

### General Tips for family history researchers

- Names: spellings on certificates were not consistent. If people could not read, they could not correct a mis-spelt name written down by a vicar, a clerk or a registrar.
- Birth, Marriage and Death registrations should record the actual date of the event (although dates of birth may be incorrect - an excited new father and a drink or two often lead to an incorrect birth date being registered). In parish records, it is the date of baptism and the date of burial that are recorded (although sometimes the actual date of birth or death is given as well). These always follow the actual date; burials usually followed a day or two after a death; but baptisms could be several months or even years after a birth.

# Local Family History Certificate Services for



East Riding of Yorkshire Registration  
Service  
Walkergate House, Walkergate  
Beverley HU17 9BP  
Tel: 01482 393600  
e-mail:  
[registration.service@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:registration.service@eastriding.gov.uk)  
[www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/registration](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/registration)

If you require a copy of this leaflet in a different language or in large print please contact (01482) 393600



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Leeds Register Office  
Leeds Town Hall  
The Headrow,  
Leeds LS1 3AD  
Tel: 0113 247 6710  
e-mail: [register.office@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:register.office@leeds.gov.uk)  
[www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)

The North Yorkshire  
Registration Service  
Bilton House  
31 Park Parade,  
Harrogate HG1 5AG  
Tel: 0845 034 9482  
email:  
[registrars.harrogate@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:registrars.harrogate@northyorks.gov.uk)  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

The Register Office  
56 Bootham  
York YO30 7DA  
Tel: 01904 654477  
e-mail: [registrar@york.gov.uk](mailto:registrar@york.gov.uk)  
[www.york.gov.uk/register](http://www.york.gov.uk/register)

North East Lincolnshire Register Office  
The Registrar Office  
Town Hall Square  
Grimsby DN31 1HX  
Tel: 01472 324860  
[www.nelincs.gov.uk](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk)

Hull Register Office  
181-191 George Street  
Hull HU1 3BY  
Tel: 01482 615400  
e-mail: [register.office@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:register.office@hullcc.gov.uk)  
[www.hullcc.gov.uk](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk)

North Lincolnshire Register Office  
92 Oswald Road  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 7PA  
Tel: 01724 843915  
[www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk)

The local offices hold records for their areas only. General Register Office at Southport and the Family Records Centre hold the records for all of England and Wales 0845 603 7788 [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk).

Civil registration began on July 1st 1837, prior to that information can be obtained from, amongst other things, parish records and censuses. Local libraries hold some parish records and some censuses. The Borthwick Institute (Phone 01904 321166 ) holds many parish records.

Local archives also have useful information.

Birth, death and marriage certificates from the local offices cost £9 each and the cheques or postal orders should be payable to "Superintendent Registrar". The application does not have to be on a form, it can be in a letter but please include a daytime phone number.

The certificate may be handwritten, typed or a photocopy.

The time that it takes to process an application varies between offices, please ask them. If you have found the entry which you want in the index, please supply the year, quarter and reference. The reference alone is not sufficient for a local office.

If you apply to your local office for a certificate and they can not find it they refund the £9 but they can not usually undertake a search without the £9 fee. You can specify that you only want the certificate if certain information corresponds, e.g the name of the father is "William" etc.

All the offices in our group will accept payment on a credit or debit card. If they can not find the record in the year given our offices may be prepared to search for a further limited period, but only in their area. If you need a more extensive search you can search the indexes for up to six hours in any one day for £18, but this will not give you access to the record only to the index.

Copies of the indexes for all the births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales are held at many local libraries and at Harrogate Register Office, but you may need to make an appointment. They are also on web sites.

## Deaths

- Deaths have to be registered in the registration district in which they happened - not where the deceased lived. The death may have happened in a hospital which is in a different registration district, or it may have happened on holiday.
- 'In attendance' means that the informant was visiting the deceased regularly in the period before the death - it usually implies that the informant lived close by.
- Check out the surnames of informants: if you do not recognise them, they may nevertheless be relatives - sisters or daughters of the deceased who had married, grandchildren, cousins (and people often put 'cousin' if the relationship is too complicated to explain - such as 'step-father's sister's daughter').
- "Certified" at the bottom of the Cause of Death box means that the death was certified by a doctor, but the doctor's name was not always given. Death registrations, like gravestones (usually), were written after the person with the most accurate information had died. The information which is recorded may not be completely accurate.

