



What else is available on Ancestry?

For details of wills, try the England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (1858-1966). For voting lists, try the West Yorkshire Electoral Registers (1840-1962). For everything else, there's the Card Catalog!

For more information:

Local and Family History

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

T: 0113 378 6982

E: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk

W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries

Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net

Tickets:

ticketsource.co.uk/Leedslibraryevents

Newsletter:

bit.ly/LeedsLocalHistoryNews

Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm

Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm

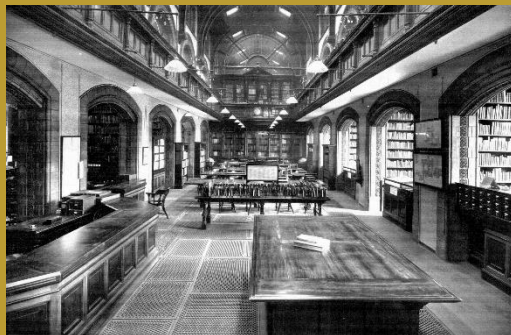
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm

Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm

Saturday – 10.00am –
4.00pm

Sunday - Closed



Using Ancestry.com

Birth, marriage and death indexes, census information, First World War records, and Yorkshire parish registers... You'll find all these and more on the Ancestry website, free to use in all Leeds libraries!



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All about Ancestry

The subscription-based Ancestry website, aimed at family historians, is free to use in all Leeds libraries, with the only charge being for any printouts you make. The information available spans the globe, and the site's usefulness is really only limited by your imagination. To access the free version go to:

www.ancestrylibraryedition.co.uk



Getting Started

What's on there? Look for the Card Catalog link on the home page and use it to search for any topic or subject you're interested in, from Leeds parish records to Caribbean obituary notices.

Start big! If you know an ancestor's name, simply type it into the very first box at the top of the Ancestry home page. You may get lots of results but it's better to whittle these down using the filter options on the left than limit your initial search to one database and end up missing something.

Two handy links on the Ancestry home page are the UK Census Collection (towards the bottom-right) and the Birth, Marriage & Death Records (in the Quick Links section). More about these later!

What's available? A Quick Guide Census records

Select UK Census Collection to access these records, which were collected every ten years between 1841 and 1921 (data from the last 100 years is kept secret). Census returns provide all sorts of information about residents from all over the UK, including details of everyone from the youngest baby to lowliest servant.

Birth, marriage and death indexes

You won't find actual birth, marriage or death certificates on Ancestry (only register offices hold those) but you can access indexes of registered births and marriages 1837-2005 and deaths 1837-2007 (2022 incomplete). These will identify the relevant three-month quarter in which the event was registered and tell you which register office to contact to buy a certificate. **Tip!** The Births Index includes the mother's maiden name from September 1911 onwards, making it possible to search for siblings. Spouse's surname on marriage index included from 1912.

West Yorkshire Parish Registers

Looking for a baptism, marriage or burial that took place in a Church of England church? Try this comprehensive collection of records, dating back to 1512. The quickest way to access the relevant databases is by clicking Card Catalog on the home page, then searching for West Yorkshire in the Title box (top-left). For Baptist, Methodist and other non-conformist ancestors, there's a separate collection covering 1646-1985.

Records from the First World War

Ancestry now holds all the surviving service records of non-commissioned officers and other ranks who served in WW1 and didn't re-enlist before WW2. You'll also find soldiers' pension records and medal cards (1914-1920) and the useful reference document, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919. **Tip!** Take a short-cut to the Army databases by searching for British Army in the Card Catalog.

Criminal records

If you've got a wrong 'un in the family, you may be able to find out something about them in one of two particularly useful resources on Ancestry. The England & Wales Criminal Registers (1791-1892) list individuals charged with all sorts of crimes, and give information about the person in question, their trial, and sentence if convicted. Closer to home, there's a fascinating collection of Wakefield Prison Records (1801-1914), which covers inmates from the whole of the old West Riding..