

**Chartism in Monmouthshire:
A guide to the Chartist Sources
at Gwent Archives**



Contents

Introduction	2
Chartist Sources at Gwent Archives	3
List of Sources/Documents	3
Local Authority Records	3
Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions Records	4
Monmouthshire Boards of Guardians Records	6
Religious Records	8
Privately Deposited Records	10
Unpublished Dissertations	12
Newspaper Collection	13
Published Works	14
Articles in periodicals	14
Selected publications	18
Records held elsewhere	22
Online Sources	22
Glossary	23
Contact us	24

Introduction

Chartism was a working-class movement for political reform in the United Kingdom and was most active between the years 1838-1858. It took its name from the People's Charter published in 1838 and became one of the biggest political mass movements in British History. The People's Charter was created to make the political system in 19th century Britain fairer and more democratic. It called for:

- A Vote for every man aged 21 and over
- A Secret Ballot
- No Property Qualifications for Members of Parliament
- Payment of Members of Parliament
- Equal Constituencies
- Annual Parliamentary Elections

Chartism was very popular amongst the working-class in Wales and flourished in the valleys of Monmouthshire, one of the most highly industrialised areas of Britain in the 19th century. In 1838 John Frost, a middle-class draper and ex-Mayor of Newport, announced his support for the People's Charter and soon after became the leader of the Monmouthshire Chartists and speaker for the Chartist cause. Other important figures included Zephaniah Williams, Dr William Price, William Jones, John Rees (alias 'Jack the Fifer'), Feargus O' Conner and William Lovett, all of whom were involved to varying degrees in the Monmouthshire Chartist Movement.

The 'Newport Uprising' is generally recognised to be the most significant armed rebellion in 19th century Britain. On 4 November 1839, thousands of local Chartists marched into Newport to protest about the rights of ordinary working people and to free comrades held at the Westgate Hotel. The mayor and troops were waiting for them and when they arrived, shots were fired and chaos broke out. At least 50 people were seriously wounded and approximately 22 killed. The exact number is unknown because many were buried in unmarked graves.

The leaders were rounded up and arrested and put on trial in Monmouth. John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones were sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered, but such was the public outcry that the sentence was commuted to transportation to Tasmania. All three men were pardoned in 1856.

John Frost eventually returned to Britain receiving a hero's welcome. He retired to Bristol where he lived until his death in 1877 at 93 years old. Zephaniah Williams remained in Tasmania where he founded a profitable coal business and died a prosperous man in 1874. William Jones also remained in Australia, working as a watch repairer. He died in poverty in 1873.

Apart from Annual Parliaments, most of the Chartists' demands have now been realised. Chartism was the world's first independent working-class movement and the first great show of popular protest in Britain. It was a social and political catalyst for change and is generally recognised as one of the foundations of modern democracy, not just in Britain but in many other countries around the world.

Chartist Sources at Gwent Archives

The Gwent Archives collections contain material of relevance to Chartist studies to be found among records of the

- Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions
- Monmouthshire Boards of Guardians
- Newport Borough Council minute books
- Ecclesiastical records, and
- Various privately deposited papers.

Detailed catalogues for the collections and a range of printed material relating to Chartism are available onsite at Gwent Archives. The aim of this guide is to highlight these documents and sources for use in the study of Chartism and of the Chartists themselves. Reference numbers are provided for all items lists, and these should be used when requesting to view documents or ordering copies. Please contact us at enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk with any questions about access to these sources.

List of Sources/Documents

Local Authority Records

Local authority records contain information relating to the governance of the area and the communities that live there.

These collections may include records such as:

- The Minutes of council meetings
- Financial accounts and papers
- Correspondence
- Papers of the various committees
- Maps and architectural plans

The Official Record Books of Newport Corporation contain a formal record of John Frost's activity in municipal political life. Frost was elected a councillor on 21 December 1835 and he was mayor 1836-1837

The local authority collections at Gwent Archives include the following references to Chartism:

- **Commission appointing John Frost as Justice of the Peace, 17 February 1836 (D43/6263) and manuscript transcription of the same (D43/6264)**

- Newport Borough Council Minute Books, 1836-1843 (A1100/M/2) and 1826- 1850 provide detail of John Frost's involvement in Newport municipal politics during the period (A1101/M/1)
- Trevethin Lighting and Watching Act Inspector's Minutes, 1836-1850 (reference the comments of the Police Superintendent John Roberts that he expects the release from prison in March 1841 of the Chartist William Shellard will produce a large 'concourse... of the lower orders' (A4332/M/7)



Monmouthshire Court of Quarter Sessions Records

The courts of quarter sessions were local courts that were traditionally held at four set times each year in England from the year 1388. They were extended to Wales following the Laws in Wales or Acts of Union in 1535.

The court of quarter sessions heard a broad range of cases including burglary, assault, drunkenness, poaching, vagrancy, rioting, unlawful cutting of timber, and encroachment. Forms of punishment handed down by the justices were fines, flogging, imprisonment and transportation. The court also heard disputes between individuals, such as non-payment of debts, and was responsible for the administration of the Poor Laws. There were numerous administrative matters overseen by the courts, including licensing alehouses, determining wage-levels, and controlling registration of charities and nonconformist meeting houses. In addition, the court had responsibility for

overseeing the upkeep of bridges, gaols and houses of correction.

