

Livery companies

Introduction

LMA holds the archives of many of the City of London's livery companies, trade associations or guilds which operated within the square mile and date back to the medieval period. Several of these collections contain material relating to pensions offered by the companies, both for the benefit of their members and their wives and as a form of charity to those outside the company. Livery companies also operated almshouses for the elderly, which are detailed in this section: for more information about other records relating to almshouses, please see the 'Almshouses' section of the Guide.

There are also records from livery company collections in the following entries in other sections of this guide (sections given in brackets):

- Worshipful Company of Actuaries (Miscellaneous - Professional services associated with pensions)
- Worshipful Company of Apothecaries (Widows and Orphans Funds)
- Worshipful Company of Carmen of London (Provident Funds)
- Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors (Occupational schemes)
- Worshipful Company of Skinners (Occupational schemes)

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF ARMOURERS AND BRASIER (CLC/L/AB)

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| Extracts from wills, 1551-1826, relating to the Company's charities and charity estates, with notes on the operation of the charities, table analysing trust pensions and a sleeve badge for a gown of John Vernon's Charity pensioners | 1848 | CLC/L/AB/G/001/MS12106 |
| Pensioners Books (4 volumes) At the back of the first volume is a statement of the Company's obligation to maintain almshouses (1841) and clerk's report on payments of pensions made by the Company as trustees (1839) | 1663 - 1876, 1904 - 47 | CLC/L/AB/G/007 (Series) |
| Statements of pensions payable to the Company | 1868, 1872, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1890 - 1908 | CLC/L/AB/G/008/MS12094 |
| Books of pensioners and almspeople (2 volumes) | 1879 - 1904 | CLC/L/AB/G/009 (Series) |
| Cash books of payments to pensioners and almspeople (2 volumes) | 1921 - 1944, 1948 - 1969 | CLC/L/AB/G/010B Series) |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BAKERS OF LONDON (CLC/L/BA)

The Bakers' Company almshouses were funded by contributions from the company's Court and livery, and operated for the benefit of 'decayed' freemen of the company. A site was purchased on the Hackney Road in 1828. Residents also received a payment of £20 per annum. The almshouses were demolished in 1931.

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| Account of quarterly payments to pensioners | 1803 - 1843 | CLC/L/BA/G/001/MS08146 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BAKERS OF LONDON (continued)

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| Records of the Bakers' Company almshouses comprising: minutes, 1828-36 (Ms 05193); accounts, 1828-1931 (Ms 05194-4B); report of the Almshouses Committee, 1871 (Ms 07805); papers relating to the sale of the almshouses in Lyme Grove, Hackney, 1901-32 (Ms 35644); and correspondence concerning 19 St Bride's Street, 1904-15 (Ms 35645). Please note that further references may be found in other Bakers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | 1828-1931 | CLC/L/BA/G |
| Draft and printed copies of the company and almshouse annual accounts (audited) | 1879 - 1926 | CLC/L/BA/G/005/MS35637 |
| List of contributors to almshouses fund | 1828-72 | CLC/L/BA/G/006/MS05194B |
| 4 plans of almshouses at Hackney | 1828, 195 | CLC/L/BA/G/013A-D |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BARBERS (CLC/L/BB)

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| Pensioners' account books, containing lists of recipients (7 volumes) | 1716 - 1751, 1754 - 1895 | CLC/L/BB/G/003 (Series) |
| Pensioners' petitions | 1754-1778 | CLC/L/BB/G/004/MS05273A |
| Correspondence, mainly relating to the Hall and other property, admissions to the livery, and pensions | 1939 - 1952 | CLC/L/BB/G/011/MS10404 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BREWERS (CLC/L/BF)

The Worshipful Company of Brewers operated a number of pension and almshouse charities. A trust fund for Samuel Whitbread's Charity was established in 1794, which would make two payments annually toward one or two master brewers over the age of 50 who found themselves in reduced circumstances and in need of relief.

In 1609 Dame Alice Owen conveyed to the Brewers' Company almshouses by St John Street, which she had founded for ten poor widows of Islington. The almshouses were taken down in 1879-80.

The charity established by the will of John Baker (d. 1818) provided for the establishment of six almshouses, which were built on Mile End Road. The almshouses housed six poor women aged over 50.

In 1596 Richard Platt founded six almshouses and a grammar school in Aldenham, Hertfordshire. In 1599 they were conveyed to the Brewers' Company.

By his will of 1686 James Hickson, alderman, devised to the Brewers' Company the manor of Williatts in South Mimms, Middlesex, to support charitable causes. This comprised a school for 20 boys and six almshouses were also built for poor widows of the parish of South Mimms.

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| Samuel Whitbread's Charity: trust deed and minute book, account books, ledgers, correspondence relating to applications for benefit under the charity, and estate accounts and property deeds | In CLC/L/BF/G |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BREWERS (continued)

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| Dame Alice Owen's Charity: minutes, accounts, registers and estate papers | In CLC/L/BF/G |
| John Baker's Charity: records include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - memoranda, 1881-9 (Ms 18360-1); - deeds and associated documents, 1813-1901 (Ms 18363); - specification for the construction of 7 almshouses, 1825 (Ms 18371); - quarterly record of payments to almswomen, 1826-1908 (Ms 18372); - list of applicants, 1901-2 (Ms 18373); and - signed agreements and guarantees, 1826-61 (Ms 18374). Please note that further references will be found in other Brewers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | In CLC/L/BF/G |
| Alderman Richard Platt's Charity: statutes and ordinances, minutes and accounts, registers, estate records and plans | In CLC/L/BF/G |
| James Hickson's Charity: constitutional documents, accounts, lists of almspeople and estate papers | In CLC/L/BF/G |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BUTCHERS OF THE CITY OF LONDON (CLC/L/BI)

