



- *Leeds Parish Church Vestry Meetings* (1828). The Vestry was an important site of pre-1835 Leeds politics, as Liberals excluded from the Corporation were able to take control of various committees elected by ratepayers at Vestry meetings
- *Preliminary Election Proceedings for the First Election in the Borough of Leeds: including the speeches of T.B. Macaulay, John Marshall Jun. and M.T. Sadler* (1832)
- *The Cracker and Other Explosions Which Have Gone Off During the Election* (1832). Collection of newspaper cuttings from *The Cracker*
- G.S. Bull. *Letter to Thomas B. Macaulay, a Candidate for the Representation of Leeds* (1832)
- John Foster [printer, at the *Leeds Patriot* office]. *Rules and Regulations of the Leeds Radical Political Union* (1832)
- Michael Thomas Sadler. *Reply to the Two Letters of John Elliot Drinkwater Esquire and Alfred Power Esquire, Factory Commissioners* (1833)
- William Rider. *The "Demagogue": Containing Extracts from the Unpublished Memoirs of Edward Baines, Esq. M.P.* (1834). Biting satire.
- Richard Oastler. *Four Open Letters to Edward Baines, Esq., M.P. On "Slavery in Yorkshire" – i.e. the Horrors of Child Labour* (1835)
- Joshua Hobson [printer and publisher]. *A Report of the Proceedings of a Public Meeting on the Factory Question...[C]alled by half-a-dozen Leeds mill-workers* (1837)
- William Paul. *A History of the Origin and Process of Operative Conservative Societies* (1838). Working-class organization aligned with the local Tory party
- *Leeds Acts of Parliament: 1842 – 1901*. Includes the important 'Improvement Act' of 1842, which granted the Council significant municipal powers (previously controlled by the Improvement Commission, officers of which were elected at Vestry meetings)
- Thomas Morgan. *Reform of Parliament by an Expansion of Suffrage* (1851). Morgan was agent to the Leeds and West-Riding Liberal Registration Association
- 'An Elector'. *The Late Leeds Elections: The Case Stated* (1857)
- Edward Baines Jnr. *Speech at the Inaugural Meeting of the Bramley Reform Association* (1865)
- Edward Baines, Esq., M.P. *Speeches on the Extension of the Franchise: 1861 – 1865* (no date)
- W. Ridley. *Map of the Borough of Leeds Shewing the Five Parliamentary Divisions* (1885)
- F. Lees. *Dr. F.R. Lees: A Biography* (1904). Lees stood as Liberal candidate in the 1874 parliamentary election for Leeds.

Local and Family History Research Guides

19th-century Leeds Politics

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PTS = Publication of the Thoresby Society

General Leeds histories

- Steven Burt & Kevin Grady. *The Illustrated History of Leeds* (2002)
- R.V. Taylor. *Biographia Leodiensis* (1865 & 1867). Dictionary of prominent Leeds people, including entries for many figures active in the 19th-century
- David Thornton. *Leeds: A Historical Dictionary of People, Places and Events* (2013). See also Thornton's forthcoming *Leeds: A Biographical Dictionary*
- -. 'Parliamentary Elections held in Leeds', available at <https://www.thoresby.org.uk/content/elections/elections.php>