The quarter sessions collections at Gwent Archives contain the following references to Chartism:

- **Calendars of Prisoners** list the Chartist prisoners for trial at the Special Commission Assizes held at Monmouth, 10 December 1839 - 8 January 1840 (Q/CALOFP/2)
- **Calendar of the Prisoners** 27 June 1842, showing prisoners' name, William Parker, date committed and short description of theft. Linked to William Shellard's deposition of theft (Q/D/25/8). (Q/CALOFP/4)
- **Clerk of the Peace Correspondence** contains a letter of petition addressed to the Monmouth magistrates written by the Chartist leaders Henry Vincent, William Edwards and John Dickenson while imprisoned in Monmouth Gaol for seditious speech and assembly, 12 October 1839 (Q/COFPC/4/15)
- **Coroner's Accounts** showing the Coroner's fee for the Inquest taken on Chartists killed at the Westgate Hotel 'John [recte George] Shell', and 'nine unknown men ... Shot in the act of Rebellion', 6 November 1839 (Q/TV/36 No. 3)
- **Declaration** of Zephaniah Williams to act as a surety to the Bedwellty Union Friendly Society, 17 January 1831 (Q/FSB/6/42)
- **Depositions** of Richard Rorke, senior, 27 January 1840 (Q/D32/15&16) and Wright Beatty 8 September 1840 (Q/D/34/28) for the charge of riot and conspiracy
- **Depositions** of William Shellard, shoemaker, regarding thefts of his property 1838, 1842 (Q/D/25/8)
- **Indictment (Q/ I&P/259/20) and deposition(Q/D/31/41)** presented against Samuel Victory for inducing soldiers to desert from the army in support of Chartism, 10 October 1839
- **Indictment** regarding Zephaniah Williams for assault, 1832 (Q/I&P/225/2 p.88)
- **Indictments and the Judgement of the Court (Q/I&P/260/14 &15 and Q/MB/11/ pp.162,163,197)** for the charge of riot and conspiracy made against the Rorkes (junior and senior) and Wright Beatty. See also Calendar of Prisoners (Q/CALOFP/4) 19 October 1840
- **Legal proceedings** linked to an indictment on Zephania Williams for assault (Q/MB/10 p.119)
- **Legal proceedings and poor law assessments** involving John Frost, 1832 (Q/MB/10 p.128)

- **Magistrates' Observations Book(Q/MG/2 & 17) and Prison Chaplain's Journal and Medical Officer's Reports to Quarter Sessions (Q/PANDR/17/4 & 6)** contain brief notes of visits to prisoners, medical condition of Chartist prisoners and a report on Chartists' religious adherence being predominantly Nonconformist
- **Trading accounts of Zephaniah Williams in the account books of Coslett and Davies insolvents, 9 March 1931 (Q/IDP/52/2 p.6-7)**
- **Trading accounts of Zephaniah Williams in the account books of Coslett, 1926 (Q/IDP/43/ folio17)**
- **Treasurer's Accounts (Q/MISCPTACC/3/1-33), Treasurer's Vouchers (Q/TV/36) and Minute Books (Q/MB/11 p.165)** for the financial accounts of the cost to the county of Monmouth of 'the Newport Riots', including accounts for the Special Constables enrolled at Newport. The account numbered 3/10 is dated prior to the rising concerning an order made by Capel Hanbury Leigh, the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Monmouth, for 1,000 constables' staves for the Pontypool Division

Monmouthshire Boards of Guardians Records

Boards of Guardians were set up to deal with the day-to-day management of the Poor Law Unions and the workhouses that stood in them. Members of the Board were partly ex-officio and partly elected by ratepayers. It was only in 1894 that the property qualification to become a member of the Board was abolished. The main duties of the Board of Guardians were

- the overseeing of all relief to the poor (outdoor relief was phased out over the first two years)
- assessing applications for relief
- the setting up of, and the maintaining of, a workhouse
- communicating with the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of each parish in their area, who were responsible for collecting the rate money (the rates were originally estimated according to the demands on each parish, but in 1865 a Union rate was introduced)

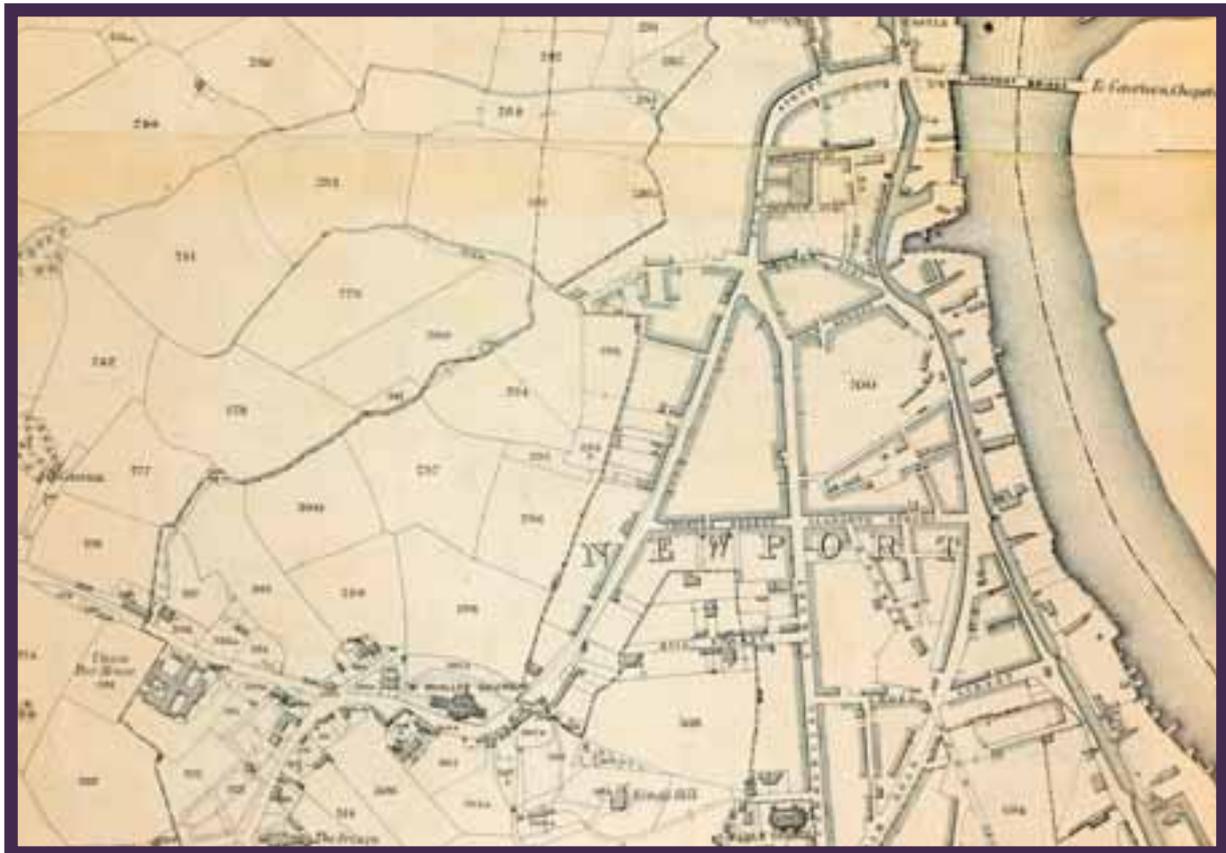
The Board of Guardians met weekly and would set up various committees to deal with specific matters. The Board of Guardians appointed permanent officers, principally the relieving officer and the workhouse master, but there would also be a medical officer, a clerk to the Guardians, a treasurer; a chaplain; and various other officers as deemed necessary.

