

# A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of Minority Ethnic History



Glamorgan Archives  
Archifau Morgannwg



Llywodraeth Cymru  
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Cover: Angelina Street / Welcome Mission, Cardiff, Photograph of children at a fancy dress pageant at the Angelina Street Mission Hall, c1920 (ref. DX819/11)

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## Introduction

This guide has been produced by Glamorgan Archives to support researchers of minority ethnic histories. It signposts researchers to collections of interest and methods of identifying previously unrecognised or underrepresented individuals and communities. Using case studies based on material held in the archive, it demonstrates pathways to uncovering minority histories. The guide represents a significant step towards ensuring ethnic minority communities are acknowledged, understood, and celebrated as an integral part of Glamorgan's heritage, and it has a vital role in promoting historical inclusivity, social cohesion, and future research in Wales.

The term 'ethnic minority' encompasses a remarkably vast spectrum of diverse communities, making the creation of a comprehensive research guide a considerable challenge. Each broad label groups together an extensive range of racial, cultural, linguistic, and faith backgrounds, each with its own distinct history, traditions, and experiences within Wales. The composition of ethnic minority groups in the country has itself evolved over time. Historical waves of migration and settlement have brought different communities to the fore, with demographics continuously shifting due to relocation patterns and human relationships. The fluidity of labels brings another set of challenges to researchers, as the very concept of 'ethnic minority' highlights the evolving nature of social categories. Definitions and terminologies shift over time and can be subjective, emphasising the need for researchers to be familiar with past terms, some of which are now considered unacceptable. Despite these challenges, there are, as this guide makes clear, commonalities of approach and research tools that can be used to begin the process of reclaiming lost histories from archives.

The growing awareness of ethnic minorities in Wales and the importance of their historical presence is driving a newfound interest in correcting a historical omission in our understanding of the past. We have long relied almost exclusively on local or community sources: family-held papers, oral histories, storytelling. No matter how vital these are, and will remain, we now recognise the potential of 'official' records in re-balancing our knowledge of life in south-east Wales across time.

Traditional historical records have too often centralised the experiences of majority populations, emphasising the need to rectify past elisions in what was considered the 'authorised' past. Wales has a smaller ethnic minority population compared to some parts of Britain, which translates to fewer potential records, demanding more nuanced approaches. Inevitably, Glamorgan's rich industrial history has left significant records, revealing a clear minority presence. Many communities had close associations to the vagaries of port and maritime economics, frequently facing poverty or marginalisation. These individuals were less likely to leave traceable records, such as published works or public commendations, leaving us to search elsewhere to capture the full scope of lives beyond employment. Here, official documents such as poor relief or workhouse records can reveal the hard reality for some at that time.

Additional challenges include institutional biases in how archives were collected and organised, with many reflecting outdated views on race, faith, and ethnicity. Accessing the collections themselves has proved challenging, with partialities in catalogue search terms and limited online presence building specific obstacles for independent researchers or those outside of traditional academia. Uncovering these histories has previously required a combination of archival research skills alongside an understanding of historical context and the evolving language used around ethnic minority histories. This, combined with a general absence of archival material from specific demographics created by narrow collections policies, has left whole communities underrepresented in archives.

Getting to the place where we are now able to publish this guide has been a long time coming for those researching ethnic minority histories. Information on individuals may be scattered across multiple collections (shipping records, court papers, newspaper snippets), requiring extensive cross-referencing and researcher resilience. In many county or national archives, inconsistent or inaccurate terminology has long stymied research, leaving records unexplored. Research strategies must include an awareness of archaic or problematic terms used in past records, as excluding them may mean missing valuable information. The essential glossary in this guide is useful, necessary, and difficult to read in equal measure.

An understanding of early data collection or reporting procedures is also helpful. A 19<sup>th</sup>-century census record might list a household servant as a 'mulatto'; a newspaper article might briefly mention a 'coloured man' involved in a legal dispute. With no further information, how does a modern researcher find more about such individuals? The lack of specific identifiers makes it difficult to locate further records relating to either person.

Creative contextual searches are important; many individuals of immigrant backgrounds established businesses, social clubs, and churches. The records of these institutions may yield names not evident in mainstream sources. Searching for a 'Black sailor' or 'African sailor' is a good start for maritime stories, but using nationalities may yield more results. 'Caribbean (or Jamaican or Trinidadian, etc) seaman' or 'West Indian sailor' could be more profitable. 'Lascar', a complex term covering broad Asian ethnicities, is also useful.

Becoming familiar with local or sector-specific vocabulary will open more records. Nicknames among industrial or maritime workers were common, and so knowing the slang for Indian or Black dockworkers or coal miners may lead to discoveries. Intersections of underrepresentation also bring challenges; searching for East Asian women requires at the very least an understanding of the economic roles where there was a known presence. Women of ethnic minority backgrounds were laundresses, dressmakers, keepers of boarding houses for sailors. These individuals are frequently hidden in plain sight but may still have left a trace.

While Wales never had any specific discriminatory race-related legislation through which to explore court records (such as those criminalising homosexuality), an

understanding of various pieces of legislation brought in especially over the past 60-70 years could expose social attitudes of the time, political positions on immigration, and may reveal the names of local activists. While legal restrictions limit access to official documents for differing periods of time, newspaper articles and freedom of information requests may offer insights around a chosen area of study. Significant legislation includes the Race Relations Acts of 1965, 1968, and 1976, and the Equality Act of 2010. In Wales, the publication of the Welsh Government's Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan in 2021 will yield many results for future researchers.

Historical newspapers also contain articles on civil unrest, such as the race riots of 1919 in Cardiff, Newport, and Barry. They may also cover public responses to informal exclusionist practices – the notorious colour bar – at night clubs and dance halls. Some venues openly advertised policies that denied entry to people of non-white appearance. Even without signage, establishments often employed unfair tactics to discourage non-white patrons, creating an atmosphere of hostility in local communities. Discriminatory practices varied across place, time, and region within Wales and the broader UK, but exploring local press and other records for public disturbances around such activity could prove fruitful.

Archival records frequently reflect power imbalances, and so we emphasise the importance of seeking out diverse voices as a key objective of ethical historical research. However, primary source materials such as those produced by white writers and poets can contain valuable information about ethnic minorities. It is crucial to approach these sources with a critical eye, considering the social and historical context in which they were created. This will help identify potential biases and ensure that historical narratives aren't based solely on the perspectives of those in positions of power. As the guide identifies, abolitionist Iolo Morganwg and others involved in anti-slavery campaigns have left notable records from a significant period in Britain's imperial past which impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of enslaved people across its colonies.

It can frequently be easier to identify community rather than personal stories, but these in turn can lead to the identification of individuals. Personal stories foster empathy beyond statistics; coming across the struggles of a Somali woman to find housing in 1950s Cardiff resonates differently from simply knowing that Black people faced discrimination. They are also useful in countering stereotypes, as unique stories break down monolithic portrayals. Finding points of commonality in people's lives, such as a passion for music, ambition in work, or love of family, reminds us of a shared humanity across differences. Individual stories enrich our understanding of agency and complexity. They reveal how individuals navigated challenges, made choices, and shaped their lives within the broader context of ethnicity and social experiences in Wales.

The guide reveals the importance of collaboration. Some ethnic minority communities, conscious of losing their own histories in the absence of conventional routes have gathered significant records themselves, such as the Butetown History and Arts Centre

Collection referenced in this guide. Additionally, collaborative insight into interpreting terminology and identifying search terms is invaluable. Partnership with ethnic minority communities extends beyond advice on what is currently held in the archives, but can inform on gaps, such as which groups are not evident in the archive and what types of material should be collected: what do *they* deem historically significant.

These strategies require patience and openness to dead ends. Welsh ethnic minority history research is often a process of uncovering fragments and reading between the lines of existing archives. The lack of instantly visible material does not mean a lack of presence. While frustrating for researchers, however, the absence of such records may hint at a potential positive: it might suggest that individuals were not routinely categorised or labelled in official documents based on their ethnic differences. This could indicate a degree of tolerance or indifference to distinctions we might emphasise today, offering a different perspective on historical social dynamics in our understanding of official records.

For individuals of ethnic minority heritage, however, uncovering personal or ancestral connections within historical records fosters a powerful sense of belonging and a reinforcement of place in Welsh history. Opening this past confronts the misconception of Wales as a homogenous society, leading to a more complex and inclusive understanding of the Welsh experience. This helps combat racist ideology which places ethnic minorities as 'them', 'outsiders', or recent arrivals, which has contributed to broader community instability.

The value of guides such as this lie in acknowledging the richness and complexities of ethnic minority identities in Wales, while providing tools and resources for focussed inquiries that uncover stories waiting to be told. Its educational potential is incalculable. Both this guide and the archive itself need to be seen as evolving, and both will change as they are used by a growing number of diverse communities.

Find out more:

There are still too few resources that specifically focus on researching ethnic minority histories. Here are a few, along with books that explore the lived experiences of being 'different' in Wales or the UK.

