

# Birmingham Archives & Heritage

## Source List

### Travellers

#### Archives:

##### Baptism Registers

- |                                    |  |         |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|
| EP 1/2/1/1                         | <i>"Patience, daughter of Charles Dickson by Elizabeth his wife, was baptized, of the parish of Eaton, Warwickshire, being travelling people,"</i> 4 January 1705/06, St John's, Deritend. | 1705/06 |
| EP 1/2/1/1<br>(f. 245 back of vol) | John son of John Taylor baptized <i>"being Travellers"</i> , 3 December 1716, St John's, Deritend.   | 1716    |
| EP 41<br>General Register 1        | <i>"A bastard out of Yerdington was baptized a travellinge woman brought a bedd in the streete. Hard harted People"</i> , 12 May 1591, St Peter and Paul, Aston.                           | 1591    |

##### Illustrations

- |             |  |      |
|-------------|--|------|
| 87716/IIR 2 | Figure studies and watercolours by Joseph Barber or J.V. Barber, both Birmingham artists, of travellers at Bromford Forge, October 1807. | 1807 |
|-------------|--|------|

##### MS 4000 Charles Parker Archive

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|----------------|---|---------|
| MS 4000/1/8/19 | Papers: West Midlands Gypsy Liaison Group, of which Parker was a founder member, in 1969. (1 box)   | 1967-76 |
| MS 4000/2/47   | Papers: radio programme <i>'Stallion Eternity'</i> , a tribute to The horse by traveller Juanita Berlin. (1 vol, 3 files)                       | 1956    |
| MS 4000/2/63   | Papers: radio programme <i>'People Today'</i> , a conversation with Darkie Hunt a traveller whom Parker had met in Wisbech in 1958. (1 file)    | 1958    |
| MS 4000/2/63   | Papers: radio programme <i>'The Travelling People'</i> , the last radio ballad, about the travellers' way of life in Britain. (2 vols, 9 files) | 1964    |

A CD copy of *'The Travelling People'* programme is available for listening in Birmingham Archives & Heritage, and CDs of the Radio Ballads may also be purchased.

MS 4000/6/1/33/1-97	Field recordings (digital copies) collected for use in the Radio ballad <i>'The Travelling People'</i> . Travellers from various parts of Britain talking about their life, education, work, harassment; racism; music and songs. There are also sound effects and compilations for broadcasting, and the edited broadcast, etc.	1963-64
MS 4000/LC/1-25	Field recordings (on cassette tape) of travellers talking about their life, education, work, harassment, etc; music and songs. Collected for use in the radio ballad <i>'The Travelling People'</i> . (Tape summaries available)	1963-64
MS 4000/5/	<i>'A Future for Ordinary Folk'</i> was a project to digitise to CD and catalogue the recordings in the Charles Parker Archive which related to folk music song, the folk revival, performance, etc. The following recordings are available:	
MS 4000/5/1/18	Travellers and the West Midlands Gypsy Liaison Group:	
MS 4000/5/1/18/1	Radio programme on travellers and permanent residents in Woolerton, Nottinghamshire.	June 1966
MS 4000/5/1/18/2-3	Brownhills 'Tinkers' singing	Oct 1967
MS 4000/5/1/18/4	'Tinker' children singing songs and skipping songs.	[July 1968]
MS 4000/5/1/18/5	Discussion with residents of Camp Hill, re. travellers.	[July 1968]
MS 4000/5/1/18/6	Mr Ward 'Irish tinker' playing accordion at Camp Hill.	[July 1968/69]
MS 4000/5/1/18/7-8	Interviews of Thomas Acton, Romany linguist on Romany culture and Gypsy Liaison Committees.	April 1970
MS 4000/5/1/18/9	Russian 'gypsy' woman singing.	April 1970
MS 4000/5/1/18/10	Radio programme on travellers in Stoke-on-Trent.	June 1970
MS 4000/5/1/18/11-12	Radio programmes on travellers in Walsall.	Sept 1970
MS 4000/5/3/5/5/12-13	Recording of Caroline Hughes singing. 'Queen' Caroline Hughes (née Bateman) was born in 1900 in a horse-drawn caravan at Bere Regis in Dorset. A prolific and impressive singer, she was recorded by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger and Peter Kennedy in the 1960s. She died in 1971.	1960s
MS 4000/5/3/6/8	Recording of a performance at the Grey Cock Folk Club, by Raya, a Russian traveller, singing in Romany language and Russian, 10 May 1970. Raya used to play at the 'Gypsy' theatre in Moscow, the only professional 'Gypsy' theatre in the world at that time. She plays on a Russian 7 string guitar. (some tape distortion on track 1)	1970

