

Principal archives and genealogical collections in Yorkshire

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Borthwick Institute of Historical Research

University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD. Tel 01904 321166. www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr

One of the UK's most important archives, housed in purpose-built premises at the University of York. The Institute specialises in ecclesiastical archives but has thousands of other records relating to the city of York and the wider county. Most wills proven in Yorkshire can be found here and many bishop's transcripts.

North Yorkshire County Record Office

County Hall, Northallerton, N Yorks DL7 8AD. Tel 01609 777585. www.northyorks.gov.uk

Holds millions of records relating to the historic North Riding. Also offers conservation and reprographic services.

Teesside Archives

Exchange House, Exchange Square, Middlesbrough TS1 1DB. Tel 01642 248321. www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

Collects and preserves archive material from churches, official and private sources in the areas served by the councils of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. Much of this area is geographically in the historic county of Yorkshire and has only been administratively in Teesside post-1974.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Barnsley Archives

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Department, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Barnsley Central Library, Shambles Street, Barnsley S70 2JF. Tel 01226 773950. www.barnsley.gov.uk

Holds thousands of items relating to the history of the area, including title deeds, photographs, wills, maps and newspapers. A useful collection is the Burlands Annals, a chronology of events in Barnsley and area for 1744-1864.

Doncaster Archives

King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 0NA. Tel 01302 859811. www.doncaster.gov.uk

The archives hold over 800 years of records and one of the most important sets of documents are the Doncaster Borough Charters, dating between 1194 and 1836. These record rights granted to the borough by monarchs. The final charter in the collection for 1836 deals with King William IV restoring the right of Doncaster to hold its own quarter sessions.

Sheffield Archives

52 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SP. Tel 0114 2039395. www.sheffield.gov.uk

The records date from the 12th century and include material relating to the city itself and parts of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire. There is information about landed estates in the area, the city's parks and rural areas, as well as archives on religion, charities and voluntary organisations, hospitals and schools.

EAST YORKSHIRE

East Riding of Yorkshire Archives Service

County Hall, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 9BA. Tel 01482 392791. www.eastriding.gov.uk

The service holds archives from the 12th century to the present day, relating to all East Riding communities. The material ranges from parchment rolls to electronic records. The service has recently launched an online catalogue which features all records held by the archives and summaries all its collections, with descriptions of individual documents.

Hull History Centre

Worship Street, Hull HU2 8BG. Tel 01482 317500. www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk

The new History Centre brings together the material held by the City Archives and Local studies Library with those held by the University of Hull. These include the City's borough archives, dating back to 1299 and amongst the best in the country; records relating to the port and docks of Hull; papers of companies and organisations reflecting Hull's maritime history; papers of notable individuals including Andrew Marvell, Philip Larkin, Amy Johnson and William Wilberforce; records relating to local and national politics and pressure groups; and over 100,000 photographs, illustrations; maps and plans, newspapers, special collections and reference sources relating to Hull and the East Riding.

WEST YORKSHIRE

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford

Bradford Central Library, Prince's Way, Bradford BD1 1NN. Tel 01274 435099. www.archives.wyjs.org.uk

Estate records include the Busfield Ferrands of St Ives, Bingley and the Tempests of Tong Hall. These records include manorial court rolls, title deeds, estate surveys and household accounts. The archives are registered by the Diocese of Bradford as a place for records to be deposited. Non-conformity was strong in this area and the holdings reflect this. Also available are Bradford Council records and of predecessor bodies. These include minute books and reports, rate books, building plans, registers of teachers and inmates of welfare institutions.

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale

Central Library, Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax, HX1 1UN. Tel 01422 392636. www.archives.wyjs.org.uk
Important estate records include those of the Listers of Shibden Hall, Stansfelds of Field House and Sunderlands of Coley Hall. Many documents relate to medieval times and the Shibden Hall documents include eye-witness accounts of battles during the American War of Independence. The office holds parish records of Shelf, plus archives for over 200 non-conformist churches, including Baptists, Congregational and Methodist. Halifax area is famous for textile production and records include John Crossley and Sons, carpet makers, and Fielden Brothers of Todmorden, cotton manufacturers.

West Yorkshire Archives Service, Kirklees

Central Library, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield, HD1 2SU. Tel 01484 221966. www.archives.wyjs.org.uk
Family and estate records for dozens of local families, including over 800 years of records for the Beaumont family. Also business records for many Kirklees firms, with an emphasis on textile holdings. The office holds records of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers and the minutes of over 30 branches of the National Co-operative Society.