The Board of Guardians collections at Gwent Archives contain the following references to Chartism:

- **Newport Union Workhouse Admission and Discharge Register, 1839-1840**

contains details of Chartists admitted to the Workhouse Infirmary with gunshot injuries (CSWBGN/I/201)

- **Newport Board of Guardians Letter Book, 1836-1844** contains reference to the magistrates' order for the possession of John Partridge's printing press, an application for poor relief by John Partridge's wife, and other relief applications in consequence of the rising. Burial arrangements -order for coffins- made in respect of Chartists killed (CSWBGN/M5/48 p. 103-104)
- **Newport Board of Guardians Minute Book, 1836-1841** John Frost was elected to the Guardians' committee at its commencement in August 1836. Frost campaigned for its proceedings to be opened to the public (CSWBGN/M1/1)
- **Pontypool Board of Guardians Minute Book, 1839-1845** regarding the billeting of troops in the Pontypool Union Workhouse (CSWBGP/M1/2)
- **Abergavenny Board of Guardians Minute Book, 1836-1841** records adjudications of the guardians in respect of relief requested by the families of Chartists after the Newport Rising (CSWBGA/M1/1 p.313, 315)



Religious Records

The records of the Church in Wales include Parish Registers which contain information about baptisms, marriages and burials in the local parish. For hundreds of years, parishes were crucial to local government in Britain. Each church managed and recorded the people in its area.

Most churches kept registers of all the baptisms, marriages, and burials in their parishes. From Henry VIII's reign in the 16th century until civil registration began in 1837, these registers were the most comprehensive records of births, marriages, and deaths in the country. Other religious organisations were not required to record baptisms, marriages and burials in the same way but many did.

These registers from churches and chapels are a potentially useful source of information on individual Chartists. Below are entries that we are aware of, and it would be worth searching other registers for information:

- **Argoed Baptist Chapel, Register of Births, 1797-1838**, contains details of the births of the children of Joan and Zephaniah Williams; and other family of Zephania Williams (D6568/1)
- **Bedwelty Parish Church Burial Register** records the burial of Jane Ferriday on 22 December 1840, with a note that 'the father was killed at Newport in the Chartist riots' (DPA14/21)
- **Bedwelty Parish Church Overseers' Assessment and Account Book** contains rating assessments for properties of Zephaniah Williams, 1826-1833 (D796 (iii))
- **Bettws Parish Church Marriage Register** Entry number 42 records the marriage of John Frost and Mary Geach on 24 October 1812 (DPA51/14)
- **English Baptist Church, Trosnant, Pontypool** this minute book records the exclusion from chapel membership of William Wise, of Pontypool, on the 12 November 1839, 'for being too much implicated in the measures of the Chartist rioters' (D3598/1/1)
- **Hope Independent Chapel, Newport, Birth and Baptism Register** records the births of John, Elizabeth, Sarah, Catherine, Ellen, Henry Hunt, James and Anne the children of John and Mary Frost, 1813-1826. An entry was also made in 1836 for the birth in December 1827 of Edward, son of Mary Jones, identified as 'not born in Wedlock affiliated to Frost' (microfilm RG4)
- **Newport St Woolos Parish Church Burial Register** the entry dated 7 November 1839 by J. Taylor, curate, is for the burial of 'Ten Men names unknown, shot by a party of the 45th Reg[imen]t of Foot in a Chartist Insurrection before the Westgate Inn (DPA100/36)

- Tabernacle Congregational Church, Newport, Register of Baptisms records the baptism of children of some Newport Chartist households, namely Henry Vincent Williams (12 March 1840) and Catharine Frost Hill (16 September 1840). The baptism of John Frost's grandchildren, the children of Harry and Sarah Fry, are also recorded in 1842 (D781/2)

Dreadful Riot

AND

LOSS OF LIFE AT NEWPORT!

SUNDAY last (Nov. 12th) the Mayor of Newport, Thomas Phillips, Jun. Esq., had information given him that the Chartists in great numbers were come to Newport that night. The special constables were ordered to meet at the Westgate, King's Head, and Parrot Inn, between 9 and 10 o'clock. The soldiers, about 60 or 70, a company of the 43th, were stationed at the new workhouse, and under arms during the night. The constables were on the watch all night, and up to six o'clock in the morning ten or a dozen men were taken before the magistrates; pistols, cutlasses, pikes, and other instruments, with powder and balls, were found on them. Upon their examination some little information was drawn from them as to the proceedings and intentions of the Chartists. About six o'clock in the morning the constables met a post chaise from Newport, and further information was gained from the driver, as he had been stopped by the Chartists all night; he was then just liberated from them, and said they had taken a road so as not to pass the workhouse and the soldiers. When this information was gained, twenty or thirty of the soldiers were sent to the Westgate Inn, where the magistrates were sitting. About nine o'clock the Chartists came down Stone Hill six or seven deep, with their pikes and different shaped iron fixed on sticks from six to eight feet long; these were shouldered, as soldiers do fire arms. At the right and left of these men were those that carried fire arms; when they arrived before the Westgate Inn, a signal was given to fire, which was immediately obeyed, taking the whole front of the inn, at one fire. At the same moment the pikemen made a rush at the entrance door; it was attempted to be shut, but in vain. A great many special constables were in the house, who very quickly made their exit at the back part. The soldiers, who were stationed in a large room, now began to play their part, and in about twenty minutes the work of destruction was finished, the soldiers had done their duty, and the Chartists were running in all directions, leaving several hundreds of their weapons, and nine dead men behind them. Many were wounded severely and have since died, making as far as can be ascertained,

Twenty Killed, and Fifty Wounded!