- The National Archives: [Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Histories](#) contains a hyperlinked list of resources.
- The Law Society: [A guide to race and ethnicity terminology and language](#).
- Welsh Government: [Welsh Language Race and Ethnicity Terminology](#).
- Hull History Centre: [Ethnic Minority Voices](#).
- Archives Wales, [Revealing the Lived Experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People in Wales](#).
- Charlotte Williams, Sugar and Slate (Black Britain Writing Back 12, Penguin, 2023). Powerful memoir of a mixed heritage woman growing up in north Wales, intertwined with her experiences in Africa and the Caribbean.

- Alan Llwyd, *Cymru Ddu/Black Wales: A History of Black Welsh People* (S4C, 2005). Uncovering the stories of Black individuals and communities in Wales across centuries.
- Angela Hui, *Takeaway: Stories from a Childhood Behind the Counter* (Trapeze, 2022). Growing up in a Chinese takeaway in Beddau.
- Darren Chetty, et al (editors), *Welsh Plural* (Repeater Books, 2022).
- Peter Fryer, *Staying Power: The history of black people in Britain* (Pluto Press, 1984). Still one of the best resources on this subject.
- Gemma Romain, *Race, Sexuality and Identity in Britain and Jamaica: The biography of Patrick Nelson, 1916-1963* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017), explores the life of a Black queer man, who worked for a while as a valet in rural Wales.
- Social media: Community groups, individuals, archives, historians, and academics are sharing their research on minority histories in Wales across multiple social media platforms.

Dr Marian Gwyn, Head of Heritage, Race Council Cymru

Race Council Cymru applauds Glamorgan Archives for this essential new guide. Researchers, regardless of background, now have a powerful tool to uncover the diverse stories woven into Welsh history. It signals a commitment to a heritage landscape where everyone can find themselves represented, further enriching our shared understanding of the past.

The meticulous research and careful consideration that went into this guide is evident. Glamorgan Archives demonstrates it understands that finding inclusive histories isn't just about the 'right' word, but the right approach. The richness of history so often feels inaccessible, especially for those whose communities have been marginalised. This is empowerment; it hands people the tools to unearth their own heritage, and in doing so, claim their rightful place in Welsh history.

The guide is for everyone, but for young ethnic minority researchers, especially, it does more than provide search terms; it ignites a connection to history. Suddenly, the past becomes relevant, and a place where they too can see their ancestors' contributions to the Wales of today.

Race Council Cymru fully supports this work and encourages other heritage institutions across Wales to take inspiration from it.

Professor Uzo Iwobi CBE, CEO Race Council Cymru



## Foreword

The production of this guide was funded through the Welsh Government's Anti-Racist Wales Culture Heritage and Sport Fund. It was produced in partnership with Race Council Cymru and Historian and Researcher Norena Shopland.

This guide aims to highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion, ensuring that Minority Ethnic communities are properly represented, and that representation has been done by minority ethnic people themselves.

Three early careers researchers were recruited to explore the collections at Glamorgan Archives. They undertook the more in-depth and complex research required. Our aim was to support new and early career researchers through this project. Guidance was provided on materials to explore and research methods appropriate to their work.

A dedicated group of volunteers were recruited to support the research work. The project attracted volunteers from a range of backgrounds and experiences, many of whom have some connection with the research focus. We acknowledge that the act of volunteering itself, and access to heritage careers, both hold barriers to entry. For example, time limitations that are heightened for people studying, in full-time employment, those who have caring responsibilities, and people from low-income or marginalised backgrounds.

Volunteers were encouraged to use online resources such as Welsh Newspapers Online to carry out their research, enabling them to take part from home. Their role focused on testing the glossary terms (found on page 36) to uncover stories relating to Minority Ethnic history in Glamorgan. The project provided volunteers with valuable research training led by Historian and Researcher Norena Shopland, covering data collection, terminology, and methodology research skills that can be taken beyond this project, for example when applied to family heritage research or other research projects. Volunteers were eager to contribute their time, skills, and expertise to help share this important area of history. Their willingness to participate demonstrated a genuine commitment to preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of Glamorgan's Minority Ethnic communities. We thank them all for their dedication, without which the production of this Guide would not have been possible.

The geographical focus of this Guide is the area served by Glamorgan Archives, comprising the current local authority areas of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan, and the former Rhymney Valley area of Caerphilly County Borough. Some examples have been drawn from further afield where appropriate, especially from West Glamorgan, as some of the collections held at Glamorgan Archives, such as those for the Court of Quarter Sessions and Glamorgan County Council, relate to the whole of the former historic county of Glamorgan. We have signposted the other major archive repositories in Glamorgan and Wales, as appropriate.

This Guide highlights sources available for the study of Minority Ethnic History. We have taken this as relating to people of colour, including Black, Arab, South Asian and East Asian people. We have not explored records relating to Jewish people nor to Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities. It is our intention to develop specific guides on these areas of research in future.

### **Content warning**

This research guide contains offensive language, including but not limited to racial slurs, derogatory terms, and other forms of discriminatory language. These terms are included for the purpose of research within a historical context. However, readers are advised that encountering such language may be distressing or triggering.

## Source list

This list highlights the collections held at Glamorgan Archives of most significance when researching Minority Ethnic History.

Any series of records, in particular those that feature names of individuals, are likely to include Minority Ethnic people. Ethnicity is rarely defined in the records, and can be difficult to identify by name only, unless a name references a particular heritage or unless a photograph is included. We have therefore narrowed our focus to those collections of particular relevance when researching Minority Ethnic History.

The collections at Glamorgan Archives date from the 12th century. But population growth during the industrial revolution, from the late-18th century through the 19th and 20th centuries, means that more sources survive from this period.

The collections are arranged by subject area. A brief introduction to the type of information they include and the reasons for their inclusion in the guide is given. Document references are listed and can be used to explore the collections in more detail through the Glamorgan Archives catalogue, Canfod.

Items from some of the collections featured have been digitised and are available to search online. Where this is the case, the online sources have been noted.

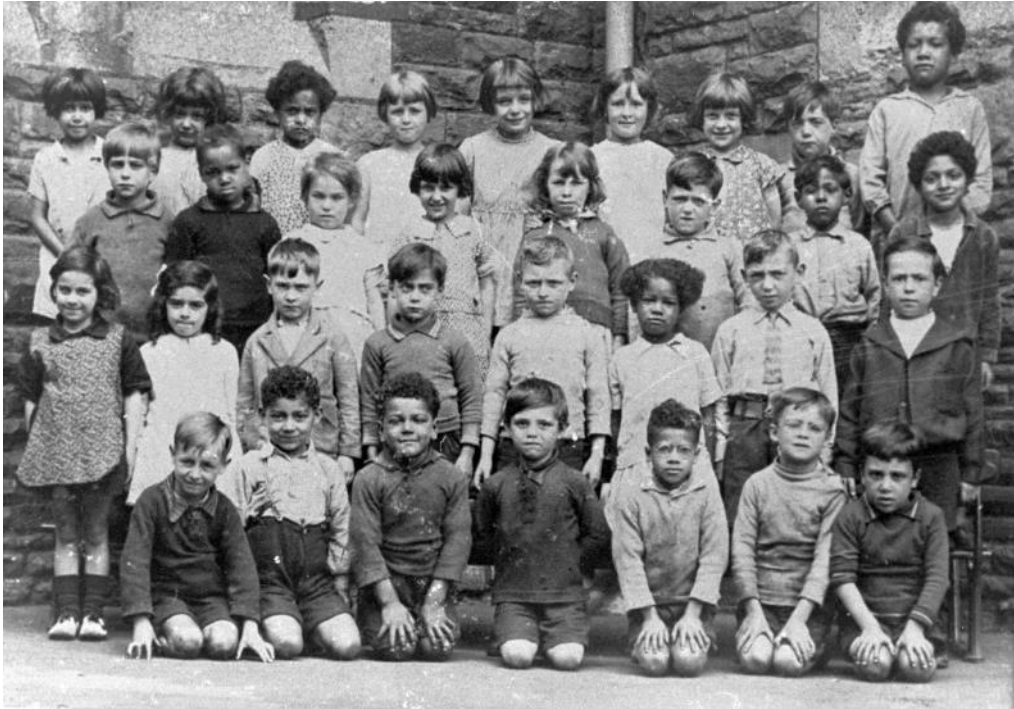
Please note that access to information on named individuals within records less than 100 years old may be restricted in line with Data Protection and other relevant legislation.

### *Community organisations*

#### Butetown History and Arts Centre Collection (D1856)

Butetown History and Arts Centre was established in 1988. It was situated on Bute Street, Cardiff. The centre collected material relating to the history of the Butetown / Tiger Bay area, in particular oral histories and photographs. The centre closed in 2017 and the collection was passed to Tiger Bay and the World. The oral histories were transferred to the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales. The remaining material was deposited at Glamorgan Archives.

The collection documents the activities of the Butetown History and Arts Centre and reflects the Tiger Bay community, one of the most diverse multicultural communities in the UK with people from over 50 different nationalities. Items include newsletters, photographs of people, places and events, personal papers including seamen's papers, newscuttings, transcripts of interviews, and artwork.



*Butetown History and Arts Centre Collection, Photograph of children at South Church Street School, 1930 (ref. D1856 / 007-0905-064)*

At the time of publication, the collection is in the process of being catalogued and a full item level list will be made available on the Glamorgan Archives catalogue once this work is complete.

