other account books and correspondence relating to Bonar Law's investments in the General Life Assurance Company, General Accident Insurance Company, Royal Securities Corporation (Beaverbrook's company), and Clydesdale Bank, amongst others. Four series contain miscellaneous personal papers including some photographs, domestic account books, the children's school reports and one bundle of papers relating to the administration of Bonar Law's estate, 1924–30. Finally, there is one series of correspondence and papers relating to his rectorship of the University of Glasgow, 1914–22.

### Lloyd George papers

David Lloyd George was born in Manchester on 17 January 1863, and eighteen months later, on the death of his father, his mother moved back to her native home in Caernarvonshire, settling in Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth. Lloyd George first entered parliament in 1890 as Liberal Member of Parliament for the Carnarvon Boroughs, a seat he held for almost fifty-five years; and he never forgot his Welsh origins. He was created Earl of Dwyfor, Viscount Gwynedd, only three months before he died (on 26 March 1945).

The first four years at Westminster were devoted to local Welsh politics. The Boer War brought him into wider national and international politics when he stood out as 'pro-Boer' and attacked the war. In December 1905, when Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman formed a Liberal administration, Lloyd George was appointed to the cabinet as president of the Board of Trade, a post which he retained until 1908, when he was appointed chancellor of the exchequer by the new prime minister, Herbert Henry Asquith. The resignation of Admiral Fisher in 1915

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forced Asquith to reconstruct the government on a coalition basis and admit the Conservatives. In the new administration, Lloyd George became minister of munitions. After the accidental death of Kitchener, Lloyd George was appointed to the position of secretary of state for war in June 1916, a post which he held only for five months. There was undoubtedly widespread uneasiness at Asquith's conduct of affairs, particularly in the Conservative Party. Asquith was manoeuvred into resigning on 5 December and was replaced two days later by Lloyd George. He was supported by the leading Conservatives, but the most prominent Liberal ministers resigned with Asquith. He resigned from the premiership in 1922.

This collection comprises the political papers of David Lloyd George. Note that for correspondence, the names of correspondents given for individual letters are often as written on the original letter: the full name of the correspondent will be found at sub-series level.

The papers are arranged in nine sub-fonds: LG/A contain papers up to 1905; LG/B are papers created when Lloyd George was president of the Board of Trade, 1905–08; LG/C when he was chancellor of the exchequer, 1908–15; LG/D when he was minister of munitions, 1915–16; LG/E when he was secretary of state for war, June–Dec 1916; LG/F when he was prime minister, 1916–22; LG/G consists of the papers created following his premiership, 1922–45; LG/H are press cuttings; and, LG/I contains personal correspondence and papers, including notes for speeches.

The papers have been indexed and calendared in full until the end of 1922, after which the catalogue rapidly falls into file listing and even box listing only. The documents have generally been arranged according to types of correspondence and papers. The types of correspondence are: semi-official, special (usually of ministers and prominent officials), foreign, general, and cabinet notes. The papers have been separated into semi-official and cabinet papers, domestic and foreign general papers and lastly speeches and

biographical notes. These headings have been modified to suit circumstances; A, F and G have no 'semi-official' sections, and 'secretariat' sections have been added to F and G.

### **Papers of Sir Patrick Joseph Henry Hannon MP (1874–1963)**

Sir Patrick Hannon had a varied career in industry, agriculture and politics. He served as Unionist MP for Moseley, Birmingham 1921–50.

Papers including political, business and personal correspondence, minute books of the British Commonwealth Union and minutes of the Carlton Club Political Committee, diaries and notes.

### **Press cutting books of David Marshall Mason MP (1865–1945)**

David Marshall Mason was elected MP (Liberal) for Coventry in the second general election of 1910, retaining the seat until 1918. He unsuccessfully contested the Chislehurst Division of Kent in 1918, the Romford Division of Essex in 1922 and 1923 and the Barnstaple Division of North Devon in 1929. He was elected MP for Edinburgh East in 1931 as a Liberal supporting the National Government, but he lost the seat in the 1935 general election and in 1939 he joined the Liberal National Party. Mason was an associate of the Institute of Bankers and also the founder and chairman of the executive committee of the Sound Currency Association.