# Useful Contacts

Contacts for archives, cemeteries, libraries etc

Beverley Treasure House 01482 392790

Borthwick Institute 01904 321166

Grimsby Crematorium 01472 324869

Grimsby Archives 01472 323585

Grimsby Reference Library 01472 323603

Hull City Archives 01482 615102

Hull Crematorium 01482 614975

Hull Reference and Local Studies Library 01482 210077

Lawnswood Cemetery 0113 2673188/9

Leeds Central Library 0113 2478290

West Yorkshire Archive Service 0113 2145814

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Yorkshire Archaeological Society 0113 2456362

York Archives 01904 551878

York Cemetery 01904 610578

York Crematorium 01904 706096

York Family History Society 01904 412204

York Reference Library 01904 655631

# Records Each Office Holds

## York

In York all marriage records are on an annual index so it is therefore relatively easy to search for a marriage that occurred in York.

All indexes of birth records from 1837 to 1973 are now on the free website [www.yorkshirebmd.info](http://www.yorkshirebmd.info) The site also has death indexes for all of York 1837 to 1904 and in addition for Acomb 1918-1938, Dunnington 1837-1919, Flaxton 1837-1973, Poppleton 1854-1918, Skelton 1837-1904 and York West until 1948.

York provides searches but there is a fee payable. Orders can be taken over the phone with a card payment. For details of fees ring 01904 654477 or go to the website [www.york.go.uk](http://www.york.go.uk)

Marriage certificates are usually produced by photocopier. Births and deaths may be computer generated, handwritten or photocopied.

York cemetery, which for a time had a virtual monopoly of all burials within the city of York, has a very extensive database of information on burials there. Fulford and other cemeteries have information but not on such a comprehensive scale. York has a website [www.york.gov.uk/register](http://www.york.gov.uk/register) from which you can download application forms and obtain further information. For York and Great War <http://yorkandthegreatwar.com>

1851 census [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) gravestones [www.memorialinscriptions.org.uk](http://www.memorialinscriptions.org.uk)

Details of war casualties in York <http://yorkandthegreatwar.com>

## Kingston upon Hull

1837 - 1937 All of the Hull Registration District Myton, Humber and St Mary's

1837 to 1937 Most of the Sculcoates Registration District Hessle, West Sculcoates, East Sculcoates, Sutton/Southcoates, Drypool, Hessle, Cottingham (up to 1906)

1937 - Present Please Note North Hull Estate is held at Beverley between 1906 and 1937. Till 1969 Hull Registration District Drypool, Newington, University, Albert, Paragon.

1969 - Present Hull

## East Riding of Yorkshire

The East Riding of Yorkshire holds fully indexed registers complete (with one or two gaps where registers have disappeared) for the whole of the East Riding, comprising the former registration districts of Beverley, Bridlington, Goole and Pocklington. The original registers are held at the East Riding Register Office in Beverley. Indexes and registers for the Derwent district of Howdenshire are held in York.

Boundaries have moved over the years, and some former registration districts are now split: holdings for events registered in Sculcoates, for example, are divided between Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Similarly, some villages in the Goole area have been in North Lincolnshire at various times.

Some of the older registration districts, such as Holderness, are huge and searches for marriages in Holderness can be impossible unless further information is available to narrow down the search.

Census returns (1841-1901) for the local areas are held in local libraries in Beverley, Bridlington and Goole. The County Archive Office is in Beverley, within easy walking distance of the register office, and it holds the usual range of local archives - although several pre-1837 parish registers are held at the Borthwick Institute.

## Leeds

Leeds Register Office holds approximately 15,000 birth, death and marriage registers. At any one time Leeds holds 21 registration districts. Apart from the obvious Leeds registration districts, the office also holds Barkston Ash registration district from 1947-1974, Bradford from 1837-1891, Bramham from 1862-1869, Dewsbury from 1837-1938, Lower Agbrigg from 1939-1974, North Bierley from 1892-1938, Otley from 1837-1869, Pontefract from 1837-1869, Spen Valley from 1939-1974, Tadcaster from 1837-1946, Wakefield from 1837-1938, Wetherby from 1837-1946 and Wharfedale from 1861-1981.

Leeds does not hold any of Wortley registration district - this is held by Sheffield or Barnsley Register Office.

The Otley registers, between 1952 – 1974, are held by Bradford Register Office.