Other community organisations with collections of note include South Wales Intercultural Community Arts (SWICA) (ref. D1298). Established in 1990, SWICA's first ever workshops introduced carnival arts and samba percussion at community venues across Cardiff. From these roots sprang Cardiff Carnival and Samba Galez. The collection includes a large amount of photographic material recording carnivals and parades. VCS Cymru (ref. D1618) was established in 1964 as an independent social action charity which developed grassroots community action in and around Cardiff. They worked to help people and their communities thrive through heritage, media and supported volunteering opportunities. Records relate to VCS's activities within communities, in particular in the southern arc of Cardiff, and to partner organisations. Grangetown Community Concern (ref. D1070), now Grangetown Community Action, is an organisation that works locally in the Grangetown area of Cardiff, producing a newspaper, supporting projects and campaigns and organising the Carnival. Records comprise general filing on local issues.

Items to highlight within other larger collections include copies of 'Dal Mar', the South Wales Somali community newsletter (ref. D800/1/4), programmes of events at the Cardiff Commonwealth Arts Festival of 1965 (ref. DX446/67) and a programme for the Butetown Carnival of 1983 (ref. D1789).

### *Estate, family and personal papers*

The involvement of many gentry families from Wales with the transatlantic slave trade has been documented widely, in particular by Chris Evans in *Slave Wales: The Welsh and Atlantic Slavery 1660-1850* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2010).

#### Mathew Family of St Kew, Cornwall, and the Caribbean Islands, Papers (ref. DMW)

The main collection at Glamorgan Archives which evidences these connections is that of the Mathew Family of St Kew, Cornwall, and the Caribbean Islands, descended from the Mathew Family of Llandaff and Radyr.

Records of the Mathew Family relate directly to the family's involvement in the sugar trade and the slave trade, including their ownership of plantations and slaves on the islands of St Christopher (St Kitts), St Martin and Antigua. Abednego Mathew (baptised 1633) served in the army and became Governor of St Kitt's, his three sons all had involvement with the governance of St Kitt's, and his middle son, William, became Captain-General and Governor in Chief of the Leeward Islands and was related through marriage to the Lieutenant-General of the Island of Nevis. His children also feature prominently in the collection.

Items of note within the collection include wills, appraisements, valuations and inventories, and estate plans of plantations.



*Extract from the plan of the plantation of Abednego Mathew in St. George Basseterre, St. Christopher, 1800, including a 'Negro House' (ref. DMW/305)*

Of particular interest is the purchase of a Tobago plantation estate by Daniel Mathews and the resulting annual accounts. Alongside the routine purchases of the food, items and labour required for the efficient running of a New World plantation, and inserted amongst the bric-a-brac and minutia of everyday living, are the names

(given by the slave owners), roles, and prices of enslaved Africans and their descendants.

The findings of researcher Michael Jonas, who explored the Matthew Family papers in the preparation of this guide, can be read in full in Appendix II.

Several collections of personal papers are held at Glamorgan Archives. One such collection comprises the seaman's papers of Louis Henri Elias Verloppe (ref. D877). Louis Verloppe was born in Mauritius in 1894 and died in Cardiff in 1987. He served in the British merchant navy. His address in Cardiff was 197 Bute Street, and he died in the Hamadryad Hospital. No relatives could be traced and so his papers came to Glamorgan Archives. They include his seaman's record books.

SEAMAN'S RECORD BOOK		CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE	
NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER AR/6426/S3/B	UNION OR SOCIETY Name No.	SURNAME (in BLOCK Letters) VERLOPPE	CHRISTIAN NAMES (in full) Louis, Henri, Elias
INCOME TAX CODE NUMBER AND DATE -S- 4/12/50	PASSION FUND AND REGISTERED No.	DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 6/9/1894 MAURITIUS	NATIONALITY Cit. of Mauritius & Subject of the British Empire
DECLARATION I DECLARE (i) that the person to whom this Discharge Book relates has satisfied me that he (she) is a seaman and (ii) that the photograph affixed bearing my official stamp is a true likeness of that person. That the signature written in his (her) own handwriting, that he (she) possesses the physical characteristics assumed within, and has visited before the date and place of his (her) birth as entered within.		HEIGHT EYES COLOUR OF HAIR COMPLEXION 5' 5" BROWN BLACK SWARTHY Tattoo or other Distinguishing Marks NONE	
SIGNATURE OF SEAMAN DATE		GRADE NUMBER AND DATE OF ISSUE OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY HELD	
B.M.O. EMPRESSING STAMP		B.S.I.C. Serial No. BS 14439	
SIGNATURE OF SEAMAN		SIGNATURE OF SEAMAN	

*Louis Henri Elias Verloppe, Papers, 1939-1987, Seaman's record book (ref. D877)*

### *Crime and Punishment*

Ordinary working people are rarely recorded in the official written record. One notable exception is when people come into conflict with authority. Crime and punishment records – those of the police, courts and prisons – are therefore a fruitful source for tracing individual stories, be they those of the perpetrators or the victims of crimes, or the witnesses to their actions. These records can lead us to other sources, such as census returns and trade directories, helping us to learn more about individual lives.

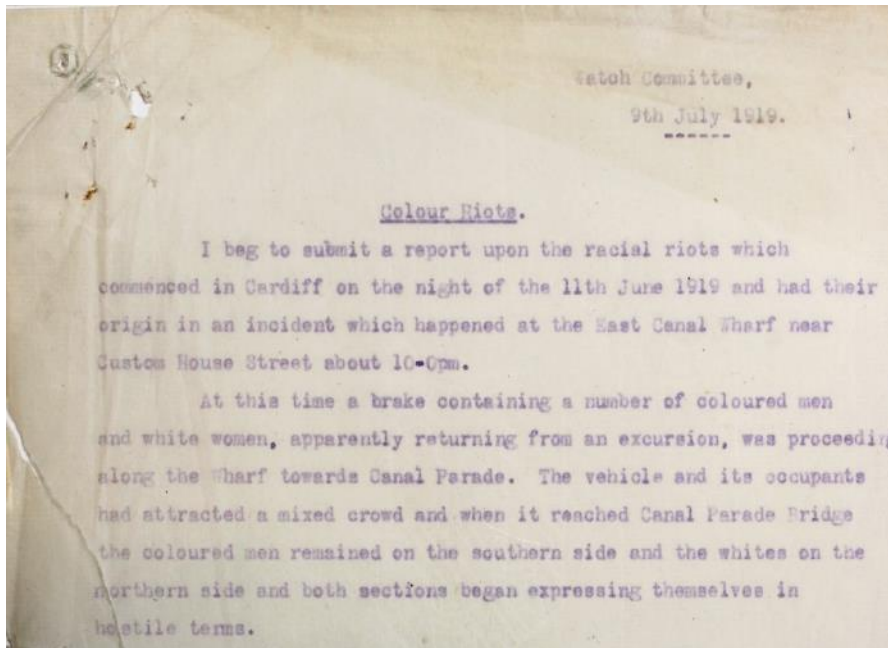
### Police records

Glamorgan Archives holds records of the Glamorgan Constabulary and the borough forces established in Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil.

Records within these collections can be divided into two sections; those that relate to the administration of the police forces, and those produced during policing work.

The records produced during policing work will relate directly to individuals investigated and arrested, and regulated by, the police. Series of note for all forces include crimes registers and charge books. Amongst the Cardiff Borough Police records are fingerprint and photographic registers (ref. DCONC/3), inquest books (ref. DCONC/4), newscuttings books (ref. DCONC/5) and licensing records (DCONC/7) with those for lodging houses, 1909-1964, of particular interest. Examples of a number of these records are included in Appendix I.

The police forces were overseen by the Glamorgan County Council Standing Joint Committee and by the Watch Committees established in the Boroughs of Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil. The minutes of and reports to these committees will detail statistical information on the patterns of crime, attitudes towards policing, and responses to major incidents.



*Extract from the Chief Constable's Report on 1919 Cardiff Race Riots, Cardiff Borough Police Force, Reports of the Chief Constable to the Watch Committee, 1918-1921 (ref. DCONC/1/6/1)*

In 1969 these forces, along with those for the boroughs of Neath and Swansea (records held at West Glamorgan Archive Service), were amalgamated to form South Wales Police. Similar series exist to those found within the records of the predecessor forces. In addition, employment records will be of note. The collection includes a series of alien registration records dating from the 1940s-1990s (ref. DSWP/5), documents relating to Anti-Apartheid protests in Swansea in 1969-1970 (ref. DSWP/24), along with photographs of Anti-Apartheid protests and protests

against the participation of the South African rugby team in international matches (ref. DSWP/PH).

The South Wales Police Authority was created in 1969 to oversee the work of South Wales Police, taking on the role of the Standing Joint Committee and Watch Committees which existed previously.

Further information on our police records can be found in our [research guide](#), 'Police Records'. Indexes to the Cardiff Borough Police Fingerprint and Photographic Registers (ref. DCONC/3) can be searched on our catalogue, and indexes for the period 1904-1920 are available on Ancestry.

### Court records

Glamorgan Archives holds records of the Court of Quarter Sessions for Glamorgan and the courts of Petty Sessions within the County. Records of the higher courts are held elsewhere; those of the Great Sessions are held at the National Library of Wales and, after 1830, records of the Assizes are to be found at the National Archives.

