Sources for the Study of The Sheffield Flood 1864
Front Cover Illustrations – left to right:

Coloured engraving showing the breach in Dale Dyke Reservoir, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s00973)

Joseph Chapman, a tailor of Hillsborough, who survived the flood by climbing into a box and sitting out the inundation, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s08751)

Rollo the dog, who saved a child from the inundation, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield u01735)

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Introduction

The Sheffield Flood of 1864 remains the greatest civilian disaster of Victorian Britain, yet is relatively unknown outside the city.

Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library have a wealth of material about the disaster, its aftermath and what happened to the victims and their families.

In the mid-nineteenth century Sheffield was a rapidly expanding industrial town. Its population had grown from 45,748 in 1801 to 185,157 in 1861 and there was a need to increase the supply of clean, safe drinking water. Water had been supplied by 3 small reservoirs at Crookesmoor, built in the 18th century; these had been supplemented by others at Redmires in the 1830s, all built by the privately owned Sheffield Waterworks Company.

In the late 1850s, the company purchased land in the Loxley Valley to the northwest of the town, on which to build a large reservoir. By 1863 the dam and its associated works had been passed as satisfactory and it was allowed to fill with water.

On the night of March 11th 1864, the embankment of the Dale Dyke Dam collapsed and released 114 million cubic feet of water into the Loxley Valley.

The Chief Constable’s records show that 240 people were drowned, 100 buildings and 15 bridges were destroyed and around 4,000 houses were flooded.

The subsequent Inquiry pointed to a natural fault line under the dam embankment and insufficient quality control over the filling of a puddle clay trench. Later research has also suggested that a powerful underground spring flowed into the puddle trench and ruptured the filling, making the embankment unable to hold water.

In the aftermath of the flood, the Government set up a Board of Inundation Commissioners to arbitrate compensation claims against the Waterworks Company. The records of claims show ‘loss of life’ claims for people who were not on the official lists of the dead, indicating that these additional deaths were regarded as having been caused by the flood. These extra claims suggest that the final total for people killed by the flood is a lot higher than the 240 deaths officially recorded by the Chief Constable of Sheffield.

The sources available at Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library and on the Internet, give a great level of detail about the flood itself, the inquiry that followed and the hardships of the ordinary people of Sheffield, trying to come to terms with the scale of the disaster.
The Flood, 11 March 1864

There are many photographs and illustrations about the flood – over 200 are available to see online at www.picturesheffield.com. Here are a few examples.

The breach in the wall of the Dale Dyke Dam, through which 700 million gallons of water escaped. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s22613)

Malin Bridge, remains of the Cleakum Inn and houses along Holme Lane. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s00891)

Watercolour showing the effects of the flood on houses in Brick Row Hillsborough (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s00580)

Mrs Kirk of Damflask who returned home through the flood waters to rescue her dog and cat (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s08752)

Remains of Ball Street Bridge, which was swept away in the Flood (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s10947)
A plan of the course of the inundation
This map, published by the Sheffield Daily Telegraph in 1864, shows the course of the flood starting from Dale Dyke Reservoir on the left, through Hillsborough just right of the centre, to the town centre on the right of the map.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: E(287)6M)
Newspaper Reports

There is extensive coverage of the aftermath of the flood in the local newspapers. The main titles are: *The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent;* and *the Sheffield Daily Telegraph*.

**Sheffield Daily Telegraph** –
- Saturday 12th March, has no mention of the flood in the main body of the paper. There is a weekly supplement, nearly all of which is devoted to coverage of the flood.
- Monday 14th March, there are some preliminary details of the dead.
- Tuesday 15th March, four whole pages containing an in-depth account.
- Wednesday 16th March, 3 whole pages devoted to the flood.
- Thursday 17th March, less space devoted to the flood.
- Friday 18th March, further coverage of donations and donors to the relief fund, less than a page of narrative about the flood. Interestingly there is a front-page advert from the Sheffield Photo Company announcing its first album of scenes of the flood.