The scene, after the affray at the Westgate, was horrible to look at. The Mayor, Mr. Edward Morgan, draper, (brother of Mr. Paul Morgan, Grocer, Monmouth) Mr. H. Williams, Innkeeper, a sergeant of the 43th, and one soldier were wounded, but they are all at present in a fair way of recovery. One hundred pounds reward was offered by the magistrates for the apprehension of John Frost, who stood charged with high treason. About ten o'clock at night John Frost, John Partridge, and C. Waters were arrested at Partridge's house, situated at the top of Pentouville, in Newport. They were taken by Mr. T. J. Phillips, and Stephen Rogers, a grocer. On a search being made, nine pistols, with a good supply of powder and balls, were found upon them. A man named Lovell, a goldsmith, was arrested in bed, and brought to the Westgate Inn. Lovell had received a shot in the thigh; he and Waters have been very active Chartists.

The whole of the front of the Westgate was smashed in, the windows being boarded half way up; above the wood work appeared the grim forms of the military with their loaded carbines commanding the street to the right and left. The stair-cases and the lower rooms are perforated in many places by bullets, and in the stables were the bloody corpses of the unhappy rioters.

Shortly after ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, Frost and Waters, in separate carriages, attended by constables in each, and surrounded by a body of Lancers, came up Monnow-street, and proceeded to the jail. They were fully committed on a charge of HIGH TREASON! Frost appeared pale and haggard. He had with him a carpet bag, which was searched by the direction of the magistrates. He asked for a volume of Barr's Justice, and also for pen, ink, and paper, and was told that his request would be taken into consideration by the magistrates. The other prisoner is a young man, tall and athletic, he is a ship carpenter by trade, and seemed to be rather unconcerned at the whole business. There was at the time a large guard of pensioners and staff at the jail.

Up to this time (Tuesday, Nov. 12th) eight prisoners in all have arrived. Between thirty and forty prisoners yet remain to be examined at Newport, so that the arrival of others may be hourly looked for. Frost's wife and daughter have been permitted to see him, but the interview took place in the presence of the governor of the jail. The bodies of ten of the rioters were buried on Thursday evening in St. Woulas' churchyard.

Eight companies of foot are expected in the county, also a troop of horse, two field pieces, and gunners to the town,

HEATH, PRINTER, MONMOUTH.

Privately Deposited Records

These include family, individual, business, manorial and estate records and can range from a single letter to a vast landed estate archive containing thousands of items and spanning a 300-year period. The term 'manorial records' covers a wide range of documents, from the formal records of manor courts to correspondence, maps and plans and financial records. As archives which record day-to-day transactions in local communities, they bring us close to people in the past and have considerable potential for family and local history. Estate papers often include series like factors' reports and accounts, rent rolls and tacks [leases], details of household expenditures, mineral exploitation.

The Privately Deposited collections at Gwent Archives contain the following references to Chartism and those involved in chartist activities:

- **Biographical Notes** by contributors to a 'Chartist Ancestors' event held at Newport in 2007, on the Monmouthshire Chartists William Ferriday (by Rhys Jenkins); John Lovell (by Rita Catton and Valerie Gordon); Wright Beatty (by Sylvia Taylor) and James Horner (by Patricia Horner) (Library/1428)
- **Blaenavon Company Minute Book**, giving the statement that the Chartist agitation took place 'with the highest wages ever known upon the hills' (D751/356)
- **Chartists in Newport** prints and Broadsheets from the Chartist period and information booklet published by Newport Museum, 1995 (D5897/16)
- **Chartist Riots Stage Play Poster**, 1934 (D6334)
- **Commemorative publications** for the 150th anniversary of the Chartist Rising, (D3784/146) includes programme for a 'people's opera', The forbidden hymn – the story of Chartism, South Wales Argus, 'The Chartists' and a diary of commemorative events February to November 1989
- **Convict record and death registration** for William Lloyd Jones held at the Archives Office of Tasmania 1840-1873 (MISCMSS/2004) (photocopies)
- **Documents and papers** relating to Zephania Williams' capture aboard the 'Vintage' 21 November 1839 and his subsequent life in Van Dieman's Land as well as the escape of John Rees 'Jack the Fifer' to America (MISCMSS/2076/1-3) (photocopies)
- **Leaflet** for a Chartist commemorative dinner, c.1972, on the reverse is a reproduction of the print of the J F Mullock drawing/illustration of the Attack of the Chartists on the Westgate Inn (c.1840) (D2843/99)
- **Letters of W.W. Phillips** (of the Pontypool Park Estate Office) and J. Maughan, solicitor, concerning the Chartist march on Newport; and re

charge of fraud against William Foster Geach, stepson of John Frost (D124/202)

