

- (68) 'Chronicles of the Old Leeds Cloth Market'
- (69) 'England's Future Queen – Her Passage through Leeds a Century Ago: 14 September, 1835'
- (70) 'Historic Doncaster Races'
- (71) 'A Historic Landmark; The Old George Hotel' (10 November, 1933) (typescript)
- (72) 'The Tercentenary of Sir Christopher Wren'
- (73) 'Old Yorkshire Assizes, Some Notable Trials'
- (74) 'Sandy Lobby, An Exiled Leeds Loiner's Early Recollection'
- (75) 'Leeds in the Olden Days' (incomplete lecture notes)
- (76) Miscellaneous Newscuttings

Notes

- *MS.* indicates the item is available in manuscript form
- **MIC** indicates the item is also available on microfilm. Contact us to request scanned or printed copies

Bibliography

- Crump, W.B. 'Alfred Mattison,' *Thoresby Society*, 37. (1945)
- Henderson, Lesley A. *Alf Mattison: Collector and Socialist – A Survey of the Mattison Collection in the Brotherton Library* (MA Thesis; 1987, typescript)
- Isaac, Rhian. 'Alf Mattison: A Hidden Figure,' available at: <https://secretlibraryleeds.net/2016/02/26/alf-mattison-a-hidden-figure>
- Meadowcroft, Michael. 'Leeds Archivist and Labour Archivist,' available at: <http://www.independentlabour.org.uk/main/2013/12/16/ilp120-alf-mattison-%E2%80%93-leeds-archivist-and-labour-activist> (a hard-copy of this article can be found at the Central Library)
- Thornton, David. *Leeds: A Historical Dictionary of People, Places and Events* (2013)



Local and Family History Research Guides

The Alf Mattison Collection at Leeds Central Library

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Alf Mattison (1868-1944) was a photographer, local historian and socialist. Born at Hunslet, he grew up with a passion for Leeds' history. As a photographer he made a significant contribution to local history by recording numerous old buildings before they were demolished. He also published articles and photographs in the *Yorkshire Daily Observer* and absorbed many of these into his 1901 publication, *The Romance of Old Leeds*. Mattison was a passionate supporter of the Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party. He worked for the city tramways, where he was known affectionately as 'Old Leeds'. Mattison died as a result of a street accident in 1944.

This research guide lists the full collection of Mattison's historical and personal writings which were bequeathed to Leeds Central Library. His comprehensive library, including scarce socialist newspapers, an extensive range of pamphlets, and books on the Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party, are now held in the Special Collections of the Brotherton Library, alongside additional archival materials. You can read more about the University of Leeds collection here:

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/features/article/116/mattison_collection

Examples of Mattison's photographic work can be seen on the Leodis archive: <http://ow.ly/zqfC306uckj>

Local History

- 'A Brief Outline of Leeds History' (1939, *MS*. A Paper Read before the Leeds Branch of the Townswomen's Guild) **MIC**
- 'Leeds in the Olden Days' (an illustrated lecture; 1927, *MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Leeds in the Olden Days' (lantern lecture; 1908, *MS*.) **MIC**
- Local History Notebooks (3 vols. *MS*.) **MIC**
- Notes For a Lecture: 'Leeds in the Olden Times' (*MS*.) **MIC**
- Notes For Use with Lantern Slides on 'Old Leeds' (*MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Old Hunslet' (1904?, *MS*. Lecture Notes) **MIC**
Contents: 'The Story of Hunslet: a Lantern Lecture'; 'Two Famed Hunslet Relics and their History'; 'An Ancestor of the Lord Mayor Described'; 'Other Material Described'
- 'Old Leeds' (lecture; *MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Ralph Thoresby: Historian and Diarist, 1658-1725' (*MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Romance of Old Leeds' (lantern lecture, *MS*.) **MIC**
- *The Romance of Old Leeds* (1901; 1987 reprint also available)
- A Selection of Extracts from 11 volumes...Entitled "A Compilation of Facts Illustrative of Methodism in Leeds..." [by John Wray] (1927, *MS*.)
- 'Some Little Account of Ralph Thoresby, Historian and Diarist, of Leeds'; An Address (1922); Revised ed. (1940?)
- 'Some Men of Mark in Old Time Leeds' (lantern lecture; 1938-40, *MS*.) **MIC**
Contents: John Harrison, Adam Baynes, Ralph Thoresby, John Smeaton, Joseph Priestly, Edward Baines (1774-1848), Dr. Hook, Richard Oastler, Matthew Murray, Benjamin Wilson, Thomas Lloyd, Samuel Smiles, William Hershall.
- 'Tour Round Old Leeds' (1925, *MS*. fragments) **MIC**