Details of individual courts, their jurisdictions and a summary of our holdings for each can be found in our [research guide](#), 'Records of the Courts'.

The courts dealt with criminal cases, but also held an administrative role, in particular in relation to licensing, covering pubs, clubs and music venues, boarding houses etc.

Court records can be used in conjunction with newspaper reports and police records to build a picture of individual cases. Series to note for all our courts include registers, minute books, calendars of prisoners and licensing records.

Several examples from court records can be found in Appendix 1.

Calendars of Prisoners for the period 1850-1920 have been digitised and are available to search on Ancestry.

### Prison records

Prior to the Prisons Act of 1877 responsibility for the running of the County Gaols sat with the Court of Quarter Sessions. Records relating to both Cardiff and Swansea Gaol can be found amongst the court records before 1877. Along with the calendars of prisoners referenced above are punishment books (ref. Q/G/P).

After 1877 records can be found within the prison collections. These include calendars of prisoners (ref. DHMP/5/1), prisoner records, including registers (ref. DHMP/9) and records of the Medical Officer (ref. DHMP/2).

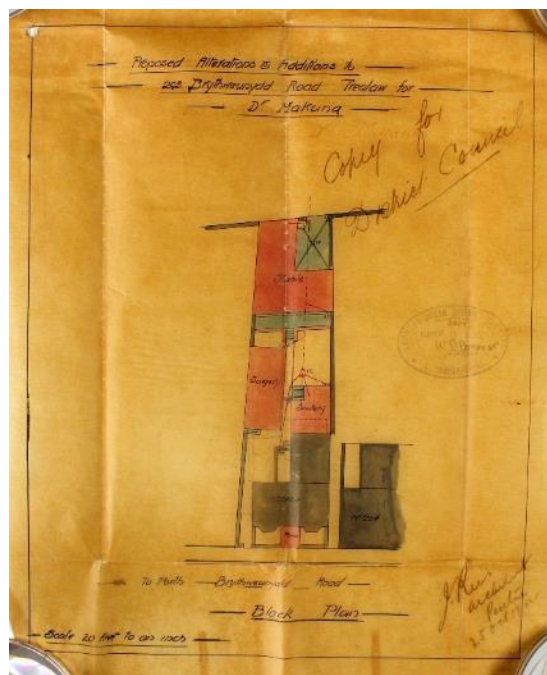


## Local government and politics

As a local authority archive service, local government records form the core collections at Glamorgan Archives. The records include details of individuals who served in elected office or worked for the authorities, records relating to individuals who made use of the services provided by the authorities, and information on the policies and decision making of local authorities.

Declarations of acceptance of office, year books and programmes of events will record the work of local authority members. A programme is held for the mayoral dinner celebrating the election of Councillor Hinds as Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, becoming Wales' first Black mayor (ref. D87). His sister, Elvira Gwenllian Hinds, was Wales' first Black woman councillor. Cardiff City Council's year books (ref. DCC/C/12) record the election in 1983 of Gaynor Legall as first Councillor for the Butetown Ward.

Building regulation plans can be used to trace not only buildings of note, but also the people who commissioned, designed and built them. 19th century expansion of the coal industry saw the population of the Rhondda grow substantially. Doctors were needed and Dr Montague Duncan Makuna and Dr Kristnalal Datta were two of the first to arrive from India to provide healthcare in these new communities. Plans within the records of Rhondda Urban District Council records proposed alterations to medical premises in Trealaw for Dr Makuna (ref. UDR/S/2/3907) and the addition of a glass house at the Workmen's Hospital in Ferndale for Dr Datta (ref. UDR/S/2/5441). Borough of Cardiff building regulation plans include those for the first purpose built mosque in Wales at Peel Street, Butetown, in 1938 (ref. BC/S/1/33198).



*Rhondda Urban District Council, Building Regulation Plans, Proposed alterations and additions to 203 Brithweunydd Road, Trealaw for Dr. Makuna, 12 December 1902, (ref. UDR/S/2/3907*

Local authorities also dealt with licensing, along with the courts and the police. Researcher Renee Eshel's work on our local authority records highlights a file relating to police court prosecutions brought by Barry Borough Council (ref. BB/C/12/1-40), 1922-1924. It includes an application for a summons against Abby Farrah alias Alli Farrah and Hadji Mohamed Ismael for letting lodgings to seamen at Thompson Street in Barry without the necessary license.

Minutes of meetings can be used to follow the role and work of particular councillors, to track the development of policy, along with the authorities' day to day work. Minutes of the Borough of Cardiff's Health and Port Sanitary Committee (BC/C/6/48), for example, report on the work of the Inspector of Seamen's Lodging Houses. In January 1914 a list of the nationalities of licensed lodging houses in 1913 is included, along with the names of the licensed keepers of lodging houses. This is followed by a list of licenses granted for the year 1914.

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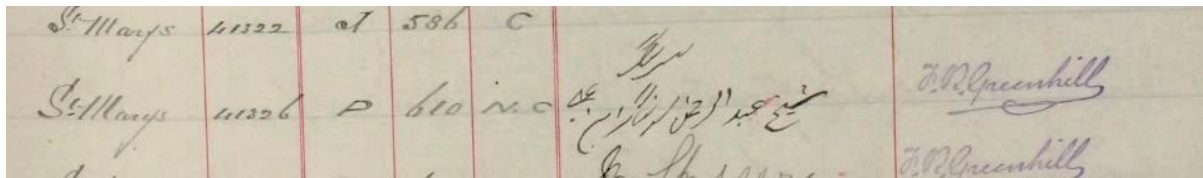
Details of Nationality, etc., of Seamen's Lodging Houses (see Report Book).—Total licenced, 155. The nationalities are :—Arab, Austrian, American and West Indian, Armenian and Portuguese, British, British and Scandinavian ; British, German and Scandinavian ; British and Spanish, British and Swiss ; British, Swedish and Norwegian ; British, American and West Indian ; British and Norwegian ; British, Dutch and German ; British, Danish and Scandinavian ; Chinese ; Danish, Norwegian and Scandinavian ; Dutch, Greek, German, Italian, Maltese ; Portuguese and West Indian ; Portuguese ; Russian and Finnish ; Russian, Finnish and Scandinavian ; Samien, Somalien, Spanish, Scandinavian and Finnish, Scandinavian, Spanish and Italian, Turkish, West Indian, West African, West African and West Indian All nationalities.

The following Licenced Keepers of Seamen's Lodging Houses

*Cardiff Borough Council Records, Minute Book, November 1913-May 1914 (ref. BC/C/6/48)*

Municipal cemeteries began to be established during the 1850s, as the population grew and existing church and chapel cemeteries became full. Records of municipal cemeteries operated by local authorities can be used to trace the burials of individuals. Burial registers for most municipal cemeteries remain with the relevant local authorities, and further information can be found in our [research guide](#) to 'Municipal Cemeteries'. Glamorgan Archives holds burial registers for Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff, which opened in 1859 (ref. BUBC/1). On 15 May 1894 we find a record of the burial of [Banon] Gulamsab, named in newspapers at the time as Bawa Golam Sahib. He is listed as a seaman who died at the hospital ship. The signature of the officiating minister, Sheikh Abderahman Sar Niger Ebn Ali, is included, written in Arabic.

20121	15 <sup>th</sup> May	Banon Gulamsab	2010	Seaman	Hospital Ship
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*Cardiff Burial Board Records, Burial Register (Cathays Cemetery), Cardiff St Mary and St Dyfrig, 1 January 1890-25 September 1901 (ref. BUBC/1/2/3)*

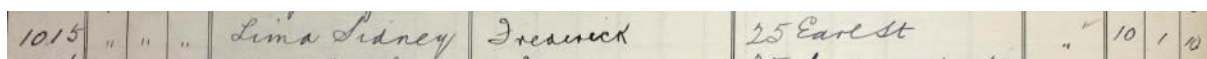
Records of protest can be found throughout the collection. These include papers organisations such as Cardiff Residents Against the Barrage (D350), which focused on the impact of the construction of the barrage on communities in south Cardiff in particular, and individual items such as a poster for an Anti-Apartheid protest (D1500/1/3).

### *Education*

Records on education policy are held within the relevant local authority collections. Records of the schools themselves are catalogued separately and can be particularly fruitful. From 1870 all children were required to attend school and school records therefore reflect entire communities.

Details of children attending schools are recorded in admission registers. Basic information normally includes the child's name, date of birth, address and information on parents/guardians. Sometimes more detail is recorded on matters such as previous schools attended, academic performance, homelife, health, and their destination on leaving school (employment, further education etc.). Admission registers for 11 Glamorgan schools have been digitised and are available to search on Find My Past.

This entry comes from an admission register for Grangetown Elementary and Junior School in Cardiff. It shows the admission of Sidney Lima in 1917. He was the son of Frederick Lima, a Cape Verdian Sailor, and Maria Silver, of Welsh-Cape-Verdian descent, whose father was from Cape Verde.