- **Letters of Edmund Jones of Bulmore, Caerleon, to Thomas Bevan Jones** describing his experience as juryman-in-waiting at the Chartist trials at Monmouth and visit to Newport in the aftermath of the Chartist Rising 1839-1840, (D4683/1/2-5)
- **Letter from Philip David** aged 7, to his cousin Llewelin Thomas of Pontypool, with reference to the Chartist Rising, dated 23 January 1840 (D5702/1)
- **Letter of Zephania Williams** to Dr A McKechnie outlining the Chartist plan to establish a republic, 1840 (MISCMSS/2028) (copy)
- **Letters of Arthur Wellesley**, first Duke of Wellington, with reference to appointing Sergeant Armstrong, a soldier present at the Westgate Hotel, to a Tower of London Office, 1839, (MISCMSS/2076/3)
- **Lithograph prints of the Chartist leaders** John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones on trial at Monmouth (published by, Woodall, Abergavenny, c.1840) (D361/FP4/123)
- **Letter of Chartist Charles Waters** written from Monmouth Gaol, 1840 (MISCMSS/234) (photocopy)
- **Memorial on behalf of John Frost**, prays that the pardon granted to John Frost 'may be extended and that he may be allowed to end his life in the bosom of his family' 1853-1854 (D43/359)
- **Memorial or petition** of the inhabitants of Abersychan to the 'Lords and Ladies of the Manor' against the closure of the British Ironworks, 1843. Lists 424 signatories include William Shellard, and [?]Bar[nabus] Brough (D454/927)
- **Newport Museum and Art Gallery Chartist Education Pack** (D6153)
- **Newspaper cuttings** and correspondence from centenary year, 1938-1939 (D396/424)
- **Newspaper cuttings** from the Advocate (November 1968, April 1988), and the Examiner (April 1988) with reference to Zephaniah Williams's coalmining activities in Tasmania and a monument to Zephaniah Williams at Latrobe. Includes a note on 'Chartists in Tasmania' by Asa Briggs (MISCMSS/2133) (photocopies)
- **Newspaper Reports of the Chartist Trials**, from the Monmouthshire Merlin, Merthyr Guardian, and Cambrian (D124/881-895)

- **Notes on Chartism** by R. T. Jones of Blackwood, c.1960 (D4415/1)
- **Papers regarding The Coach and Horses Blackwood and the Chartist link, 1956** (D3132/25)
- **Postcard** by J. F. Mullock depicting 'The attack of the Chartists on the Westgate Hotel', first published, c.1840 (D2865/13)
- **Rolls (Lord Llangattock) family collection** of broadside handbills printed by Heath's of Monmouth captioned, 'Dreadful Riot and Loss of Life at Newport' and 'Trial of the Chartist Chief Zephaniah Williams'; lithographs of the Chartist leaders Frost, Williams and Jones published by Woodall, Abergavenny, c.1840 (D361/FP4/123)
- **Service records** (a typescript compiled retrospectively by the Regimental Museum) indicating that sergeants Daily and Armstrong were injured at the Westgate Hotel (MISCMSS/213) (photocopy)
- **Unlocking the Chartist Trials** (film produced by the Cynefin Project), DVD (D6154)

Below is a list of documents relating to those involved in Chartist activity, relating to their personal or business activities rather than their Chartist roles:

- **Counterpart lease** of coal mines under Bovil Farm, Machen, including Zephania Williams, Coal Merchant, of Montythusloyne 25 December 1828 (D43/1491)
- **Injunction** from the High Court of Chancery to Zephania Williams and others to restrain from coal raising on named copyhold farms, 25 February 1826 (D43/1491)
- **Letters of Administration** of the estate of Thomas Williams in possession of Zephaniah Williams, lawful son and next of kin, 1 July 1825 (MISCMSS/2078)
- **The Nantyglo Estate collection** records an agreement for sale of the Royal Oak public house in Coalbrookvale, including the occupation of Zephaniah Williams in 1839 (D393/399)

Unpublished Dissertations

- Osmond, David, 'After the Rising: Chartism in Newport, 1840- 1848' (University of Wales, Cardiff M.A., 1995) (Library/4)
- Thomas, Lois (?), 'A study of the Chartist Zephaniah Williams and of Chartism in Monmouthshire', (Eastbourne Training College, (?) c.1950's (D6396)

- Howells, Patrick Mathias, 'Why did the only major outbreak of physical force Chartism in Britain occur in south-east Wales in 1839?' 1996. (MISCMSS/1951)

Newspaper Collection

Gwent Archives holds copies of:

- the Silurian and South Wales General Advertiser, 1838-1843, a Breconshire paper with extensive coverage of Chartism and to which the Newport Chartist Samuel Etheridge also contributed reports (BL/S),
- Several issues of the Monmouthshire Merlin, Merthyr Guardian and Cambrian covering from (August) 1839 - (March) 1840 (D124)
- A photocopy of the Chartist newspaper the Western Vindicator for 7 December 1839 (MISCMSS/610)
- the Pontypool Free Press, on microfilm. These include articles and commentary on Chartism, including obituaries of Chartists. Please see the index to the Free Press, available in Gwent Archives research room



Published Works

The articles/publications below are all available in our small reference library, and can be viewed onsite at Gwent Archives

Articles in periodicals

Author	Title	Journal Title
Anon. [J.H. Clark?]	Biography of Sir Thomas Phillips	The Usk Gleaner and Monmouthshire Record: A Local Register of Events and Magazine of Information (1878), Part 2
Anon. [J.H. Clark?]	John Frost's pardon	The Usk Gleaner and Monmouthshire Record: A Local Register of Events and Magazine of Information (1878), Part 6
Anon. [J.H. Clark?]	The Monmouthshire riots of 1839	The Usk Gleaner and Monmouthshire Record: A Local Register of Events and Magazine of Information (1878), Part 7
Bidder, Marie-Elaine	'The Scotch Cattle in Monmouthshire, c. 1820-1825'	Gwent Local History: The Journal of Gwent Local History Council, No. 63 (1987), pp.3-16
Chase, Malcolm	'Rethinking Welsh Chartism'	Llafur: Journal of Welsh People's History, Vol. 10, No. 3 (2010)
Chase, Malcolm	'A new account of George Shell and the Newport Rising'	Gwent Local History, No. 119 (2016), pp,19-26