Writings on the History of Leeds Theatres

- 'Chronicles of the Leeds Stage' (lecture; 1912, *MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Leeds Theatrical Memoranda: 1771 – 1818' (*MS*.) **MIC**
- 'Leeds Theatre Miscellany' (*MS*.) **MIC**
- Manuscripts on the Leeds Theatre **MIC**
Contents: 'Leeds Theatre: a History of the Drama in Leeds' (two versions, both complete); 'Notes on the Leeds stage' (compiled

- mainly from local newspapers, with sources); 'A Chronological List of Leeds Playbills: 1829 – 60'; 'Leeds Theatre' (MS. notes for bibliography); 'Tate Wilkinson's Early Pantomimes'; 'Chronicles of the Old Leeds Stage: Part I'; 'Tate Wilkinson's Early Days'; 'The First Leeds Theatre'; 'Tate Wilkinson, Actor-Manager'; 'Famous Actors Appearing at the Leeds Theatre'; 'An Old Leeds Playbill'; 'Mrs Jordan's Early Leeds Career'; 'Notes on Mrs Siddons'; 'The Romance of the Stage: Some Notable Actresses and their Destinies'; 'Sir Henry Irving – Stories and Incidents of a Famous Career'
- Material for a History of the 18th-century Leeds Theatre (MS.) **MIC**
- 'The Old Leeds Theatre: Its Plays and Players' (1936, MS.) **MIC**

Newscuttings (mainly from local newspapers)

- A Bibliography of Articles Regarding Leeds History (MS.)
- A Bibliography of Articles Upon Leeds Typography (MS.)
- 'The Bicentenary of Thomas Paine' (1937, MS.)
- 'The Bicentenary of Joseph Priestley' (Leeds, 1933)
- 'Chronicles of Leeds' (6 vols. 1940-44, MS. and newscuttings) **MIC**
- Collection of Newspapers on (the) Declaration of War, 3 September 1939: First Issues of the Following Newspapers
Contents: *The Times* and *Yorkshire Evening Post* (4 September); *Manchester Guardian* (4 September); *Leeds Weekly Chronicle* (8 September); *The Observer* (10 September); *Reynolds News* (10 September); *The Daily Herald* (1, 2, 4, 5 September); *Picture Post* (9, 16 September)
- Indexes of Local Material in the *Leeds Mercury Supplement*, *Yorkshire Weekly Post* and other Papers (3 vols. MS.)
- Notes Contributed to 'The Diary of a Yorkshireman' in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* (1924-30)
- 'Shrovetide Customs'

Personal Writings

- Journal (16 vols. 1925-44, MS.) **MIC**
- Leeds: Old and New. A Souvenir of the Triennial Conference of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. Compiled by Alvery Fox (Leeds, 1909. The title page reads: 'Although it is stated

- on the title page that this work is compiled by A. Fox, the authorship thereof is claimed by A. Mattison')
- Miscellaneous Material [including correspondence with J.A. Symington]
- 'Tom Maguire: A Remembrance' (Manchester, 1895)

Other Writings

- 'An Account of the First Visit to Leeds of Charles Dickens On the Occasion of the Leeds Mechanics Institute & Literary Society, 1 December, 1847' (MS.) **MIC**
- 76 unpublished articles (all MS.) **MIC**
Contents:
- (1) Notes from the 1806 Leeds Directory (additional note by Maurice Beresford (1985) states that "it is likely that these are notes from 1809 (Baines) Directory not 1806. The language of the entries is identical and the Baines 1809 Directory states that there was no previous issue.")
- (2) Miscellaneous Notes on Old Leeds (mainly extracts from newspapers)
- (3) Notes on Advertisements (*The Leeds Intelligencer*: 1757-59)
- (4) 'Old Leeds' (notes for a lantern lecture)
- (5) 'For King and Law: Some Old Proclamations in Leeds
- (6) 'The Charm of "PUDSA"' (notes on Joseph Pennell, the artist)
- (7) 'Quarry Hill and its Memories' (1937)
- (8) 'Craft Guilds of Bygone Leeds'
- (9) 'The House of Recovery' (September, 1938. Notes on the history of the Greyhound Inn, Vicar Lane)
- (10) 'An Old-Time Visitation of the 'Flu' to Leeds, and Some Quaint Remedies for it'
- (12) 'Literary Impressions of Leeds' (notes on John Dyers', Daniel Defoe's, Arthur Young's, Charles Dickens' and George Eliot's impressions of Leeds)
- (13) 'Old Booksellers, Libraries and Newsrooms of Leeds'
- (14) 'Leeds Newspapers and the Volunteers'
- (15) 'Old Leeds Volunteers, Leeds Squadron Band'
- (16) 'The Old Hall, Wade Lane, Leeds, and the Jackson Family' (no