**Sheffield and Rotherham Independent** – Saturday 12th March, contains one paragraph in column 2 of page 8.
- Monday 14th March, detailed coverage over several pages.
- Tuesday 15th March, more detailed description, especially of the first identified victims. Other narrative coverage over several pages.
- Wednesday 16th March, less space devoted to the flood.
- Thursday 17th March, first lists of donors to the relief fund. There are some details about the flood on page 7.
- Friday 18th March, more details of donors and the same advert by the Sheffield Photo Company as in the *Sheffield Telegraph*. 

“We have to narrate this morning one of the most terrific calamities that has ever visited this part of the country…houses have been washed down, streets have been turned in to rivers…some have been swept down in the streets and drowned, some have died in rooms that were for the moment turned into miniature reservoirs, full from ceiling to floor of water…”

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 12 March 1864, weekly supplement*
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library)*
The *Barnsley Chronicle* published two supplements on March 26th and April 2nd 1864 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library Miscellaneous Papers MP 15 & 16 VL*)

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APPALLING FLOOD.
ESTIMATED LOSS OF FROM
150 TO 200 LIVES,
AND
HALF A MILLION OF PROPERTY.
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“It was our painful duty to record on Saturday that a frightful flood had been caused by the bursting of the embankment of the new reservoir of the Sheffield Water Company at Bradfield…Down to Malin Bridge about two miles from Sheffield, the water was hemmed in by the steep sides of the valley, but it received accessions as it came along from the dams of the many waterwheels on the stream…Above Malin Bridge everything in the way of the flood was clean swept away…”

*Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 14 March 1864*

(Sheffield Local Studies Library)

Nationally, news of the flood appeared in newspapers such as *The Times* and *The (Manchester) Guardian*. There are, for example, over 200 references to the terms ‘Sheffield inundation’ between 1864 and 1866 in the Guardian. Both *The Times* and *The Guardian* newspapers are available to search online.
The Aftermath

In the wake of the flood, Sheffield was quick to give aid where required. On the day of the flood, the Mayor ordered a meeting to be held on the following Monday “For the purpose of considering and adopting such measures as may be deemed necessary to meet the sufferings occasioned by this dreadful calamity.” The meeting raised over £4,000 in pledges.

A second meeting was held on Tuesday 15th March and more money was pledged. The Mayor was satisfied “That an adequate amount of money would be raised and he would do all in his power to ensure that it should be properly and judiciously distributed.”

An appeal to the working men of Sheffield was launched on Friday 18th March where the feeling was that those who could afford to would give one day’s wage. On this strength of feeling an appeal was made to the town’s employers that they would assist their men in doing this.

The catastrophe deeply moved the royal family and Queen Victoria sent a personal cheque for £200.

The Relief Committee published an interim account in April 1864. To date they had provided 4,407 pairs of boots and shoes and 1,986 dresses and petticoats plus numerous other items of clothing.

The relief fund had received over £42,000 in subscriptions, there was another £10,000 “Lying in London and elsewhere.” The fund had paid out almost £20,000 – leaving around £32,000 still to be allocated. As well as the physical needs of the distressed, their spiritual needs were addressed by the British and Foreign Bible Society who supplied copies of bibles to families who had lost theirs in the flood.

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Compensation Claims

In the aftermath of the flood, the Government set up a Board of Inundation Commissioners to arbitrate compensation claims against the Waterworks Company. The three Inundation Commissioners took their places at the Town Hall on 4th October 1864. They faced the task of arbitrating around 7,500 claims for loss of life and loss of property. The claims totalled more than £455,000 and ranged from a few pounds to many thousands.

All but 650 claims were settled without recourse to the arbitration process, but those 650 claims took almost six months to process.

The claims registers record the claimant, their marital status and address, as well as details of the claim and the outcome (i.e. amount awarded in compensation, claim dismissed or claim withdrawn) They provide a unique insight into mid-Victorian Sheffield’s trade and industry with claims listed for stock, tools and premises damaged and lost. The claims for furniture, clothes, books, toys and household utensils and goods help build up a picture of workers’ lives at the time.

