



Family History Repositories in the North East

This leaflet sets out the location of family history sources in Northumberland and on Tyneside and provides contact details of repositories. The repositories covered are:

- **Archives & Special Collections, Durham University**
- **Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office**
- **Blyth Library**
- **Hexham Library**
- **Morpeth Library**
- **Northumberland & Durham Family History Society Library**
- **North Tyneside Central Library**
- **Newcastle City Library**
- **Tyne and Wear Archives**

Archives & Special Collections, University of Durham

Archives & Special Collections forms part of Durham University Library. Holdings include the following that may be of interest to the researcher with Northumbrian ancestry

- Pre-1882 Bishop's Transcripts (BTs) for those Northumberland parishes forming part of the Diocese of Durham
- Durham Probate indexes and registered copies of wills provided in the Durham Consistory Court 1540-1857, (includes many Northumberland wills)
- Marriage licence applications for the Diocese of Durham chiefly 1664 onwards
- Collections of family papers include the Howard of Naworth papers (Morpeth estate) and the Earl Grey family papers

These and the other family history sources held at Archives & Special Collections are detailed in the leaflet: [A Brief Guide To The Chief Series of Records of Genealogical Interest In The University Library](#) can be downloaded from the web address given below. A list of BTs can be purchased from the address below.

Users are expected to register and to produce proof of identity including permanent address. They are also advised to give advanced notice of a visit.

Term time opening hours are:

Monday	9am - 5pm
Tuesday	9am - 8pm
Wednesday	9am - 6pm
Thursday	9am - 6pm
Friday	9am - 5pm
Saturday	Closed

Telephone no: 0191 3342972
E-mail: pg.library@durham.ac.uk
Postal address: Archives & Special Collections
Durham University Library
Palace Green
Durham
DH1 3RN
Web address: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/>

Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office

The office serves the geographical area of the present Berwick Borough Council (roughly from Berwick south to Beadnell on the coast and Wark south to Ingram inland). The family history sources held there generally relate to this area although it does have some sources relating to the rest of Northumberland and Scotland. The main family history sources available are:

- microfiche copies of the GRO Indexes of births, marriages and deaths, 1837-1955
- microfilm copies of Anglican and non-conformist registers for North Northumberland
- census returns for North Northumberland, 1841-1901
- monumental inscriptions for North Northumberland
- electoral registers for some areas in North Northumberland
- civil cemetery records for Berwick, Tweedmouth and North Sunderland
- Berwick Advertiser (local newspaper), 1808 – c. 1900
- various 19th and 20th century trade directories

The office also holds a wide range of other sources. A separate leaflet is available on family history resources kept at the Berwick Record Office or further details can be obtained from The Archivist. Many of these sources are available on microfilm only. It is therefore essential to reserve a microfilm reader in advance of a proposed visit. This can be arranged by telephone. A Research Service is available.

Opening hours are:

Monday	CLOSED	
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday	9.30am-1pm	2pm-5pm
Thursday	9.30am-1pm	2pm-5pm
Friday	CLOSED	

Postal address: Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office
Walkergate Building
Walkergate
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TD15 1DB

Telephone no: 01289 301865

E-mail: berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk
Web address: www.northumberland.gov.uk/collections

Blyth Library

Blyth Library has a strong Local Studies collection that includes some items of interest to the family historian. These include:

- microform copies of the 1841-1901 census returns for Northumberland
- local newspapers for the Blyth area from 1874
- electoral registers for Blyth from 1929
- various trade directories
- monumental inscriptions for churches and cemeteries at Blyth
- historic maps of the Blyth area

Opening hours are:

Monday	9.00am – 7pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 7pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 5pm
Thursday	9.00am - 7pm
Friday	9.00am - 5pm
Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm

Postal address: Blyth Library
Bridge Street
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 2DJ.

Telephone no: 01670 620250

E-mail: mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk

Web address: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Libraries-and-archives>

Blyth Library offers an enquiry information service but is unable to undertake in-depth research on behalf of members of the public.

Hexham Library

Hexham Library has a strong Local Studies collection that includes many items of interest to the family historian. These include:

- transcriptions of parish registers for the Tynedale area
- an indexed listing of burials of Hexham cemetery 1859-1903
- electoral registers for the Southern Division of Northumberland 1832-1900 and thereafter until 1950 at 5 year intervals
- census returns for Northumberland, 1841-1901
- microfilm copies of local newspapers
- various Northumberland trade directories

These and other family history sources held by Hexham Library are detailed in the booklet Local Studies: Resources For Family And Local Historians In The Brough Local Studies Collection, Hexham Library that is available for a fee of £1.50 plus 50p postage & packing from Hexham Library at the address below.

Opening hours are:

Monday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am – 5.00pm

Postal address: Hexham Library
Queen's Hall
Beaumont Street
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 3LS

Telephone no: 01670 620250

E-mail: mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk

Web address: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Libraries-and-archives.aspx>

Hexham Library offers a limited research service.