## North Yorkshire

The records for all of North Yorkshire are held in the Central Repository at Harrogate and comprise, mainly, of the former registration districts of Whitby, Scarborough, Malton (Ryedale), Leyburn, Northallerton, Richmond, Settle, Skipton, Selby, Tadcaster and Harrogate (Claro) which were amalgamated in 1998. There are some exceptions: for example Skipton is also covered by Burnley and Bradford, Leeds hold some Tadcaster registers and Redcar and Cleveland cover parts of Guisborough.

The office holds some registers for Wetherby, Wharfedale, Pontefract, Driffild and York.

## North East Lincolnshire

The registers for all of the above district are held in Grimsby. The district includes Ashby cum Fenby, Aylesby, Barnoldby le Beck, Beelsby, Bradley, Brigsley, Cleethorpes, East Ravendale, Habrough, Hatcliffe, Haverby cum Beesby, Healing, Humberston, Immingham, Irby, Laceby, New Waltham, Stallingborough, Waltham, West Ravendale and Wold Newton.

## Useful Contacts

Many indexes are now held on web sites some are free but some need payment. Some free sites, which you might like to use are...

**Yorkshire Genealogy** - the GENUKI pages. Definitive guide to the genealogy of the county: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/>

**Hull City Archives**: <http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/libraries/>

**Borthwick Institute of Historical Research** (University of York)  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr>

**The National Archives** - includes the Public Record Office (Kew) and the Historic Manuscripts Commission: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

**Yorkshire Births Marriages and Deaths** - the on-line index for some Yorkshire Registration Districts 1837-2000 (in progress): [www.yorkshirebmd.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirebmd.org.uk)

**UK Births, Marriage and Deaths** - Register Office indexes for other parts of the UK:  
[www.ukbmd.org.uk](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk)

**Free BMD Project** - the General Register Office indexes to births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales from 1837. Now over 70 million records:  
<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

**Family Records Centre** - The national centre for civil registration records (from 1837), census records (from 1841) plus probate records (from 1858):  
<http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/partners/frc-partner.htm>

**Cyndi's List** - the largest listing of genealogy sites on the web:  
<http://www.cyndislist.com>

**Ireland**: Cyndi's List gives a comprehensive list of useful websites:  
<http://www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm>

**Scotland**: on-line indexes to Civil Registration, Parish Registers and the censuses for 1881, 1891 and 1901 (commercial site). <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

**Wales**: the GENUKI pages provide an excellent introduction.  
<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/>

## Marriages

- Marriages usually, but not always, happened in the bride's parish.
- Check out the witnesses carefully: they could be parents, siblings or just friends. They could be sisters who had married and whose surnames are unfamiliar to you. Once you are sure who they are, you can use them to confirm families in census entries.
- Ages given as 'of full age' simply imply over 21 but ...
- People lie about their age. If there is a large age gap between bride and groom then they might adjust one age downwards and the other upwards to make the gap seem smaller. A bride under 21 may wish to appear to be older so as to avoid having to obtain parental consent.
- A marriage 'by banns' took place in a church of England, and the banns may be recorded on a parish banns register; a marriage 'by certificate' took place in a register office or other approved or licensed place and it is unlikely that there will be any other record to find.
- If all you know about a marriage is a rough date and a registration district, try to help a registrar to narrow the search: were the families non-conformist? Where did the bride's family live? Where are the couple on the nearest census? Some registration districts contain hundreds of churches and chapels, and a search without further information is often impossible.
- If both bride and groom sign with a cross, this does not necessarily mean that neither of them could read or write: a literate bride often signed with just a cross so as not to embarrass her new husband. If a father of bride and groom is described as 'deceased', this is usually true. If he is not, this does not necessarily mean that he was still alive. The couple may not have wanted to put a shadow over their marriage by mentioning a death; or they may have genuinely not known one way or the other and were asked by the registrar to provide the 'last known facts'.

## Births

- If you cannot find a birth registered where you believe the family lived, try looking at the wife's mother's home address: women often went home to their mother for a first baby, or for a difficult birth.
- Births have to be registered in the registration district in which they happened - not where the parents lived.
- If a father is not named, this means that the parents were not married, but it does not necessarily mean that the mother did not want to name the father; he may have been serving in the forces or working away from home. Does the child have a first name which might give a clue to the father's name?
- Mother's name: 'formerly' denotes her maiden name, 'late' denotes that she has been widowed or divorced before her current marriage. (eg: Mary Smith, late Jones, formerly Robinson). If you are looking for a family in a census entry in the census following a birth, look under the address of the informant, not the address of the birth.