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| Pensions receipt book. | 1888 - 1926 | CLC/L/BI/G/003/MS06459A |
| General poor fund list of pensioners (2 volumes) | 1840? - 1924 | CLC/L/BI/G/004/MS06457 (Series) |
| Miss Bayley's Fund: list of pensioners | 1841 - 1924 | CLC/L/BI/G/006/MS06459 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CARPENTERS (CLC/L/CC)

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| Annual lists of pensioners, showing amounts paid under the terms of various charitable bequests (2 volumes) | 1716 - 1756, 1820 - 1841 | CLC/L/CC/G/004 (series) |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF COOPERS OF LONDON (CLC/L/CI)

Ratcliff Charities: A school and almshouses were established by Nicholas Gibson at Ratcliff in Stepney in 1536, and his wife passed the responsibility to the Coopers' Company in 1553. The almshouses accommodated 14 poor men or women, seven of the parish of Stepney and seven members of the Company or their widows. In 1894 the almshouses were demolished and the former residents were given a pension, on the same terms as the almshouses tenancies.¹

Strode's Egham Pension and Eleemosynary Charity: founded by Henry Strode (d. 1703), a cooper, to provide pensions and alms in Egham, Surrey. In 1908 the charity's almshouses were closed and its funds were reapplied to endow the Strode's Egham Pension and Eleemosynary Charity, which would make payments to the three former inmates of the almshouses but also provided a range of additional pensions. Applicants were selected based on their residency in Egham, their character and their not having applied for poor relief, and had to be unable to maintain themselves through ill-health, accident, age or infirmity. The pensions were initially provided on a three yearly basis but could be extended: for the former almspeople the pensions were 5s or over per week, and the other pensioners received between £10 and £40 per annum.²

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| Court minutes relating to Ratcliff Charity almshouses | 1823-1841 | CLC/L/CI/G/013/MS05604 |
| Minute book of the Ratcliff Charity | 1908 - 1931 | CLC/L/CI/G/014/MS07567 |

¹ Information from catalogue entry and the company's website: <http://www.coopers-hall.co.uk/charitable-work> [accessed November 2012].

² Information from CLC/L/CI/G/034A/MS35733.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF COOPERS OF LONDON (continued)

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| Account book of the Ratcliff Charity | 1860-1889 | CLC/L/CI/G/015/MS05611 |
| General ledger of the Ratcliff Charity | 1908-1914 | CLC/L/CI/G/016/MS07564 |
| Cash book of the Ratcliff Charity | 1907-1930 | CLC/L/CI/G/017/MS07563 |
| Pension fund ledger of the Ratcliff Charity, split into Company and Stepney pensions | 1914 - 1933 | CLC/L/CI/G/018/MS07565 |
| Pensioners' register of the Ratcliff Charity, including register of Stepney pensioners. Register records date elected, date appointed, amount of pension, name age and condition, address, status in company or length of residence in Stepney Parish, occupation, income, number of children, assistance received from children or other source, reason for application, reference, date and cause of vacancy for pension | 1889 - 1936 | CLC/L/CI/G/019/MS07568 |
| Payments to pensioners of the Ratcliff Charity, including Stepney pensioners | 1912 - 1937 | CLC/L/CI/G/020/MS07569 |
| Poor roll book of the Ratcliff Charity | 1839 - 1859 | CLC/L/CI/G/021/MS05624 |
| Rent roll book of the Ratcliff Charity | 1841-1888 | CLC/L/CI/G/022/MS05617 |
| Rent ledger of the Ratcliff Charity | 1907-1933 | CLC/L/CI/G/024/MS07566 |
| Minute book of the trustees of Strode's Charity | 1912 - 1929 | CLC/L/CI/G/025/MS05605 |
| Rough minute book of the trustees of Strode's Charity | 1912 - 1936 | CLC/L/CI/G/026/MS05605A |
| Stewards' account book of Strode's Charity at Egham | 1793 - 1813 | CLC/L/CI/G/027/MS05812 |
| Transcripts of the accounts of Strode's Charity for 1869-1913 | 1913? | CLC/L/CI/G/027A/MS35732 |
| Ledger, journal and cash book of Strode's Charity | 1907 - 1914 | CLC/L/CI/G/028/MS07557 - CLC/L/CI/G/030/MS07559 (3 items) |
| Pensioners register of Strode's Charity. The register records: name; address; occupation; age at application and marital status; number of children with their names, ages, occupation and earnings and if living with applicant; details of income and assistance for past 12 months and expected receipts and earnings; how deficit has been met if income insufficient for maintenance; where living, amount paid for residence and help received or possible from family; additional circumstances; amount granted, date granted; and date and occasion of the pension's vacancy. Also includes references and a copy of pensioner's death certificate | 1911 - 1938 | CLC/L/CI/G/031/MS07561 |
| Pensioners applications to Strode's Charity | 1913 - 1928 | CLC/L/CI/G/031/MS07562 |
| Rent ledger of Strode's Charity | 1907 - 1913 | CLC/L/CI/G/033/MS07560 |
| Charity Commissioners' schemes for Strode's Charity | 1897, 1911, 1921 | CLC/L/CI/G/034A/MS35733 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CORDWAINERS (CLC/L/CJ)

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| Accounts of disbursements to pensioners, with names of recipients | 1570 - 1666 | CLC/L/CJ/G/002/MS07359 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CORDWAINERS (continued)

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| Receipt books of beneficiaries of John Came's Charity for clergymen's widows (with signatures), with extracts from court minutes relating to the administration of the charity | 1796 - 1860 | CLC/L/CJ/G/003/MS14322 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CURRIERS (CLC/L/CK)

Dawes' Charity: Dawes left property to the company in his will, the rents and profits of which were to be given to 10 members of the company and masters in the Curriers' trade or their widows quarterly in a pension of £4 4s per year. The pensioners were elected by the Master, Warden and Court of Assistants of the company.