Secondary sources on 19th-century Leeds politics

- B.J. Barber. 'Aspects of municipal government, 1835-1914,' in Derek Fraser ed., *A History of Modern Leeds* (1980)
- Stephen Barker. 'Joseph Barker and the Radical Cause,' in PTS, 2nd Series, 1
- Asa Briggs. 'Leeds: A Study in Civic Pride,' in *Victorian Cities* (1963)
- Michael Laccohee Bush. *The Friends & Following of Richard Carlile* (2016)
- Derek Fraser. 'Politics and society in the nineteenth century,' in Fraser ed., *A History of Modern Leeds* (1980)
- -. 'Improvements in early Victorian Leeds,' in PTS, Volume LIII
- -. 'The Leeds Churchwardens,' in PTS, Volume LIII
- -. 'The Leeds Corporation, c.1820 – c.1850,' in PTS, Volume LIV
- -. 'The Politics of Leeds Water,' in PTS, Volume LIII
- -. 'Poor Law politics in Leeds, 1833 – 1855,' in PTS, Volume LIII
- -. *Urban Politics in Victorian England: The Structure of Politics in Victorian Cities* (1976)
- Simon Gunn. 'Civic Space in Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester' (1999)
- -. *The Public Culture of the Victorian Middle-Class: Ritual and Authority and the English Industrial City, 1840-1914* (2008)
- J.F.C. Harrison. 'Chartism in Leeds,' in Asa Briggs ed., *Chartist Studies* (1959)
- E.P. Hennock. *Fit and Proper Persons: Ideal and Reality in Nineteenth-century Urban Government* (1973)
- C.J. Morgan. 'The Leeds elections of 1834 and 1835: a psephological analysis,' PTS, 2nd Series, 13
- R.J. Morris. *Class, Sect and Party: The Making of the British Middle-Class – Leeds, 1820-50* (1990)
- D.G. Paz. 'William Aldam, backbench MP for Leeds, 1841-1847: national issues versus local issues,' in PTS, 2nd Series, 8
- Matthew Roberts. 'Election Cartoons and Political Communication in Victorian England', *Cultural and Social History*, Volume 10, Issue 3 (2013)
- David Thornton. *Mr. Mercury: The Life of Edward Baines, 1774-1848* (2009)

Primary sources on 19th-century Leeds politics

19th-century political cartoons, handbills and prints

- Large and mixed collection of satirical cartoons on Leeds candidates for parliamentary elections between 1832 and 1885, with the main focus on 1868 – 1880. For more information, see the Secret Library blog: <https://secretlibraryleeds.net/collections/political-cartoons/>
- Handbills and circulars for pre-1832 Yorkshire elections – e.g. 'Invitation presented to John Marshall, Esq.,' in relation to Marshall's candidacy at the 1826 parliamentary election.
- Including also a selection of satirical verse pieces – for example 'Election Ballads, No.4,' by 'Wheat Ear' – likely from the 1880 parliamentary election
- Selection of prints and sketches showing crowds acting in demonstration for and against political questions of the day – including the 1832 Reform Bill

The Sparks Collection*

- 14 volumes of documents, manuscripts, memoranda and newscuttings relating to Leeds Town Council proceedings, elections and departmental activities (1876 – 1889). See also F.R. Sparks, *Memories of My Life* (1913)

Local newspapers (all bound and single copies are *)

- *Leeds Intelligencer and Yorkshire Post*. Microfilm: 1754 – date. Bound and single copies: 1825, 1831, 1832, 1834
- *Leeds Mercury*. Microfilm: 1719 – 1939. Bound and single copies: 1820 – 1830, 1837 – 1843, 1850 - 1857
- *Leeds Patriot*. Microfilm: 1824 – 1838 [incomplete]. Bound and single copies: 1824 – 1828
- *Leeds Times*. Microfilm: 1834 – 1901. Bound and single copies: December 1848
- *Northern Star*. Microfilm: 1838 – 1852 [London edition only from 1845]. Bound and single copies: 1840 – 1850
- See also – volume 15 of the Bell Newscuttings, on 'Elections: 1832 – 1865'* and De Morgan's Weekly (1880), published by John De Morgan, who was a candidate in the 1880 parliamentary election for Leeds.

Poll books

- Leeds Poll Books (1832 – 1868). These books show which candidates electors voted for – a requirement until the introduction of the 1872 Secret Ballot Act

Books and ephemera

- *Suppression of Vagrancy: Resolutions of a Vestry Meeting of Leeds* (1818)
- Richard Carlile. *Disputes between Reformers of Leeds* (1821)

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