York in the First World War: Resources

York Museums Trust Collection

York Museums Trust is a charity that manages York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Museum Gardens, York Art Gallery and York St Mary's. The York Museum Trust’s collections hold an array of objects, manuscripts and ephemera materials spanning vast temporal and thematic ranges.

http://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk

York Explore Library and Local History Room

The central library, located on Museum Street, has a huge range of sources, such as family history records, previous local history publications, council minute books and voting registers. It also holds microfilmed editions of both the Yorkshire Herald and York Evening Press newspapers.

http://www.york.gov.uk/leisure/Libraries/archives/

Borthwick Institute for Archives

The Borthwick Institute for Archives is one of the largest archive repositories outside London. During their 50 year history, they have collected archival material from all around the world, dating from the 12th century to the present day. It is a fertile source of records, especially for parish records, for institutional records such as hospital records (physical and mental health), schools and colleges, local history publications (1,500 catalogued) and a collection of University theses.

http://www.york.ac.uk/library/borthwick/
http://www.york.ac.uk/library/collections/researchandspecialcollections/

ImagineYork Photograph Archive

ImagineYork is an online archive of photographs pertaining to the City of York's architecture, geography and residents. The collection contains photographs and postcards dating back to the 19th century and is a fantastic source for anyone searching specific locations and their changes throughout different periods in the city’s history. You may need to search this archive in different ways (e.g. using a range of keywords) because tagging can be inconsistent. You will find your searches are most successful when you search for street names, shop names and institutions.

http://www.imagineyork.co.uk/

Rowntree Society

The Rowntree Society is a charity that aims to “ensure that the work and ideas of the Rowntree family continue to influence a new generation.” Their website offers quotations from and about the Rowntree family, biographical information about each member of the family, articles, a virtual walk around York, as well as a list learning resources. Rowntree’s played an important part in The Great War in York and pops up in stories of Conscientious Objection, hospitals and other areas.

www.rowntreesociety.org.uk
Yorkshire Film Archive

The Yorkshire Film Archive is a facility at York St John University on Lord Mayor's Walk. It is a great source for finding moving images pertaining to the First World War, some of which can be viewed online.

http://www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/

York Minster Library and Archive

The Minster Library is the largest cathedral library in the country and holds a variety of manuscript and non-manuscript documents such as maps and architectural plans. The library will be useful for researching regimental funerals and war events such as the Victory services as it holds essays, photographs and material that relates to York during the First World War. It also holds ‘The King’s Book of York Fallen Heroes’ which lists 1445 men associated with the town and includes photos of most of these.


National Railway Museum

The National Railway Museum has a fantastic search engine of photographs and newspaper cuttings, posters and other ephemera. It is a useful place to find illustrations and stories about the provisioning of war, along with personal records, photos of family farewells and troop movements. The curators are very knowledgeable and able to assist you with your research queries.

http://www.nrm.org.uk/ResearchAndArchive.aspx

Local and National Military Records

There are several specialist institutions in York that will aid your research, such as the search facilities at the Imperial War Museum, London (http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search) and those at the National Army Museum, Chelsea (http://www.nam.ac.uk/research/research-enquiries).

The Western Front Association are particular useful as they have information in various formats relating to the First World War. Their archives include photographs, maps, data and extensive materials for family/individual history research as well as material for schools.

http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/

The local regimental associations and museums across York and North Yorkshire are also useful e.g. The Regimental Museum on Tower Street, York.

http://www.rdgmuseum.org.uk/

Yorkshire Archaeological Society

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society’s collections include estate papers, family archives, personal archives, maps, plans, deeds and wills as well as a number of transcripts of parish registers and monumental inscriptions for many places in Yorkshire.

http://www.yas.org.uk/content/links.html

York Family History Society
The York Family History Society study centre is located at The Raylor Centre, James Street, YO10 3DW. It is a useful resource for tracing individuals or family history as they have access to censuses, marital registers, Church and cemetery monument inscriptions and the York City World War One index.

http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk/

Typical Opening Hours and Access: 10am to 4pm Tuesday and Thursday, £1 for members, £2 for non-members.

York Oral History Society

The York Oral History society (run by Van Wilson) has numerous publications that relate to York's history, with many providing information about aspects of York and its residents during the First World War.

http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/regions/yorks.php

President of the York Oral History Society, Van Wilson: vann@vanalexinamay.freeserve.co.uk

Yorkshire Quaker History

The Yorkshire Quaker History website provides an online database search option for locations and individual names. This database enables you to trace specific archives and book collections. It contains descriptions of publicly accessible Quaker-related collections held by repositories in Yorkshire, as well as collections held elsewhere but relating to the region. The individual person's database allows you to trace references to specific individuals and families within Monthly Meeting minute books, as well as within records of sufferers and membership records although it doesn't cover the whole of Yorkshire.

Also see A Guide To Sources, by Helen E Roberts for the Yorkshire Quaker Heritage Project, (published by The University of Hull, 2003 and 2007).

http://www.hull.ac.uk/oldlib/archives/quaker/quakerguide.pdf

Great War Archive, University of Oxford

This is a website and initiative organised by the University of Oxford. The project invited members of the public from all over the UK to scan images of objects they owned (e.g. photographs, letters, diaries) related to the war, and to submit them to go into the online collection. The project also created online videos, audio interviews, timelines, mindmaps, and even a display in SecondLife. Although the material directly related to York may be limited, it's a great resource for fascinating, novel, personal stories related to material objects or locations tied to the war.

http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa

York and The Great War

This is a website organized by history enthusiast, Steve Mattock, who has developed a website to commemorate the men and women from York who served in the war. It also includes names and information for those who died in service, those who were casualties and those who were taken as prisoners of war. Lists of names from memorials are cross-tabulated with war memorial photographs, POW lists, York Absent Voter lists, dates of deaths, burials and commemorations. The website is a brilliant source for those interested in the individuals from York who served in The Great War.
Twitter
Twitter is a fantastic resource for regular and varied information on the First World War provided by a number of accounts, from professional organisations to amateur enthusiasts. Some of the best accounts we have found include:

Tweeting World War One - @WW1
  - Digital History Project for those interested in World War One: images, cartoons, links to articles and documentaries.

WW1 Poetry Archive - @ww1lit
  - Tweets from the team at the First World War Poetry Digital Archive, University of Oxford. Sister-archive to The Great War Archive at the University of Oxford mentioned above.

WW1C OER Project - @WW1C
  - Tweets from the blog of 'World War One Centenary: Continuations and Beginnings', an Open Educational Resource project assembling digital materials on WW1 that can be re-used for teaching, research and more and made available through open licences.

Paul Reed - @sommecourt
  - Military Historian and author who works in TV, visiting and interpreting battlefields all over the world. Currently working on a big WW1 archaeology dig in Flanders. Updates include production information and some fantastic pictures of Northern France as it is today.

York 1914 - @York1914
  - Twitter feed for York Castle Museum’s upcoming major exhibition that will bring the world events of 1914-1918 into modern focus. (See also www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk/Page/1914.aspx)

Arthur’s Letters - @ArthursLetters
  - Extracts from letters home from the Western Front written by Arthur Dease, 1915-1919, an Anglo-Irishman who served in the First World War. An extraordinary personal view of the conflict. (See also www.arthursletters.com)