MS 4000/5/3/5/4/ 15-16	Recording of a performance by the Stewarts of Blairgowrie, travellers, at the Grey Cock Folk Club. The Stewart family (Alex, Belle and Sheila) play the bagpipes, sing and tell stories.	c.1967
MS 4000/5/3/5/4/107	Recording of a performance by Belle and Alec Stewart of Blairgowrie at the Grey Cock Folk Club. Folk songs and jokes by Belle; bagpipe music by Alec, 25 March 1973.	1973
MS 4000/4	<b>Charles Parker Archive Library:</b>	
MS 4000/4/243	Carew, F.W. <i>The autobiography of a Gipsy.</i> (nd.)	
MS 4000/4/126	Bercovici, K. <i>The story of the Gypsies.</i>	1930
MS 4000/4/669	Groome, F. H. <i>In Gypsy Tents.</i> (reprint - 1973)	1880
MS 4000/4/1072	McCormick, A. <i>The Tinkler Gypsies.</i> (reprint - 1973)	1907
MS 4000/4/1180	Palamas, K. <i>The Twelve Lays of the Gipsy.</i> (transl. by George Thomson)	1967
MS 4000/4/1406	Starkie, Walter. <i>Raggle Taggle Adventures with a Fiddle in Hungary and Roumania.</i>	1949
MS 4000/4/1407	Starkie, Walter. <i>Scholars and Gypsies.</i>	1963
MS 4000/4/1504	Uddin, Jasmin. <i>Gipsy Wharf.</i>	1969
<b>MS 1914</b>	<b><u>Sparkbrook Association Papers</u></b>	
	These are papers of a person active in trying to promote the well-being of the residents of Sparkbrook in the 1960s by uniting the activities of a variety of organisations. Irish travellers were part of this community.	
MS 1914/1/5/1/1	'Sparkbrook discussions'.	1962-64
MS 1914/1/5/3/2	Report on Sparkbrook,	1963
MS 1914/1/8	Newsletters and publicity material.	1963-72.
MS 1914/1/9	Newscuttings.	1961-68
<b>MS 1902</b>	<b><u>Papers collected by Carl Chinn</u></b>	
MS 1902/41/35	File of information sent to Carl Chinn about Romanies.	
MS 1902/17 (Acc. 1996/190)	Information sent to Carl Chinn about caravan site at Ward End in 1958.	
<b>Photographs:</b>		
MS 2294 (uncatalogued)	Photographs by Paul Hill of groups of Irish travellers.	1960s-70s
MS 2445 (uncatalogued)	Four colour photographs by Jaroslav Balvin, for the exhibition 'Romany Portrait'.	2002

WK/H5/166, 195-201,546	Photographs of travellers at the Black Patch, Handsworth.	
WK/H10/4-5, 355-356	Photographs of travellers at the Black Patch, Handsworth.	
Slides/ 'G'	Over 2,000 colour slides of travellers at Walsall, Wolverhampton etc.	1982-89

#### Birmingham City Council Records

Acc. 1991/82  
[access: closed] Survey of a caravan site at Ward End listing tenants living in caravans, tents and sheds and ground rents paid. 1958

Acc. 2009/132 Photographs of Traveller sites by BCC City Engineer and Surveyor Department, early 20th century - 1970s.

#### Coroners Inquests

CO/2/1877/B/112 Martha Elizabeth Wallser, of a van, near Bracebridge Street, 3 months. Died 25 May 1877, of convulsions. Inquest held 26 May 1877. 1877

### Secondary Sources:

'Report on the Health of the Borough of Birmingham' (1887):  
*'In January last about 20 Greek Gypsies came into the town from Nottingham and pitched their tents in Bartholomew Street... I found them living in true gipsy fashion in 4 tents in a large yard or piece of waste land which appeared to be used as a place for the deposit of old building materials. The part owner, Mr Sedgwick, was induced to promise they would not be allowed to remain beyond the end of the week.'* [L 45.11: page 46]

Newscuttings about Gypsies in Birmingham and the West Midlands, (1963-)  
[LF 41.7]

Ted Rudge, *Brumroamin': Birmingham and Midlands Romany gypsy and traveller culture* (2003)  
[LF 41.7]

*'Travellers Remember'* by Rural Media Society, DVD (2006)

### Websites:

[www.cpatrust.org.uk](http://www.cpatrust.org.uk)  
[www.connectinghistories.org.uk](http://www.connectinghistories.org.uk)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/radioballads/original/travellingpeople.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/radioballads/original/travellingpeople.shtml)  
[www.ruralmedia.co.uk](http://www.ruralmedia.co.uk)  
[www.travellerstimes.org.uk](http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk)  
[www.rtfhs.org.uk](http://www.rtfhs.org.uk) : *Romany and Traveller Family History Society*  
[www.hants.gov.uk/rh/gypsy](http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/gypsy) : *The Living Album: Hampshire's Gypsy Heritage*  
[www.journeyfolki.org.uk](http://www.journeyfolki.org.uk)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/kent/romany\\_roots](http://www.bbc.co.uk/kent/romany_roots)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties) : *Rokker radio - Jake Bowers*  
[www.valleystream.co.uk](http://www.valleystream.co.uk) : *Romany Wales Project*