Local and Family History Research Guides

18th-Century Leeds

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in Local and Family History at Leeds Central Library. Many others are listed in our online and card catalogues.

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Please note:
PTS=Publications of the Thoresby Society
*=appointment may be required

Maps
- A New & Exact Plan of the Town of Leedes (c.1726) – John Cossins
- A Plan of Leeds (1770) – Thomas Jeffreys
- A Map of Near 10 Miles Round Leeds (1797) – Gilbert Wright. In Wright’s A History of the Town and Parish of Leeds [Containing a list of Merchants, Tradesmen, &c.]

Contemporary Accounts & Primary Sources
- *The Blessedness and Reward of Charity Asserted (1710) [Sermon preached by] - John Killingbeck
- *The Leeds Directory: For the Year 1798 (1798) – John Ryley
- *A Compleat Catalogue of Books in the Circulating Library at Leeds (1785) – Thomas Wright
- *Twelve Letters to Richard Richardson of Chester, on Various Business and Domestic Subjects (1784-1791) – Thomas Barstow of Leeds
- *Three Original Poems; Being the Posthumous Works of Pendavid Bitterzigg, Esq. (1751) – John Berkenhout
- *Vicaria Leodiensis; Or, the History of the Church of Leedes (1724) – Ralph Thoresby
  The Wandering Patentee; Or, a History of the Yorkshire Theatres, from 1770 to the Present Day (1973; orig. pub., 1795) – Tate Wilkinson
- The Diary of Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S, 1677-1724: Volumes I & II (1830) – ed., Joseph Hunter
General Histories of the Period


Economy, Society and Politics

- The Leeds Pottery (1963) – David Towner
- ‘The Charity School, the Church, and the Corporation’ (1993) – Carole P. Johnston. PTS, 2nd Series, Volume 3
- The Leeds Woollen Industry: 1780 (1963)
- ‘What was the Relationship between Elite Culture and Power in the Town of Leeds from 1760 to 1820’ (2004) – Sue Cottam. PTS, 2nd Series, Volume 14

People


Newspapers

- Microfilm copies of the Leeds Mercury (from 1719) & the Leeds Intelligencer (from 1754). Some original editions also available.