Extract from a Claims Register
(Sheffield City Archives: CA7/1-11)

Bradfield Inundation Relief Fund, Districts 1+2 (United), Alphabetical Register of Relief; including all payments to sufferers except their transferred furniture claims.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 361.52 SSTF)

Bradfield Inundation Fund, Award Book, No 4 District: Property Owners and Shopkeepers Committee, No 4 District, Memorandum Book
(Sheffield City Archives: CA 7/12)
A few examples of published books

**The Collapse of the Dale Dyke Dam 1864** by Geoffrey Amey (Cassell 1974)
The ‘standard work’ on the flood. Explores the historical evidence and more recent possibilities as to the causes.
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)*

**Around Bradfield, Loxley and Hillsborough** by Malcolm Nunn (Chalford Publishing 1996)
A collection of photographs of the area including a small selection of images of the flood.
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)*

**Around Bradfield, Loxley and Hillsborough: the second selection** by Malcolm Nunn (Tempus 2002)
A further collection of photographs of the area, including a further selection of images of the flood.
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)*

**The Dramatic Story of the Sheffield Flood** by Peter Machan (ALD 1999)
A modern re-telling of the events of March 1864.
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)*

**Great Sheffield Flood 1864**
A collection of lantern slides and text by E G Draper (Hillsborough Community Development Trust 1995)
This book comprises the text of a lecture about the flood as given by E G Draper, and 55 illustrations taken from the glass lantern slides used to illustrate the talk. All the illustrations in the book are available on Picture Sheffield [www.picturesheffield.com](http://www.picturesheffield.com)
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ, also available in a number of community libraries)*

**Sheffield Flood: the Aftermath** by Karen Lightowler (www.lulu.com 2007)
Shows in great detail how families coped during the aftermath of the flood and in later years.
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 SQ, also available in a number of community libraries)*
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Contemporary Sources

Sheffield Water Works: Maps and Sections of Proposed Additional Works by J. T. Leather, Nov 1852 [Includes plan of intended Dale Dyke Reservoir]
(Sheffield City Archives: YWA/10/1/2)

Bills of Parliament: Sheffield Waterworks Bill: minutes of evidence, reports etc. 1864-1870
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 346.1 SSTQ)

Coroners Court, Sheffield Waterworks and the bursting of the Dale Dyke Dam: Inquest 23/24 March 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 347.96 S)

House of Commons, Sheffield and Bradfield Reservoirs: Sheffield Waterworks Failure Report, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.6 SSTQ)

Sheffield and Bradford Reservoirs: Sheffield Waterworks failure: Dale Dike or Bradfield Reservoir: report of Robert Rawlinson and Nathaniel Beardmore, Civil Engineers, on the failure and bursting of a reservoir embankment belonging to the Sheffield Waterworks Company, on the night of Friday, 11th March 1864.
(Sheffield City Archives: CA 436 (1) and Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.6 SSTQ)

'The Sheffield Flood: containing a Full and Consecutive Account of the Disasters caused by the Bursting of the Bradfield Reservoir on March 12th, 1864. Including a List of Names of the Dead and Missing,' published by John Heyward, 1864
(Sheffield City Archives: X60/1 and Sheffield Local Studies Library: Pamphlets Vol. 4 No. 6, 042 SQ)

Analysis of the evidence given before the Sheffield jury on the cause of the failure of the Bradfield Reservoir by William Naylor, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library Local Pamphlets Vol.24, No 17, 042.74 S)
A resume of the evidence given and an outline of the probable causes of the disaster.

Diary of Juliana Gatty, 1864
Contains references to the flood.
(Sheffield City Archives: HAS/41/9)

Drawing of the breach in Dale Dyke Dam, 1864
(Sheffield City Archives: YWA/1/35)

Papers relating to Alfred Green's claim for damages sustained on account of the Sheffield Flood, 1864 (includes expenses incurred for recovering the body of Elizabeth Green, who was washed away from Harvest Lane, Sheffield to Denaby), 1864.
(Sheffield City Archives: MD3732)
Sheffield Council minutes, 1864 – 1866
These include the Water Works Company's Bill Committee. This committee opposed, amongst other things, the desire of the Sheffield Waterworks Company to reverse the verdict of the Coroner's Jury in relation to the Dale Dyke flood. Included in the minutes of the meeting of Jul 1864 are statements by numerous expert witnesses in regard to the flood. Also included is a section of a proposed new site for embankment (Sheffield Waterworks Bradfield inundation), by Henry Vignoles.
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/1)