Author	Title	Journal Title
Clark, Arthur	'Monmouthshire Chartists'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 39 (1975), pp.10-25
Evans, Arthur W	'Sir Thomas Phillips, of Llanelen, Monmouthshire' (1801-1867)	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 15 (1963), pp.39-47
Evans, John	'William Shellard c.1797-1874: An old Chartist fades away'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.103-116
Gibson, Colin	'George Shell's letter revisited: some perspectives on its use at the Monmouthshire Chartist trials'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.33-49
Haywood, John	'W.H. Greene's Chartist Rising'	Gwent Family History Society Journal, No's 42-44 (1996)
Haywood, John	'His great-great grandfather was a Chartist'	Gwent Family History Society Journal, No. 48 (1997), pp.11-14
Holt, Gillian	'The Westgate Hotel, Newport'	Gwent Local History No. 67 (1989), pp.34-40
Hopkins, Tony	'Policing the Rising: the career of John Roberts police superintendent of Pontypool 1830-1860'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.67-88
Howells, Patrick & Mathias Rhys	'Why did the only major outbreak of "physical force" Chartism occur in south-east Wales in 1839?'	Gwent Local History, No. 83 (1997), pp.17-33
Hutchings, Christabel	'A child comments on the Newport Rising of 1839'	Gwent Local History, No. 114 (2013)
Hutchings, Christabel	'A juror's tale: the travails of Edmund Jones at the Monmouth Chartist Trials'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.50-66

Author	Title	Journal Title
James, Les	'The 'Confession' of Zephaniah Williams and the 1839 Rising'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.3-32
Jones, Keith B	'The religious climate of the Chartist insurrection at Newport, Monmouthshire, 4 November 1839: expressions of evangelicalism'	The Journal of Welsh Religious History, Vol. 5 (1997), pp.57-71
Jones, Oliver	'Zephaniah Williams the man and his mind'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 28 (1969), pp.28-32
Lovering, G.W.J	'Nonconformity in the town of Newport'	Gwent Local History, No. 88 (2000), pp. 39-53
Nichols, Reginald W	'Chartists hidden fire, Barnabus and Frances Brough of Pontypool and the Chartists'	Gwent Local History, No. 55 (1983), pp.30-40
Osmond, David	'After the Rising: Chartism in Newport, 1840-1848'	Gwent Local History, No. 98 (2005), pp.8-52
Osmond, David	'Newport and the Chartist Land Plan'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.95-102
Parsons, Frederick	'The Monmouthshire treason trials'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 11 (1961), pp.29-32
Pitt-Lewis, C.J	'John Frost's birthday'	Gwent Local History, No. 58 (1985)
Richards, Sarah	'Finding Chartism in the family: William Davies of Blackwood'	Gwent Local History, No. 116 (2014), pp.89-94
Rogers, Gareth	'Henry Vincent: the young Demosthenes'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 30 (1970), pp.25-28

Author	Title	Journal Title
Rogers, Gareth	'Henry Vincent: the idol removed'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 31 (1971), pp.34-38
Sanger, Lord George	'How the Chartists spoiled Newport Fair'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 27 (1969), pp.42-44
Smith, T.G	'A customs history of the port of Newport'	Gwent Local History, No. 46 (1979), pp.7-38
Strong, Peter	'Demosthenes returns: Henry Vincent in Monmouthshire in 1849'	Gwent Local History, No. 121 (2017), pp.46-55
Tucker, Clifford	'The prisoner in Monmouth gaol: a study of Henry Vincent'	Presenting Monmouthshire, No. 20 (1965), pp.17-27
Warner, John F.L.A	'The Marshes estate and other properties of the Newport burgesses'	The Monmouthshire Review, Vol. 1, No. 2 (April 1933), pp.122-136
Wilks, Ivor G. Hughes	'Insurrections in Texas and Wales: the careers of John Rees'	The Welsh History Review, Vol. 11, No. 1 (June 1982), pp.67-91
Williams, Chris	'History, heritage and commemoration: Newport 1839-1989'	Llafur: Journal of Welsh Labour History, Vol. 6, No. 1 (1992), pp.5-16.
Williams, Chris	'The great hero of the Newport rising: Thomas Phillips, Reform and Chartism'	The Welsh History Review, Vol. 21, No. 3 (June 2003), pp.481-511
Williams, W.R. (editor)	Containing reports of the Chartist disturbances occurring at Llanidloes and Newtown (Montgomeryshire) in May 1839 and the Monmouthshire uprising of November 1839	Old Wales: A Monthly Magazine of Antiquities for Wales and the Borders, Vol. 1 (1905), pp.177-178, 243, 314-315