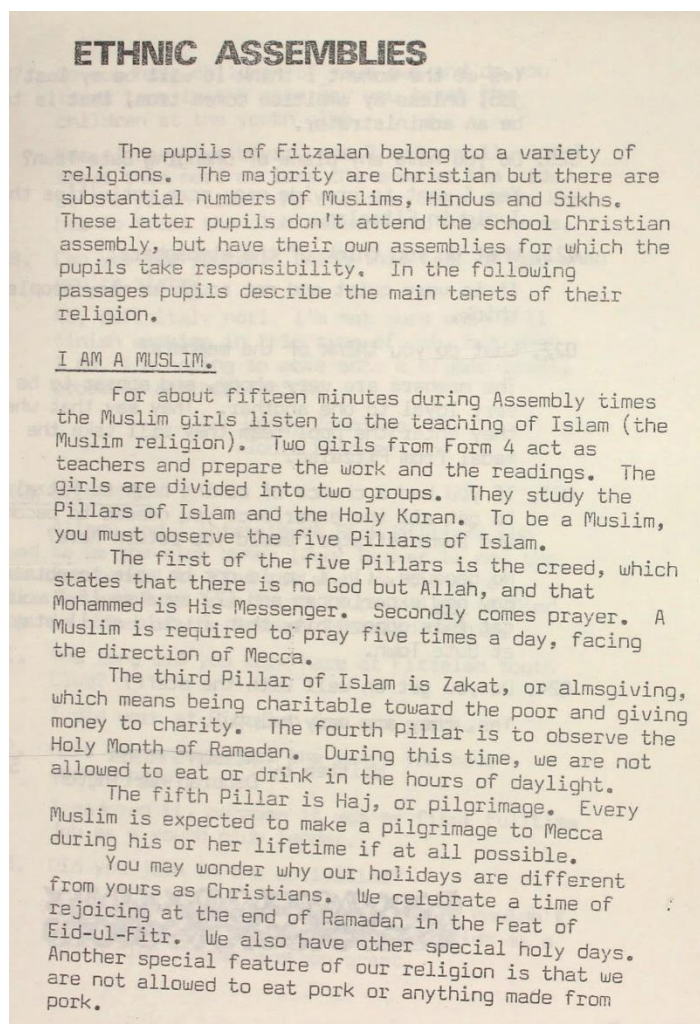
*Grangetown Elementary and Junior School, Boys School admission register, 1910-1927 (ref. EC41/2/6)*

School log books are daily diaries maintained by the head teacher. All contain basic information on attendance, staffing, holidays etc. But many contain additional information detailing life in within the school's community and mention of major events impacting on school life.

In the log book for St Mary's Church in Wales School, Bute Terrace, Cardiff (ref. EC23/7) the headteacher notes *...the returns on the question of teaching Welsh*

*disclose the fact that [many] of the parents desire it. Considering the seafaring population of this district, that is a surprise.*

For some schools, additional records have been deposited. These can include school magazines, photographs, syllabuses, newscuttings, and programmes and papers relating to school activities such as sports matches, theatrical performances etc. Records of Fitzalan High School in Cardiff (ref. ESEC75) are of particular note. Fitzalan High School was formed in 1968 from Fitzalan Technical High School for Boys, and a number of other schools. The school catchment area included the diverse south Cardiff communities of Butetown, Grangetown and Riverside. Records reflect this diversity, with a number of newsletters found in translation in several African and Asian languages, and articles discussing the experiences of pupils of moving to a new country.



*Fitzalan High School, Cardiff, Records, School Magazine, 1983, (ref. ESEC75/4)*

I am one of the new residents of Riverside, I moved there with my family in 1977. I was born in Bangladesh. I came to Britain, to Ipswich, when I was six months old. I went to school in Ipswich and learned to speak English. We moved back to Bangladesh for a year, but by then my older brothers had found work in restaurants in Cardiff so we came to Cardiff to live.

At first my family lived in Grangetown so I went to Ninian Park Primary school, and although we moved to Riverside later, I still went to Ninian Park. We live in quite a small modern house, but it is big enough for us, myself, my younger brother, my sister and my parents.

Riverside has changed a lot even since I have lived there. Some of the empty houses in Ninian Park Road and Tudor Street have been demolished and new buildings erected in their place. Many old houses have been repaired and improved so that families have moved into the area. In this district different races live together as a community. It is a place of hustle and bustle, with traffic passing through, into and out of the City Centre.

Riverside has its own Community Centre where residents are invited to attend meetings and join in leisure activities. The most noticeable of the ethnic

minorities which have made their homes there are the Asians and the Chinese.

People living outside Riverside think it is where all the Asians live, and where there are old and half ruined houses, a dull, dreary place. But to us who are part of it, it is a lively, happy and peaceful community.

*Fitzalan High School, Cardiff, Records, School Magazine, 1984, (ref. ESEC75/4)*

### *Health and welfare*

Prior to the advent of the Welfare State in the mid-20th century, the main recourse for those in society requiring medical or financial support was the Poor Law Union. Glamorgan Archives holds the records of four poor law unions: Bridgend and Cowbridge, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypridd. Full details of the scope of these collections can be found in our [research guide](#) 'Records of Poor Relief'.

Series of note include admission and discharge registers and creed registers for the workhouses and children's homes administered by each Union, along with lists of paupers recording all individuals within Union institutions along with those seeking relief outside the workhouse.

This extract from the lists of paupers for Cardiff Poor Law Union for 1912 records receipt of 9 days relief at the workhouse by Violet and Fatima Mohammed.

91

List of Indoor Paupers—Cardiff Workhouse (continued). Lady-Day, 1912

Names of Paupers.	No. of days Maintenance.
CARDIFF (continued).	
Montgomery, Mary	20
Mahommed, Violet	9
Mahommed, Fatima	9
Melford, Albert	55

*Cardiff Poor Law Union Records, Abstracts, lists of paupers and year book, October 1908-March 1912 (ref. UC/45/12)*

Records of our Poor Law Unions dating from before 1920, and which relate to individuals, have been digitised and are available to search on Ancestry.

From the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century onwards, welfare provision came under the jurisdiction of local authorities, and health care was delivered by the National Health Service. Records of several hospitals are held at Glamorgan Archives, most catalogued with the prefix DH, along with those of Health Authorities and Health Boards. In addition to material relating to the administration of the hospitals themselves, records can include both patient and staff records.

A very full series of patient case notes survives for the Glamorgan Asylum (ref. DHGL) for the period 1864-1955. The Asylum provided care for patients from across the old county of Glamorgan. Many of the case notes are accompanied by photographs of the patients. There are searchable indexes by patient name, with those for the period to 1920 available online via Ancestry. Identifying Minority Ethnic individuals within the records can be challenging as race and nationality are not necessarily recorded. But sometimes names can suggest a particular ethnicity, and other family history records such as census returns and death certificates can evidence admission to the hospital.

Within the male patient case notes for the Glamorgan Asylum for 1909-1949 (ref. DHGL/11/1) is a record of the admission and treatment of Mahomed Ali, a ship's fireman from Barry. His religion is recorded as 'Mohamedian' and his nationality as 'Malay'. In the section recording the address of a relative, a boarding house keeper from Barry is noted. Happily he recovered and was discharged 2 years after admission to the care of his uncle of Sophia Street, Cardiff.

The Royal Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital, Cardiff, was built to mark the celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. It replaced the Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital Ship, which had opened in 1866. The foundation stone was laid on 7

August 1900 and the hospital was completed in May 1905. The early records held at the Archives are administrative in nature (ref. BC/HAM). Patient records are held from the mid-20th century (ref. DHHA). A patient's deposit book (ref. D1204), dating from 1903-1952, includes the names of patients and details their valuables on admission. In July 1918 we see that Lun Chow was admitted, depositing a Chinese note.

DATE.	No. ON BOOK.	NAME OF PATIENT.	AMOUNT RECEIVED.	
27.		Lun Chow.	Chinese Note + 3 10	£1.

*Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital, Cardiff, Patients Deposit Book, May 1903-December 1952 (ref. D1204)*

Cardiff Institute for the Blind was founded in 1865 by Frances Batty Shand. She was born in Jamaica, the daughter of Scottish sugar planter and slave owner John Shand and his long-term partner, Frances Brown, a free woman of colour. She moved to Cardiff with her brother on the death of her father. A history of the Institute held within its records at the Archives contains biographical information on Frances Batty Shand and the Shand family, outlining their links to the Caribbean. The Institute was founded with money inherited by Frances Batty Shand from her slave-owner father. More information on the Shand family can be found by searching the database produced by the [Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery](#) at University College London.

### *Industry and commerce*

The population of Glamorgan grew significantly during the industrial revolution, with people drawn to South Wales from across the world to work in industries such as coal mining and in the shipping trade created through the export of coal.

### Coal collections

Records of a number of coal companies, along with those of the National Coal Board established on the nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947, are held at the Archives. Coverage is not complete, in particular when it comes to records relating to individuals employed in the coal industry. A full list of colliery records which name individuals can be found in our 'Glamorgan's Blood' [research guide](#).

Identifying Minority Ethnic individuals within these records is difficult as nationality and race are rarely recorded. Researcher Myaa Helm has used sources such as census returns and newspaper reports to identify Minority Ethnic coal miners, following up her findings in the records held at Glamorgan Archives. This can be painstaking work, but can yield rich results.

