

# Valuation Rolls

## Dundee City Archives - Research Guide 17

### Background

The first valuation rolls were created after the passing of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act, 1854. The purpose of the act was to ensure that there was a standard way of working out how much was owed in rates. Rolls were made up every year in the summer and then finalised in the autumn. The rolls were originally compiled by county or burgh. For counties the roll is divided by parish, in burghs it is sorted by wards. So in Dundee there are valuation rolls for each ward– in many cases there are quite a few rolls for each ward. This means that for a given year there can be around 30 volumes covering Dundee. Properties are listed by address so you need to know where someone lived to find them. Areas outside of the City, e.g. Broughty Ferry before 1913, will be covered by the Angus County roll.

Rolls will give you the following information: house address or name, owners name, tenants name and occupation, the value of the property, the annual rental value and some notes.

Full rolls were produced up to 1990. After this time residential properties went over to the new Council Tax Banding scheme. Rolls are still made, but only for commercial properties.

### What Rolls are held at Dundee City Archives?

Dundee Corporation/Dundee District	1895-1990
Dundee (commercial only)	1990 onwards
Angus	1855-1975 (with gaps)

The early Dundee rolls are hand written and contain a lot more notes than the printed versions. Sometimes the length of a lease or the tenants previous address is noted. In some cases the decision to demolish a building is recorded in the roll.

The records are not indexed by name and are listed by street. If you are looking for a person you need to know where they lived, or at least where to start looking. If you don't know this you could look in a directory, the census or try searching the digitised version on [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) (see Records held Elsewhere). Please remember only the ratepayer (head of the household) will be listed.

Once you have an address or a rough idea where someone lived, you need to select a year to look at. Then you need to work out what ward and volume you need for the street. We have street indexes in the searchroom to help you find the right volume. If you're not sure about this, please ask a member of staff.

### Records held elsewhere...

Dundee rolls for the following years can also be accessed at:

Dundee Central Library	1855-1870 (on microfilm), 1871, 1876. 1969-1974, 1985 onwards (also Angus 1856-1975)
National Records of Scotland	1855-1990 (covering all of Scotland)
<a href="http://www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk">www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk</a>	1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1920, 1925 and 1930