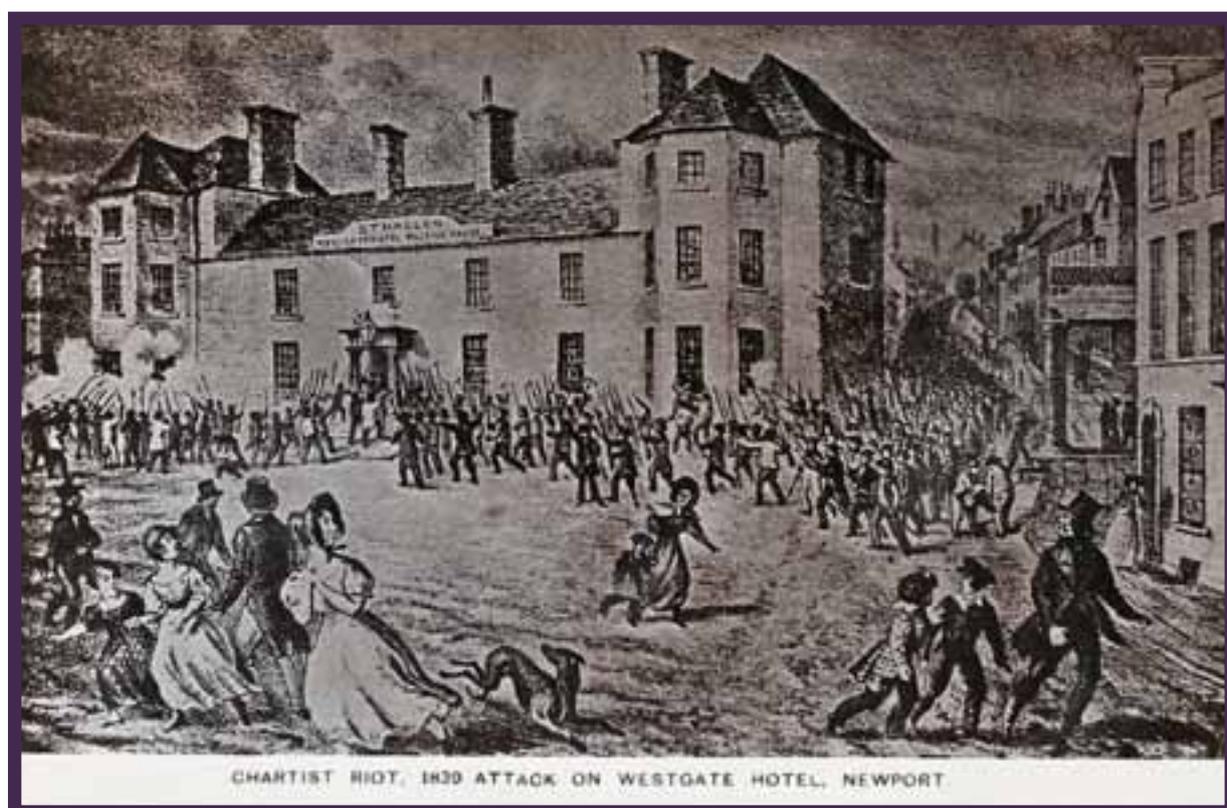
Selected publications

Author	Title	Reference or location
Arnot, R. Page	The Miners. A History of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, 1889-1910 (London, 1949)	Library/3
Bale, Islwyn	Through Seven Reigns: A History of the Newport Police Force, 1836-1959 (Pontypool, 1959)	Library/8
Bradney, Sir Joseph Alfred	A History of Monmouthshire from the Coming of the Normans Into Wales Down to the Present Time: Volume 5, the Hundred of Newport (South Wales Record Society and National Library of Wales, 1993)	Library/11
Clark, Arthur C	The Story of Monmouthshire, volume 2, From the Civil War to Present Time (Monmouth, 1979), pp. 94-130	Library/12
Davies, James	The Chartist Movement in Monmouthshire (Newport, 1939)	
Edwards, Arthur J	Thomas Thomas of Pontypool: radical puritan (Caerleon, 2009)	Library/4
Elliot, John	The Industrial Development of the Ebbw Valleys, 1780-1914 (Cardiff, UWP, 2004)	Library/19
Elsas, Madeleine, ed	Iron in the Making: Dowlais Iron Company Letters, 1782-1860 (Glamorgan County Records Committee/Guest Keen Steel Co., 1960)	Library/3
Francis, Hywel and Smith, David	The Fed: A History of the South Wales Miners in the Twentieth Century	Library/3
Gray-Jones, Arthur	The History of Ebbw Vale (Risca, 1970)	Library/15

Author	Title	Reference or location
Gurney, Joseph and Thomas	The Trial of John Frost for High Treason'	MISCMSS/1385
Hanbury Tenison, Richard	The Hanburys of Monmouthshire (National Library of Wales, 1995)	Library/13
Harrison, David J	Monmouth and the Chartists (Monmouth, 2009)	Acc 4878
Howell, Raymond	A History of Gwent (Llandysul, 1988)	Library/9, Library/10
Humphries, John	The Man from the Alamo: Why the Welsh Chartist Uprising of 1839 Ended in a Massacre (St. Athan, 2004)	Library/4
James, David	'History of Nantyglo and Blaina' Gwent County Library. 1978. (Typescript copy)	Library/16
James, Les	Render the Chartists Defenceless: John Frost's Voyage with Dr McKechnie to Van Diemen's Land in 1840 (Newport, 2015)	Library/A
Jones, Brynmor Pierce	From Elizabeth I to Victoria: The Government of Newport (Mon) 1550-1850 (Newport, 1957)	Library/8
Jones, Ieuan Gwynedd	The Valleys in the Mid-nineteenth Century. A Lecture (Standing Conference on the History of the South Wales Valleys, 1981)	Library/8
Jones, Oliver	The Early Days of Sirhowy and Tredegar (Tredegar Historical Society, 1969)	Library/10
Kissack, Keith	Monmouth: The Making of a County Town (Chichester, 1975)	Library/16
Kissack, Keith	Victorian Monmouth (Monmouth Historical and Educational Trust, n.d.)	Library/16

Author	Title	Reference or location
Kissack, Keith	The Trial of John Frost	Acc 2837
Littlewood, Kevin	From Reform to the Charter: Merthyr Tydfil, 1832-1838 (Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust, 1990)	Acc 2784
Mathews, James	Historic Newport (Newport, 1910)	Library/8
Mee, Arthur (ed)	The King's England: Monmouthshire (London, 1951)	Library/12
Mills, David	William Foster Geach: Stepson of and Solicitor to John Frost, the Chartist Leader (Gelligaer, 2015)	Library/A
Mitchell, Thomas	Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Trade & Reminiscences of the Chartist Riots (Newport, 1904)	Library/3
Morris, J.H. and Williams, L.J	The South Wales Coal Industry, 1841-1875 (Cardiff, 1958)	Library/3
Oates, David William Rowland	The Story of Gwent: A School History and Geography of Monmouthshire (Cardiff, 1910)	Library/2
Palmer, Roy	The Folklore of (Old) Monmouthshire (Hereford, 1998)	Library/12
Phillips, Roger	Tredegar: The History of An Agricultural Estate, 1300-1956 (Devon, 1990)	Library/2
Powell, Evan	The History of Tredegar: Subject of Competition at Tredegar 'Chair Eisteddfod' held February 25 1884 (South Wales Argus Ltd., 1902)	Library/17
Underwood, Terry	Yesterdays Newport: A Pictorial Record Describing the Way We Were, Where We Lived ... (Newport, 1980)	Library/16

Author	Title	Reference or location
Wharam, Alan	Treason: Famous English Treason Trials (Gloucester, 1995)	Library/4
Wilkins, Charles F.G	The History of the Iron, Steel, Tinplate and Other Trades of Wales (Merthyr Tydfil, 1903)	Library/3
Williams, Chris and Sian Rhiannon Williams (eds)	The Gwent County History, Volume 4: Industrial Monmouthshire, 1780-1914 (Cardiff, UWP, 2011)	Library/11
Williams, David	A History of Modern Wales (London, 1950)	Library/1
Williams, Michael A	Researching Local History: The Human Journey (Essex, 1996)	Library/22
Wilson, John	Art and Society in Newport: James Flewitt Mullock and the Victorian Achievement (Newport Museum and Art Gallery, 1993)	Library/16



Records held elsewhere

Records relating to Chartist activity are also held at other organisations, and many are available online:

The following collections are held at the National Library of Wales and contain many documents on Chartism.

