

THE SCRIVENER



*The Journal of Calderdale Family History Society
Incorporating Halifax & District*

Volume 195

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CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ABOUT US

Calderdale Family History Society was founded on the 7th March 1985.

We aim

- To encourage interest in, and assist with, research relevant to the study of family history in Halifax and the Calder valley.

Our area

- Covers the modern Calderdale Council established in 1975, which broadly covers the same area as the Ancient Parish of Halifax, with the addition to the west of the township of Todmorden and Walsden.

We do this by

- Holding meetings, usually on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) (Currently, 2026, by Zoom only)
- Publishing *The Scrivener*, a quarterly journal, in paper form for full members and on our website for internet members. Contact the Scrivener Editor.
- Publishing a monthly Newsletter for members who have an email address. Contact the Newsletter Editor.
- Publishing a Facebook page. Contact the Web Administrator.
- Hosting a website www.cfhsweb.com, and a members' forum. Contact the Web Administrator.
- Running projects to transcribe records relevant to members' research. Contact the Projects Co-ordinator.
- Publishing transcribed records. Contact the Publications Officer.
- Providing an enquiry and search service from our records. Contact the Enquiry service Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining a list of members' interests by surname and dates of interest, which are available to members on the website. Each quarter new additions are published in *The Scrivener*. Contact the Members' Interests Co-ordinator.

Membership

- Is open to all family historians who have an interest in the area. Contact the Member-ship Secretary.
- Annual subscriptions are £15.00 for UK individuals (£17.00 for family membership),
- Internet membership is £8.00/ £10.00 which only provides information such as the journal on the Internet, but not on paper.
- Subscriptions are due on the 1st of the month, on the anniversary of joining the Society (cheques made payable to CFHS.) and should be sent to the Treasurer.
- Overseas payments must be made in sterling, drawn on a bank with a branch in the UK, by Sterling Money Order.
- Membership subscriptions may be paid annually by Standing Order:
Account Name : Calderdale FHS **Bank Sort Code** : 30-93-76 **Acc. No.** 01670491
Reference to use : Memb. No. & Surname. (eg 1234Smith)
- Credit Card payments for subscriptions and purchases of our publications may be made over the Internet via Genfair (www.genfair.co.uk).

Contacting the Society

- All correspondence requiring a reply must be accompanied by a S.A.E. Contact the Secretary or appropriate officer.
- The names, addresses and email contacts of the Society's officers and co-ordinators appear inside the back cover of *The Scrivener* and on the Society's website.

CONTENTS

2	CFHS ABOUT US.....	GENERAL
4	COPY DEADLINE DATES.....	GENERAL
4	GENERAL DATA PROTECTION.....	GENERAL
5	EDITORIAL.....	SUSAN GRIFFITH
7	MEMBERS' INTERESTS.....	CHRIS HILEY
7	AGM GENERAL MINUTES.....	DAVID ALLEN
9	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.....	GENERAL
9	AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.....	PETER LORD
13	AGM SECRETARY'S REPORT.....	DAVID ALLEN
15	AGM TREASURER'S REPORT.....	ANNABELLE McGUIRE
20	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM.....	GENERAL
21	CFHS NEW WILLS DATABASE INTRO.....	PETER LORD
21	TRIBUTE TO PETER LORD.....	SUSAN GRIFFITH
21	WELCOME TO KEVIN STEWARD.....	SUSAN GRIFFITH
22	ARTICLE "FROM RICHES TO RAGS".....	DUNCAN MITCHELL
26	COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	ANNABELLE McGUIRE
28	SUMMER MEETINGS (ZOOM ONLY).....	JOHN BARRACLOUGH
30	CFHS WILLS DATABASE.....	PETER LORD
32	CFHS WILLS HOW TO.....	PETER LORD
36	PUBLICATIONS & SERVICES.....	GENERAL
37	USEFUL RESEARCH RESOJRCES.....	GENERAL
38	LOCAL FAIRS & SOCIETIES.....	GENERAL
39	COMMITTEE OFFICERS.....	GENERAL
41	ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX MAP.....	GENERAL

PUBLICATION DATES

AUTUMN 2026 (SEPTEMBER)

WINTER 2026 (DECEMBER)

SPRING 2027 (MARCH)

SUMMER 2027 (JUNE)

COPY DATE DEADLINES

AUGUST 17, 2026

NOVEMBER 9, 2026

FEBRUARY 15, 2027

MAY 17, 2027

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Under the terms and conditions of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) when you join Calderdale Family History Society (CFHS) as a member, or renew your membership, you agree that your personal information will be stored in a retrieval system and saved as a hard copy. A subset of this information is also held, securely, on the CFHS website for the purposes of allowing member access to the Members Only section of the website.

If you decide not to renew your membership, or your membership of CFHS lapses, all your personal information will be deleted from all retrieval systems (electronic or paper hard copy) after up to 24 months of your membership expiring.