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| Summons book for meetings of the Court, with lists of Mr Dawes' Pensioners List of pensioners are at the back of the volume, and are dated Michaelmas 1772, 1774, 1778, 1786, 1798 and 1805. List record name and date of election. The deaths of pensioners recorded in margin next to name | 1772 - 1807 | CLC/L/CK/B/004/MS06112B |
| Dawes' Charity: list of pensioners elected, 1730-1802; and printed copy of Charity Commissioners' report on the Charity, 1821. The list often includes male pensioners' positions in company | 1730 - 1802, 1821 | CLC/L/CK/G/002/MS14353 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CUTLERS OF LONDON (CLC/L/CL)

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| Pension account book, recording the quarterly payment of pensions. Lists name, signature and payment (and sometimes age and that the pensioner had died), with index at front with addresses. A note at the front of the book breaks down the 1843 Pensioners into classes according to age with separate columns for liverymen (and their widows) and freemen (and their widows) suggesting that the pensions were for the benefit of members | 1827 - 1859 | CLC/L/CL/G/001/MS07173 |
| Sample application form for freemen, liverymen or their wives, and petitions and correspondence relating to pensions | 1874 - 1882 | CLC/L/CL/G/003/MS07184 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF DYERS (CLC/L/DC)

The Dyers' Company's almshouses were established in 1838, with the company's Court of Assistants granting the use of them to elderly Freemen and Liverymen and their Widows.

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| Records relating to the Company almshouses, comprising: - register of applicants for admission, 1881-1980 (Ms 32847); - register of almspeople, 1883-1981 (Ms 32848); and - gatekeepers' diaries, 1906-38 (Ms 32849). Please note that further references may be found in other Dyers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | CLC/L/DC/G (Sub-fonds) |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FISHMONGERS (CLC/L/FE)

Sir Thomas Hunt, by his will dated 1615, gave £20 a year to the Fishmongers' Company for the foundation and maintenance of a hospital. A licence to erect the hospital in Newington (to be called St Peter's Hospital) was granted in 1618 by letters patent of James I. There were 42 almspeople housed in the hospital in 1824.

Harrietsham Almshouses: Mark Quested (d. 1642), Citizen and Fishmonger, bequeathed his estate to the Fishmongers' Company for various charitable uses, including the building of 12 almshouses. The almshouses in Harrietsham, Kent, were completed in 1651. They were rebuilt by the company in 1770 and 1772.

In 1616 letters patent of James I licensed the Company to establish almshouses known as Jesus Hospital in Bray, Berkshire. They were to be maintained from the revenue of property bequeathed to the company by William Goddard in 1607. Goddard had stipulated that the hospital was to be made of brick, with rooms with chimneys fit for 40 poor people, a chapel, kitchen and bakehouse. The Fishmongers Company was to act as the hospital's Governors and choose the poor people to reside in the almshouses, six of which should be of the most aged and poorest decayed persons of the company. The remainder should come from the parish of Bray and should be at least 50 years old. No married couples were to be admitted.

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| Renter warden's books of reports and views of weekly and other pensioners (20 volumes) | 1823 - 1872 | CLC/L/FE/G/005 (Series) |
| Poor freemen and freemen pensioners' relief books | 1790 - 1909 | CLC/L/FE/G/010 (Series) |
| Records of Saint Peter's Hospital: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lists of almspeople, c. 1790-1840 (Ms 21543, pp. 19-21, 64-66); - register of applicants, 1855-99 (Ms 21512); - papers relating to administration and the conduct of the almspeople, 1629-1898 (Ms 07262); - plans c. 1850 (Ms 21539); and - list of library books, 1897 (Ms 21513). Please note that further references may be found in other Fishmongers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/FE/G (Subfonds) |
| Records of Harrietsham Almshouses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accounts, 1652-1896 (Ms 05831, 05832-3, 06365, 07291); - relief books, 1790-1909 (Ms 05831A); - lists of almspeople, c. 1790-1839 (Ms 21543, pp. 33-5); - register of applicants, c. 1855-68 (Ms 21512); - correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1666-1836 (Ms 05851, 07293, 08342). Please note that further references may be found in other Fishmongers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/FE/G (Subfonds) |
| Records of Jesus Hospital: copy of letters patent of James I and of William Goddard's will, rules and bye-laws, statutes, register of applicants, lists of almspeople, list of readers and chaplains, accounts, correspondence, plans and terriers of lands, and miscellaneous papers. Please note that further references may be found in other Fishmongers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/FE/G (Subfonds) |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FISHMONGERS (continued)

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| Volume entitled "List Book" containing lists of Company officers, almspeople etc. | 1790 - 1840 | CLC/L/FE/C/001/MS21543 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FOUNDERS (CLC/L/FG)

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| Poor and pensioners' account books 'containing names of pensioners, gifts, etc. in connection with the Founders' Company. It is unclear if these were solely for the benefit of the Company's members: the pensions often seem to have been granted to the widows of members | 1678 - 1824 | CLC/L/FG/G/003/MS06347/001 and CLC/L/FG/G/003/MS06347/002 (2 files) |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS (CLC/L/FH)

The Framework Knitters' Company has provided almshouses as accommodation for retired workers from the knitting and hosiery trades since 1729. "The first Almshouses were built in Hoxton, just to the east of the City of London, and often were maintained with great difficulty. Indeed, the Company sold its silver in 1861 to provide funds to maintain the homes. It also became more difficult to find suitable tenants as framework knitting had long left London. Consequently, the London Almshouses were sold in 1906 and the proceeds used to build twenty cottages at Oadby in Leicestershire on land gifted in trust to the Company."³

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| Records relating to the Almshouses comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ledger, 1979-94 (Ms 35823); - cash book, 1979-96 (Ms 35824); and - accounts 1852 - 1905 (Ms 03449). Please note that further references may be found in other Framework Knitters' Company records such as minutes and accounts | CLC/L/FH/D (Sub fonds) and CLC/L/FH/G (Sub fonds) |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GIRDLERS (CLC/L/GB)

