

West Yorkshire Archive Service

Guide to Records of Gardening, Parks and Landscapes



Estate Gardens

The designers and gardeners working for family estates, particularly from the eighteenth century onwards have had a huge impact on local landscapes and introducing innovation in design and gardening methods. The continuity of record-keeping by the large estates offers the opportunity to observe change over time.

Records in family and estate collections may contain evidence of vanished gardens – for example, although very little of Peter Aram's layout for Newby remains as the gardens were extensively redesigned in the twentieth century, his work survives in the archives at WYAS Leeds.

The large estates also managed 'home farms', market gardens and surveyed and recorded woods and trees.

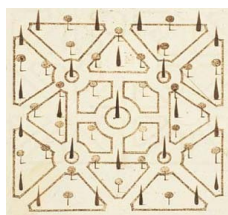


Illustration from 'A Treatise Concerning the Practical making and Management of Gardens' 1720 - 1730 [WYL230/acc2922/44]

Don't miss

One of Humphrey Repton's Red Books for the garden design of the Oulton seat of John Blayds 1809-1810 **WYL160/179/1**

Peter Aram's Treatise on Flowers of 1723 including methods of growing several varieties in the Ingilby family of Ripley Castle records. **WYL230/3664**

<http://www.parksandgardens.ac.uk/> With 'find places and people' for parks and gardens and biographies

BUSFEILD-FERRAND OF BINGLEY, FAMILY AND ESTATE ARCHIVE **40D92/6/13**

Gardening memorandum book belonging to Johnson A Busfield of Upwood, Bingley 1848-1858 gives details of flowers and fruit trees planted at Rishworth Hall and Upwood, Bingley. Also has a catalogue of flower seeds, roses and rough drawings of fruit beds at Upwood, Bingley.

SHAW FAMILY OF STAINLAND, BUSINESS AND FAMILY RECORDS **SHA:148 – 151**

photographs of the Brooklands gardens with Mr Carstairs, Head Gardener. Late 19th century

LISTER FAMILY OF SHIBDEN HALL **SH:2/M/2/33**

Drawing of the proposed shawl garden on the terrace of Shibden Hall 1855

SH:3/L/68/1 List of trees and shrubs planted in the grounds of Shibden Hall March 1765
SH:7/ML/899 Price list of shrubs of James Gaukroger, Pye Nest Lodge, nurseryman 1835

FIELDEN FAMILY OF TODMORDEN **FPL:3**

Detailed plan of the gardens at Waterside House, Todmorden-cum-Walsden for Miss Fielden, giving names and locations of flowers, trees, vases and grounds 1859

ARMYTAGE FAMILY OF KIRKLEES HALL **KMB:711**

Plan of rose garden early 20th century

BEAUMONT OF WHITLEY: FAMILY AND ESTATE RECORDS **DD/WBM/99**

Notes about gardening techniques, late 18th century. Entitled: 'Off the manner off orderinge, and preparinge of garden grounde, makinge of hott bedds and wateringe of the gardens, etc' Includes directions on manuring both light and heavy clay soils, using pigeon and sheep dung to obtain a warm and light bed; sowing seeds; making banks for wind protection; making hot beds for melons, cucumbers and other tender plants; watering gardens, with pond, river or rain water in preference to well water which requires standing before use

NOSTELL PRIORY (WINN FAMILY), BARONS ST OSWALD, FAMILY AND ESTATE ARCHIVE **WYL1352/C3/1/14**

Records related to the management of woods and timber sales, 1782 - 1894, includes valuations and surveys, for example, WYL1352/C3/1/14/12 Surveys of young plantations in the park, including a sketch plan, 1837.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AT NEWBY HALL, 17TH-19TH CENTURY **WYL5013/D/1/1/1-11**

Includes plans of terraces, kitchen and flower gardens, pleasure ground. **WYL5013/D/4/1/5** A Survey of the House, Gardens and Park, Newby Park 1767

FARRER AND COMPANY, LAND AGENTS OF OULTON, RECORDS **WYL333/155**

Plan showing Oulton Hall and lines of trees surrounding. Radii of lines of trees marked: One dated 1850, one staked out in 1852, and one other dated 1852. Scale: 40' = 1".