You may, at any time, withdraw your consent by contacting CFHS GDPR Controller by E-mailing systems@cfhsweb.com or in writing to the Society Secretary. This may exclude you from the ability to use some of the Society's facilities.

You may view the information that we hold by applying to the Membership Secretary - membsec@cfhsweb.com. You may also view the Society Data Protection Policy and the GDPR Compliance Document by applying to the Secretary - secretary@cfhsweb.com

MEETINGS

CFHS Meetings are now ZOOM only.

Some Meetings and Events now take place virtually, or
are hybrids.

Please check with the organiser if you are unsure.

EDITORIAL

The idea that family success can be fleeting is portrayed well in this Scrivener's article, "From Riches to Rags", by Duncan Mitchell.

And these family narratives are important. An Emory University professor, Dr. Marshall Duke, was intrigued by a statement his wife made one day. She worked with children with learning disabilities and she made the observation that those who knew the most about their families fared better when faced with challenges. He set out to find out if this was true.

He and his colleague, Dr. Robyn Fivush, developed a "Do You Know?" test that consisted of 20 questions: for instance, Do you know where your grandparents grew up? Do you know something terrible that's happened to your family in the past? Do you know where your parents met? Do you know the story of your birth?

In the summer of 2001, they studied 48 children and asked them these questions. The children were tested and interviewed and the results of their exhaustive research came to a powerful and overwhelming conclusion. "The more children knew about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The "Do You Know?" scale turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness."

"We were blown away", said Dr. Duke.

Then the 9/11 attack happened; all of the children in the study were traumatized by that day, but none lost family members. The researchers realized they were given a rare research opportunity to corroborate their initial results. "Once again", Dr. Duke said, "the ones who knew more about their families proved to be more resilient, meaning they could moderate the effects of stress".

Family narratives tend to take one of three forms. The first is the ascending story. "We came to this country with two quid in our pockets and look where we are now". The second is the "riches to rags" story, the descending narrative. "We used to have it all, until your Uncle Harry drank and gambled it all away".

EDITORIAL, CONTINUED

The third form is the oscillating narrative. "We've had our ups and downs, our good times and our bad, but we always pull through". Surprisingly, although the third narrative is the healthiest, any and all narratives contribute to greater resiliency in children.

Since this original study, the same results have been duplicated in test after test. The proof is overwhelming. Why does knowing about your family make such a difference? The children who know a lot about their families have a strong "intergenerational" sense of self. They know they belong to something bigger than themselves, the larger family unit, and this makes them stronger¹.

Family history has many benefits; telling the stories you find, whether they are rags to riches or riches to rags or a combination of both, will make a difference in the lives of family members. The Scrivener just might make for some great bedtime stories.

¹Feller, Bruce, "The Stories That Bind Us" The New York Times, 15 May 2013, <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html>, accessed 15 May 2026.

Susan Griffith
Editor

COVER PICTURE

CFHS's newest project gives us access to a set of Calderdale wills from the mid-1800s to the 20th century. Check the surnames list on pages 38-39 to see if any of your ancestors are included in the new database. Complete instructions are included in this issue of the Scrivener. Happy Hunting!

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

SURNAME	LOCATION	COUNTY	KNOWN	WANTED
EASTWOOD	HALIFAX	WES	1825-1918	1750-1825
BERRY	SOWERBY	WRY		START- 1900

You can find out which member is interested in these names, and how to contact them, by going to the Members' Area on the CFHS web site.

<http://www.cfhsweb.com>

Or contact the Membership Secretary
membsec@cfhsweb.com

CFHS Annual General Meeting Minutes April 23, 2026

38 people attended with apologies from Maureen Wheeler, Jill Denham, Susan Clark

Introduction.

Peter welcomed everyone, and began by saying that this would be his last as Chairman as he would be stepping down as Chairman at the end of the meeting, therefore a slight adjustment had been made to the agenda sequence to avoid the new chairman having to deal with one or two items at the end. He then presented his Chairman report which introduced Kevin Steward as the proposed new Chairman.

The meeting progressed forward with David Allen's Secretary Report and Annabelle McGuire's Treasurers report, all of which can be read in full following this report.

Ann Wilkinson presented the results of her Security Report which noted that all officers were using their own private facilities to conduct Society business, but that suitable operating systems and virus protections were in place.

Re-electing of officers:

All voting results were passed with the necessary 2/3 majority.

David Allen was re-elected as Secretary. The newly nominated Treasurer Rob Varley was elected, and Chris Hiley was re-elected as Membership Secretary.

Other members of the committee had all indicated their willingness to stand for re-election with the exception of Eileen Connolly who had stepped down part way through the year. All were re-elected.

The re-election of the Auditor had to be deferred to forthcoming meetings, as the current one had indicated that he no longer wished to continue in that role.

