

Yorkshire Genealogy on the Internet

Presentation at Who Do You Think You Are – Live! February 2010
by Jackie Depelle, Chairman Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies

There are many websites devoted to Yorkshire family history research, far too many to mention here. Here are a few that you may find especially helpful ... or you may never have thought of trying.

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/>

GENUKI – the Yorkshire pages of Genuki, the free umbrella website for UK and Irish genealogical research, a fantastic resource and should always be your first port of call, especially if you want to locate the whereabouts of virtually any place, however small, in Yorkshire. Go to the site for a treasure trove of information about all three Yorkshire Ridings, the Ainsty and City of York. Scores of easy-to-navigate links take you to a literal cornucopia of data about Yorkshire parishes and record locations.

<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

Yorkshire BMD – part of the UKBMD website, this is a joint project by local councils and Yorkshire family history societies to place online civil registration indexes from 1837 onwards. These are indexes from the local Registrar's offices, not the GRO and therefore are the primary resource. Unfortunately this does not cover the whole of Yorkshire though the coverage is constantly expanding and may include quite recent material. A marriage result will give details of the venue allowing you to seek a Parish Register entry and potentially save money on purchasing certificates.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/>

Part of The National Archives' website the Manorial Documents Register (MDR) identifies the nature and location of manorial records. The MDR is partially computerised and fortunately for us includes the three Ridings of Yorkshire. Having identified the surviving documents the Register advises where they are held, access times, etc. For a fantastic insight into manorial documents go to the associated site: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/using/index.htm>

<http://www.google.co.uk/>

Probably the best know search engine. "Google it" – the answer for everything. Use the Advanced Search facility to target particular topics and of course people. Have you ever looked for yourself?

Advanced searching works with Google Maps and Books. The later includes some amazing facts about our ancestors and then of course there are Google Images, again with advanced searching possible. It is also possible to set up Google Alerts whereby you received instant notification of any new material with the word Yorkshire, or whatever you have chosen, within it.

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/>

Internet auction site. Save your searches here so that books, postcards and perhaps even family memorabilia being put up for sale can be viewed by yourself.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>

A2A is part of the UK archives network. The A2A database contains catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales and dating from the eighth century to the present day. Using the advanced search facility enables searching to be restricted to Yorkshire only. Once material is identified it will also explain how to get access to it.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

Cyndislist – an international collection of genealogical material. At first glance the A-Z listing does not appear to include "Y" however try under "E" for England and you will see we have our own link. Not all sites collated under Cyndislist will be free however it is still a useful resource.

<http://www.yorkshireancestors.com/>

A commercial site giving information on Yorkshire ancestry plus Yorkshire books on CDs for sale. They are based in Eberston, North Yorkshire with accommodation and a family history research centre.

<http://www.yorkshireparishregisters.com/>

The Yorkshire Parish Register Society, a section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, has been publishing Yorkshire parish registers for over 100 years. Dozens available in book form, fiche and CD.

<http://www.yorkshireindexers.co.uk/forums/portal.php>

A subscription website that started out covering Leeds only but has now been expanded to take in other parts of the county. Comprises online searchable searchable databases and books and CDs of censuses, parish registers, poll books, maps, etc.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engyks/>

A Rootsweb-hosted site with lots of links to other Yorkshire websites and projects.

<http://www.calverley.info/>

An amazing free website with a huge amount of material for those with ancestors in the Parish of Calverley, between Leeds and Bradford, and the surrounding district and villages. Includes material supplied by the Pudsey Civic Society.

<http://www.kirkbymalham.info/>

A brilliant site for those with ancestors in the Parish of Kirkby Malham and the surrounding villages of this beautiful part of the Yorkshire Dales.

Check within Google etc., for other .info sites there are many eg Addingham.

Yorkshire family history societies

Yorkshire has far more family history societies than any other county – about 23 at the last count! Every area of the county is covered, the largest number being in West Yorkshire. To find the web address of any Yorkshire society, just type its name into Google or visit The Federation of Family History Societies website. www.ffhs.org.uk. You can usually join a society online and they will have many useful publications for sale as well as members interests.

Genealogy mailing lists

Rootsweb hosts almost 30 mailing lists for Yorkshire, some covering the whole county, some a particular Riding and others covering individual towns. To find a list covering your particular interests, go to **<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>** and click on Mailing Lists. You may well find people who are also researching your family.

Civic Trusts and Civic Societies

As well as keeping an eye on the built environment many such volunteer societies have publications on local history which will be well worth getting a copy of eg Pudsey Civic Society www.pcs-online.org.uk. Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies <http://www.yhacs.org.uk/>

<http://www.dalesman.co.uk/familyq/index.htm>

Well known magazine now offering a Yorkshire Family Quest facility.

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/oldlib/archives/quaker/index.htm>

Yorkshire Quaker Heritage Project. Download 'Researching Yorkshire Quaker History: A Guide To Sources'

<http://idlebooksellers.co.uk/index.html>

Specialists in second handbooks for Yorkshire with over 3000 volumes includes Topography, Local and Family history materials, Genealogy and a large collection of local pamphlets and ephemera.

<http://www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com/>

Fancy coming up to see us? Then there is no better time to plan your visit than round the major Family History fair at the York Racecourse in June each year.

The next step? Plan your trip: **<http://www.yorkshire.com/>**