

The Cornish Archival Collection now housed at the Castlemaine Historical Society Inc (CHSI)

Since 1991, the CAV had a Library of materials related to Cornwall for use by members as well as the public. The Library of around 4000 items was collected over a long period and is considered to be the largest archive of its kind in the world outside Cornwall. It consists of a wide range of materials about Cornwall's inhabitants, history, emigrants, mines & mining history, maritime history, social and family history and more. There's also a large selection of family history research resources including indexes, compendia, family history publications, family trees and the results of research by members.

The CAV and the CHSI entered into discussions about the relocation of the Library to Castlemaine from Melbourne in February 2020. This resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between the CAV and the CHSI, which enabled the Library to be transferred to Castlemaine in May 2021. The Library was recorded on an Index by June Whiffin and Moira Drew. The Cornish Archival Collection at the CHSI was then officially launched in October 2023, with many CAV and CHSI members in attendance at Castlemaine.



Old Courthouse at Castlemaine; home of the CHSI



The Cornish Archival Collection at the CHSI

Free access to the Cornish Archival Collection at the CHSI for CAV Members

Access will be available **in person only** at Castlemaine on Tuesdays in 2 sessions: 10:00 am to 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. **CAV members with a current membership will be provided with research services free of charge.** The CHSI have been provided with a current Membership list to assist with this process. Appointments should be made prior to a visit, and a charge for copying will also apply. Note that no loans are allowed. Postal requests will incur normal CHSI Research Fees. NB: If CAV members access the CHSI archival collection normal research fees will apply. For more information: <https://www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com/research-services/>

What's in the Cornish Archival Collection?

Genealogical records and family history materials:

- Cornwall Parish records - Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Monumental Inscriptions, etc
- Cornwall indexes - Various periods generally mid 1800's to early 1900's including pre-Registration (1837)
- Cornwall Census 1841, 1851, 1861, 871, 1881, 1891
- International Genealogical Index for Cornwall
- Devon Census 1841, 1861, 1881
- All other British Counties Census 1881
- Methodist Records 1837-1900 for all of Cornwall
- Wills and Probates for several parishes
- 'Bawden' Transcripts - Parish records to the mid 1800's
- Gazetteers and Directories
- Supportive information - Family and local histories covering the Camborne-Gwennap & St Just in Penwith regions

Reference material

Cornwall

- By area: Cornwall references, general and by Parish
- By subject: Archaeology, Biography, Celtic Topics, China Clay, Industry, Churches, Cookery, Literature, Methodism, Mining, Poetry, Sea Connections, Transport
- Maps – Parish & Survey, modern and ancient

Reference material on Australia:

- Local histories for areas of significant Cornish settlement

Indexes:

- Including early Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Marine BDM's 1853-1920
- Pioneer Index 1836-1888
- Edwardian Index 1902-1913
- Federation Index 1889-1901
- Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885

A brief pdf version of the catalogue listing is available [here](#).

For further information about the Cornish Collection at Castlemaine:

<https://www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com/the-chsi-archival-collection/cornish-association-of-victoria-archival-collection/>

Contacting the CHSI

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