The press cuttings, taken from national and local newspapers, are almost entirely concerned with Mason's political career and his views on currency reform and other political and economic matters. There is a separate volume for the 1923 general election which includes the election addresses of Mason and his opponents at Romford and two original letters.

### **The political papers of William Mather Rutherford Pringle MP**

William Mather Rutherford Pringle (1874–1928) was a Liberal politician and a supporter of Herbert Asquith.

The papers reflect all aspects of William Mather Rutherford Pringle's political career from 1900 onwards. They include papers and leaflets on elections, letters from notable politicians, such as Asquith, Lloyd George and Walter Runciman, and papers and press cuttings concerning Pringle's parliamentary activities. There are also some of Pringle's letters to his wife written when he was away on political business. There are a considerable number of papers concerning the internal affairs of the Liberal Party in the 1920s. The 'Miscellaneous Speeches and Articles' reflect some of Pringle's literary, as well as his political, interests.

### **Letters to Sir Miles Mattinson, MP**

Sir Miles Mattinson unsuccessfully contested elections in Carlisle (1880) and Dumfries (1885 and 1886) for the Conservatives, before becoming MP for Walton, Liverpool in 1888. In 1884 Randolph Churchill was leading an attack on the leadership of his own party, the Conservatives. This dispute became most heated during his time as chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations (15 Feb – 3 May and 8 May – 31 July 1884). However, a compromise was reached. He served as chancellor of the exchequer and leader of the House of Commons from July 1886 until 22 Dec 1886. On that day he resigned, due to his objections to the amounts spent on the army and navy.

Letters to Sir Miles Mattinson from 1884 to 1896. Correspondents include Lord Randolph Churchill (MAT/1/1–6) and Speaker William Court Gully – Liberal MP for Carlisle, 1886–1905, and speaker of the House of Commons from April 1895 to 1905 – (MAT/2/1–3). There are also letters regarding Mattinson's appointment as recorder of Blackburn and his candidature for an unspecified post in 1896.

### **Papers of Herbert Louis Samuel (1870–1963), 1st Viscount Samuel**

Herbert Louis Samuel was the son of Edwin Louis Samuel (died 28 March 1877), by Clara (died 1 November 1920), daughter of Ellis Samuel Yeats.

He was born on 6 November 1870, at Liverpool; educated at University College School, London, 1884–1888, and Oxford (Balliol College) 1889–1893; MA; Hon Fellow 1935; Hon DCL Oxford 1935; MP (Liberal) for Cleveland Division of Yorkshire 1902–18 and for Darwen Division of Lancashire 1929–35; parliamentary under-secretary of state for the Home Department 1905–9; privy councillor 21 November 1908; chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1909–10; postmaster general 1910–14; president of the Local Government Board 1914–15; again postmaster general and chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1915–16; home secretary 1916, and again 1931–32; chairman of the Select Committee on National Expenditure 1917–18; president of the Royal Statistical Society 1918–20; British special commissioner to Belgium 1919; high commissioner for Palestine 1920–25 and also commander-in-chief there 1922–25; chairman of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry 1925–26; chairman of the Liberal Party Organisation 1927–29; chairman of the Liberal Parliamentary Party 1931–35; Liberal leader in the House of Lords 1944–55; president of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, 1931–59. He was created, 8 June 1937, Viscount Samuel, of Mount Carmel, and of Toxteth, in the City of Liverpool.

The Samuel papers cover his life and career from his childhood until the year of his death. Lord Samuel took care so far as possible to preserve both the personal and political letters, and also the papers which he received, intact. In addition, he kept drafts and copies of his own letters and made a practice of writing notes concerning any important events in which he had participated at the time when they occurred. The principal gaps in the collection at the House of Lords Record Office (apart from the papers concerning Israel and Jewish matters, deposited in the Israel State Archives) are departmental papers (few of which Lord Samuel retained) and cabinet papers which, with a few exceptions (see SAM/A/30, SAM/A/41, SAM/A/48, SAM/A/55, SAM/A/81, SAM/A/87, SAM/A/89) he returned to the Cabinet Office.