INGILBY RECORDS **WYL230/2838-2839**

Records of trees planted Kettlespring and probably Ripley (also mentions strawberries and pineapples) October – December 1783

GASCOIGNE OF PARLINGTON FAMILY AND ESTATE RECORDS **WYL115**

Cropping books 1814 - 1956

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Amateur enthusiasts

Records kept by allotment societies and local councils where they administered them may include registers of ploholders – and along with the records of horticultural and flower societies provide an insight into the world of competitive gardening detailing categories and listing prizewinners at flower, fruit and vegetable shows.

Other enthusiasts, the amateur scientists of the learned societies that flourished in the nineteenth century, including naturalists and geologists, recorded our changing landscape in photographs of excursions and the data and other observations they collected and recorded.

ILLINGWORTH MORRIS PLC, TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS, BRADFORD, INCLUDING SALTS MILL, SALTAIRE, RECORDS 9D94/1/11/30
Plans and maps of Milner Field Estate, allotments and nursery 1920s – 1970s

BRADFORD SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION 33D86 Includes photographs and accounts of excursions, and records of geological sampling 1877 - 1994

RIPPONDEN ALLOTMENT AND COTTAGE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION SPL:240 Minutes of meetings, with programmes for Annual Flower and Vegetable Shows, accounts, rules, etc 1940-1965

SKIRCOAT GREEN ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS ASSOCIATION, RECORDS MISC:709 & 907 including minutes of meetings 1954-1994, correspondence 1951-1984 and financial records 1948-1986.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS FEDERATION RECORDS WYC:1271 Minute books 1917-1968 and volume containing details of officials and allotments c1933-1942.

CELANDINE AVENUE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION, SALENDINE NOOK, LINDLEY, RECORDS KC773 1920 - 1951

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY, RECORDS KC333 1884 - 1987

DEWSBURY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION LTD RECORDS WYK1311 1920 – 1999 and Agricultural Supplies (Dewsbury) Ltd 1946 onwards

SLAITHWAITE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL AND ALLOTMENT SOCIETY RECORDS KC1063 still active association, this collection includes Minutes 1938-1980, financial records 1928-1996, exhibitors' books 1930-1974

RECORDS OF THE BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT, PARKS AND CEMETERIES DEPARTMENT, ALLOTMENTS RECORDS WMT/PO/5/31-33 Includes registers of ploholders, competition entrants and prizewinners 1900-1969

MEANWOOD ALLOTMENT RECORDS WYL2182 Minutes and some accounts with ploholders at Jackson's allotment gardens 1877-1956



Photograph from an excursion by the Bradford Scientific Association [33D86/3/1-2]

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Professional gardeners

The private papers of professional gardeners may include training materials from horticultural colleges, reference and research material, in addition to accounts and work.

For example, Frank Crawshaw, working in various gardens of wealthy industrialists built up a substantial orchid collection at Gledholt – one box of his papers relating to horticulture includes Daniels Brothers, Norwich seeds and kitchen garden catalogues 1890; first issues of Broadacres the quarterly journal of agricultural education in Yorkshire 1935-1936; an auction sale catalogue of Clovelly collection of orchids by Frank Mercer, Sussex May 1935; notebooks on roses operations for the year, microscopy and elements; research notes and results on propagation experiments, including chrysanthemums, greenhouse temperatures, cyclamen, daffodil forcing, geraniums 1935-1939.