Sheffield Council, Health Committee minutes, 1864
Various references, including lime to be orders, Mr Holman to take animal matter, Boards of highways to flood drains, etc., committee to meet every night; report on sanitary state from Malin Bridge to the Wicker, Mr Marcus Smith as to disposal of mud, inspector to cover mud near infirmary with lime; Inspector to advertise for horses and carts and lime and chloride of lime, report that there is no fear of fever or disease and everything required done to prevent same and so no necessity for Committee to sit daily, etc
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-HEA/1/3)

Sheffield Council minutes, 1867
Page 6 of the minutes for 13 Mar 1867 refers to a copy of a petition to establish a Sheffield Water Consumers' Company in the aftermath of the Dale Dyke flood.
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-MIN/2)

Sheffield Water Works Bill, 1887. Flood Damages - expenditure under Act of 1864. Details Sheffield Water Works Company’s expenditure under the Sheffield Water Works Act 1864 for the period 1865-1869. Includes figures for flood claims, parliamentary law and professional expenses, salaries, repair, rebuilding and reconstruction work (including Dale Dike Reservoir embankment), purchases and sales of water mills.
(Sheffield City Archives: X214)

Sheffield Waterworks Company; Selected Ledgers, Inundation Ledger 1864-1870
(Sheffield City Archives: YWA/9/1/4/1)

Sheffield Inundation Act 1864. Lists of witnesses and record of proceedings in the Court from December 29 1864 to April 13 1865 by the Inundation Commissioners.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.6 SSTQ)

Sheffield Constabulary Memorandum Book, 1864-1874
Contains returns of numbers of dead and missing persons and details of buildings damaged or destroyed.
(Sheffield City Archives: SY295/C1/17)

Great Sheffield Flood, Its History Retold: Sheffield Independent Extra No 5. 1864 by Samuel Harrison
A complete account of the flood as originally reported in the Sheffield Independent.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74S)

Sheffield Flood, Lines Written on that Awful Calamity by W Stokes [19th century]
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 15, No 2, 042.74 S)

Sheffield Flood and its Lessons by Rev B Grant, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 14, No 24, 042.74 S)

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A correct account of all the unfortunate sufferers that perished from the bursting of the Bradfield Dam, [c. 1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3324 M)

A correct and complete list of the drowned [c.1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3323 M)

The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments (printed for the British & Foreign Bible Society 1864). A gift from the British & Foreign Bible Society to replace bibles lost in the Sheffield Flood.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 220.52 SST)

Curious Souvenir of the Sheffield Flood; in memory of John Cowton Appleby [c. 1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3351a S)

In Memoriam: The Great Sheffield Flood [c. 1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 19 VL)

In memory of the unfortunate sufferers…[ c. 1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3351 S a-k)

Lines on the Great Sheffield Flood by J B Geoghan [c. 1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3321 M)

Memorial card [c. 1864]  
(Sheffield City Archives, Acc. 2008/36)

Telegrams by journalists. 1864  
Give details of bodies being found and the state of premises affected by the flood, 1864  
(Sheffield City Archives, MD1878)

Sheffield Smelting Company Limited; papers regarding the purchase of leasehold premises in Harvest Lane Sheffield from Dixon, and their leasing to W. K. Peace, the proprietor of the Eagle Works. There is correspondence about improvements and new buildings, etc., damage by the flood, the terms of the lease, etc., 1857-1866  
(Sheffield City Archives: SSC/287)

Sheffield Smelting Company Limited: papers relating to the claim against Sheffield Water Works for damage done by the flood, 1864  
(Sheffield City Archives: SSC/196)

Sheffield Smelting Company Limited: letter from Henry Joseph Wilson to John Wycliffe Wilson relating to a loan made by William Wilson to J. P. Saunders, claims for the flood, etc, 1864  
(Sheffield City Archives: SSC/205)

