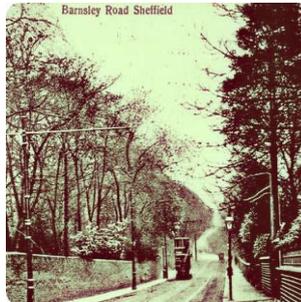


Sources for the History of Firshill



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Girls' Orphanage, Firs Hill / Firshill, Orphanage Road
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield y00259*)

Barnsley Road looking towards Fir Vale from Firs Hill / Firshill, early 20th cent
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s13339*)

Aerial view of Firs Hill Junior and Infant School, Orphanage Road, and surrounding area, 1996
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield w00808*)

You can download a copy of this *Guide* from www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

Sources for the History of Firshill

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This Guide gives a brief introduction to the variety of sources available for researching the history of Firshill or “Firs Hill” as it is often referred (*Firshill* and *Firs Hill* references are interchangeable!) at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library.

Firshill lies 2 miles north of Sheffield City Centre. Firshill was formerly a village in the township of Brightside Bierlow

There are separate [Community History](#) guides for neighbouring areas such as Burngreave, Pitsmoor, etc.

For advice and guidance on any of the information in this Guide please contact Sheffield Archives and Local Studies.

Books and Pamphlets, etc.

Binfield, Clive, *The History of the City of Sheffield 1843 - 1993* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1993) (3 vols)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: SHE/LOCAL; also available at most Sheffield libraries*)

Hey, David, *A History of Sheffield* (Carnegie, 2005)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S; Sheffield Archives: HEY/LOCAL; also available at most Sheffield libraries*)

Firs Hill Local History Group, *Down Memory Lane: a selection of memories of days gone by from people now living at Firshill* (2004)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ*)

Harrison, John, *Survey of the Manor of Sheffield with other lands, 1637* [transcribed and edited by James George Ronksley with introduction by R. E. Leader] (Arthur Wightman, 1908)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 333.094274 S; Sheffield Archives: HAR/LOCAL*)

Hunter, Joseph, *Hallamshire: the history and topography of the parish of Sheffield: with historical and descriptive notices of the parishes of Ecclesfield, Hansworth [sic], Treeton and Whiston, and of the chapelry of Bradfield* (1819)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTF; Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL*)

Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S; Sheffield Archives: HAS*)

Trade Directories give a history of the district, main occupants and businesses, 1774 - 1974, and telephone directories thereafter. A full list of trade directories is available: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/trade-directories.html. Some directories are available to view online: www.historicaldirectories.org

Businesses

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal relevant entries.

(Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library)

Here is one example:

Specification by William Vickers of Firshill, Sheffield, merchant, for a patent to improve the method of obtaining tractive power on carriage wheels, and plan, 5 Sep 1839

(Sheffield Archives: MD6172)

Census returns

These list every resident by household and include names, relationships, occupations, ages and birth places, every 10 years from 1841 through to 1911, available free at every Sheffield library and at Sheffield Archives via

www.Ancestry.com

Church registers and records, monumental (gravestone) inscriptions and cemeteries

The nearest churches to Firshill are the Seventh Day Church of God (Pitsmoor Road), St James United Reformed Church (Scott Road), Pitsmoor Methodist Church (Burngreave Road), and Christ Church (Pitsmoor). The nearest cemetery is Burngreave Cemetery.

See separate [Community History](#) guides for Pitsmoor, Burngreave, etc., for further details of churches in the area, for which Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library holds records.

For further details on Anglican parish registers see

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/parish-registers.html

For further details on Roman Catholic church registers see

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/roman-catholic-church-registers.html

For further details on non-conformist chapel registers see

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/non-conformist-chapel-registers.html

For further details on cemeteries see

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/cemetery-registers.html

For further details on monumental inscriptions (gravestone transcriptions) see www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/monumentalinscriptions.html

Diocese of Sheffield, faculties from 1914 onwards (these detail changes made to Anglican church buildings)
(*Sheffield Archives: DIOC/FAC*)

Clubs, Societies and Charities

A search of the online catalogues and the card indexes at Archives and Local Studies may reveal records from Firshill area clubs, societies and charities.

