

## Coroners' Papers at Plymouth and West Devon Record Office

Plymouth and West Devon Record Office (PWDRO) is the official archive for the city of Plymouth and the west Devon area. It preserves and facilitates public access to a plethora of historic material and is a free facility. Records of the office of the Plymouth and South West Devon Coroner are held here.

### The Records

PWDRO holds coroners' records dating back to 1892. The records form a rich source for medical, social and family history, although their contents are necessarily sensitive and to the family and loved ones of the deceased, deeply personal. Records are transferred to PWDRO annually.

#### **The records form three principal series:**

##### **Coroner's Daily Record Books**

These hold the following information: name of deceased, date of death and state whether a post mortem or inquest were held.

Covering Dates: 1942-1943, 1947-2004

##### **Post Mortem Reports**

These are the medical examination carried out by an appointed pathologist into the cause of death.

Covering dates: 1934, 1940-1944, 1946-1951, 1953-1983, 1987-2005

##### **Inquest and Post Mortem Information produced at Inquest**

These are the formal proceedings of the coroner's courts in which details of the death are established. The individual's name, the manner, time and place of their death are recorded. Evidence such as medical information and photographs can be included within inquest papers.

Covering dates: 1892-1894, 1896-1897, 1910-1926, 1940-1945, 1947-1951, 1953-2005

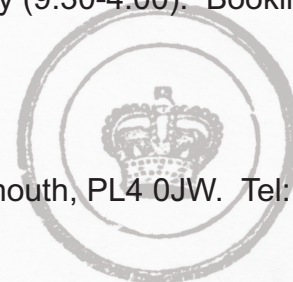
#### **Access and Terms of Use:**

Coroners' papers are accessible to the public. However, material under 75 years old can only be viewed and/or copied after the express written permission of the Plymouth and South West Devon Coroner's office has been obtained. Staff at PWDRO will be happy to advise on access conditions. The office is open Tuesday-Thursday (9.30-5.00) and Friday (9.30-4.00). Booking is required.

#### **Contact:**

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Web: [www.plymouth.gov.uk/archives](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/archives)



*Note: records held by PWDRO relate to the Plymouth Coroner. The records of the Devonport Coroner have never been traced.*