The Girdlers' almshouses in Peckham were funded by bequests from Cuthbert Beeston (1582) and George Palyn (1610), past Masters of the company. Beeston's property was sold in the 1830s and the money used to build the almshouses; Palyn's almshouses were originally built in Finsbury but replaced by further almshouses in Peckham in 1852. Altogether these were on separate sites in Consort Road, Montpelier Road and Choumert Grove, but following a number of amalgamations and rebuildings, the almshouses have been consolidated on the Consort Road site since 1980, where 17 units provide accommodation for 24 residents. Applicants must be either Freemen of the City of London; those who have been employed as girdlers or associated trades; or residents of the former administrative county of London as constituted on 31st March 1965.⁴

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| Records of George Palyn's Charity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deeds and documents relating to almshouses in Sherborne Lane and Abchurch Lane (MS05799); - deeds, papers, correspondence and plans relating to Palyn's Almshouses, Choumert Road, Peckham; and - papers, correspondence and plans relating to 25-30 Shene Street (formerly Richmond Street) and 58-66 Bath Street | CLC/L/GB/G/009/MS05799, CLC/L/GB/G/011, CLC/L/GB/G/019 |
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³ Information from: <http://www.frameworkknitters.co.uk/charities/> [accessed January 2013].

⁴ Information from: <http://www.girdlers.co.uk/html/the-almshouses/> [accessed January 2013].

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GIRDLERS (continued)

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| Records of Cuthbert Beeston's Bequest: - deeds and documents relating to almshouses built at Peckham, Surrey; and - papers and correspondence relating to Scylla Road, Peckham | CLC/L/GB/G/021/MS05796, CLC/L/GB/G/022/MS05796A |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GROCERS (CLC/L/GH)

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| Oundle School: extracts from the Company's court minute books relating to the grammar school and almshouses at Oundle, 1556-1826, compiled late 18th and early 19th centuries (3 volumes) | 1771 - 1835? | CLC/L/GH/G/045 (Series) |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF HABERDASHERS (CLC/L/HA)

Robert Aske (1619-89), a prosperous City merchant and member of the Haberdashers' Company, died without children. He left the bulk of his estate to the Haberdashers' Company for charitable purposes, including money to buy land in Hoxton, near the City of London, on which the Company was to build almshouses for 20 poor members of the Company, and a school for 20 sons of poor freemen of the Company. Building work on the almshouses in Hoxton, Shoreditch, started in 1691, to designs by Robert Hooke, and the first pensioners entered in 1695. The almshouse buildings were demolished in 1824 and rebuilt in 1825. The almshouses were closed in 1873 to allow the school to expand.

In 1613 William Jones (d.1615), a prosperous merchant and Haberdasher, gave the Haberdashers' Company money for charitable works. His bequests were used to establish Monmouth Grammar school for boys and an almshouse at Newland, Gloucestershire. In 1953 the almshouse was converted into 10 flats.

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| Pensions and gifts ledgers, which record payments of pensions arranged by charitable gift, listing the name of the recipient and amount of pension. It is unclear if these were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1931 - 1956 | CLC/L/HA/G/015/MS32896/ 001-003 (3 items) |
| Pensions and gifts cash books, which record the fund the money was being allocated from, a name, the payment made, and a reference number. It is unclear if these were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1932 - 1964 | CLC/L/HA/G/016/MS32897/ 001-004 (4 items) |
| Records of Robert Aske's Charity: constitutional documents, minutes, chapel registers, accounts, inventories, reports, admission registers and estate material. There is also relevant material in the following records: - Committee minute book of an unidentified committee (possibly the Grand Committee) which contains considerable detail of the establishment of Aske's Hospital 1689-96 (CLC/L/HA/B/007/MS15845) - Rough committee minute book, including minutes of Hoxton committees, 1820 – 1827 (CLC/L/HA/B/010/MS15848) - Charities committee minute books, 1827 - 1917 (CLC/L/HA/G/001/MS15849/001-008) | 1689 - 1973 | CLC/L/HA/G (Sub fonds) [Former references MS 15847, 15886- 94, 24729- 34, 32907- 18, 33626] |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF HABERDASHERS (continued)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endowed schools committee minute books, which covers Aske's Hospital, 1870 – 1917 (CLC/L/HA/G/010/MS15852/001-003) - General minute books, which include minutes of the Charities committee and the Endowed Schools Committee (which looked after Aske's Hospital)(CLC/L/HA/B/002/MS24719/001-024). There is an index to these general minutes specific to Robert Aske's Charity (CLC/L/HA/B/003/MS24720/004) | | |
| <p>Records of William Jones's Charity: The records comprise constitutional documents, minutes, reports, accounts, and estate papers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endowed schools committee minute books, which covers Newland Almshouse, 1870 – 1917 (CLC/L/HA/G/010/MS15852/001-003) - "The state of the charities, 1597", which includes copies of documents regarding William Jones' charities, 1613-1635 (CLC/L/HA/G/018/MS15874) - General minute books, which include minutes of the Charities committee and the Endowed Schools Committee (which looked after Newland Almshouse) (CLC/L/HA/B/002/MS24719/001- 024). There is an index to these general minutes specific to William Jones' Charity (CLC/L/HA/B/003/MS24720/005) | <p>1613 - 1979</p> | <p>CLC/L/HA/G (Sub fonds) [Former references MS 15897- 900, 24737-41, 32920-8; MS 24737- 41; MS 32920- 8]</p> |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF INNOLDERS CLC/L/IA

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| <p>Register of casual gifts and pensions 'other than Scambler's'. Pages 137 and 138 of the register record pensions granted to past Masters, Beadles, Liverymen or Court members from the company, or their widows. Page 141 records payments from Hind's Gift to poor decayed men of the company, and page 143 records payments from Jones' Gift for the widows of liverymen.</p> <p>Entries record name, address, connection to company, amount paid and arrangements for payment, when they were appointed to the pension and when they died</p> | <p>1908 - 1943</p> | <p>CLC/L/IA/G/004/MS32794</p> |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF IRONMONGERS (CLC/L/IB)

Geffery's almshouses were founded by the bequest of Sir Robert Geffery. A site for the almshouses was purchased in 1712. In 1910 they were sold to London County Council and converted into a museum and new almshouses were completed at Mottingham Park, Eltham in 1914. In 1974 these buildings were acquired by the Greater London Council and new almshouses were built at Hook in Hampshire. The Geffery Gift also provided pensions.