Old Park Silver Mills Co. Ltd., of Sheffield microfilm copy photographs (interior and exterior), 1864-1971 (includes a view of the works after devastation by the Sheffield Flood of 1864)  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY104/B3/1-10 microfilm)
Burgon and Ball Ltd, Sheffield, makers of shears, hammers and tools, draft deeds relating to the purchase of freehold land at Malin Bridge, Sheffield by Burgon and Ball from Isaac Bower and from John and Hannah Child, 1873 (the contract for sale with the former describes the land as "a piece of freehold land at Malin Bridge near Sheffield whereon 6 dwelling houses formerly stood with out buildings and gardens but which were destroyed by the Bradfield or Dale Dyke inundation").
(Sheffield City Archives: B&B/24)

Images and Photographs

The Sheffield Flood presented professional and amateur photographers with the chance to record the aftermath of a huge disaster. The Local Studies Library has around 200 pictures of the devastation caused by the flood. These can be accessed online at www.picturesheffield.com.

Coloured engravings by Martin Billing, Son and Co., of Birmingham, of scenes following the Sheffield Flood, 1864. These can be accessed online at www.picturesheffield.com.
(Sheffield City Archives: SY473/Z9)

Microfilm of photographs of Old Park Silver Mills, including one of flood damage
(Sheffield City Archives: SY104)

Newspapers

Sheffield Local Studies Library has an extensive collection of newscuttings, a number of which refer to the flood in some detail or have pictures. These cuttings are listed below. The main titles available are the Sheffield Daily Telegraph and the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent.

In addition there are numbers of cuttings that only give brief mentions of aspects of the flood. These have not been listed, but their details can be found in the Local Studies Library card index.

Illustrated London News Supplement illustrations of the flood at Sheffield by our special artist', April 2 1864. (Sheffield City Archives: MD8058)
The Sheffield Flood. Illustrated London News Supplements 11 March /26th March &.2nd April 1864. (Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 SF). Also available online at www.iln.org.uk)

Newspaper cuttings relating to the Sheffield Flood, 1864
(Sheffield City Archives: JC/18/10)

Barnsley Chronicle, 1864
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Miscellaneous Papers MP 15 & 16 VL)

Index to The Times Newspaper 1863-1868, published by Samuel Parker & Co.
(Sheffield Arts and Sports Reference Library: Microfilm)

The British Library British Newspapers website includes over nine million pages from over 300 national and local newspapers (including the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent 1819 - 1909, Sheffield Daily Telegraph 1855 - 1950 and Sheffield Evening Telegraph 1887 - 1920) (http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)
The Times is also available online. A search for the term ‘inundation’ 1864 - 1865 for example reveals over 100 entries.
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/

The Guardian online archive also provides full text for over 200 references to the search term ‘Sheffield Inundation’.
http://archive.guardian.co.uk/

Area Affected

Both Local Studies and the City Archives have collections of Ordnance Survey maps covering the area devastated by the flood.

Six inch to the mile sheets, the key one for the flood area being Sheet 294. These are from surveys carried out in 1850. In addition there are large-scale plans of the centre of Sheffield at 5 feet to the mile; again these are from the 1850 survey.

1:2,500 Scale maps (approx. 25 inches to the mile), dating from around 1890. Sheets 294/1-294/8 cover the area of the flood.

Poor law valuation plans for the hamlets of Holdworth and Ughill in Bradfield, 1864. The area of the flood is shaded blue.  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY555/C1/4)

A plan of the course of the inundation (Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 1864) 
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: E(287)6M and Sheffield City Archives: ACM/65382)

There is a detailed map of the course and extent of the flood in the Minutes of Evidence, Reports & Correspondence by J Yeomans, Town Clerk. 
(Sheffield City Archives: CA7/15)

Plan showing area flooded as a result of the failure of Dale Dike Embankment, 1864 (drawn in the 1930s) 
(Sheffield City Archives: YWA/10/2/9/1)

