



Keighley Local Studies Library

Treasures of Keighley Library

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www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries



What is it?

When Keighley Library opened in 1904, it already had its own archive consisting of the records of the Keighley Mechanics' Institute and its book stock. This collection has slowly increased over the years and today, Keighley Local Studies Library provides access to a unique collection that relates to all aspects of the history and development of the district.



The Records

As well as **Keighley Township and Borough records**, there are early rural district council records, Poor Law records for the Keighley and North Bierley areas and local health reports.

Education records include large collections for the Keighley Mechanics' Institute, later Keighley College and the two Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, as well as other local school records.

Industry is represented by individual business collections such as Prince Smith & Stell, the Keighley Industrial Co-operative Society, local mill reports and business directories.



Family records have also been deposited over the years including photographs, diaries, war records and these are supplemented for family historians by the collection of Church and Chapel records. **Local clubs and societies** also feature in the collection.



Local authors are represented by the Yorkshire Author collection and this includes the large archive of **Gordon Bottomley**, poet and playwright, early dialect material and the Joseph Rhodes and Esperanto Society archive. There is a large photograph collection, supplemented by albums from the **Keighley & District Photographic Society**.

News cuttings

Keighley Library holds a most important collection of indexed news cuttings. Smaller towns, like Keighley, do not get the more detailed statistical reports and published histories that larger towns like Bradford and Leeds inherit, so newspapers with accompanying indexes become an invaluable historical source of research for details of local, social, economic and political change. Renowned local historian and former Reference Librarian, Ian Dewhirst MBE, continues to feature with articles in local journals and the *Keighley News*.

Special Collections



The following is an outline of just some of the larger collections held at Keighley. If you would like to know more about the rest, there is an index to the archives by name, subject and place as well as detailed catalogues of many of the collections, please ask at the counter.

Library of Lord and Lady Snowden

Philip Snowden (1864-1937) was **Chancellor of the Exchequer** in the first two Labour governments of Great Britain. He was elected to Keighley Town Council in 1899 and to the School Board. In 1903, he became the national chairman of the **Independent Labour Party**, following a conversion to the new ideology of Socialism. With his wife Ethel Annakin, he championed votes for women and was a member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. He was a renowned orator, it was said at the time, second only to Keir Hardie.

Keighley Library now houses the couple's significant collection of books which has a strong emphasis in the subjects of social, economic and political studies. It is a reference collection only and is catalogued. For further details, please see staff and the display boards on the Snowdens.

Maps, Building and Sale Plans

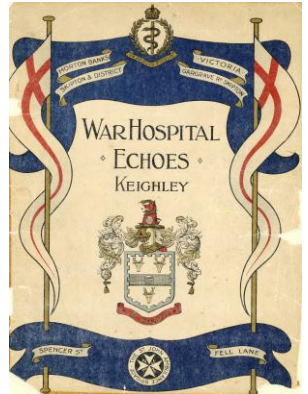
The library has a large collection of local maps and building plans. Highlights include the earliest Ordnance Survey maps of the area, tithe awards and enclosure maps, plans of buildings such as **Cliffe Castle**, the Royal Arcade and the old Workhouse, and sale plans of some local properties and of farms showing original field names.

Brigg Collection, BK 10

The Brigg family was amongst the most prominent and philanthropic families of the 19th and early 20th centuries in Keighley. They were originally descended from 15th century yeoman farmers but successfully moved into worsted manufacturing, initially at Walk Mill, then Brow End Mill in 1814. The family members became involved in the religious, political and economic aspects of the town's development and were also later involved with its educational development through the Mechanics' Institute, Trade & Grammar School and the Public Library. Keighley Local Studies Library is privileged to hold the large archive of the Brigg family which reflects their interests and local responsibilities and dates back to the 16th century.

War Records

The Brigg archive also includes a large WW1 collection of correspondence and local and national material, which supplements that of the unique Dr. Scatterty and **Keighley War Hospital collections**, the Keighley Roll of Honour, and individual soldier collections, indexes and war memorial listings. Keighley is also fortunate to have benefited from research carried out by the **Men of Worth Project**, documenting the men and women of Keighley and the Worth Valley, who served the country in wartime.



Brontë Collection

Outside the Brontë Parsonage Museum Library, this is **one of the largest collections of study resources for the Brontë family in the country**. It includes **critical literature, biography, the *Brontë Society Transactions*, National and local journal articles, archives and a collection of indexed news cuttings**, put together by library staff over the years. For further details please see **the new leaflet on the Brontë collection**.

Butterfield Collection

Tom Clifton Butterfield (1856-1937) was born in Keighley and became the principal of the **Keighley School of Arts and Crafts**, later Keighley College 1889-1919. During his years as principal, the college made great progress and he introduced new craft courses related to industry, such as metalwork and bookbinding. Many students who trained under him, such as Alex F. Smith, went on to great success. Butterfield himself painted and many of his watercolour landscapes of the surrounding countryside hang in local homes. Keighley Library holds some of the personal library of T. C. and Miss Dorothy Butterfield. Quite a few of the books have very beautiful individual bindings. A catalogue is available and more information on T. C. Butterfield can be found in the file about the Keighley School of Art and local artists which is kept at the counter.

Please give 24 hours' notice to see archives.

Keighley Library
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Opening hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-7pm
Sat 9am-5 pm

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