- Tredegar Park collection– A schedule of available records can be consulted in the Gwent Archives Research Room. Boxes 40 and 57 of the Tredegar Park collection contain, amongst other items, reports of post-1840 Chartist activity
- Llangibby Castle collection- comprises documents from the library of Major Albert Addams Williams, including a resolution on the People's Charter Oct. 1839 as well as a brief for the Prosecution v. Samuel Etheridge, depositions regarding William Jones and thanksgiving to the Almighty after the failure of the Chartist insurrection.

Please contact the National Library of Wales for further information on these collections

Documents are also held at the Newport Museum and Library Chartist Collection, and these are listed in the publication *'John Frost and the Chartist Movement in Monmouthshire: Catalogue of Chartist Literature, Prints and Relics etc'* by John Warner FLA and W. A. Gunn FRSA (Newport Chartist Centenary Committee, 1939). The Newport Borough Council records listed in this guide were transferred to Gwent Archives c.1974.

Files of the *Monmouthshire Beacon*, published from 1837, are held by The Shire Hall Museum, Monmouth. Copies of the *Western Vindicator* are also held at the Central Library, Newport, and digitised Chartist resources are available on their website.

Online Sources

- Digitised copies of the Welsh tithe maps of c.1840's are available at <https://places.library.wales/>
- Many parliamentary papers and reports can be read at <https://archives.parliament.uk/online-resources/parliamentary-papers/>
- The Court of Quarter Sessions Depositions that relate to Chartism have been digitized, alongside the Chartist Trials' papers held by Newport Reference Library and can be viewed on www.peoplescollection.wales.
- A number of Welsh newspapers, including the Monmouthshire Merlin, have been digitised and are available on the National Library of Wales website, and many individual Chartist newspapers and journals have now been digitised by the British Library and are available on their website.

Glossary

Acts of Union: In 1536 Henry the VIII's government enacted a measure that made important changes in the government of Wales. Whereas the Statute of Wales (1284) had annexed Wales to the crown of England, the new act declared the king's wish to incorporate Wales within the realm. One of its main effects was to secure "the shiring of the Marches," bringing the numerous marcher lordships within a comprehensive system of counties. For the first time in its history Wales was to have uniformity in the administration of justice. Welshmen were to enjoy the same political status as Englishmen, and the common law of England, rather than Welsh law,

Admission and Discharge Registers: These records provide a detailed account of individuals entering or leaving hospital and workhouse institutions. They usually include information such as names, dates of admission and discharge, age on admission, marital status, occupation, reason for admission or whether single, married, widowed.

Boards of Guardians: Boards of Guardians ran the Poor Law system in England, Wales and Ireland from 1835 to 1930. They took over from parishes. Boards administered workhouses within a poor law union which was a group of parishes. The guardians were elected by the owners and occupiers of land in the parish who had to pay the poor rate.

Broadside Handbills: Broadside Handbills were posters or leaflets used to issue public decrees, governmental notifications and a host of commercial and private announcements. Early broadsides were quickly and crudely produced in large quantities and distributed freely in town squares, taverns, and churches. Some were sold by itinerate salesman, or chapmen, for a nominal charge

Calendars of Prisoners: These calendars are lists, for the most part printed, of prisoners tried at Assizes and Quarter Sessions. They include the following information: number; name; age; trade; previous convictions; name and address of committing magistrates; date of warrant; when received into custody; offence as charged in the commitment (includes name of victim before 1969); when tried; before whom tried; verdict of the jury; sentence or order of the court.

Civil Registration: The Civil Registration Act of 1837 was introduced to register all birth, marriage, and death records in England and Wales. Prior to that, recording was carried out on a local parish record level. Baptisms, marriages, and burials were recorded in the local church. However, after 1837, it became a national responsibility to record births, marriages and deaths with the local government official, the registrar, in a register that he maintained.

Clerk of the Peace: A clerk of the peace held an office in England and Wales whose responsibility was the records of the quarter sessions and the framing of presentments and indictments. They had legal training, enabling them to advise justices of the peace.
Deposition: A testimony made under oath and taken down in writing by an authorized officer of the court.

House of Correction: The house of correction was a type of establishment built after the passing of the Poor Relief Act 1601, places where those who were "unwilling to work", including vagrants and beggars, were set to work.

Indictment: These are the formal statements of the charge against the accused, usually annotated with plea, verdict and sentence.

Lithograph: A lithograph is visual art that involves drawing an image lithographic plate (like a piece of limestone) then treating it with an acidic solution and water and stamping it onto a sheet of paper. Artists then cover the treated stone with a special type of ink, which creates a printed image.

Minute Book: A book which contains the written record of what was said and decided during a meeting.

Nonconformist: A member of a Protestant Church which dissents from the established Church of England.

Overseers of the Poor: An overseer of the poor was an official who administered Poor Relief such as money, food, and clothing.

Poor Law Union: A poor law union was a geographical territory and local government unit in Great Britain and Ireland.

Workhouse: Workhouses were institutions that were intended to provide work and shelter for poverty-stricken people who had no means to support themselves

Contact us

If you have any questions about the records we hold, or how to start your research, please contact us at:

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