- date. A pamphlet published by the Thoresby Society, illustrated with photographs of Alf Mattison)
- (17) 'Report of a Lecture on Dr. Hook by Ralph Thoresby'
- (18) 'Charles West Cope R.A of Leeds'
- (19) 'The 'Five Sisters' of Temple Newsam' (30 May, 1838); 'A Renowned Leeds Artist' (1 October, 1936) (Both articles concern Benjamin Wilson, (1721-88), a Leeds artist)
- (20) 'Some Town Clerks of Old-Time Leeds' (This folder also contains a newscutting, 'A Town Clerk of Leeds whose Position was Challenged' by Mattison, the source and date of which are unidentified)
- (21) 'Leeds Parish Church and its Vicars'
- (22) 'Vicars of Leeds'
- (23) 'Leeds Grammar School'
- (24) 'Early Quakerism in Leeds'
- (25) 'Fragments of a Tombstone in the Friends' Burial Ground, Water Lane, Leeds' (includes photograph of the tombstone taken by Mattison)
- (26) '150th Anniversary of the British Museum'
- (27) 'The Early Days of the Leeds Post Office.'
- (28) 'The Bi-centenary of Joseph Priestly' (illustrated)
- (29) Notes from the *Leeds Mercury* (1832-33) regarding Joseph Priestly, Ralph Thoresby and William Hey
- (30) 'The Judges come to Town; Old -Time Visitations'
- (31) 'The Election of a Mayor 1765'
- (32) 'A Famous Beacon -the Story of a Leeds Man's Masterpiece' (3 April, 1936. An Account of John Smeaton and the Eddystone Lighthouse)
- (33) 'Dr Samuel Smiles'
- (34) Newspapers Cuttings and Manuscript Notes on Samuel Smiles.
- (35) Manuscript Notes on the Milner family of Leeds
- (36) Manuscript Notes on 'Leeds Elections of the Past'
- (37) Miscellaneous Manuscript Fragments, including Two Notebooks (1938?)
- (38) Leeds Miscellany (largely newspaper cuttings with some manuscript notes)
- (39) Extracts from John Wesley's *Journal* (relating to Yorkshire)
- (40) 'Cheerful Hymns for Children' (31 August, 1936)
- (41) 'Newspapers and Napoleon's Downfall at Waterloo'
- (42) 'St. Valentine's Day'
- (43) 'Great and Glorious News' (Manuscript notes regarding the Battle of Waterloo)
- (44) 'Whitsun Ale'
- (45) 'Epitaphs - Humour in Churchyards' (second sheet is missing)
- (46) 'God Bless the Prince of Wales' (18 March, 1935)
- (47) 'Russia and the Liberty Movement' (An Account of Robert Spence Watson's Society of Friends of Russian Freedom)
- (48) 'The Methodist Missionary Society'
- (49) 'The Old and the New - Night Watch Services'
- (50) 'Pomfret' Races - A Sportive Leeds M.P. of the 17th-century'
- (51) Notes on Princess Victoria's visit to Yorkshire (1935)
- (52) 'Doncaster Race Week' (September, 1919)
- (53) 'The 150th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Post'
- (54) 'Royalty and Doncaster Races' ff. 4 (September 1936)
- (55) 'Leeds in Grandfather's Day' (19 October, 1933)
- (56) A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A *The Church of St. John the Evangelist*, Leeds, with manuscript notes by Alf Mattison
- (57) 'Cloth Hall Yard and Political Gatherings'
- (58) 'Mill-Hill Chapel and Dr. Priestley'
- (59) 'An Old-Time Hero of Romance - Dick Turpin - The bi-centenary of his execution at York'
- (60) 'A Selection of Names for the Twenty 'Houses' Comprising the Quarry Hill Flats' (13 April, 1938)
- (61) 'When Judges Were Guests in Leeds - Old Time Ceremonials'
- (62) 'A Day in History - Linking the Old and New Worlds by Steamship' (4 April, 1938)
- (63) 'A Renowned Yorkshire Character - Lady Elisabeth Hastings' (December, 1939)
- (64) 'Dr William Hey' (August 1936)
- (65) 'Charles Dickens' First Visit to Leeds'
- (66) 'An Account of the First Visit to Leeds of Charles Dickens, 1 December 1847'
- (67) Notes on some literary visitors to Leeds (Thackeray, Hazlitt, Carlyle, Emerson, Hartley, Coleridge)