Lewin's Charity: By his will dated 1555, Thomas Lewin bequeathed four almshouses in St Nicholas churchyard to the Ironmongers' Company. After they burnt down in the Fire of London, the Company converted four old houses in the parish of St Luke Old Street into houses for four poor freemen. These houses burnt down in 1785 and were replaced by four new almshouses in Mitchell

Court. Extracts from the company's Court minutes suggest that the almshouses' residents also received pensions.⁵

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| Records of Betton's charity: - receipt books, comprising pasted-in receipts, mostly for payments of salaries and pensions 1907- 1938; and - printed list of out-door pensioners 1830 (gives name, age, address, amount granted since 1827, financial circumstances, dependents and state of health) | 1907 - 1938 | CLC/L/IB/G/028F, CLC/L/IB/G/030/MS17037 |
| Series contains a number of other records relating to Sir Robert Geffery's Gift including: - accounts, 1707-1803 (Ms 17053); - deeds and related papers, 1712-37 (Ms 17063). Please note that further references may also be found in other Ironmongers' Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/IB/G (series) |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: ledgers of non-free pensioners showing entries of payments, signed by recipients. Interleaved with paper 'Pensions to be paid at the homes', with a list of pensioners and amount paid in a column headed by the source of pension: Sir Robery Geffrey's Pensioners; Mr Betton's Pensioners; Mr Handson's (Widows) Pensions; and Mr Rigg and Mr Loane's Charities | 1911 - 1952 | CLC/L/IB/G/061C/MS3176 0/001-004 (4 files) |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: clerks' receipt books of pasted-in receipts, mostly pensions, salaries, rates, and maintenance of charity property | 1883 - 1938 | CLC/L/IB/G/062A/MS3175 9 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: general receipt books of pasted-in receipts for pensions and expenses of charity | 1899 - 1938 | CLC/L/IB/G/062B/MS3175 8/001-002 (2 volumes) |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: deeds and papers relating to the establishment and erection of almshouses | 1712 - 1737 | CLC/L/IB/G/065/MS17063 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: committee for building new almshouses minute book (signed) | 1911 - 1915 | CLC/L/IB/G/065A/MS3176 3 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: inventory of almshouses' goods, with dates acquired | c. 1782 | CLC/L/IB/G/066/MS17067 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: lists of inhabitants in the almshouses, 1785, 1786, 1811 (revised 1820), 1834 | 1785 - 1886 | CLC/L/IB/G/067/MS17065 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: Charity Commission orders relating to the drainage and repair of the almshouses | 1897, 1899 | CLC/L/IB/G/068/MS17066 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: estimate and correspondence about Sir Robert Geffery's tomb at the almshouses | 1878 | CLC/L/IB/G/069/MS17068 |
| Sir Robert Geffery's Gift: burial register of the almshouses in Kingsland Road, 1794-1850, including three Coroners' burial certificates, 1849-50 | 1794 - 1850 | CLC/L/IB/G/070/MS17064 |

⁵ Ironmonger's Court Minutes for 30 Apr 1729 'Such poor members as shall be chose into Mr. Lewen's Almshouses lately built in Old Street shall have Mr Lewen's Mr Handsons's and Esq[uir]e Sampson's gift made up to each of them Ten pounds per annum'.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF IRONMONGERS (continued)

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| <p>Series contains a number of other records relating to Lewin's almshouses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - papers concerning payments under the terms of Lewin's will, 1747 (Ms 17074); - papers relating to the Old Street estate, 1545-1811 (Ms 17250); and - articles of agreement for building four almshouses in Mitchell Court, Great Mitchell Street, 1811; printed rules to be observed by inhabitants, 1835?; extracts from minutes, compiled 1895, and correspondence relating to rehousing of pensioners, 1895-6 (Ms 17075). <p>Please note that further references may be found in other Ironmongers' Company records such as minutes and accounts</p> | | CLC/L/IB/G (series) |
| <p>Papers relating to the chapel and almshouses at New Park Street, Southwark, including conveyance, mortgage deeds with plans, copies of Charity Commission orders and certificate of redemption of land tax</p> | 1831 - 1870 | CLC/L/IB/G/182/MS17194 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF JOINERS AND CEILERS (CLC/L/JA)

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| <p>Pensioners' book, recording names of pensioners and amounts paid.</p> <p>Lists of pensioners broken down into livery past masters, past upper warden, past rent warden, and the livery. Male and female pensioners are recorded separately. For the 1840s entries occasionally include age and additional information such as 'died', 'recovered', 'discontinued' and 'union workhouse'</p> | 1739 - 1949 | CLC/L/JA/G/003/MS21496 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MERCHANT TAYLORS (CLC/L/MD)

The Merchant Taylors' Company established a pension fund for the benefit of poor members of the company or their relations in 1830. Pensioners were elected by the Company's Court of Assistants.

Merchant Taylors' Almshouses: In 1413 the Company built seven almshouses for decayed tailors and their wives in Threadneedle Street, financed by charitable grants from John Churchman and the Bishop of Norwich. They appear to have escaped the Great Fire, but to have been discontinued by the Company soon after. In 1593 the Company also built almshouses for 14 women on Tower Hill, on the north side of Rosemary Lane, funded by corporate income. The number of places was increased in 1637 to 26, and in 1767 the almshouses were rebuilt. In 1825 they moved to Lee in Kent, to a site then immediately north of Christopher Boone's almshouses, where they continue. The number of places was again increased, to 30. In 1928 the Company's almshouses were opened to men as well as women.