West Yorkshire Archive, Leeds

Chapelton Road, Sheepscar, Leeds, LS7 3AP. Tel 0113 2145814. www.archives.wyjs.org.uk
Wills and indexes for the Eastern deaneries of the Archdeaconry of Richmond and the Peculiars of Knaresborough and Masham. There are records for Leeds Workhouse but these can be patchy. They include birth, death and illegitimacy registers and emigration registers and adoption and fostering, a collection about the emigration of orphaned children, also reports by medical officers who visited children placed in new homes. There are records for Headingley Children's home for 1860-1983. Tithe maps and enclosure awards give information on renting or ownership of land, including farms. Records of labourers and servants, including Nostell Priory and Harewood House, include wage books for servants.

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield (WYAS Headquarters)

Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield, WF1 2DE. Tel 01924 305980. www.archives.wyjs.org.uk
The Wakefield headquarters of the WYAS is based in the same building as the Registry of Deeds, which dates from 1704. Strong on material about local businesses, institutions and places of worship. Among records held are vehicle registration documents, West Riding quarter sessions material, records relating to the West Riding House of Correction, also records for the West Yorkshire Police Force; Coroners' records, although these can be patchy.

Yorkshire Archaeological Society

23 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9NZ. Tel 0113 2456362. www.yas.org.uk
The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, founded in 1863, exists to promote the study of Yorkshire's historical past, including the agriculture, archaeology, architecture, industry, religion and history of the county. The headquarters are situated in an 18th merchant's house and include an extensive library, archive and lecture room. The Society is made up of a number of special interest groups which include Aerial Photography, Family History, Industrial History, Local History, Medieval, Prehistory, Roman Antiquities. Each section has its own lecture programme, excursions and field work.

Special collections

York Minster Library

York Minster Library & Archives, Dean's Park, York YO1 7JQ. Tel 01904 625308. www.yorkminster.org
The York Minster Library is the largest cathedral library in England, with over 120,000 volumes in its collections. The library's collections are particularly strong on medieval and ecclesiastical history. One of the most useful collections to family history researchers are the 'Yorkshire Collections', which comprise 20,000 books and pamphlets relating to the county, including publications on local history, playbills and Yorkshire newspapers. The library holds a bibliographical database of the names of over half a million pre-1500 Yorkshire people, with no charge for an unsuccessful search.

Special Collections, Leeds University Library

University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT. Tel 0113 343 55663. www.leeds.ac.uk/library
The Leeds University Library Special Collections holds some of the finest and rarest books in the country. There are over 200,000 books and hundreds of thousands of manuscripts. The archives include material donated to the library over the years, including collections from Ripon Cathedral Library and the libraries of Yorkshire Quakers. The Yorkshire collection is of particular interest to local historians, featuring information about Yorkshire life, culture and history.

Local studies libraries

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Scarborough Library

Vernon Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2NN. Tel: 01723 500802.

Records dating from the 12th century to the present day, including business, charity and hospital archives. Many relate to the town's importance as a seaside and fishing resort, as well as Scarborough School records from 1870 to 1960.

York Library Local History & Reference Collection

York Central Library Square, Museum Street, York, YO1 7DS. Tel 01904 655631. www.york.gov.uk

The York history room contains over 13,000 books, pamphlets and microfilm records relating to York and the surrounding area. There are census returns from 1851 and a parish index showing which returns are held. York parish registers are held and also some Roman Catholic registers, with a York marriage index for 1701-1837. The earliest available directory for the city dates from 1781.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Sheffield Local Studies Library

Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S Yorks, S1 1XZ. Tel 0114 2734711. www.sheffield.gov.uk

The library preserves and collects written, filmed and oral material about the city and surrounding areas. Visitors are able to consult over 30,000 volumes about the history of Sheffield and its people. There is a collection of films about life in the city and also oral history recordings. The library holds over 60,000 photographs about people and places.

EAST YORKSHIRE

Beverley Local Studies Library

Beverley Library, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 9BG. Tel 01482 881861. www.eastriding.gov.uk

Holdings include a picture playhouse collection from Beverley cinema and notebooks and diaries relating to those who emigrated from North Yorkshire to the United States.