1. Give a suitable grass seed mixture which you would recommend for the sowing down of a new Bowling Green, and at what quantity per square yard would you sow it?	Mixture consisting of 70% to 80% New Zealand Crewings Fescue, 20% to 30% N.Z. Brown Top. <i>1 1/2 to 2 ounces per sq yard</i>
2. You are instructed to plant standard trees on a housing estate in an industrial area. Give the names of 4 suitable trees for this purpose.	Any 4 of the following:- Acacia (Robinia Inermis), Mountain Ash, Red Twigged Limes, Serbus Lutescens, Flowering Thorns, Plane (London), Elm (Siberian).
3. You are responsible for the laying out of a new park. Which would be the first job you would commence to do in the layout after the surveying had been completed?	The setting out and rough construction of all roadways and footpaths to allow access for transport to all sections of the layout.
4. Give the names of a suitable selection of Greenhouse plants to provide a display all the year round.	Frimulas in variety, Cinerarias, Schizanthus, Gloxinias, Streptocarpus, Begonias, Forced Bulbs, Coleus, Chrysanthemums, Solanium (Winter Cherry), Cyclamen, Azaleas, Hydrangeas, Perlargoniums, Calceolarias, Fuschias, Balsam, and Cockscumb.
5. Give the names of a suitable selection of bedding plants to provide a Summer and Spring display for a Parks Department with a limited area of glasshouses.	Summer Display: Geraniums, Calceolarias, Antirrhinums, Penstemons, Potunias, Dahlias, Verbena (Venosa), Marigolds, Violas, Stocks, Asters, Alyssum and Lobelia. Spring Display: Polygonus, allflowers, Chrysanthus, Fyosotis (Forget-me-not), Bellis, Arabis, Aubretia, Bulbs and Winter Flowering Pansies.

Interview form for Pontefract Borough Parks Department position c1950 [WMT/PO/5/1/8]

Professional gardeners also worked for local authorities, Frank Crawshaw became Parks Superintendent for Colne Valley Urban District Council. Local authority parks and cemeteries department records may include personnel records, recruitment, correspondence and reports.

These gardeners, and the horticultural colleges who trained them also played significant roles in managing the national wartime planning for food production and one of the most successful public information campaigns ever run to 'dig for victory'.

Records also survive for agreements with nurseries to supply bulbs and seeds for civic floral displays. Leeds Corporation Town Clerk's Department papers include an agreement (LLD1/1/A10118) regarding the floral display on City Square for the coronation in 1936 – Greenhill Nurseries are contracted to supply listed bulbs in the colours and prices specified – correspondence reveals some firms are unable to cope with the abnormal demand!

KEIGHLEY AREA SEEDSMAN, ORDER BOOK 17D86
With references to customers in Saltaire, Silsden, Bingley, Steeton and seeds purchased for the workhouse 1863-1867

BRADFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, TOWN CLERK, PAPERS REGARDING PEEL PARK 1D82 1851-1864

JOE DICKINSON, GARDENER'S EXPENDITURE BOOK MISC:690/2
Mentions work at various places, including Lynngarth, Ben Rhydding near Ilkley and Willow Lodge, Sowerby Bridge. With medical notes and remedies. 1904-1922

FRANK CRAWSHAW, GARDENER, MARSH LATER PARKS SUPERINTENDANT, COLNE VALLEY UDC, RECORDS KC805
Includes personal papers relating to training, research, work as landscape gardener and local naturalist and Colne Valley Tree Society 1851-1996

BATLEY BOROUGH RECORDS KMT1
Dig for victory campaign material from town clerk's files KMT1/Box 37/TB167 on wartime food production also West Riding Agricultural Education sub-committee cropping plan 1939-1945

RECORDS OF THE BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT, PARKS AND CEMETERIES WMT/PO/5 1920 - 1974
Includes day work books, correspondence regarding bulb, seeds and fencing, trial plots, personnel records and committee reports.

LEEDS CORPORATION AND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERS LLD1/4/36
Includes propaganda material, rules and instructions regarding wartime food production 1916-1918

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And what about?

The weather

The weather has been observed, talked about and recorded in lots of different ways for much longer than 'since records began'. The 'West Yorkshire weather map' at www.nowthen.org includes incidental reporting of extreme weather and where to find regular routine meteorological observation from 1674 onwards! Click on a location pin for a historical weather record, and back on the map to close it. You can zoom out for more locations or use the satellite or terrain views. The map will automatically update as we find new weather references - if you use our records and find any good ones please let us know!

Garden pests

The Yorkshire Conchological Society have been recording slug and snail populations since the 19th century

Garden parties

The first garden party recorded in the WYAS catalogues was held at Calverley Lodge in 1886 (DB6/C36/2). In 1902 a garden party was held at the Bradford Workhouse to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII (42D94/5/2).

