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## **Catalogue of the Sergeant Papers**

**Date range of material: [later 20th century]**

Durham University Library  
November 2016

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## Preface

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## Introduction

*Collection title:* Sergeant Papers

*Reference code:* GB-0033-SER

*Dates of creation:* [later 20th century]

*Extent:* 3 boxes

*Repository:* Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

*Creator:* Christopher John Sergeant (b.1935), genealogist

*Language of material:* English

## Contents

The papers constitute: extracts of genealogical and other documentary sources for the Sergeant and related (Barault, Charlton, Coomers, Hair, Martin, Park, Ridley, Shepherd, Stephenson and Young) families in Co Durham and Northumberland, with some material for North Yorkshire and India; photocopies of documents concerning the careers of Christopher John Sergeant, his father Archibald John Sergeant (1903-c.1983) and his grandfather Archibald Joseph Sergeant (1874-1944), and especially a lengthy dispute with NEEB over the cost of providing mains electricity to their home of Holmlea in Easington, Co Durham; transcripts of Easington sources and oral history interviews with Easington residents. The material is meticulously arranged, listed and numbered.

## Biography

Christopher John Sergeant was born in 1935. His father had risen through the army ranks in the Royal Engineers and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to the rank of major and, after leaving school at 15 to become an agricultural worker, Christopher also joined the Royal Engineers in 1952. After various foreign postings as an NCO, he became a smallholder in Easington Co Durham in 1956 and also had spell as a primary school teacher in the later 1960s, whilst developing his genealogical interests in his family's antecedents and battling authority over the education system, road closures and the provision of mains electricity to his Holmelea home in Durham Road, Easington. He had moved to Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, by 1993 and then Leominster by 2013.

## Accession details

Deposited by C.J. Sergeant with the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic (1 July 1987, 22 February and 28 March 1988) and also with Durham University Library Special Collections (15 October 2013)

## Arrangement

Arranged in four groups, reflecting the owner's original numbering

## Conditions of access

Open for consultation. (Some material deposited in 1987/8 had been closed but this was made accessible by the owner in 2013.)

## Copyright and copying

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail [PG.Library@durham.ac.uk](mailto:PG.Library@durham.ac.uk)) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible

with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material

#### Accruals

No further accruals now expected, though some might be possible.

#### Finding aids

Detailed indexes and/or lists provided by the owner which are retained with the items.

#### Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0033-SER, or the collection name Sergeant Papers, followed by the *reference number*

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

#### Processing

Catalogued by Michael Stansfield into XML, January 2014

#### Related material - elsewhere

Material has also been deposited at Oxfordshire Archives, Durham County Record Office and Northumberland Archives.

## Sergeant papers

### Genealogical Notes on the Sergeant, Ridley and other families

#### SER A 1976 - 1985

10 volumes of transcripts numbered 1-10 made by C.J. Sergeant from a range of 16th to 20th century Co Durham and Northumberland genealogical sources during the course of his researches into the history of principally the Ridley and Sergeant, and also the Charlton, Hair, Park, Stephenson, James and other families. Each volume is dedicated to his parents Archibald John and Augusta Veronica Marie with the motto "Constans Fidei", and has an index at the back. Written in "Black N' Red" notebooks with red spines and hard black covers from Edward Thompson of Fawcett Street, Sunderland.

#### SER A1 December 1976

Transcripts of marriage register entries and marriage bonds for Northumberland 1573-1882, with an index at f.98.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A2 September 1976

Transcripts of marriage bonds for Co Durham and baptisms for Co Durham parishes, with an index at f.96-98.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A3 December 1976

Transcripts of entries in Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, the County History Committee *History of Northumberland*, and other published Northumberland sources, with an index at f.98.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A4 February 1977

Transcripts of entries in parish registers especially for Bedlington, Earsdon, Rothbury, Stamfordham and Tynemouth, also the census and other sources for Northumberland, with an index at f.95-96.

Paper book, 96f

#### SER A5 December 1977

Transcripts of entries in mostly Northumberland parish registers, and some Co Durham parishes, and General Sessions and *The Courant* newspaper, with an index at f.97.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A6 1978

Transcripts of entries in *The Courant*, pedigrees, directories, the Broomhaugh enclosure award, the Battie Wrightson collection at Leeds, and Stamfordham, Ovingham and Ponteland baptism registers, with an index at f.98.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A7 1979

Notes on the Sergeant family in India and Scotland, with an index at f.97.

Paper book, 98f

#### SER A8 November 1981

Transcripts of entries and notes from various sources, primary and secondary, in Northumberland, Co Durham and Yorkshire, with an index at f.96-98.

Paper book, 98f

SER A9 31 August 1985

Transcripts of entries and notes from various sources, primary and secondary, in Northumberland and Co Durham, with an index at f.92-94.

Paper book, 94f

SER A10 [c.1985]

Notes on his father Archibald John Sergeant and grandfather Archibald Joseph Sergeant, and transcripts of entries from Northumberland and Co Durham records, many folios blank, with an index at f.93.

Paper book, 94f

SER A11 [c.1985]

Combined index by C.J. Sergeant of places in Co Durham and then Northumberland in A1-10.

Paper, 3f

Transcripts of Easington records and oral history

SER B [1969]

Transcripts of Easington records and secondary sources, and of oral history interviews with Easington residents, made in Neville's Cross College Durham grey soft-backed notebooks, numbered 1-5, from Thomas Wyatt & Son, Manchester, each with C.J. Sergeant's name and the motto "And some to work, and some to play" on the front.

SER B1 [?1969]

Transcript of Easington Parochial School log book 1865-1877.

Paper book, 32f

SER B2 [?1969]

Transcript of Easington Parochial School log book 1877-1906.