### Papers of William Wedgwood Benn, 1st Viscount Stansgate

William Wedgwood Benn was MP (Liberal) for St George's Division of Tower Hamlets, 1906–1918, and for Leith, 1918–27. He was MP (Labour) for North Aberdeen, 1928–31, and for the Gorton Division of Manchester, 1937–42. He served as a junior lord of the Treasury, 1910–14; chairman of the National Relief Fund, 1914; privy councillor from 8 June 1929; secretary of state for India, June 1929–Aug 1931; vice-president of the Allied Control Commission for Italy, 1943–44; and, secretary of state for Air, 1945–57. On 12 Jan 1942 he was created Viscount Stansgate of Stansgate in the County of Essex.

The papers of William Wedgwood Benn, 1st Viscount Stansgate contain political papers (ST/1–284), personal papers (ST/285–292), printed material (ST/293), and, photographs (ST/294).

### Papers of Frances Stevenson (1888–1972)

Frances Louise Stevenson was secretary and mistress to Lloyd George. She became his second wife in 1943.

The papers of Frances Lloyd George (Frances Stevenson) include correspondence, diaries, her autobiography, photographs and other material relating to her life with David Lloyd George.

Frances Stevenson preserved all the letters she received from Lloyd George, and after a while she managed to retrieve hers to him as well (he would have thrown them away otherwise), so that a reasonably full picture of their private lives survives. Lloyd George often wrote to Frances on any scrap of paper which happened to be handy, frequently in haste, sometimes early in the morning, or when in bed; his notes are usually undated, except perhaps for the day of the week, and sometimes almost illegible (years later, Frances looked them over and dated some from memory and therefore not always accurately). Apart from the love letters, the letters contain all Lloyd George's private hopes and fears and opinions about political events as they occurred: about people; about party politics and

struggles within the Liberal Party. There is valuable political commentary from Frances too. Detailed information can also be found about Lloyd George's personal relationships, about his health, and later in the 1920s and '30s about the writing of his memoirs. For the period of the Second World War there are a very few (but interesting) letters on the conduct of the war. Naturally, there are long gaps in this correspondence, particularly after 1932 when Lloyd George and Frances were more often together. These gaps can often be filled by Frances's private diary. Frances Stevenson/6 contains the Stevenson–Lloyd George correspondence as gathered together and arranged by A. J. P Taylor for the publication *My Darling Pussy*.

Frances's diary, 1914–37 (FLS/4), fully complements the letters. Like all busy diarists with good intentions, Frances did not always maintain the diary. She made her entries at the end of the day, sometimes in large desk diaries, sometimes in notebooks, and sometimes on loose sheets of lined exercise paper. Much of the diary is recorded in Lloyd George's own words, and like the letters, is a valuable commentary on events as they happened. Together, the diary and the letters give the reader a very good insight into the complex character and personality of Lloyd George.

Through her position as an influential political secretary, Frances came into contact with many notable public figures and there are occasional letters from such as Lord Beaverbrook, Admiral Lord John B. Fisher, Francis Young. She accompanied Lloyd George to the Versailles conference of 1919 and Frances Stevenson/3 contains four shorthand notebooks from this era.

Frances kept quite a number of personal letters, mainly from friends; some love letters from admirers, including William Hugh Owen to whom she was engaged, 1915–18, and Stuart Brown, who also wanted to marry her. There are also correspondence and papers relating to the Lloyd George Memorial Appeal; correspondence and press cuttings of obituaries and articles about Lloyd George, some of them by Frances herself; and some

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notes for a novel which she never finished. There is also some correspondence with the Lloyd George family, including childhood letters from Megan.