Courts

The Magistrates Court (or Petty Sessions court) records deal mainly with minor offences and licensing the sale and consumption of liquor. Records of the Sheffield Division cover the borough and City of Sheffield and records of Upper Strafforth and Tickhill Division of West Riding of Yorkshire cover areas outside the borough such as Handsworth, Ecclesfield and Bradfield, c. 1870 - 1976.
(*Sheffield Archives: MC*)

There are also records of the Court of Quarter Sessions from 1880.
(*Sheffield Archives: QS*)

Prior to 1880 Firshill came within the jurisdiction of the West Riding Quarter Sessions. Records are held at [West Yorkshire Archives](#)

Electoral Registers and Poll Books

Sometimes known as Burgess Rolls or voters' lists, in essence, electoral rolls are lists of people that are entitled to vote. The Sheffield Local Studies Library has a comprehensive collection from 1841 onwards. More details are available:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/electoral-registers.html

Poll books list the votes cast by each voter at elections prior to the introduction of the secret ballot in 1872. More details are available:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poll-books.html

Hospitals

Sheffield Archives has records from over 50 hospitals, including annual reports, photographs and administrative records. For a full list of hospital records see www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/hospital-records.html

Land, Building, Property and Estate Records

Sale particulars (often with plans) date from the late 18th century; for instance, sale plan for 30 Roe Lane, Firshill, Nov 2006 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library*).

In addition some planning applications survive from the late 19th century onwards (*Sheffield Archives: CA206*), etc.; for instance, 10 houses at Firs Hill Avenue, Sheffield, 1935 - 1937 (*Sheffield Archives: CA206/36272*) and Sheffield United Academy, Firshill Crescent, Sheffield (Construction of a football academy), 2001 (*Sheffield Archives: CA206/2001/9B-142P*). There are also some architectural plans relating to Firshill; for instance, Plans of Firs Hill School, 1889 - 1907 (*Sheffield Archives: AP/7/27*)

There are also deeds to properties and records of land valuations which detail owners and occupiers.

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal relevant entries.

(*Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library*)

Maps

There are large-scale maps of the Sheffield area from 1853 to the present day. Comprehensive coverage of Sheffield and partial coverage of the surrounding areas is available at Sheffield Local Studies Library. Sheffield Archives has incomplete historic coverage of most of South Yorkshire. More details are available here:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/ordnance-survey-maps.html

Prior to the Ordnance Survey there may be estate and other maps such as tithes www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/tithe-maps.html and enclosures www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/enclosure-awards-and-maps.html

A search of the Archives and Local Studies online catalogues and the card indexes may reveal other maps.

(*Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library*)

Newspapers

The two main Sheffield newspapers are the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* (later *Sheffield Telegraph*) and *The Star*, and these are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library.

The *Sheffield Independent*, 1819 - 1900; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* 1855 - 1903 and *Sheffield Evening Telegraph*, 1887 - 1897 are available online at

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Photographs and Illustrations

The main series of photographs and illustrations (60,000+) is available online at www.picturesheffield.com . In addition Sheffield Archives has photographs and illustrations within its collections.

(Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield Archives)

Poor Law, Civil Parish and Local Government records

Sheffield Town Trustees, records from 1297

(Sheffield Archives: TT)

Sheffield Church Burgesses, records from 1304

(Sheffield Archives: CB)

Sheffield Borough (later City) Council, records from 1843

(Sheffield Archives: CA)

The Sheffield Union (established in 1837) comprised Attercliffe cum Darnall, Brightside Bierlow and Sheffield. The workhouse was built in 1881 at Fir Vale, and it later became the site of the Northern General Hospital.

