

## VISIT US

The Local and Family History Library is based on the second floor of Leeds Central Library.

We run regular Family History for Beginners workshops and advice sessions as well as Heritage Tours (£) of the Central Library.

**Tickets:**

[ticketsource.co.uk/Leedslibraryevents](https://ticketsource.co.uk/Leedslibraryevents)

**For more information:**

**Local & Family History**

**Leeds Central Library, Calverley Street,  
Leeds, LS1 3AB**

**T: 0113 378 6982**

**E: [localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk)**

**W: [www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries)**

**Blog: [secretlibraryleeds.net](http://secretlibraryleeds.net)**

**Sign up for our newsletter – scan the  
QR code**



Local & Family  
History

# Local & Family History Library

Research your family history  
Discover your local area

For more information call the library 0113 378 6982



    @LeedsLibraries



### Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm

Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm

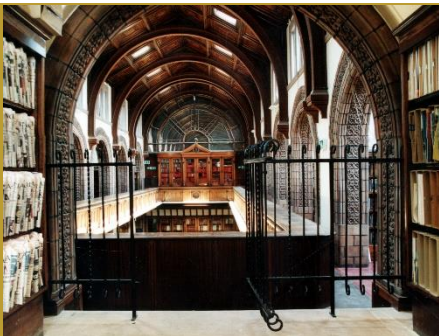
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm

Thursday 9.00am – 8.00pm

Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm

Saturday – 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday - Closed



## How we can help

Our resources are mainly geared towards finding things out about the local area in the past including:

**People** – information about a person might include where they were born, married or died; whereabouts they lived; where they were buried; what job they did

**Places** – this might be a building or street in Leeds, possibly one that's since been demolished

**Events** – find out about something that happened, such as a crime, court case or accident. It might have taken place in Leeds or – for large events - you might want to know how it affected the city



## Collections

**Books** - over 50,000 items about different aspects of the city and region.

**Church Records** - Parish registers detailing baptisms, marriages and burials around Leeds and parts of Yorkshire.

**Local Newspapers** - Dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and packed with interesting articles.

**Maps** - Over 2000 historical and OS maps, covering everything from geology and shops, to electoral wards.

**Trade Directories** - Names and addresses of people and businesses since 1784.

**Birth, marriage and death indexes** - For the whole of England and Wales since 1837, also online – Ancestry.

**Magazines** - Local periodicals including *The Dalesman*, *Yorkshire Life* and *Faily Tree*.

**Photographs** - Old and new, also available on our website [www.leodis.net](http://www.leodis.net)

**Electoral Registers** - Voting lists from the present day back to 1832.

**Leeds theatre archive** - Playbills, programmes and a growing database of theatre folk.

**Monumental inscriptions** - Information transcribed from gravestones across Yorkshire.



## Secret Library

The Secret Library is our weekly heritage blog, featuring insights into the history and architecture of the Central Library building, plus highlights from our special collections (including rare books hiding in the stacks). We also provide regular updates about upcoming history-related events and report back on any you may have missed. Join us at: [secretlibraryleeds.net](http://secretlibraryleeds.net).

## We can research it for you

If you can't get to the library, we can do up to two hours of research for you. We charge £7.00 per 30 minutes if you live in Leeds, rising to £14.00 for customers outside Leeds. Write or email your request to the contact details overleaf.

Prices correct at time of writing.

## First steps in Family History Research

- (1) Dig out as many relevant documents as possible, especially birth, marriage and death certificates
- (2) Find your old family photos to jog memories. Check the back for names or dates.
- (3) Make a basic family tree. Go as far back as you can with immediate family.
- (4) Show your tree to relatives – can they fill in any gaps?
- (5) Ask relatives to make copies of certificates or other documents, letter or diaries
- (6) Borrow or buy a book on family history
- (7) Get online! So much is available online now and you can enjoy free access to Ancestry.com in all Leeds libraries, so brush up on your computer skills.
- (8) Write down your surname, as many variations you can think of. You might need to try all these spellings online.
- (9) Pick which branch to begin with so as not to get confused.
- (10) Be specific when asking people for help.