Christopher Boone's Charity - In c.1680 Christopher Boone and Mary his wife bought lands in the parish of Lee, Kent, and there built almshouses for a schoolmistress and six poor almspeople of either sex, together with a chapel. The almshouses, chapel and various rents in the area were conveyed to the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1683, who were appointed in trust to maintain the same. An increase in the land prices in the 19th century produced more income for the charity, and a new scheme was adopted in 1868, which increased the number of almspeople to 12 and established

an Educational Fund. A new site for the almshouses was therefore purchased in 1872 on the south side of Lee High Road and opened in 1874. The 1870s almshouse buildings and chapel were themselves disposed of in the mid twentieth century, after a further reorganisation of the charity.

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| Quarterly pension payment accounts, giving names of recipients. Arranged by trust. Volume 1= Master, Volume 2= Upper Rent Warden, Volume 3= those under Rent Warden | 1765 - 1823 | CLC/L/MD/G/039/MS34161/ 001-003 (3 items) |
| Pension fund subscription book Contains copies of deeds of 1830 setting up the pension fund, followed by one subscription. Mostly blank | 1830 | CLC/L/MD/G/043/MS34165 |
| Register of pensioners, first series. Give name of pensioner and amount of pension; also some brief details about individual pensioners, e.g. name of livery company or parish. The registers include the residents of the Company's almshouses | 1829 - [1849?] | CLC/L/MD/G/040CLC/L/MD/ G/040/MS34162/001-004 (4 items) |
| Register of pensioners, second series. Titled 'Pension books' (volumes 1, 2, 4) or 'Register of Pensioners' (volume 3). Volumes 1 and 3 arranged alphabetically; volume 2 arranged in two sections, by trust and alphabetically. Volumes 1-3 mostly give name, qualification, date of birth or age, date of appointment, amount of pension, under what trust the pension was provided, and date of death or dismissal. They include the residents of the Company's almshouses. Volume 2 also includes residents of Christopher Boone's almshouses. Volume 4 is a financial control book, signed annually by Master and Wardens, and gives recipients' names and payment details only. Latter part blank | [1845?]- 1960 | CLC/L/MD/G/041/MS34163/ 001-003 (3 items) |
| Quarterly alphabetical lists of pensioners, showing the amounts paid to each, and giving details of 'vacant' pensions | 1912 - 1924 | CLC/L/MD/G/042/MS34164 |
| Combined rental and benefactions book. Includes a 'Statement of the Origin and Foundation of the Almshouses belonging to the Company' and almshouse accounts | 1825 | CLC/L/MD/G/009/MS34135 |
| Benefactions book. Includes a history of the almshouses | 1840? | CLC/L/MD/G/010/MS34136 |
| Memorandum book concerning the Company charities and estates, c.1755 and continued to 1775; with later notes and memoranda to c.1840 tipped in. Includes a copy list of contributors to building the Company's almshouses at Tower Hill and description of the Company's charitable pensions | 1755- 1840 | CLC/L/MD/G/033/MS34158 |
| Merchant Taylors' almshouses: records include: - rules and orders for the almshouses; - signed undertakings by new resident pensioners; - register of church attendance; - account books; | | CLC/L/MD/G/235/MS34341- CLC/L/MD/G/241/MS34347 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MERCHANT TAYLORS (continued)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - correspondence, mostly about repairs, but also the Company's admissions policy for residents, the residents' welfare, and the cost to the Company; - photograph of entrance; - CLC/L/MD/F/016 (Ms 34100) and CLC/L/MD/F/017 (Ms 34101) contain further documents about the almshouses in Rosemary Lane and at Lee: see Ms 34100/147 (no.10), 151, 160-1, 163 and Ms 34101/29 (bundle 298); - For plans see CLC/L/MD/G/094/MS34214/002, 019 (further plans may be in the plan books CLC/L/MD/G/096/MS34216- CLC/L/MD/G/103); - For lists of residents (1826-47) see CLC/L/MD/G/035/MS34159; - The first set of rough minutes of the Ordinary Court (CLC/L/MD/B/012/MS34018/001) includes lists of Company almshouses and almshouses 1622-5 (these may be out-pensioners, rather than residents of the Company's almshouses). <p>Please note that other names of residents may be discoverable from general series such as the Court minutes</p> | | |
| <p>Christopher Boone's Charity - records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - charity commissioners' scheme and related correspondence, rent ledgers and accounts and deeds (MS34226-38); - CLC/L/MD/G/035/MS34159 and CLC/L/MD/G/041/MS34163/002 include a partial list of almshouse residents from c.1830 onwards; - CLC/L/MD/F/016 (Ms 34100) and CLC/L/MD/F/017 (Ms 34101) contain further documents about Boone's charity: see Ms 34100/108, 112, 150, 157, 163, 173-80, 207, 215 and Ms 34101/3 (bundle 23) and 16 (bundle 148); and - For plans see CLC/L/MD/G/094/MS34214/016,018,019 (further plans may be in the plan books CLC/L/MD/G/096/MS34216- CLC/L/MD/G/103). | | <p>CLC/L/MD/G/108/MS34226 - CLC/L/MD/G/121/MS34238</p> |

See also: Occupational schemes.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PAINTER STAINERS (CLC/L/PA)

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| <p>Payments to blind pensioners</p> | <p>1891 - 1951</p> | <p>CLC/L/PA/G/004/MS11548</p> |
| <p>Register of pensioners, grouped by blind and non-blind charities</p> | <p>[1960?] - 1973</p> | <p>CLC/L/PA/G/006/MS30641</p> |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PEWTERERS (CLC/L/PE)