James Edwin was a Jamaican collier born in 1876. Using National Insurance registers (ref. D1411/1/2) Myya confirmed that he was employed at United National Collieries, Risca, in the Five Feet Seam from 1916 to at least 1924. The records revealed his address, leading to a census return showing details of his wife and children.

THE UNITED NATIONAL COLLIERIES, LTD.		Risca COLLIERIES.																											
NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.		Register of Five Feet Seams																											
NAME	Occupation	Half Year ending												Total Amount Insured	Date of Leaving	REMARKS													
		July		August		September		October		November		December																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
James Edwin Collier	Collier																									1866-29	604	25	Risca Collieries St. Country

*United National Collieries, National Insurance Register, Risca Collieries, Five Feet Seam, 1921-1926, Half Year ending 2 July 1921 (ref. D1411/1/2/11)*

Myya's full findings can be found in Appendix II.

### Shipping records

Several series of records held at Glamorgan Archives relate to the individuals who worked within the shipping industry which operated from Glamorgan's Docks. Further details can be found in our [research guide](#) 'Maritime Records'.

From 1835 onwards, masters of ships were required to enter into an agreement with every member of the crew. This document was kept on board by the master, completed by him and handed to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen at the end of the voyage. Glamorgan Archives holds these crew agreements for ships registered at the Port of Cardiff for the years 1863-1913 (ref. DCA). They have been catalogued by ship name and number, and volunteers are in the process of indexing the names of the individual seamen listed in the agreements. This work is available on the [CLIP: Crew List Index Project](#) website.

Some crew agreements come with additional information, often letters to or from the ship's captain. In one crew agreement for a voyage by the Groeswen in 1912-1913 we find a letter from 7 of the firemen on board the ship – J Fordy, J Coles, J King, J Mendi, Black Thomas and J Brown. Addressed to the Superintendent of the Board of Trade, it is a complaint regarding the insufficient food provided to them. They state that they complained to the Captain, and were told in response *...we ought not to grumble as it is enough for Black Men...* They note how the ship's Steward then kicked them for complaining. An attached letter from the National Sailor's and Firemen's Union advises them to seek compensation from the Captain.



L. L. Groeswen.  
Dunstan on Tyne  
Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> 1912

Superintendent  
P. O. S. Dunstan on Tyne

We the Undersigned do hereby declare, that we have not been treated as we should during the voyage of the above ship.

There are 7 firemen on board and we have not had enough food except for about 2 men.

When we have complained to the Captain he has said that ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> thought not to grumble as it is enough for Black Men and ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> also kicked me ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> I complained.

We hereby lodge a protest to see if we cannot get any compensation.

We beg to remain, your obedient servants,  
J. Fordy. J. Coles. J. King. J. Mendi  
Black Thomas. J. Brown.

*Port of Cardiff Crew Agreements and Official Log Books, crew agreement for the Groeswen, 1913 (ref. DCA/1913/113533)*

Board of Trade Shipping Enquiries record investigations into shipping casualties. Investigations were held at the place most convenient for the witnesses to attend, and not the ship's port of registration. Therefore those held at Cardiff, and detailed in the records at Glamorgan Archives, don't necessarily relate to Cardiff registered ships. Investigation files date from 1875-1935 (ref. CL/PSCBO/BT) and comprise the papers assembled for the inquiry, including depositions of witnesses.

The foundation stone of Cardiff Sailors' Home on Stuart Street, Cardiff, was laid on 14 July 1853. It provided accommodation for 150 seamen. Few records survive for the Sailor's Home, apart from one account book of Henry McAusland, superintendent of the Home, for the period 1862-1867 (ref. D493). It records the names of sailors staying there, but no other details.

Papers of individual seamen are noted above under personal papers. Many are also to be found amongst the Butetown History and Arts Centre Records, also referenced above (ref. D1856).

## Cardiff Bay Development Corporation Records (DCBDC)

Cardiff Bay Development Corporation was established in 1987 to redevelop Cardiff Docks and the surrounding area, creating Cardiff Bay. One of 16 urban development corporations established across the UK between 1981 and 2006, it was the only one created in Wales. Current opinion on the Corporation is polarised. Some see it as the most successful of all development and regeneration projects in the UK; to others it is an environmental and urban planning disaster. The records reflect the impact of the development on the diverse community of Cardiff Docks, and include minutes and reports of the Board and its committees, corporate plans, valuation reports, consultants' reports, papers relating to community engagement events, and a large photographic archive showing the Barrage and the work of the Corporation in progress.



*Cardiff Bay Development Corporation Records, Slides, the South Wales Islamic Centre, Alice Street, Butetown, Cardiff, 1990s (ref. DCBDC/12/2/363)*

### Small business

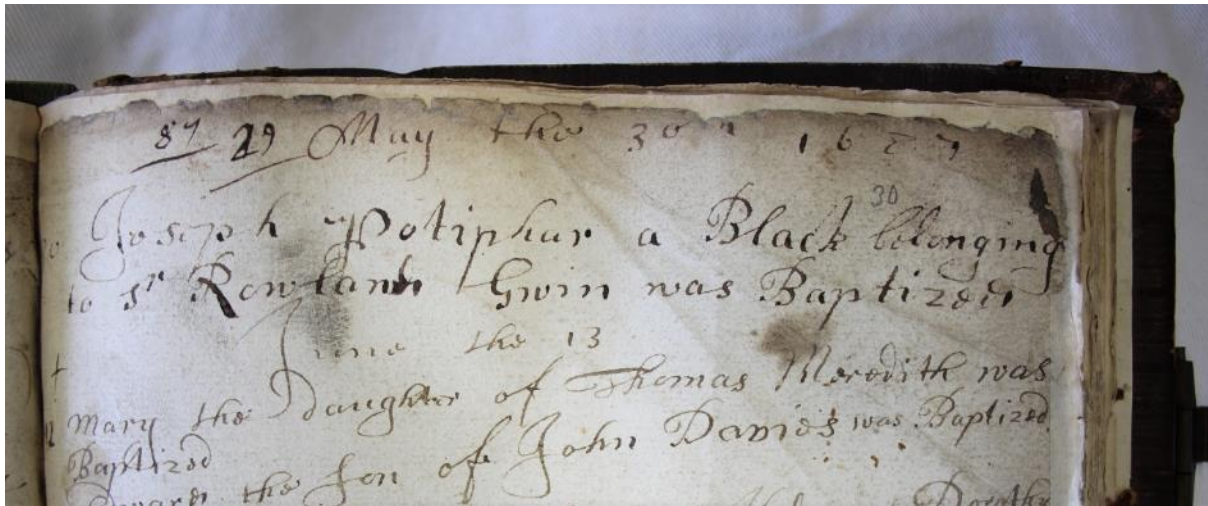
Trade directories for South Wales include commercial listings for towns and villages, along with residential listings by street for major centres of population. They allow the identification of small businesses and their owners, including shops, cafes and restaurants. Glamorgan Archives holds a selection of trade directories for South Wales and Cardiff. Additional directories can be found in local libraries and several are available to search online via the University of Leicester's [Historical Directories](#) website.

### *Religion*

Glamorgan Archives holds parish records for the Diocese of Llandaff, along with records of several Catholic Churches, nonconformist chapels and mission churches.

We do not currently hold records of any non-Christian religions apart from those of Cardiff's synagogues and of the Society of Friends, and one register for the Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, a Hindu Temple in Cardiff. This is a gap that we have identified and are working to address.

Parish registers record the baptisms, marriages and burials which took place in parish churches. They include some of the earliest written records of Minority Ethnic people in Wales. This entry records the baptism of Joseph Potiphar at St John's Church in Cardiff in 1687.



*Cardiff St. John Ecclesiastical Parish Records, Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1669-1696 (ref. P122CW/1)*

Parish registers for Glamorgan for the period to 1994 are available to search on Ancestry, Find My Past and other genealogical websites.

Records of several nonconformist places of worship survive within the Glamorgan Archives collection. Of note are the records of the Angelina Street / Welcome Mission (ref. DX819). The Angelina Street Mission was founded in 1906 by Mr James Phillips of Cardiff, and later led by his daughters. It was located in Cardiff Docks. Records include a history of the mission, correspondence, newscuttings and photographs. A photograph of children at a fancy dress pageant at the Angelina Street Mission Hall, c1920, can be seen on the cover of this guide (ref. DX819/11).

Amongst our nonconformist records are those of two chapels in Cardiff Docks. Bethel Baptist Church was originally located on James Street, before moving to Mount Stuart Square, and then Pomeroy Street. Records include minute books, a register of members and photographs. The membership register (ref. D472/3) notes the transfer of one member during the late-1940s who presented her baptism certificate from the Baptist Church in Kingston, Jamaica. Records of Hannah Street Congregational Church (ref. DECONG18) include minute books, record books, Sunday School records and papers relating to church events. A search of the

Sunday School records reveals names including Singh and Mohamed, which reflect the diversity of the congregation.

The Hindu Council of Wales was established in November 2012 by the six major Hindu faith based groups which constitute the majority of Hindus living in Wales. Glamorgan Archives holds a small collection comprising a brochure marking the installation of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Cardiff Bay in 2017 (ref. D1505).