Finally, there are typed drafts of Frances's published autobiography *The Years That Are Past* (London, 1967), and proofs of 'The Letters of David Lloyd George', selected by Frances, but never finally published.

### Papers of John St Loe Strachey (1860–1927)

This collection contains the political and literary correspondence of John St. Loe Strachey (1860–1927), journalist, editor and proprietor of *The Spectator*. The Strachey papers give an insight into the political and social atmosphere, particularly within the Unionist Party, from the turn of the twentieth century until the General Strike of 1926.

### Papers of Henry Graham White MP

Henry Graham White was MP for East Birkenhead, 1922–24 and 1929–45. He was assistant postmaster general, 1931–32 and president of the Liberal Party, 1954–55.

The papers, 1918–63, of Henry Graham White comprise political papers and correspondence including constituency and election material, papers concerning Liberal Party organisation, draft bills, committee reports and memoranda on topics such as unemployment benefit and old age pensions. There are papers on White's interests outside parliament, including the British Council and the Eleanor Rathbone Trust. There are also papers regarding White's campaign on behalf of German internees during the Second World War.

### Records of the House of Lords: Journal Office: Peers' elections

The House of Lords Act, 1999, removed the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. An amendment to the House of Lords Bill, tabled by Lord

Weatherill and accepted by the government, enabled ninety-two hereditary peers (out of a total of some 750) to remain until the House was fully reformed. The ninety-two were made up as follows: forty-two Conservatives; twenty-eight crossbenchers; two Labour; three Liberal Democrats; fifteen office holders and two royal office holders – the Earl Marshal (the Duke of Norfolk) and the Lord Great Chamberlain (the Marquess of Cholmondeley) each with a central part in the state opening of parliament. Peers who wished to stand for election registered with the clerk of the parliaments. The fifteen office holders were elected by the whole house. For the hereditary peers standing as party representatives, the electorate consisted of their fellow hereditary peers from the same party. Between November 1999 and November 2002 vacancies through death were filled by runners up on the list of those elected. Provision was made under House of Lords Standing Orders for by-elections to be held when a hereditary peer died after the end of the first session of the new parliament (i.e. 7 November 2002).

HL/PO/JO/27/1 contains records of the House of Lords: Journal Office: Peers' elections.

HL/PO/JO/27/2 contains records of the House of Lords: Journal Office: Peers' by-elections.

### Lithograph: *Hopeless Outcasts*

A political cartoon depicting seven men standing outside in the snow next to a gate labelled 'Liberal Union'. All are wearing ragged clothes, and some do not have shoes. William Gladstone begs from another man (Lord Hartington, leader of the Liberal Unionist Party?) in front of the gate.

### Lithograph: *The Fall of the Rebels*

A political cartoon depicting Queen Victoria and various Conservative politicians as angels with feathered wings. Below them are William Gladstone and other members of the Liberal Party, also with wings. Queen Victoria holds strings which are attached to

Gladstone. Gladstone clutches a piece of paper labelled 'Home Rule'. Two winged heads, one of which is Randolph Churchill, blow onto Gladstone. The air is labelled 'Manifesto' and 'Speech'.

### Lithograph: *The Home Rule Leap*

A political cartoon depicting two men on horseback falling off a cliff. One of the men is William Gladstone. He is riding a white horse labelled 'Liberal Party'. The other man rides a horse with glowing eyes labelled 'Dynamite'. He appears to be strangling Gladstone.

### Lithograph: *A Moonlight Flitting*

A political cartoon depicting the result of the general election which concluded on 31 July 1886 and resulted in William Gladstone's Liberal Party losing power. The cartoon shows Gladstone moving out of 10 Downing Street with his possessions. He is holding a box of rolled up papers which include the 'Home Rule Bill'. He is accompanied by other politicians including Charles Parnell. Two men stand outside the moving van, trying to figure out how to move a trunk labelled 'Unfulfilled Promises'.

### Contact details

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The Parliamentary Archives are usually open to the public **by appointment only**:

Monday–Friday: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday–Sunday: Closed

Bank holidays: Closed

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