Local Studies Collection

Trade Directories
Trade Directories

From the late 18th century until the present day, directories form a valuable source of local information. The amount of information contained varies according to the date and compiler. Early directories may contain:

i) A general account of the district, usually with population statistics
ii) Details of local government
iii) Alphabetical list of streets
iv) Alphabetical list of residents, though not comprehensive
v) Classified trades section

Directories published after about 1880, and particularly the 'Post Office Directories', are much more detailed, and in addition to the features listed above usually include:

i) Advertisements for local firms
ii) Political information about the district
iii) Churches and chapels, including date of opening
iv) Local Societies
v) Clubs, theatres, libraries, cemeteries
vi) Railways and local transport services
vii) Brief accounts of surrounding village

A map was usually included with the directories. These have been taken out, and are filed in the map collection.

After the Second World War, many firms ceased to produce local directories, due to the difficulty of keeping information up-to-date. In the post-war period, the Barrett directories began to appear, and from 1981, Thomson’s directories can be a useful source of information. However these directories are not as detailed as earlier ones. Telephone directories from 1935 supplement Barretts and Thomsons.

Some specialist textile directories are also held such as ‘Bradford Exchange Co. Ltd.’ 1916-1975, ‘Skinners Wool Trade’ and ‘Worrall’s Yorkshire Textile Director’ 1910-1971.

Directories are for Reference Only. Please ask the staff if you cannot see the one that you want on the shelves.
Certain Bradford and Yorkshire trade directories are now available as high quality reproductions to browse and search online, at:

www.historicaldirectories.org  Featured years are in bold in the list below.

1792 UNIVERSAL BRITISH DIRECTORY (Bradford).
1793-8 UNIVERSAL BRITISH DIRECTORY - microfiche edition.
1798 LEEDS DIRECTORY (reprint).

Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1809 W. HOLDEN.  Triennial Directory, 1809-1811.


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


1830 PARSON & WHITE.  Directory of the Borough of Leeds and the Clothing Districts of Yorkshire, including Bradford.


1835 J. PIGOT.  National Commercial Directory.

1837 W. WHITE. History, Gazetteer and Directory of the West Riding.  (2 vols.).

1841 J. PIGOT.  Royal National and Commercial Directory.

Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1845 J. IBBETSON.  Directory of the Borough of Bradford


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org (For 1854)

1854 I. SLATER. Royal National Commercial Directory of the Northern Counties.


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


1861 W. WHITE. Directory and Topography of the Borough of Bradford, Keighley, Bingley ... and the surrounding towns and villages.

1863 JONES & PROUD. Jones's Mercantile Directory of Bradford, Baildon, Bingley, Keighley, Shipley etc.


Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


Available to view online at [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org)


1872 F. SMITH. Directory of Bradford and neighbourhood.

1875 I. SLATER. Royal National Commercial Directory of the County of Yorkshire.


1876 County Book of England and Official List. Yorkshire (West Riding), comprising every official person in the county.


Available to view online at [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org)

1881 KELLY & Co. Directory of Bradford and neighbourhood.


1883 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

Available to view online at [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org)

1884 A. CRAVEN. Commercial & General Directory of Keighley, Bingley, Skipton and surrounding districts.

1887 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.
1887 WM. WHITE. General and Commercial Directory of Bradford.
   Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

   Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1889 KELLY & Co. Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

1890 T. BULMER & CO. History, Topography and Directory of North Yorkshire.
   Part one - Cleveland and Richmond.
   Part two - Malton, Scarborough, Tadcaster, Whitby etc.

1891 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.
   Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org


1893 KELLY & Co. Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

1894 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

1894 WM. WHITE. Clothing District Directory.
   Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1898 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.
   Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1900 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

1901 KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.

1902 KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.

1903 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

1906 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Manufacturers of Textile Fabrics of the United Kingdom


1908 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of the West Riding.


1911 WHITES DIRECTORY. Directory of Sheffield & Rotherham.

Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1912 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

Available to view online at www.historicaldirectories.org

1912 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.


1917 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.


1921 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

1922 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.

1922 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

1923 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.

1924 WM. BYLES. Post Office Bradford Directory.


1927 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.


1928 WM. BYLE'S. Post Office Bradford Directory.


1928 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Textile Industries throughout England, Scotland and Wales


1936 KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.


1937 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Kelly’s Directory of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire.

1938 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Bradford and suburbs.


1939 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Hull.

1944 KELLY’S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Sheffield & Rotherham.


1953 BARRETT’S PUBLICATIONS. City of Bradford Directory.

1954 COUNTY ASSOCIATION LTD. Huddersfield Civic & Commercial Directory.
1955 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS. City of Bradford Directory.

1956 KENT SERVICE LTD. Bingley Directory.

1956 KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Scarborough.

1958 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. City of Bradford Directory.

1960 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. City of Bradford Directory.

1961 KENT SERVICE LTD. Bingley Directory.


1961 CHARLTON PUBLISHING CO. Dewsbury & District Directory.

1962 CARLTON PUBLISHING CO. Shipley & Bingley Street Directory.

1962 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. Wakefield & District Street Directory.

1963 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. City of Bradford Directory.


1963 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. Keighley & District Directory.

1964 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. Huddersfield County Borough Directory.


1965 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. City of Bradford Directory.

1966 KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD. Directory of Scarborough.

1966 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. City of Leeds Directory.

1966 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. Halifax County Borough Directory.

1966 BARRETT'S PUBLICATIONS LTD. Wakefield & District Directory.


1973 Chambers Trades Register of Yorkshire, Northumberland & Durham.

1976 KELLY’S SCARBOROUGH DIRECTORY.