The Society of Friends (The Quakers) were active in the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade. Glamorgan Archives holds records of the Society of Friends in Wales (ref. DSF). Permission must be obtained prior to accessing the records.

#### *Photographs / art work*

A number of photographic collections and artworks within the Archives reflect the history of Minority Ethnic people and communities in the Glamorgan area.

#### Cardiff Dockland Community Photographs (DXGC29)

This collection is comprised of photographs of individuals, family groups, and groups, from Cardiff's dockland community. The photographs were taken between 1900-1920, many by Fred Petersen, who had a photography studio on Bute Street. The portrait photographs are particularly notable and reflect the diversity of Cardiff's Docks community. The photographs are available digitally on the [Glamorgan Archives website](#).



*Cardiff Dockland Community Photographs, Portrait photograph of Samuel Benjamin Swen Sawyer, c1900-1920 (ref. DXGC29/36)*

Only a small number of the people featured in the photographs have been identified. This is Samuel Benjamin Swen Sawyer. Researcher Rebecca Eversley identified Samuel, and confirmed that he was from a family of Kru seamen from Liberia who lived in Francis Street, Cardiff. He was murdered outside a nightclub, The Big Apple, in Tiger Bay in the 1940s. He is buried in Cathays Cemetery.

#### Stanley Travers Photographer Records (DSTP)

Stanley Travers was a well-known Cardiff photographer. His commissions largely focused on buildings and events, and people can sometimes feature. Locations of note featured in the collection include Cardiff Docks, the redevelopment of Cardiff Bay, the Matsushita (National Panasonic (UK) Limited) factory, and the Jamaican Producers Group at Newport Docks.

Amongst a collection of photographs presented by the Welsh Regiment Museum is one showing the crew of the SS Hopemount (DX229/5/17). Their ship was torpedoed and shelled by a German U- Boat during the First World War and the crew members were rescued and brought to Cardiff. A photograph from the V C Hardacre collection (DXGC/24/258) shows American troops stationed at Caerphilly Castle during the Second World War, including Black GIs. The collection of Cardiff-based artist Mary Traynor includes sketches and watercolours of buildings in Cardiff at risk of demolition during the 1980s and 1990s. Included is a view of the Islamic Centre on Maria Street, Butetown, Cardiff (D1093/2/39).



*Mary Traynor of Cardiff Collection, Islamic Centre, Maria Street, Cardiff, 20 Feb 1988 (ref. D1093/2/39)*

#### *Family History resources*

A vast number of sources listing individuals by name have been digitised, indexed and made available on major family history websites, including Ancestry and Find My

Past. These are subscription services, but free access is currently available at archive services and libraries across Wales.

Certain series of records held within the Glamorgan Archives collection are available to access online via Ancestry and Find My Past. Where this is the case, it has been noted in the relevant section above.

## **Sources held elsewhere relating directly to Glamorgan**

This is a short list of sources held in repositories other than Glamorgan Archives which can be used to support research into Minority Ethnic History in Glamorgan.

### *Cathays Heritage Library*

The Local Studies collection at Cathays Branch & Heritage Library includes material relating to Minority Ethnic history in Cardiff and the wider area. There are extensive resources available for Tiger Bay – Wales' oldest multi-ethnic community, materials for the Yemeni Community, the Race Riots in 1919, original newspaper articles, and biographic files on noteworthy figures.

### *Local libraries*

Library services in each of our local authorities hold local studies collections. These include back issues of local newspapers, a wider range of trade directories than those held at Glamorgan Archives, and photographs of the local area and community. The main local studies libraries are:

Bridgend County Borough Council – Y Llynfi Library, Maesteg

Caerphilly County Borough Council – Bargoed Library

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – Merthyr Tydfil Central Library

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council – Aberdare, Pontypridd and Treorchy Libraries

Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council – Barry Library

Contact details can be found on the relevant local authority websites.

### *Cardiff University Special Collections and Archives*

Cardiff University Special Collections and Archives hold a variety of archive collections and rare books, and is open to all by appointment.

Sources of interest include the Gair Rhydd and student newspaper archive, which details the activities of a variety of student societies, protest and gives an impression of student life from the late 1970s onwards. The University's Institutional Archives will contain photos, society minutes and student records. Please be aware that in some cases, Institutional Archive documents will be subject to restriction, in order to protect individuals' personal information in accordance with data protection laws.

Most notable on the topic of lived experiences of people from ethnic minorities is and extremely rare autobiography by William Hall, an African-American who settled in Cardiff, having escaped slavery in America: "Slavery in the United States of America : personal narrative of the sufferings and escape of William A. Hall, fugitive slave, now a resident in the town of Cardiff". Published in 1862, it is the last surviving example in the UK, and is extremely notable for being a self-authored narrative from a Black man living in 1800s Wales. As the original pamphlet is very fragile, an online

version is free to browse, download and reuse with attribution (digital copy of William Hall's Narrative). Due to the subject matter of the document, readers should be aware that it contains depictions of extreme violence and racist language.

### *National Library of Wales*

The National Library of Wales holds over 6 million books, over 40,000 manuscripts and over 1.5 million maps. The library also holds various audio and audio-visual resources which are all accessible to the public at no cost.

Although there are few large collections specific to Black, Asian, and other ethnic groups, the library has numerous items scattered throughout its collections.

There are many collections and resources of interest, including but not limited to:

- David Hawks' Collection
- James Griffith's Papers
- Tom Macdonald Papers on China and Japan
- Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement Archive
- Gareth Vaughan Jones Collection of Images
- J.R Harding's Albums of the Far East
- Morris Davies' Albums
- Jazz Heritage Wales Archive
- The Welsh Committee Against Racism Papers

The library's catalogue can be viewed at: <https://www.library.wales/catalogues-searching>

Other helpful resources of interest include:

- A History of Black people in Wales, Britain and beyond  
<https://www.library.wales/catalogues-searching/about-our-collections/specific-collections/a-history-of-black-people-in-wales-britain-and-beyond>
- Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse Collections  
<https://www.library.wales/catalogues-searching/about-our-collections/specific-collections/black-asian-and-ethnically-diverse-collections>
- Paul Robeson and Wales  
<https://blog.library.wales/paul-roberson-and-wales/>
- Thomas Picton: Hero or villain?  
<https://www.library.wales/discover-learn/education/learning-resources/thomas-picton-hero-or-villain#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-132%2C-490%2C5926%2C5766>
- David Hawkes collection  
<https://blog.library.wales/the-david-hawkes-collection/>
- Tiger Bay Oral History Collection  
<https://blog.library.wales/tiger-bay-oral-history-collection/>
- James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, William Williams, Pantycelyn and the Depiction of Slavery  
<https://blog.library.wales/james-albert-ukawsaw-gronniosaw-william-williams-pantycelyn-and-the-depiction-of-slavery/>



- Wales and the slave trade  
<https://blog.library.wales/wales-and-the-slave-trade>
- Welsh Ballads  
Ballads played an important role in the dissemination of news through the 18th and 19th centuries, and they reflect many of the political, social and cultural issues of the day in Wales. This includes issues relating to slavery and its abolition. Welsh Ballads Online can be found at <https://www.library.wales/ballads>.
- Wales and the World Calendar  
The calendar was initiated as a result of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan. It marks religious, cultural, awareness, diversity and memorial events and bank holidays. The events on the calendar link and display the various items in the Library's wonderful collection.  
<https://www.library.wales/walesandtheworldcalendar>

### *The National Archives*

The National Archives is the official archive and publisher for the UK Government, and for England and Wales. They collect and secure the future of the government record, preserve it for generations to come, and make it accessible to the public at their searchroom in Kew, London, and online.

The National Archives holds several series of records which can support research into Minority Ethnic History in South Wales. [Research guides](#) to particular series of records can be found on their website. Topics include Caribbean Ancestors, Records of Immigration and Immigrants and Records of Enslaved People. A summary of a selection of records of note is included below.

Several series of records at the National Archives have been digitised and are accessible online via family history sites including Ancestry and Find My Past.

#### Census returns, 1841-1921

A census has been taken in England and Wales every 10 years since 1801. Personal details have been recorded since 1841. The returns remain confidential for 100 years after collection. Those currently available for research date from 1841-1921. The information collected increased with every census, so that by the 20th century names, ages, addresses, places of birth, marital status, gender are recorded, along with other details.

The original returns are held at the National Archives, but access is available online through sites including Ancestry and Find My Past. Searching is targeted at family historians and is therefore dominated by personal name searching. Keyword searching is available, but functionality is limited. However with some terms, eg "boarding houses", success can be found.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.												
<small>Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions and the Explanations given on the other side of this paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink. The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Special care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The entries are not to be used for proof of age, in no connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.</small>												
NAME AND SEX	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	EDUCATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	DEPLACE of Birth	NATIONALITY	ETHNIC ORIGIN	RELIGION	SCHEDULE	REMARKS
1. Sarah Mahonet	Head	40	Female	Married	Boarding Housekeeper		Cardiff	British				
2. Sarah Mahonet	Wife	30	Female	Married	Housewife		Cardiff	British				
3. Alexander Mahonet	Son	7	Male	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
4. Hilda Mahonet	Daughter	5	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
5. Betty Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
6. Helen Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
7. Grace Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
8. George Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
9. William Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
10. Charles Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
11. Alfred Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				
12. Edward Mahonet	Daughter	3	Female	Single	Ship's Fireman		Cardiff	British				

### 44 Bute Street, Cardiff, 1911 Census

### 1939 England and Wales Register

The 1939 England and Wales Register was taken soon after the outbreak of the Second World War with the purpose of producing National Identity Cards. The register later came to be multi-functional, first as an aid in the use of ration books, later in helping officials to record the movement of the civilian population over the following decades and, from 1948, as the basis for the National Health Service Register. As the 1931 census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire during the Second World War, and no census was taken in 1941, the 1939 Register is an extremely important genealogical resource, not only for the rich detail and information recorded for each person and household, but also in helping to bridge a thirty-year gap in census data.