WEST YORKSHIRE

Bradford Local Studies Reference Library

Central Library, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN. Tel 01274 433661. www.bradford.gov.uk

Holdings include the 1851 census for Bradford; a card index of most of Bradford; a card name index containing details from local newspapers of those reported wounded or missing in WWI and service people mentioned in local newspapers during WWII. Local trade directories for 1792-1969 and microfiches of Bradford Parish Church registers for 1599-1983.

Huddersfield Local Studies Library

Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield, W Yorks, HD1 2SU. Tel 01484 221965. www.kirklees.gov.uk

A large collection of material relating to the Kirklees area, including books, maps, photographs, trade directories and parish records. The Kirklees Digital Archive allows users to view and order over 40,000 images from a touch screen.

JB Priestley Library

University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP. Tel 01274 235256. www.brad.ac.uk

Part of the University of Bradford and particularly strong on material relating to the city's textile industry, it also holds the archives of Bradford Institute of Technology and Bradford Technical College Archive.

Leeds Local Studies Library

Leeds Central Library, Calverley Street, Leeds, LS1 3AB. Tel 0113 2478290. www.leeds.gov.uk/library

Leeds Local Studies Library is one of the largest in the region, with over 180,000 items available to view. The collection includes 12,000 maps, 32,000 prints and photographs of Leeds and surrounding areas and 6,000 playbills. Maps are available which cover all areas of Yorkshire, starting from 1500, with Ordnance Survey maps from the 1850s. The library has microfilms of the burial registers for all Leeds municipal cemeteries, which include both burials and cremations.

Specialist museums

National Railway Museum

Leeman Road, York YO26 4XJ. Tel 08448 153139. www.nrm.org.uk

One of the largest collections of railways books and memorabilia in the country. Items of particular interest include details of railway accidents and information about rail construction in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire Air Museum

Halifax Way, Elvington, York, YO41 4AU. Tel 01904 608595. www.yorkshireairmuseumco.uk

Based at a former airfield, the museum holds what is believed to be the only air gunners collection in the UK.

Yorkshire Film Archive

York St John College, Lord Mayors Walk York YO31 7EX. Tel 01904 716550. www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com

Over 100 years of film archive relating to life, work and religion in the county, particularly strong on farming and industry.

Kelham Island Museum

Alma Street (Off Corporation Street), Sheffield, S3 8RY. Tel 0114 2722106. www.simt.co.uk

The Museum has been displaying and conserving items relating to the city's industrial history for over 100 years, including the metallurgical, iron, steel, tool and cutlery trades which dominated for centuries.

Hull Maritime Museum

Queen Victoria Square, Hull, HU1 3DX. Tel 01482 613902. www.hullcc.gov.uk

The museum's archives have information about Hull's development from a medieval fishing village to one of the world's leading ports. Also holds rare material on the whaling industry.

National Media Museum

Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 1NQ. Tel. 0870 7010200. www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

The National Media Museum covers seven floors of a city centre building in Bradford. It offers: interactive galleries about photography, television and animation; three cinemas including an IMAX showing the latest 3D films, and two other auditoria – Pictureville and Cubby Broccoli – which show films you won't normally see in your local multiplex; two special exhibition galleries with a rolling programme; the BBC's Bradford radio, TV and online studio – a real, working exhibit within the Museum; a number of areas where learning activities – tours and talks – take place; a research and collections centre where much of the extensive collection is held, and where you can visit for research and study.

The SDC Colour Experience (formerly the Colour Museum)

Perkin House, 82 Grattan Road, Bradford, BD1 2JB. Tel 01274 390955. www.sdc.org.uk

Resource of the Society of Dyers and Colourists. Unfortunately, this museum is no longer open to the public but concentrates on educational resources, running colour demonstrations and workshops for schools and community groups. Suggest telephoning or e-mailing before attempting to visit.

National Coal Mining Museum

Caphouse Colliery, New Road, Overton, Wakefield WF4 4RH. Tel 01924 848806. www.ncm.org.uk

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is located at Caphouse Colliery, on the western edge of the Yorkshire coalfield, where mining has been carried out for centuries. A plan dated 1791, showing workings from 1789 to 1795, includes a shaft on the Caphouse site. It is probably the oldest coal-mine shaft still in everyday use in Britain today. The museum is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through the National Museum of Science & Industry. It aims to keep coal mining alive by collecting and preserving the industry's rich heritage, creating enjoyable and inspiring ways to learn for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

- **With many thanks to Rachel Bellerby, author of *Tracing Your Yorkshire Ancestors*, from whose book this list of Yorkshire archives, local studies libraries and museums has been principally adapted.**