

MARRIAGE AGE: **Hardwick's Marriage Act (1753)** made the lower legal age of marriage 14 years for men and 12 for women in England and Wales from 1754. The **Age of Marriage Act (1929)** raised this to 16 for both sexes, although parental consent was still required for those under 21. In **1969**, the minimum age for marriage without parental consent was lowered to 18.

NEWSPAPERS (Leeds titles): **Leeds Mercury** covers 1718–1755 and 1767–1939. **Leeds Intelligencer** began in July 1754, when it was weekly until it became the daily **Yorkshire Post** on 2 July 1866. **Leeds Times** ran February 1834–March 1901. **Yorkshire Evening Post** began in September 1890. **Yorkshire Evening News** ran May 1905–December 1963. **Leeds Citizen** (weekly) covers October 1911–December 1987.

VOTING RIGHTS: Before **1832**, only 4,500 men out of 2.6 million were entitled to vote. The Reform Act of **1832** extended the right to men who occupied property with a value of £10 per annum. By **1867**, all artisans (industrial workers) could vote and, by **1884**, all male house-owners and agricultural labourers. Women with property qualifications could vote locally from **1869**. The suffragette movement was founded in 1903. In **February 1918**, the right was given to all men over 21 and women over 30. In **1928**, the voting age for women was reduced to 21. Since **1971**, all men and women over 18 have been entitled to vote.

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Local and Family History Useful Information

Handy facts and dates relating to resources held in the Local and Family History Library, including:

- Dates of UK censuses
- Information given on birth, marriage and death certificates
- Local newspapers
- Electoral registers
- Burial records

CERTIFICATES:

- **Birth certificates** include name, sex, date and place of birth, father's name, mother's name and maiden name, father's occupation, address/relationship of informant, date registered.
- **Marriage certificates** include full names, ages, marital condition, occupation (usually only of men), addresses, name of church or registered building, fathers' names/occupations.
- **Death certificates** include name, sex, date and place of death, occupation, cause of death, informant's name/address/relationship to deceased, date registered.

CEMETERIES (Year opened): Armley Hill Top–1892. Beckett Street–1845. Beeston–1859. Cottingley Hall–1938. Garforth–1911. Gildersome–1865. Guiseley–1922. Harehills–1908. Holbeck–1857. Horsforth–1881. Hunslet–1845. Kippax–2013. Lawnswood–1876. Lofthouse–1932. Morley–1884. New Farnley–1860. New Wortley–1863. Otley–1862. Pudsey–1875. Rothwell–1918. Upper and Lower Wortley–1865. Whinmoor–2013. Whitkirk–1881. Yeadon–1875.

CENSUS RETURNS (Key dates and data collected):

1801-1831: Only statistical data recorded.

1841: Taken on 6 June. Recorded name, age (adults rounded down to nearest 5 years), occupation, whether born in county (Y/N).

1851: 30 March. Added relationship to head of household, marital status, birthplace, whether 'blind, deaf or dumb'.

1861: 7 April. Added economic status.

1871: 3 April. Added whether 'imbecile', 'idiot' or 'lunatic'.

1881: 4 April.

1891: 5 April. Added employment status.

1901: 31 March.

1911: 2 April. Filled in directly by head of household for first time. Added industry worked in, length of marriage, any deceased children, nationality if 'foreign', more disability options.

CIVIL REGISTRATION: Began in England and Wales in **July 1837**. Not compulsory till 1875. Handwritten till 1865. **1855:** Scottish records begin. **1864:** Irish records begin. **June 1866:** Death index starts to include age at death. **September 1911:** Birth index lists

mother's maiden name. **March 1912:** Marriage indexes show names of both parties. **June 1969:** Date of birth given on death index.

CORONER'S REPORTS:

- **Before 1927**, none exist for Leeds, so details are only recorded in local newspapers (try *Leeds Mercury* and *Yorkshire Post*).
- **After 1927**, try the West Yorkshire Archives (also newspapers).
- **Ancestry** has West Yorkshire coroner notebooks from 1852-1909 online.

COURT RECORDS: Held at **Leeds Combined Court Centre**, The Court House, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds, LS1 3BG. Tel. (0113) 306 2800 and ask for post-trial section. They will give details of sentence and date of trial over the phone but full details are only given to relatives (request case number over phone then apply to address above).

GRAVE TYPES: **Common** – filled over a few days with bodies of unrelated people who died during that period and who could afford nothing better. No headstone. **Inscription** – common grave with headstone. **Lock-up/Open** – cheapest category of common grave with wooden 'lid' until full. **Pauper's** – not an official term. Any common grave would probably contain paupers (penniless people buried at public expense). **Public** – type of common grave filled up completely after each interment. **Private** – plot purchased by a person who then had rights to use as grave, confirmed by a certificate.

LEEDS BOUNDARIES: When do outlying areas appear in the Leeds electoral register?

1912: Roundhay, Seacroft, Shadwell, part of Crossgates.

1919: Middleton.

1925: Adel cum Eccup.

1927: Alwoodley, Temple Newsam, Eccup, part of Austhorpe.

1937: All of Austhorpe, Barwick in Elmet, Swillington, Wigton, Arthington, part of Pudsey.

1974: Morley, Pudsey, Aireborough, Rothwell, Garforth, Horsforth, Otley, parts of Wetherby, Tadcaster and Wharfedale.

- **The following are included in our Pudsey registers for 1956-1972:** Farsley, Guiseley, Horsforth, Rawdon, Yeadon.