



# Local History Series: 11

## MARITIME RECORDS



PRONI holds a unique combination of maritime records relating to Northern Ireland, ranging from the business archives of shipbuilding companies like Harland & Wolf to Government records such as Customs and Excise.

Major collections relate to maritime companies, comprising ledgers, minutes, finances, maps and plans, and personnel records. The Harland & Wolf collection is one of the largest and most significant business archives held by PRONI. Comprising the Harland & Wolf archive (**PRONI Ref D2805**) and the Titanic Quarter Limited papers (**PRONI Ref D4413**), these collections can demonstrate how the industry has changed within Northern Ireland.

Other collections include the small canal navigation companies, the steamship companies, and records relating to families involved in the industry (including Lord Pirrie, Thomas Andrews, and Dr Rebbeck) – which provide an insight into the prominent individuals and the activities performed by the workers.

The following archives provide a starting point for your research:

### **Government Files**

- HAR – Harbour Commissioners Papers
- CAB – Records of Cabinet Secretariat
- CUS - Records of Customs and Excise
- FIN – Ministry of Finance Papers
- COM – Department of Commerce Papers
- TRANS – Ministry of Transport Papers
- UTA – Ulster Transport Authority

### **Business Papers**

- D2805 – Harland & Wolff archive
- D4413 – Titanic Quarter Limited Papers
- D4509 – The North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company
- D2889 – Belfast Ropeworks Papers
- D3605 – Records of the Belfast Steamship Company.

#### **Opening Hours**

- D3920 – Business Records of the East Downshire Steamship Company  
D3094 – Newry & Kilkeel Steamship Company Papers

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm  
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm  
*(Please check in advance for  
late evening opening)*

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland  
2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ  
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900  
Web-site: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)  
e-mail: [proni@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:proni@communities-ni.gov.uk)

- D3095 – Frontier Town Steamship Company Limited Papers
- D3096 – Mercantile Steamship Company of Ulster Papers
- D3540 – Apprenticeship Indentures with Messer's Harland and Wolf Belfast
- D3770 – Papers of William McCorkell & Co Limited
- T/2713 – J&J Cook/McCorkell Papers

### **Prominent Individuals**

- D3655 – Andrews Family papers (Thomas Andrews Jnr – shipbuilder)
- D3704 – Testimonials of Robert Russell's apprenticeship employment at Kerr's Marine Engineering & Math Academy.
- D4026 – Letters of James Greenan, a seaman with the Melbourne Steamship Co Ltd.
- D1700 – Crawford Papers. – Engineering notes relating to Harland & Wolff
- D2389 – Andrew Boyd Papers – Documents relating to Harland & Wolff

### **Miscellaneous**

- D3830 – Princess Victoria Investigation Papers
- D3140 – Printed advert for passage on the Clipper Ship.
- D2784 – Booklet entitled Presidential address on the Belfast Shipyards by Denis Rebbeck.
- D1896 – Air photograph showing the German Bombing target at H&W shipyard.

### **Books**

- LIB/50 – Modern British Shipbuilding a guide to historical rewards. By Ritchie, L.A
- LIB/3099 – The dynamic class ships, Olympic, Titanic & Britannic. By Chirnside, Mark.
- LIB/3100 – Shipbuilders to the world, 125 years if H&W Belfast 1861-1986. By Moss, Michael & Hume, John R.

#### **Opening Hours**