It is available to access online through sites including Ancestry and Find My Past.

### Records of naturalisation, registration and British Citizenship

Naturalisation is the legal process by which a person changes their nationality. For hundreds of years, foreign nationals have been able to attain British citizenship through naturalisation. Prior to 1844 naturalisation was granted through an act of parliament. Since 1844 naturalisation has been granted by the Home Office. Records held at the National Archives include naturalisation certificates and case papers. Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations for the period 1870-1916 can be searched on Ancestry; other series can be searched via the National Archives website.

### Incoming passenger lists

Lists of ships' passengers entering the United Kingdom from ports outside Europe and the Mediterranean are held at the National Archives and are available to search on Ancestry. Information recorded includes the name of the passenger, their birth

date or age, their date of arrival in the UK, the port of departure and the port of arrival. They cover the period 1878-1960.

### *Other*

#### Newspapers

Hosted by the National Library of Wales, Welsh Newspapers Online contains over 15 million searchable Welsh newspaper articles, dating from 1804-1919. An incredibly useful source, it was used extensively in testing the glossary produced as part of this guide.

Historic newspapers can also be found at local libraries. See above for details.

International newspapers can be used to search for Welsh material, although for much of the nineteenth century, and beyond, Wales may be referred to as England. For example, searching for the phrase “race riots in England” on the Australian Trove site led to international commentary on the Cardiff Race Riots of 1919.

See the introduction to the Glossary on page 36 for details of online newspaper sites.

#### Probate Records (Wills and Administrations)

Prior to 1858, the proving of wills was dealt with by the Church, and records for Wales are held at the National Library of Wales. In 1858 this responsibility moved to the Probate Registry. The National Probate Calendar for England and Wales for the period 1858-1995 can be searched online via Ancestry and copies of wills can be ordered from the Probate Registry.

#### British Phone Books, 1880-1984

British phone books published between 1880, the year after the public telephone service was introduced to the UK, and 1984 are held at the BT Archives. They can be searched online via Ancestry. Phone books were published around every one to two years and are therefore very useful for pinpointing individuals in a particular place and time. The advertisements section can also be useful for tracing business owners.

#### Welsh Journals Online

Hosted by the National Library of Wales, Welsh Journals Online provides access to journals relating to Wales published between 1735-2007. Titles range from academic and scientific publications to literary and popular magazines. Text searching of over 450 titles and 1.2 million pages is available.

#### Online Libraries

Online libraries include sites such as the Internet Archive, Google Books, and Project Gutenberg. They often offer public domain editions of books free to read online or to download, and can be searched using keyword/phrases.

## Glossary

This is a glossary of terms, a mixture of individual words and phrases, which can be used when researching Minority Ethnic History in historic records. Terminology has changed significantly over time, and not all of the words and phrases we use today will feature in sources produced in the past. This glossary is intended to provide a means of entry to records such as newspapers which, through identification of Minority Ethnic individuals, can lead to relevant documents within archive collections.

This is not a fully comprehensive list. Its focus is on historic terms, in particular words and phrases that appear in Welsh archives and printed material such as newspapers. The geographical focus is on Glamorgan. For a more comprehensive list that covers all aspects of Minority Ethnic History see Clarissa Chew's excellent 'CHTNUK Cultural Heritage Terminology Network: Working to Decolonise the Language of the Heritage Sector'.

An initial list of historic terms relating to Minority Ethnic people was developed by Norena Shopland in conjunction with Race Council Cymru. Welsh language terms were added through searching historic dictionaries, although more work is needed in this area. Often, English terms will appear within Welsh language material and lead to results.

Volunteers were recruited to this project to test terms included in the initial list to determine which successfully return hits when searching in a Welsh, and in particular a South Wales context. Additional terms were discovered during this process and added to this list, which forms the basis of the glossary that appears below. If you are aware of any other terms which could be added to this list, please let us know.

Volunteers were provided with a list of words and phrases with which to begin their research. They were given guidance on searching delivered through initial training sessions and handouts. Support from the project team was available throughout the project.

Volunteers were signposted to online sources, including:

- Welsh Newspapers Online
- Trove
- Papers Past
- Chronicling America
- Welsh Journals Online
- Welsh Ballads Online
- Google Books
- The Internet Archive
- Ancestry
- Find My Past

Much of the research focused on newspapers but, by their nature, newspapers highlight bad news, in particular criminal cases. Minority Ethnic people appear in these articles as witnesses, victims and perpetrators.

Record collection forms were provided to ensure that findings were recorded uniformly and that all necessary information and references were captured.

A limited number of examples have been included in the body of this guide to illustrate how the glossary terms can be used in research. Further examples are included in Appendix I, and some of the stories uncovered can be found in Appendix II.

Please be aware when undertaking research online that many of the resources available have been created from original sources using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. If a page is damaged in any way certain words and phrases may not be recognised and therefore won't be picked up when searching. Due to page damage, or indistinct text, vowels are often changed by the OCR software (for more on this see Norena Shopland, 'Finding a Coloured Man', see Appendix IV for the full reference). Spelling was not necessarily consistent in the past, and therefore searching using variant spellings is recommended, as well as adding an 's' or an apostrophe followed by an 's' to terms where relevant.

Combinations of terms suggested below are those arising during this research and many more can be applied.

Term	Notes
<b>General</b>	
Alien	Term used for a foreigner, especially one who is not a naturalised citizen of the country where he or she is living.
Almond eye/d/s	
Black / Blacks	This term is too generic to use on its own so add other words such as complexion/ complexioned; faced; people; person; skin/skinned, etc. Try also adding place names such as 'Cardiff blacks.'
Coloured / Colored	The American spelling, without the u is used in some publications. Use in combination with other terms such as person; people; woman; man; child, etc also try plurals by adding an 's and without the apostrophe.
Celestial/s	
Ching / Ching-chong	
Chink / Chinky	
Coolie	

Coon	
Creole	
Dago	
Dark complexion/complexioned	
Dark skin/skinned	
Darkie / Darkies / Darky / Darkey	
Dusky skin/skinned	
Half breed	Some publications are very precise and will require the use of hyphens such as half-breed; or words are joined, i.e. halfbreed
Half caste	Some publications are very precise and will require the use of hyphens such as half-caste; or words are joined, i.e. halfcaste
Hindu / Hindi / Hindoo	
Mulato / Mulatto / Muleto / Muletto	
Negro / Negroes / Negro's / Negress / Negresses	A term more often used in relation to the USA and other countries.
Nigger	
Octoroon	
Oriental	
People/person/s of colour/color	Use in combination with other terms as suggested under 'Black.'
Sable	
Sambo / Samba	
Slave / Slavery	
Swarthy	
Tawny	
Woolly haired/locks	Also woolly-haired
<b>People</b>	
Black	Use in combination with other terms such as person; people; woman; women; female; lady; wife; mother; grandmother; girl; man; male; men; gentleman/men; husband; father; grandfather; baby; child etc.
Coloured / Colored, or (term) of colour	Use in combination with other terms as suggested under 'Black.'
Dark / Dusky	Use in combination with other terms as suggested under 'Black.'
Piccaninny / Piccaninnies / Picaninny / Picaniny / Piccaniny / Pickininnie	Term for a child that has variant spellings
Tawny	Use in combination with other terms as suggested under 'Black.'
Yellow	

<b>Occupations</b>	Numerous occupations can be used in combination with terms suggested above, these are just a few found during this research.
Boxer	
Collier	
Fireman / Firemen	
Labourer	
Sailor / Seaman / Seamen	
Servant	
Lascar/s	
<b>Places</b>	Numerous place names can be used in combination with terms suggested above. Some combinations are suggested here.
Blacks AND Cardiff	
Cardiff Negro	
Niggertown	
Tiger Bay	
<b>Races</b>	Only a few races are included here as part of this project; there are many more that need further research.  Use in combination with other terms as suggested under 'Black.'
African	
Arab	
Asian	
Cafir / Caffir / Kaffir	
Chinese	
Ethiopian	
Japanese	
Mongolian	
Somali	
Zulu	
<b>Welsh terms</b>	A small list of Welsh terms, tested during the course of this project, are included here; further research on Welsh terms is needed.  Many English terms listed above will be found within Welsh language material.
Arabiaid	
Croenddu	

Du	Use in combination with other terms such as dyn; dynes; menyw; merch; bachgen; pentyn etc.
Duon	
Hindw	
Melynddu	
Negroaid	
Pygddu	
Tywyll	