Sheffield Poor Law Union (including Brightside Bierlow which covered the Firshill area): Guardians' minutes 1890-1930 and letter books 1847-1861; officers' appointments 1876-1913; workhouse punishment book 1903-1926, dietary 1919 *(Sheffield Archives CA 692/1-35, CA24, CA 510)*; Copy minutes 1891/2-1929/30; Statement of Accounts, 1884-1930 (with gaps); Guardian handbook and list of committees, 1894-1904, 1906-1929 *(Local Studies Library 352.9 S and 352.9 SQ)*

For more information: www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/poor-law-records and www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/workhouses-and-poor-law-unions.html

Schools

Sheffield Archives has records from over 200 schools, including admission registers and head teachers' log books (diaries). For instance there are admission registers for the Teachers' Orphanages (which had a home at Firs Hill), 1887 - 1962 *(Sheffield Archives: CA 35/853-854)*. For a full list of school records see

www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/school-records

Minutes of the Sheffield School Board (1870 - 1902) may also be of interest *(Sheffield Archives: SY350; also available at Sheffield Local Studies Library: 379.4274 S)*

The following items can also be found at Sheffield Local Studies Library:

Details of the Girls' Orphanage at Firs Hill, and notification of the impending removal of the inmates to Page Hall on the expiry of the lease; reprinted from the *Schoolmaster*, 23 Jun 1894 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1180 M)*

Firs Hill Junior School, *Firs Hill Schools 1893 - 1993: A Hundred years in the life of a school campus* (Sheffield Hallam University, 1993)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 372.94274 S*)

Other libraries and archives

In addition to information held at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies other library and archive services will also hold relevant material:

For areas formerly in the West Riding of Yorkshire (such as Firshill) there may be relevant records at the [West Yorkshire Archives Service](#).

Prior to 1914, Firshill came within the jurisdiction of the Diocese of York. There are extensive archives of the Diocese at the [Borthwick Institute for Archives](#) in York.

Wills and probate records relating to those who died in Firshill prior to 1858 are held at the [Borthwick Institute](#) in York. Probate records after 1858 are held at [The National Archives](#) (TNA).

Court records will also be held at the [West Yorkshire Archive Service](#) and at the [National Archives](#).

[The National Archives](#) (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies. You can search the [TNA catalogue](#) online.

Information on archaeological sites and ancient monuments is held by the [South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record](#).

Other titles in this series

Arbourthorne	Darnall	Jordanthorpe	Ranmoor
Attercliffe	Deepcar	Kelham Island	Richmond
Beauchief	Dore	Lodge Moor	Ringinglow
Beighton	Dungworth	Loxley	Sharrow
Bents Green	Ecclesall	Manor	Shirecliffe
Birley	Ecclesfield	Midhopestones	Shiregreen
Bolsterstone	Firshill	Millhouses	Southey
Bradfield	Firth Park	Mosborough	Stannington
Bradway	Frecheville	Nether Edge	Stocksbridge
Brightside	Fulwood	Nether Green	Tinsley
Broomhall	Gleadless	Netherthorpe	Totley
Broomhill	Greenhill	Norton	Upperthorpe
Burngreave	Grenoside	Oughtibridge	Wadsley
Carbrook	Greystones	Owlerton	Walkley
Chapelton and High Green	Hackenthorpe	Park	Whirlow
Crookes	Handsworth	Parson Cross	Wincobank
Crosspool	Heeley	Pitsmoor	Wisewood
Crystal Peaks	Hillsborough	Porter Valley	Woodhouse
			Woodseats

Sheffield Archives and **Sheffield Local Studies Library** 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

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Fax: 0114 273 5009

localstudies.library@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library
catalogue

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html>

Sheffield Archives

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S1 4SP

Tel: 0114 203 9395
Fax: 0114 203 9398

archives@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

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<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html>

and

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

For 65,000+ images of Sheffield: www.picturesheffield.com



www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives



www.twitter.com/shefflibraries



<http://shefflibraries.blogspot.co.uk>



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