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| Pensioners' books. Gives name, age and status of pensioners and amount paid to each. Annotated with date of death. Incomplete date coverage. Volume 1 includes marital status, volume 2 records position in the company. Volume 2 sets out payments in columns by fund (17 in total) with column headings detailing the number of beneficiaries of the fund, their gender and when payments made. Volume 3 is mainly blank | 1830 - 1858 | CLC/L/PE/G/007/MS22236 /001-003 (3 items) |
| Rough list of pensioners, giving names and addresses. It is unclear if these were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1855? - 1856? | CLC/L/PE/G/008/MS22237 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PLUMBERS (CLC/L/PH)

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| Pensioners' receipt book | 1824-44 | CLC/L/PH/G/001/MS02221 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SADDLERS (CLC/L/SA)

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| Microfilm copy of alphabetical list of pensioners. The list was compiled from c.1860 onwards. It gives date of admission to the freedom, date of birth and address and, occasionally, relatives' names, date of death and other remarks | 1831 - 1929 | CLC/L/SA/G/001/MS30490 |
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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SKINNERS (CLC/L/SE)

The Worshipful Company of Skinners operated a number of charity pensions and almshouses. These included:

- Hunt Loan Fund, which was reallocated to provide pensions for 'decayed' members or their wives in 1822;
- James Lancaster Gift for the benefit of widows of poor freemen;
- The Meredith Trust which provided money for three poor aged freemen or their widows;
- The St Helen's Almshouses, established from a bequest from Sir Andrew Judd in 1558 for the benefit of six poor freemen of the Company; and
- The Mile End Almshouses, established by the provisions of the will of Lewis Newberry (dated 1683) for the benefit of six widows of freemen of the Company.

These almshouses and charities were combined and simplified into Skinners' Consolidated Almshouses and Pension Charities through a Charity Commission Scheme in 1891.

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| Retirement Fund ledger | 1909 - 1942 | CLC/L/SE/D/018/MS30974 |
| Pension books, listing the pensioners and the amounts they have been paid on a quarterly basis. The books include almspeople from the Mile End and St Helen's Almshouse, Meredith's pensioners (from the Meredith Trust), Sir James Lancaster's widows, Hunt's pensioners and payments for poor preachers and retiring officers. | 1873 - 1896 | CLC/L/SE/G/021 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SKINNERS (continued)

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| Charter and ordinance book. Includes regulations concerning the presentation of children by the Company to Christ's Hospital, exhibitions in the gift of the Company, apprentices and turnovers, St Helen's and Mile End almshouses | 1800 - 1809 | CLC/L/SE/A/007/MS30818 |
| Pensioners' cash book. It is unclear if the pensions listed in this book were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1902 Aug - 1919 Jun | CLC/L/SE/G/022/MS30957 |
| Record of residences of pensioners. The volume is arranged alphabetically by the initial letters of the pensioners' surnames. Some entries have been crossed through, others have been pasted over. It is unclear if the pensions listed in this book were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1900? - 1955? | CLC/L/SE/G/023/MS30955 |

See also: Occupational schemes.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TACKLEHOUSE AND TICKET PORTERS (CLC/L/TA)

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| Pensioners' disbursement accounts. It is unclear if the pensions listed in this book were solely for the benefit of the Company's members | 1709 - 1729 | CLC/L/TA/G/001/MS02840 |
| List of pensioners, giving quarterly amounts paid, addresses, and dates joined the Society. A note in front suggests the pensioners applied to court to be added to the list. These pensions were for Company members only | 1788 - 1842 | CLC/L/TA/G/002/MS02936 |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TYLERS AND BRICKLAYERS (CLC/L/TG)

In 1832 the Company decided to raise a subscription to pay for the building of almshouses. A plot of land was bought on King Henry's Walk, Balls Pond Road, Islington and eight dwellings were constructed. The almshouses (for liverymen of the Company or their widows) were opened in 1836.

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| Pension Fund cash books | 1937 - 1979 | CLC/L/TG/G/003 (2 volumes) |
| Register of pensioners, giving name, age, monthly payments and occasionally date of death | 1937 - 1952 | CLC/L/TG/G/004/MS31511 |
| Records of Tylers' and Bricklayers' almshouses: - ledger, 1836-1937 (Ms 04860); - extracts from Company records concerning the foundation of the almshouses (Ms 31385); and - papers concerning the election of individuals to the almshouses, 1873-1902 (Ms 31391). Please note that further references may be found in other Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/TG/G (Subfonds) |

VINTNERS' COMPANY (CLC/L/VA)

Company almshouses: By his will dated 1446, Guy Shuldham bequeathed 13 buildings and land to the Vintners' Company to be converted into almshouses. The almshouses were destroyed in the Great Fire and were replaced by 12 almshouses in Mile End. A bequest by Benjamin Kenton (d. 1802) paid for the almshouses to be pulled down and rebuilt. The almshouses were damaged by bombing in the Second World War and were replaced by new almshouses built at the "Vintry", Nutley, Surrey in 1957-60.

Gassiot Bequest: for the relief and benefit of the widows, sons and daughters of livery men of the company who were, in the opinion of the Court of Assistants, deserving of charitable aid. The Court gave preference to the widows, sons or daughters of livery men who had been wine or spirit merchants.

Lucas' Gift: In 1839 Alderman Lucas, then Master of the Company, gave the Company £500 to invest and stipulated that the interest should be distributed annually to the almswomen of the Mile End almshouses.

Peacock's Gift: In 1849 John Henry Peacock left the Company £500 in his will, directing that the dividends should be used for the benefit of the widows of decayed liverymen of the Company and inhabitants of the Company's almshouses at Mile End.⁶

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| Account books of pensions paid by the Company to poor and decayed members, comprising lists of names, ages, the amount of pension due and paid, when the pension was first put on the list, residence and general remarks such as change of address etc. | 1824 - 1960 | CLC/L/VA/G/008/MS15360/0 01-007 (7 items) |
| Pension fund ledger. Includes accounts for: Annuitants; Almspeople; Educational Grants; Grants; Ben Kenton Annual Sermon; Lucas, Mervayle and Peacock gifts (investments); Pension Fund A and B (investments); Pensions (payments); Votes to Pensioners; Wines and Spirits Trades B.S. | 1932 - 1946 | CLC/L/VA/G/008A/MS36783 |
| Pension fund cash book | 1939 - 1946 | CLC/L/VA/G/008B/MS36784 |
| Deeds of covenant for the Company to pay individual pensioners. One of the deeds grants a monthly amount to a widow in recognition of her late husband's services to the company, so the pensions were probably for the benefit of those with a connection to the company | 1851 - 1987 | CLC/L/VA/G/008H/MS36790 /001-003 (3 items) |

⁶ Information on Lucas' and Peacock's Gifts from: 'Report on the Charities of the Vintners' Company', *City of London Livery Companies Commission. Report; Volume 4* (1884), pp. 553-556, available at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=69735> [Accessed August 2012].

VINTNERS' COMPANY (continued)

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| Correspondence with individual pensioners. Arranged alphabetically by pensioner with correspondence clipped together. Includes application forms, which asked for: the applicant's connection to the Vintners' Company (the date they, or their husband or father, received the freedom or details of their employment in wine firms); their family circumstances; their income and capital; the rent and rates they paid; whether they received a pension or state assistance; and a reference. Earlier examples also asked: the reason for their application; how they were incapacitated from working; their employment history; the 'origins of their misfortunes'; and whether they had a life insurance policy. In both instances they would be obliged to show a proof of their connections to the company | 1923 - 1985 | CLC/L/VA/G/008K/MS36792/001-002 (2 items) |
| Answers to questionnaires by pensioners concerning Vintners' gifts, and summary tables. Applicants were asked for their name, address, whether they were in receipt of old age pensions, details of income and capital, the state of their health and their circumstances. Summary tables include description column to record the applicant's connection to the Company | 1952, 1955 | CLC/L/VA/G/008L/MS36793 |
| Records of the Company Almshouses, including: - accounts, 1830 (Ms 15358); - lists of benefactions to widows, 1899 (Ms 15370); - plans, 1901 (Ms 18471); and - miscellaneous papers including correspondence and details of next of kin, [1800?], 1902-60 (36817-19). Please note that further references may be found in other Vintners' Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/VA/G (Subfonds) |

COMPANY OF WATERMEN AND LIGHTERMEN (CLC/L/WA)

Almshouses at Penge in Kent were built in 1840-1 on land presented to the Watermen and Lightermen's Company by John Dudin Brown. The almshouses could accommodate 60 residents, who were all retired freemen of the Company. They were closed in 1973. Further almshouses were founded in 1888 at Ditchling in Sussex through the gift of William Vokins, a master lighterman. It is unclear if the almshouses were solely for the benefit of the Company's members.

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| Account Book of payments to pensioners, alphabetically arranged within localities. Lists pensioner's name, recipient's name, sum paid and town/parish | 1742 - 1760 | CLC/L/WA/G/003/MS06395/001-003 (3 items) |
| Account Book of payments to pensioners, arranged alphabetically within periods of about five years, giving ages (1809-33), addresses, dates of admission to or discharge from pension and stating when married or dead | 1794 - 1928 | CLC/L/WA/G/004/MS06400/001-006 (6 items) |

COMPANY OF WATERMEN AND LIGHTERMEN (continued)

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| Alphabetical lists of pensioners admitted. Lists pensioner's name, residence, when admitted to the pension, amount of pension. Records death of pensioners | 1794 - 1837 | CLC/L/WA/G/005/MS06392/001-002 (2 items) |
| List of pensioners recommended for relief, giving ages, addresses, and dates of admission. Lists headed 'Officers, their widows and other Persons Recommended for the Pensions and by whom Recommended'. Also records name of the individual who recommended them for the pension | 1810 - 1900 | CLC/L/WA/G/006/MS06391A |
| Includes application forms and stock letters relating to Penge almshouses applications | 19th - mid 20th century | CLC/L/WA/F/006/MS18632 |
| The Company of Watermen and Lightermen's almshouse records, including minutes, subscription books, financial records and polling papers. Please note that further references may be found in other Company records such as minutes and accounts | | CLC/L/WA/G/013-015, 017, 019, 020, 022-025 |
| Cash books relating to the Asylums at Penge and Ditchling, and to the General Benevolent Fund | 1839 - 1945 | CLC/L/WA/G/018/MS06600/001-002 (2 items) |

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WEAVERS (CLC/L/WC)

Company Almshouses: William Watson (d. 1673) gave £200 towards the building of almshouses in Shoreditch. The almshouses were opened in 1670. Richard Garrett of Wandsworth bequeathed £1,000 East India stock for the building of six almshouses at Elder Street, Porter's Fields for poor members of the Weavers' Company. In 1851 these almshouses were sold and new ones were erected at Wanstead. They comprised 24 dwellings (12 for men and 12 for women) and were ready for occupation in 1859.

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| Quarterly lists of pensioners, with amounts due | 1724 - 99, 1815 - 90 | CLC/L/WC/G/005 (series of 9 volumes) |
| Lists of pensioners giving details of places of abode and dates of death | 1816 - 1911 | CLC/L/WC/G/005A/MS35209A |
| Quarterly lists of pensioners, with amounts due to them, and general ledger accounts relating chiefly to corporate and trust property including the Hoxton and Parker's Fields almshouses, Shoreditch | 1807 - 1817 | CLC/L/WC/G/006/MS05235 |
| Records of the Weavers' Company almshouses, which include: an almshouses committee minute book; papers relating to the receipt of rents; and financial records. Further references may be found in other Weavers' Company records such as minutes and accounts. See CLC/L/WC/G/002/MS04648/C, CLC/L/WC/G/003/MS04648/D and CLC/L/WC/G/011/MS17951A | | CLC/L/WC/G/001/MS10596/A CLC/L/WC/G/003/MS04648/D, CLC/L/WC/G/011/MS17951A and CLC/L/WC/G/017/MS04710 |