

Trade Directories

Trade directories are a good source of information for family historians if their ancestors owned a business. They can also be useful for dating photographs that have properties or shops in the image.

The regional directories, such as Kelly's and White's, have sections for a town or village and within this the names listed are broken into

- Principal residents- Major landowners in the area, vicars, school masters etc
- Commercial- in rural areas these will mainly be farmers and in towns shopkeepers, publicans, all manners of trades

The local Doncaster directories have a number of sections for the town of Doncaster

- Civic and cultural section- Council, educational, charities, societies, religious, financial
- Street section- like an electoral register listing only the head of the house though.
- Trades section*- tradesmen who own their business- sometimes grouped under unusual collective names
- Principal Residents- Major and significant members of the local society

At the back of the directories is a section for outlying parishes, which have just principal residents and commercial listings

TIP: *When checking for someone in a trade section, the directory only records the owners of a business. Example: so if you find an ancestor listed in a census as a butcher he would only be listed in the directory if he owned the butchers shop but not if he worked as a butcher for someone else.

Tip: Also think about how the information was compiled. Was it the year before the date of the directory? Was the information provided by individuals and if there are omissions is this due to a lack of consistency in the inputting of the information?

Dates and makes of trade directories held at Doncaster Local Studies Library. Some of the directories are for the town of Doncaster (and surrounding parishes) and others cover the whole of the West Riding.

1790	Universal Directory
1822/1837	Doncaster Directory
1823	Baines Directory volume 1
1834	Pigot's Directory
1837	White's Directory – 2 volumes
1849 & 1850	Slater's Directory- Doncaster section

1854	Slater's Directory
1858	Slater's Directory- Doncaster section
1862 & 1867	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1868	Post Office Directory
1868 & 1871	White's Directory- 2 volumes
1878 & 1890	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1890	Doncaster Professional Directory
1891, 1893 & 1894	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1894	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1895-1908	Doncaster Gazette Directory (14 volumes – 1 per year)
1908	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1909 & 1910	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1912-1915	Doncaster Gazette Directory (4 volumes – 1 per year)
1917	Kelly's Directory
1917	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1921 & 1923	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1927	Kelly's Directory
1927	Kelly's Directory- Doncaster section
1928 & 1932	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1934 & 1936	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1938	Kelly's Directory
1938/9	Doncaster Gazette Directory
1953 & 1957	Doncaster Chamber of Commerce Directory
1961	Doncaster Chamber of Commerce Directory
1967	Blair's Directory

N.B. Please note Doncaster Archives and Local Studies services are not available at the moment due to the Coronavirus lockdown. Please see the following website for details of our regular service <https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/archives-local-studies/>

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