

The Library Resources

We have an extensive stock of donated and purchased resources on family history topics, with both lending and reference materials.

If you need to dig deeper into the background of the lives of your ancestors we may be able to help.

Lending Resources

These include:

- Parish registers
- Directories
- Other records (such as Poll books and local Protestation Rolls)
- Using Record Offices and Archives
- Research Techniques (including 'How to' books and using the internet)
- Local pedigrees and family trees
- General history
- Local church histories
- A large selection on local history and place names
- Military history
- Local historical and present day

These resources are colour and numerically coded for easy access.

Reference Materials

The library contains a large number of resources that may be used at the Root Cellar, or selected sections may be copied and sent by post or e-mail (copyright permitting).

The library holds a large number of pedigrees and family trees, many of which have been donated. We also have a comprehensive selection of maps. There are a number of books that, due to their age and rarity, can only be viewed on the premises.

If you are travelling to view these items, it may be advisable to contact the Root Cellar in advance to check availability. These older volumes can provide a unique insight into the history of the area, many of which have been written in the nineteenth century by local people.

Reference only materials are clearly coded in red.

New books for sale

We stock a number of new books which are relevant to either the local or family history of the area.

These are available for sale either at the Root Cellar or through our website.

Exchange Journals

We exchange journals with other societies both in the UK and abroad. If you are researching other localities it may be worthwhile consulting our exchange journals, which may be borrowed by arrangement.

Borrowing resources

Members may borrow up to three books in person for up to one month and up to five weeks by post.

Personal loans

Having selected the items you would like to borrow, a Root Cellar volunteer will deal with their issue.

Postal loans

Materials may be requested by telephone, post or via a form on the web site library pages.

Borrowers are asked to pay the return postage for materials and will be advised of costs when a loan is requested.

Other Resources

The Root Cellar contains other items invaluable for research including microfiche, film and CDs.

Many Kirklees parish register booklets (both Church of England and Non-Conformist).

Census booklets for 1841 and 1851 for Kirklees.

Information from parish records and the above censuses is available on our searchable database at the Root Cellar.

We also have access to records for Edgerton Cemetery.

Our library database

The fully searchable library catalogue is available at www.hdfhs.org.uk/library.

Alternatively library enquiries can be made by contacting the Root Cellar by 'phone.

For example, if you needed information about Marsden, or perhaps the Brooke family, searching the online catalogue will display all the documents with that word in the title.

Look-Up Service

As part of a membership subscription, there is a library look-up service available for those who may not be able to get to the Root Cellar, and who require background information for their research.

Charges for this service are the same as for the Research Service. Please contact the librarian for details. An application form is also available on the Library website pages.

Opening Times

Monday to Thursday
and Saturday

2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Wednesday & Friday

10.00 am to 12.30 pm

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Library Resources

How our library can assist with Family History Research