Compensation Claims

Sheffield Flood Claims (Compensation) Registers 1864 - 1865 These are available to view on microfilm. Searchable indexes are also available on www2.shu.ac.uk/sfca
(Sheffield City Archives: CA7/1-11)

Index of Claims submitted to the Inundation Commissioners by Residents of Bradfield Chapelry (an alphabetical index by surname, only gives bare details of each claim) 
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7097)

Acts of Parliament: An act to make provision for the assessment of damages claimed against the Sheffield Waterworks Company in consequence of an inundation caused by the giving way of the embankment of one of the reservoirs of the company. 
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Acts of Parliament Relating to Sheffield Vol. 2, 346.1 SQ; other copies at Acts of Parliament Relating to Sheffield Waterworks, 1853 - 1867 346.1 SSTQ; also available at Sheffield City Archives: PC/898)
Bradfield Inundation Commissioners, Proceedings under Writ of Mandamus [a legal
document compelling a government official to perform a duty] the case of Stones &
Jessop v Sheffield Waterworks Company 1865
(Sheffield City Archives: CA7/13)

Bradfield Inundation Relief Fund, Districts 1+2 (United), Alphabetical Register of
Relief; including all payments to sufferers except their transferred furniture claims.
(Sheffield City Archives: X658/1)

Bradfield Inundation Fund, Award Book, No 4 District: Property Owners and
Shopkeepers Committee, No 4 District, Memorandum Book
(Sheffield City Archives CA 7/12)

Holy Trinity Church, Wicker - lists of claims and payments made from the Church’s
Inundation Relief Fund to people affected by the flood who lived in Nursery Street
and the Wicker area. There is also a letter from T W Watson, pressing for a supply of
Bibles for those who had lost their possessions and papers regarding damage to the
church, etc., 1864
(Sheffield City Archives PR 50/34/1-16 and SY208/Z1/2-7 microfilm)

Two deeds concerning the claim made by the owners of Limerick (Limbrick) Mills on
the river Loxley against Sheffield Water Co. (as a result of the Sheffield Flood) 1865
(Sheffield City Archives: WD/594 & WD/595)

Other Published Works

In addition to books and articles specifically about the flood, a number of books about
the history of Sheffield in general often contain references to the flood, for instance

Branston, Jack, Pennine People & Places (Published by the author, 1985)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Stainton, J. H., The Making of Sheffield (Weston & Sons, 1924)
Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Vickers, J. Edward, Old Sheffield Town, (Applebaum, 1979)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Walton, Mary, Sheffield: Its story and achievements (Amethyst Press, 5th Edition,
1984)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

Beedham, Ann, Peeks at the past in Sheffield and the surrounding area (Pickard
2002)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ, also available in a number of community
libraries)

The ‘standard work’ on the flood. Explores the historical evidence and more recent
possibilities as to the causes
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S, also available in a number of community
libraries)
Clarke, Paul, Sheffield insured: Sheffield & the insurance industry 1600 - 2012  
(Insurance Institute of Sheffield, 2012)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 368.9428 S)

Ewen, Shane, Sheffield’s Great Flood of 1864: Engineering Failure and the Municipalisation of Water; offprint from Environment and History, 20 (2014)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6456 M)

Harrison, Samuel, A Complete History of the Great Flood at Sheffield, (1864, Evans & Longley 1974 reprint)  
An eyewitness account, written in the immediate aftermath of the flood, by a local journalist. This book presents the Victorian view of the disaster. It deals with stories of those affected by the flood and the legal proceedings that followed.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)  
Full text available to read on www.google.co.uk/books.

Nunn, Malcolm, Around Bradfield, Loxley and Hillsborough (Chalford Publishing 1996)  
A collection of photographs of the area including a small selection of images of the flood.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)

A further collection of photographs of the area, including a further selection of images of the flood  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S, also available in a number of community libraries)

Concentrates on the technical evidence as presented to the inquiry and gives a more modern insight into the potential hazards of earth embanked dams. Eminent engineers suggest possible causes for the dam’s failure.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 299, No 12, 042.74 S)

Binnie, G. M., Early Victorian Water Engineers (Thomas Telford 1981)  
Chapter 13 is concerned with the engineering aspects of the failure of the Dale Dyke Dam.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 628.1092 S)