Lawnmowers

In 1855 a Leeds blacksmith Thomas Green began to manufacture and innovate in the design of lawnmowers – winning the first lawnmower trial held in London in 1858 – and continued as one of the leading British manufacturers throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

PETER GARNETT OF OTLEY, PAPER MANUFACTURERS, FAMILY PAPERS 10D76/3/182
Diaries include weather, gardening and bee hive observations 1877-1899

HALIFAX BOROUGH COUNCIL, LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT, BELLE VIEW, METEOROLOGY STATION, OBSERVATION BOOKS BV 1892 - 1982

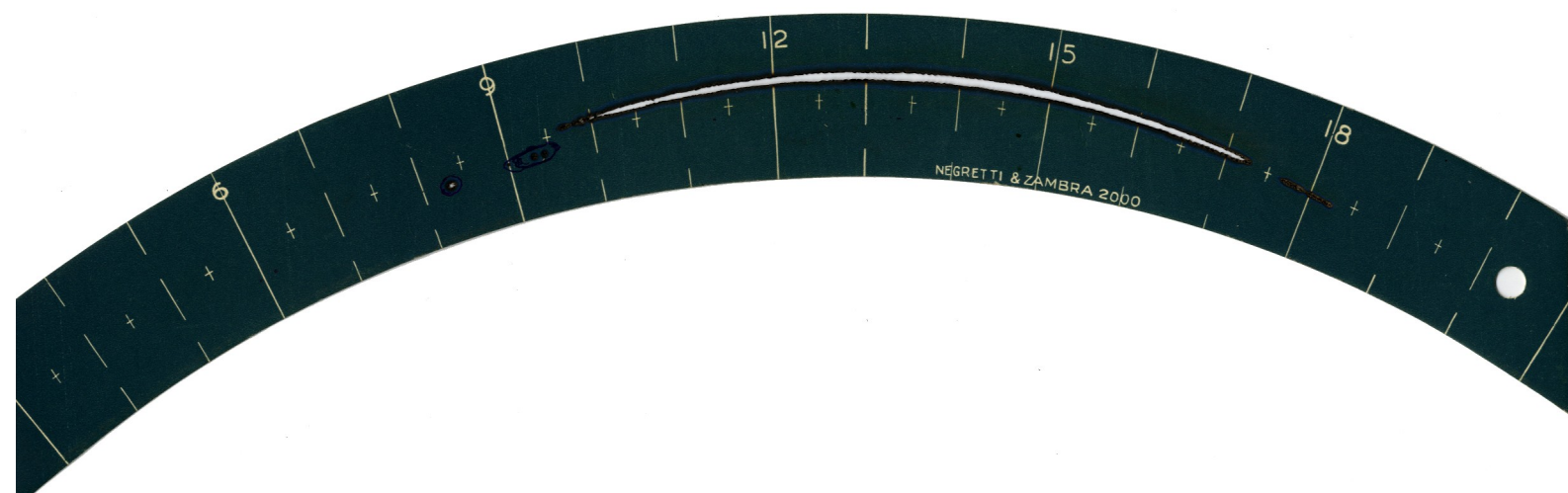
MORRIS BOWER, METEOROLOGIST RECORDS WYK1107 1851-1998 The 'Huddersfield weatherman'

NEWTON, NOWELL SECTION OF THE TOLSON MUSEUM, FAMILY, ESTATE AND PERSONAL PAPERS KC312/13
John Nowell, campaigner for the cottage garden and allotment system, also kept notebooks that included weather records including drawings of cloud formations 1862 - 1869.

WEATHER RECORD BOOKS OF NORMANTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WMT/NO/3/4/4-7
Weather taken daily at Haw Hill Park 1926 - 1949

THOMAS GREEN AND SONS LIMITED, ENGINEERS, LEEDS WYL769 1856 - 1971

YORKSHIRE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WYL825 1863 - 1971



Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder card for 1 August 1963 [WYL67/1/125] taken at Leeds Museum from a collection that covers meteorological station records from 1947 - 1966