AGM MINUTES, continued

Constitution Amendment.

It had been proposed that an amendment to the constitution be adopted as regards the refusal or termination of membership. This was fully discussed and accepted with the required majority. Again, the proposal can be read in full following this report.

Introduction of Kevin Steward, new Chairman nominee.

At this point, Peter verbally introduced Kevin Steward as the proposed new chairman, giving a background to his business experience and his interest in Genealogy. Although not directly connected to Calderdale, he does have links with Lincolnshire FHS, whilst living in the London area. His election was carried. The meeting then moved on to the awarding of the Society's annual awards.

Margaret Walker Award

Winner Annabelle McGuire for her article: "Betty Elizabeth Hey, Nee Firth, A Life In The Calder Valley"

Citation: 'In this article, Annabelle has written beautifully of the life of Betty Hey Firth, her third great grandmother. Betty was in many ways an ordinary woman, yet also an extraordinary one. She exhibited great courage by standing up for her rights in a day when women were often unprotected in Society. We probably all have ancestors like Betty, but whose stories are unknown, because they were so 'ordinary'. Thanks to Annabelle, Betty's story has now been told, a great example for all of us family historians.

Sutcliffe Away Members Award

Winner Karen Hawkes:

Citation: Karen has been an indefatigable member of the Transcription team for the projects that we have run over the past 12 months. Her contribution has not only been to transcribing and validating, but also to the final, important aspect of overall vetting prior to addition to the Society Database,

Sutcliffe Home Member Award

Winner Chris Hiley:

Citation: Although living near Wigan, technically Chris is not a Home Member, he is essentially a part of the main 'Home' team in that he has been an ever present on the Committee for a number of years, and has been doing probably the most complex and time consuming individual role in the Society since he took over from Susan Clarke, that of Membership Secretary. Additionally, this year he has taken on an extra responsibility for handling the Genfair orders for the Society and also processing any cheque payments that we receive, no easy task now that our bank, Lloyds, have closed many branches and no longer allow the Post Office to accept payments into their accounts.

Any other business:

There being no issues raised, the formal meeting then closed before a short presentation given by Peter Lord regards asking what do we want and expect from our society.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

An amendment was proposed to the CFHS Constitution to clarify the circumstances in which the Committee may refuse or terminate a membership. The current clause is broad and does not explain the types of conduct that may lead to such a decision.

Motion: That the Society amend the Constitution by replacing the current membership termination clause with the following wording at 2 below:

Clause 4.6: Membership Refusal or Termination.

1. **Current wording:** "The Committee may refuse or terminate the Membership of any person."
2. **Proposed wording:** "The Committee may refuse or terminate the Membership of any person. The Society will maintain a formal procedure for membership refusal and termination, including an appeals process."

The revised wording introduces examples of behaviours that could justify action — such as breaching Society rules, misusing resources, failing to pay fees, or causing reputational harm. These examples are illustrative rather than exhaustive, and they help ensure that decisions are made fairly, consistently, and transparently. This change strengthens governance, supports procedural fairness, and helps most importantly to protect the Society from legal, financial, and reputational risks. It also gives members clearer expectations about their responsibilities and the standards required to maintain a safe, respectful, and well-functioning community. It is good governance practice to periodically review and update the Constitution to ensure it remains clear, relevant, and fit for purpose. This change forms part of that healthy, ongoing process of keeping our governing documents up to date.

The motion was passed at the AGM and the CFHS constitution has been amended.

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT

Members – What do you want from Calderdale FHS?

Peter began by reminding us that the committee had asked that there be a slight increase in subscription fees, and that Annabelle our previous treasurer had explained the rationale behind that in the March issue of the Scrivener.

There were four main elements which had been discussed by the committee which Peter outlined, before examining the fourth one in more depth.

Members, What do you want from Calderdale FHS?

- 1) Provision of Data
- 2) Level of Cost
- 3) Exchange of Views and Experiences
- 4) Regular Monthly Meetings and Talks

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, continued

1. Data is offered via the Transcription Index, the Online Database and by Downloadable products via Genfair. The amount of Data which we offer is mainly down to the efforts of our Transcription team, and is probably why we have many of our members.

2. The Level of Cost – This is trying to match what we ask you to pay with what we can offer in terms of what might not be obvious. The research tools which we offer include “No charge” access to monthly meetings, Quarterly Journals (The Scrivener) and monthly Newsletters, Members’ Interests, Interactive Forum where members can communicate with each other and ask questions, and a “Search Facility” where you can access data if you are unsure as to how to access data through other means. All these allow you to further your research without an increase in your annual membership.

3. The Exchanging of Views and Experiences is one which the committee feel is important as it enables members to easily exchange questions with each other no matter where in the world, they are. This is important, because it offers an excellent opportunity for members with a common interest in Calderdale to further their research.