Morpeth Library

The Library currently holds:

- General Register Office Indexes of births, marriages and deaths, 1837-1900
- Census returns for Northumberland, 1841-1871 & 1891-1901
- 1881 Census Index [CD-ROM version]

Some of these sources are available on microfilm only. It is therefore essential to reserve a microfilm reader in advance of a proposed visit. This can be arranged by telephone.

Opening hours are:

Monday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am – 12.30pm

Postal address: Morpeth Library
Royal Sovereign House

Manchester Street
Morpeth
NE61 1AF

Telephone no: 01670 620250

Web address: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Libraries-and-archives.aspx>

E-mail: mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk

Library staff will be pleased to advise re. the location of findings aids but are unable to provide detailed advice about family history research and sources. Morpeth Library offers an enquiry information service but is unable to undertake in-depth research on behalf of members of the public.

Northumberland & Durham Family History Society

The Northumberland & Durham Family History Society have a library & research centre run by volunteers for members and non-members. Sources of potential interest include.

- Census indexes
- Transcriptions/indexes of parish and non-conformist church registers in hard copy and micro-fiche
- Databases of information extracted from parish registers, databases for MI's including images of MI's.
- Over 2,000 Family Trees donated by members, nearly 300 Family Histories.
- All names in Durham Wills 1700 – 1858
- Access to FMP, Ancestry & The Genealogist, plus all our databases.

As a number of these records are available on microfiche only it is essential to make an appointment prior to proposed visit. Please arrange by telephone.

Opening hours are:

Monday 10.00am–3pm

Tuesday 10.00am–3pm

Wednesday 10.00am–3pm

Thursday 10.00am–3pm

Friday and Saturday Closed

Postal address: NDFHS Library & Research Centre

3rd Floor
MEA House
Ellison Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8XS

Telephone: 0191 2841678

www.ndfhs.org.uk

North Shields Local Studies Library

The Local Studies section of North Shields Library holds many sources of interest to the family historian with ancestry in the North Tyneside area. These sources include:

- microform copies of the GRO Indexes, 1837-2001
- microfilm copies of registers of the parish churches of Killingworth, Longbenton, Tynemouth Christ Church and Tynemouth Holy Trinity
- 1841-1901 census returns for Tynemouth registration district
- monumental inscriptions for some churches in North Tyneside

The Library also holds an index to the local newspaper, The Shields Daily News, 1864-1960 as well as partial indexes to other local newspapers. Another useful source is the series of newspaper cuttings and notes relating to local families.

Opening hours are:

Monday	9.am - 5.30pm
Tuesday	9.am - 7pm
Wednesday	9.am - 5pm
Thursday	9.am - 7pm
Friday	9.am - 5.30pm
Saturday	9.am - 5pm

Telephone no: 0191 6435270
Fax No: 0191 6435255
E-mail: northshields.library@northtyneside.gov.uk

Postal address: Local Studies
Central Library
Northumberland Square
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1QU

Web address: www.my.northtyneside.gov.uk/facility/1008

Newcastle City Library

Newcastle City Library holds a wide range of family history sources, many of which relate to Northumberland. These include:

- copies of the General Register Office Indexes of births, marriages and deaths, 1837-2001
- 1841-1901 census returns for Newcastle upon Tyne
- electoral registers for Newcastle upon Tyne 1832 to date
- large collection of transcripts of parish and some non-conformist registers for parishes and churches in Northumberland and Durham

A leaflet Local Studies Library Genealogy Guide Number 2: Genealogical Sources describes sources available in detail. A copy of this leaflet is available to download from the Library website. Newcastle City Library offers an enquiry information service but is unable to undertake in-depth research on behalf of members of the public.

Opening hours are:

Monday	10.00am – 7.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am – 7.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 7.00pm
Thursday	10.00am – 7.00pm
Friday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday	11.00am – 4.00pm

Postal address: City Library
33 New Bridge Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 8AX

Telephone no: 0191 2774100

Fax no: 0191-2774168

E-mail: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Web address: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/leisure-libraries-and-tourism/libraries/branch-libraries-and-opening-hours/city-library>

Tyne & Wear Archives

Tyne & Wear Archives serves the five metropolitan districts of Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside & Sunderland. The Service holds many family history sources for the geographical areas served by the five metropolitan districts. Sources held include microfilm duplicates of some of the parish records held by Northumberland Archives for those parishes for the Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside areas.

Other family history sources for the same geographical area include:

- non-conformist and Roman Catholic church records
- 1841-1901 census returns
- Electoral registers for Newcastle upon Tyne, 1837-1974.

These and the many other family history sources held by the Service are detailed in the booklet [Sources for Family History at Tyne & Wear Archives](#) that is available free of charge from the address below or can be downloaded from the web address given below.

A Research Service is available – see website for details.

Opening hours are:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Thursday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Friday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday	Closed

Postal address: Tyne & Wear Archives

Blandford House
Blandford Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4JA

Telephone no: 0191 2772248
Fax: 0191 2302614
E-mail: archives@twmuseums.org.uk
Web address: www.twarchives.org.uk/

Northumberland Archives is committed to providing a quality service to all its users and therefore this information is also available in **large print**, and via the Internet. The Internet address is:

www.northumberlandarchives.com

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