Lett, Maggie and Geoff Rowe, Flood Waters (ACM Retro, 2011) - a fictionalised account  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 823 LETT SST)

Machan, Peter, The Dramatic Story of the Sheffield Flood (ALD 1999)  
A modern re-telling of the events of March 1864.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S also available in a number of community libraries)
Ratcliff, N., *Midnight Flood* [A play based on events surrounding the Sheffield Flood], 1936

The Bradfield Players first performed the play in 1931. This version was revised in 1936, and depicts an imaginary incident linked to the Sheffield Flood of 1864. The details of the bursting of the dam and description of the flooding of the Loxley valley are taken from the evidence at the inquest and inquiry.

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 178, No 14, (042.74 S))


*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets Vol. 173, No 18, (042.74 S))


This book comprises the text of a lecture about the flood as given by E G Draper, and 55 illustrations taken from the glass lantern slides used to illustrate the talk. All the illustrations in the book are available on the *Picture Sheffield* system

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ, also available in a number of community libraries)*

Baldwin, J. A. *The Great Sheffield Flood (20th cent)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local pamphlets, volume 61 (042. SQ))*

Leigh, Hazel & Helen Loy *The Great Sheffield Flood Teaching pack, "Acting together University of Sheffield Flood Project", 2003*

*(Sheffield City Archives: LEI/LOCAL)*


Shows in great detail how families coped during the aftermath of the flood and in later years.

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ also available in a number of community libraries)*

Schmoller, T., *Claims for books lost in the 1864 Sheffield Flood* (reprinted from Quadrat 18 Jan 2005)

An analysis of the Flood Claims Registers to try to discern the reading habits of the people of Sheffield in 1864

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5760 M)*

*Sheffield Flood Centenary Souvenir* by Sheffield Newspapers, 1964.

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 961 L)*

*Sheffield Flood Trail, Dale Dyke to Malin Bridge* by Hillsborough Community Development Trust [1993]

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2930 S)*

*Sheffield Flood Trail, Malin Bridge to Sheffield* by Hillsborough Community Development Trust. [1993]

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2931 S)*


*(Local Studies Library: 913.274 S and Sheffield City Archives: HAS)*

*The Forgotten Flood* [DVD] (Very Much So Productions, [c. 2000]) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 10)

A number of items were published to commemorate anniversaries:

*Sheffield and Rotherham Independent* - 34th anniversary of the Great Sheffield Flood, 1898 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 559 VL and MP 560 VL)

*Sheffield Telegraph*, 1964 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 235 VL)

**Websites**

Sheffield Flood Claims Archive [www2.shu.ac.uk/sfca](http://www2.shu.ac.uk/sfca)  
A digitised version of the Sheffield Flood Claims Registers. The site can be searched by name, address, description of claim and particulars of claim.

Material about the Sheffield Flood [http://mick-armitage.staff.shef.ac.uk/sheffield/flood.html](http://mick-armitage.staff.shef.ac.uk/sheffield/flood.html)  
A website devoted to the flood. Contains the full text of Samuel Harrison’s book - *A Complete History of the Great Flood at Sheffield*

Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library youtube slideshow [https://youtu.be/iVdptJeXvDY](https://youtu.be/iVdptJeXvDY)  

The Forgotten Flood a short film by Phil Parkin [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rjglurHK7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rjglurHK7U)
Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Facilities

Sheffield Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area. The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books ● pamphlets ● photographs ● church registers ● newspapers ● census records ● minutes ● diaries ● films ● maps ● deeds ● records from schools ● hospitals ● businesses and charities ● family estates ● personal papers etc.

Our facilities include:

Study areas ● expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit ● a library of reference books ● photocopying and photography services ● free Internet access ● microform machines and printers ● catalogues and indexes ● a range of useful publications for sale ● CD-Rom library ● on-line image library.
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<tr>
<td>Tel: 0114 273 4753</td>
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(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue

(selected) Archives catalogues:
and

For 70,000+ images of Sheffield: [www.picturesheffield.com](http://www.picturesheffield.com)

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