The first avenue under this heading is The Scrivener & Monthly Newsletter. As well as society members offering transcriptions of the monthly talks for publication in The Scrivener, the magazine also offers the opportunity for members to submit short articles for publication, as well as asking for help in their research. In a similar way, Members’ interests offers the chance for members to ask if there are other members seeking information about the same names as you are. The Forum on the members area of the Society’s Website allows simple interaction with other members which is moderated by one of the society members to ensure that you get the maximum benefit. The “Search” facility allows you to enquire as to how to get the most benefit from using the database, or interacting with other members.

Regular monthly meetings allow for talking and exchanging of views. For several reasons, the decision was taken recently to limit these to Zoom only, and whilst it was recognised that not everyone would be happy sitting in front of a computer screen, at least it opened up the meetings to people not living local to Halifax and also to those living overseas. To cater for those who can’t attend the original meeting, recordings of the meeting are shown at alternative timings as well as trying to cater for Overseas members.

As well as our monthly meetings, bi-monthly meetings are organised by two of our overseas members. These are primarily for overseas members, and don’t necessarily follow those of the Halifax meetings, but do offer the opportunity to hear of different experiences. Nevertheless, UK members are more than welcome to attend to see what they may learn or indeed offer.

The main purpose of this talk is to explain about our projects, including:

- Why we do them
- What kinds of projects do we consider
- The criteria that has to be satisfied
- The stages that we have to go through to complete each project

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, continued

1) They provide the main thing that our members want, i.e. free access to the records of Calderdale residents.

2) We need to keep adding information to keep members interested from records more than one hundred years old.

3) They provide many pieces of data about individuals, not just themselves, but also potentially about relatives, important dates in their lives etc.

2) With regard to what kind of projects we consider, it is primarily what you, the members, ask us for. We tend to look out for "niche" and projects that are unattractive to the commercials. We also want to try and avoid simple lists. These lists of names and dates are more attractive to the commercials who can do them more quickly than we can, even if the quality is poorer.

3) The criteria to be satisfied is neither mandatory nor exhaustive but includes the following:

a) That it is data that is useful to our members. This is subjective, but we have a good idea what will be useful.

b) Data volume. The best projects are those which provide not just a lot of names, but also a lot of information about each one.

c) Those which are unattractive to the commercials, as we can consider sources which include multiple data sources

d) To try and fit with our existing databases. Although this is not prohibitive, if a project does not fit within our existing databases, then we would have to seek the development of a new table with attendant development costs, which obviously we would prefer not to have. Our commercial developer would have to be involved here and would make a significant charge for such work. Therefore, any such project and work would have to be justified as to the information provided.

e) Time and cost is a factor. Cost has just been mentioned, but time also needs to be considered, as transcription team members may not want to be bogged down in the same time-consuming project. Also, this may lead to long periods of time between the release of new information to our website, although this may be mitigated by 'drip feeding' information to the website such as was done with the Brighouse Cemetery project.

The stages of a project are: - Determination & Approval, Preparation, Operation, Conclusion & finally Implementation. Once a project has been decided upon, subject to the above criteria, approval is then sought from the committee. Preparation starts with seeking the owner of the records eg WYAS permission. It is likely that approval will have been given in the previous stage, but permissions still need to be obtained. Quite often, WYAS will be the holders of such records, but will have to seek the permission of the owners of these records for transcription on our behalf.

We then have to obtain the original documents to enable the photographing of them which can be time consuming. It is typical that c1,000 photos can be taken in one day. These photos have then to be compiled into manageable files for sending to the members of the transcription team. The project leader then has to decide what data is to be transcribed. For example, when transcribing the Workhouse records, it was found that several people entered and left multiple times. Therefore it was decided that only the first entry date and the last exit date would be recorded.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, continued

Sometimes, some of the information may not fit specifically into the existing data fields, such as the name of a clergyman officiating at a wedding, and a decision needs to be made as to whether such information can be included in the all-encompassing 'notes' field.

The final stage of the process is the setting up of the guidelines & administration of the project so that the sending out of files to members of the transcription team can be easily tracked, and also to try and ensure a consistent approach by each member. The final step is to recruit team members, usually by contacting those who partook in the last project. In the main, they usually wish to be part of the new one, meaning that each project usually comprises 20 – 30 volunteers.

Moving on to the operation, a file is sent to each transcriber consisting of the guidelines and a blank transcription form along with a photo of the data to be transcribed. This is in the form of an MS Xcel file. The transcriber then completes the file and returns it to the project leader. The length of time taken depends principally on the size of the file, the amount of information to be transcribed and the amount of time each transcriber can give to the project. Other factors also come into play such as the ease (or not) of reading and deciphering the information presented.

Once returned, the file is then sent to a different team member for validation. When the validated file is returned, there then has to be a query resolution for any outstanding problems. