

THE SHEPHERD NEAME ARCHIVE

GUIDE FOR RESEARCHERS

Introduction and Scope

The Shepherd Neame Archive is a business archive of The Brewery. It contains mainly business ledgers, books and papers that were once working papers used daily to help run the business effectively. In addition there are some Neame family papers and a collection of photographs. They were not written for historians and researchers but with careful analysis they do reveal most aspects of the history of the company.

The survival rate is patchy, for as office space was needed or personnel changed day to day papers and little used ledgers deemed of no long term use were thrown away. Very little survives before 1848 and the further one goes down the hierarchy of ledgers, from the corporate to the operational, the less survives. Fortunately some of the losses at corporate level can be complemented by other archives.

For ease of access the archive has been arranged under eleven classifications: Corporate; Accounting; Sales; Production; Letters; Employment; Title; The Neame Family; Images; Printed Books; Miscellaneous. These are divided into sixty sub-classifications and there are manuscript lists of items for each. We aim to produce an index to the contents of major items.

This Guide aims to help our many correspondents and researchers by answering the questions they most often ask and directing them to sources for more help, both here and in other archives. It gives a flavour of what we have.

The history of 'Shepherd Neame, A Story That Has Been Brewing for 300 Years' by Theo.Barker, 1998, gives a general background to the company, and is still on sale here.

Our archivist is happy to answer basic questions by e mail. If you would like to consult our archive for more lengthy research he is available on Tuesdays to help you make the most of a visit. Please make an appointment in advance by e mail or telephone:

John Owen FSA,
Archivist Historian,
The Brewery,
Shepherd Neame,
18 Court Street,
Faversham,
Kent ME 13 7AX.

Tel: 01795 532206

E mail: company@shepherd-neame.co.uk

Please remember that more recent records that we deem confidential or sensitive, generally those less than thirty years old, and Neame Family Files, will only be available at the discretion of The Chief Executive.

Do you have any early Balance Sheets or Profit and Loss Accounts?

We have annual Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts from 1848-1913, when The Brewery was a private partnership, and Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts from 1913 to date, when The Brewery became a Limited Company. The Balance Books from 1848-1913, The Journals from 1848-1913 and The Private Ledgers from 1856-1913 contain more detailed financial data. Do not expect to find these set out like their modern equivalents.

What records do you have of types of beer and ale sold?

We have barrelage numbers from 1797-1819 in The Brewing Book and from 1848 to 1913 in the Stock and Stock Delivery Books. The volumes and turnover of the different types of beer and ale brewed are shown in the Stock Books and Journals from 1848-1913.

What Price Lists do you have for your products?

We have incomplete lists from 1818-1929 culled from many sources. We have Shepherd Neame printed lists from 1930-1983.

What records do you have for The Clubs you supply?

We have files for most Clubs from the 1920s, which include Balance Sheets, turnovers and personnel.

What records do you have about your Malt Houses?

We have no plans or specifications for the Home, Standard and Preston Maltings. We have Production Malt Books from 1859-1866 and 1899-1979. We have a few external photographs.

What records do you have about hops used?

There is a short Exhibition Catalogue, October 2008, which outlines what we hold. The Cash Book, 1817-1819, is the earliest record of suppliers and prices; the Balance Books, 1848-1913, show the annual expenditure on hops; the Stock Books 1853-1935, show suppliers, quantities and prices; The Hops Marketing Board files, 1920-1950s, give much background information. We have a few hop garden photographs.

How important was the railway for The Brewery?

There is a short Exhibition Catalogue, September 2008, which answers this question.

Do you have any Letter Books concerning the way the Company was managed?

We have a continuous series of General Out-Letter Books from 1844-1853 and 1857-1980. We have précis of those down to 1879. None of these is a Partner's Letter Book, probably because they were never kept. The General In-Letter Books run from 1896-1898 and 1909-1961.

What can you tell me about my ancestor/relation who worked for Shepherd Neame?

We have no single series of Employment Ledgers. We have a Stray Names of Employees List, 1841-1875, of 57 names; an 1897 Yard List of 58 names; a List of Subscribers to Harry Neames Wedding Present of 114 names; and a 1938 List of Contributors to Harry Neame's Jubilee of 239 names. We have Miscellaneous, Bonds, References and Bonuses Files for many employees from the 1860s.

The only continuous sources for employment records are; The Wages Books, 1928-1929, 1938 and 1963-1964; The Salaries Books, 1952-1972; The Employee Records Books, 1920-1940 and 1949-1970; and The Provident Fund Books, 1920-1970.

What can you tell me about my ancestor/relation who was a publican?

We have complete lists of publicans from 1864, with their pubs and rents paid, in The Rent Books, 1864-1976. For the years 1727-1825 we have lists of publicans extracted from The Sun and Kent Insurance Company Policy Registers, at The Guildhall Library, London and The Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone. Further information is available from; Licensing Records of Quarter Sessions, 1570-1900, Centre for Kentish Studies; Kelley's Post Office Directories, 1851-1920s, at most local libraries; Electoral Rolls, at most libraries and The British Library, London; The Census Returns, 1841-1911, at most local libraries and on line at The National Archives, Kew.

We also have a large quantity of individual Tenancy Agreements and Loans to Tenants Agreements from the 1860s. We have an index of names. We have some pub accounts from the 1870s.

Can you help me with the history of a pub.?

We have a huge collection of deeds for premises we own now and many for those we no longer own. The earliest begin in the seventeenth century. We have manuscript lists and indexes of these. For more recent property purchases we often have only a modern Land Certificate. Deeds always list previous owners and occupiers but rarely give dates of building.

We have a collection of; Inventories of pub contents, 1870s-1960s; plans and architects drawings for some pubs from c1900; files on and a Ledger of repairs from 1870; Insurances Ledgers from 1875; some detailed Ordnance Survey Maps from 1906.

Who were the Neames?

We have a deed box of papers for Percy Beale Neame and each of his children. The executorship papers of Percy Beale Neame, 1913-1914, are especially interesting; they show not only how the sole proprietorship was converted into a limited company by Harry Sidney Neame, but have a mass of Faversham bill heads.

There is a Neame Family Tree from Percy onwards. There is a Family Tree and history of the earlier Neames in 'The Faversham Farmers Club' by P. Selby.

Do you have early photographs of employees, tenants, public houses or The Brewery?

We have very few photographs of employees before the 1940s. The photographs of pubs often show publicans standing in front of their house.

We have a few pub photos taken c1890 and an album of all Shepherd Neame pubs taken c 1925. Thereafter we have a wide spread of photos.

The earliest photos of The Brewery were taken c1895. Thereafter the many photographs we have were taken usually of development and rebuilding from the 1920s onwards.

Do you have a Library of Books about Brewing/Breweries?

The small library is not a 'collection' but the 'accumulation' of books used for the business.

We have incomplete runs of; 'The Journal of the Institute of Brewing' 1897-1958; 'The Brewing Trade Review' 1940-1959; 'The Brewers Almanac' 1941, 1958/9 and 1962/3; 'Manual of British and Foreign Brewing Companies' 1930.

We have a variety of technical brewing books from the 1930s and files of various Brewing and Hops Trade Associations.

We have a few books about the consolidation of breweries in the 20th Century.

What do you consider 'The Crown Jewels' of the archive?

The Court Rolls and Rentals of The Manor of Queen Court, Ospringe (1623-1928); the Cash Book of Julius Shepherd (1816-1819); and the Brewing Book of Henry Shepherd (1797-1819).

What else do you have?

We have miscellaneous files on other breweries, such as Cobbs of Margate, 1960s, and Masons of Maidstone, 1950s.

We have files and reports for The Faversham Gas Company, 1889-1927; The Faversham Steam Laundry Co, 1897, 1940; Herne Bay Pier Co, 1898; Boughton Blean and Gas Co, 1894; and The Sittingbourne Agricultural Association Poster, 1927.

We have a Scrap Album for The Grand Theatre of Varieties, Gravesend, 1894-1895.