Paper book, 32f

SER B3 [1969]

Transcript of Easington Parochial School log book 1907-1939; transcripts of oral history interviews with [Easington residents]; transcript of Easington CE Infant School log book 1907-1921.

Paper book, 32f

SER B4 [1969]

Notes on Assignment Mathematics cards; notes on Easington history from Fordyce's *History of Durham* and C.W. Clarke's *Farewell Squalor*; transcripts of oral history interviews with [Easington residents]; notes from James Duncan's *The Story of Easington Church*.

Paper book, 32f

SER B5 [?1969]

"Processional Tutelage", poem by C.J. Sergeant about Easington; transcripts of oral history interviews with [Easington residents]; notes from the Easington Board of Guardians books 1837-1864; notes re Archdeacon Prosser; quotation from Abraham Lincoln; treatise on education. Half the book is unused.

Paper book, 32f

Photocopies of Sergeant Family Documents

SER C

Copies of documents detailing the careers and activities of his father, grandfather and other relatives, and himself,



## SER C1 [c.1986]

Newspaper cuttings (mostly photocopies with a few originals) and some photocopies of other sources re the Sergeant family of Tynemouth and Easington, 1824-1986, but mostly 20th century. With a list of contents and an index by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered Pr 1-94.

Paper file, 94 items mounted on 44p +3f

## SER C2 [c.1986]

Photocopies of certificates, letters, bills, receipts, passports and other papers and memorabilia about the Sergeant and Young families, especially C.J. Sergeant's grandfather Archibald Joseph Sergeant and mother Augusta Veronica Maria Young, 1871-1986. With a list of contents by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered Sgt 95-151.

Paper file

## SER C3 [c.1986]

Photocopies of certificates, letters, bills, receipts, passports and other papers and memorabilia about the Sergeant and Young families, especially C.J. Sergeant's father Archibald John Sergeant and the dispute over the supply of electricity to their home Holmlea in Easington, 1903-1983. With a list of contents by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered Sgt 152-211.

Paper file

## SER C4 [c.1986]

Photocopies of certificates, letters, bills, receipts, passports, photographs and other papers and memorabilia about the Sergeant family, especially Christopher John Sergeant 1935-1986, and his teaching career, with pedigrees of the Hair 1680-1900, Park 1695-1935 and Thompson of Mickley 1710-1812 families. With a list of contents by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered Sgt 212-266 & 277-282.

Paper file

## SER C5 [c.1986]

Photocopies of documents concerning water and especially electricity supplies, REME matters, correspondence of the family re Holmlea and the dispute particularly with NEEB over the cost of supplying electricity 1956-1986 and some family memoirs; including also the originals of: Archibald John Sergeant's mathematics notebook (DPD16) and the back cover and flyleaf of a Gurr family of South Shields SPCK [bible] with details of family births and deaths 1813-1919 (DPD 64). With a list of contents by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered DPD 1-64, AJS 1-115 (with gaps) and others, with the file and list not always in alphanumeric order.

Paper file

## SER C6 1968 - 1992

Newspaper cuttings about "people who affected the Sergeant's of Easington", including national and local politicians, and local figures, some with annotations. With a list of contents by C.J. Sergeant. Items numbered EV 1-73.

Paper file, 73 items mounted on magazine pages

## SER C7 [c.2010]

Notes on Archibald Joseph, Archibald John and Christopher John Sergeant, with a "Valedictory" expressing strong views about politicians, officials and utilities.

Paper, 2f

SER C8 [?c.2010]

List by C.J. Sergeant of the War Office papers of his father Major Archibald John Sergeant 1942-1948 "which some, how slipped passed being burn when he burned all his confidential secret papers from when he worked in War Office", also noted as held in Northumberland Record Office, numbered WO 1-109.

Paper, 1f

#### Printed Books

#### SER D

SER D1 [c.1880]

M[aria] V.G. H[avergal], *Memorials of Frances Ridley Havergal* (London, James Nisbet & Co. Ltd).

Paper book, viii + 392p + frontispiece

SER D2 [c.1880]

*The poetical works of Frances Ridley Havergal*, with a preface by Maria V.G. Havergal (London, James Nisbet & Co Ltd).

Paper book, xxiv + 854p [p.i-iv missing]

SER D3 1904

Annie E. Ridley, *A backward glance. The story of John Ridley a pioneer* (London, James Clarke & Co).

At p.i is a manuscript note by C.J. Sergeant relating to Annie E. Ridley and John Ridley.

Paper book, viii + 446p

SER D4 1986

Xher [Christopher] John Sergeant, *Memsahib to martyr. Mum's memorabilia of the British in India* (privately published), with BW photographs and drawings

Paper booklet, 32p

SER D5 1811

*A historical and descriptive view of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, with Berwick upon Tweed, and other celebrated places on the Scottish border. Comprehending the various subjects of natural, civil, and ecclesiastical geography, agriculture, mines, manufactures, trade, commerce, buildings, antiquities, curiosities, public institutions, population, customs, biography, local history, &c. Carefully collected from personal research, original communications, and works of undoubted authority*, vol. 1, (Newcastle-upon-Tyne : printed and published by Mackenzie & Dent, St. Nicholas' Church-yard. Sold also by Craddock & Joy, London, and by all the respectable booksellers in the north of England)

On the inside front cover: "Robert Park Howdonpans Near North Shields August 6 1820 The liberties of Europe rested by the united Efforts of England and her august allies the preliminaries of peace signed May 30th 1814" and (in another hand) "John Hair"

On the inside back cover: "John & A. Hair Book"

Paper book, 2+ xxiv + 782p, in brown cloth over boards, damaged with covers deatched and the text block in several parts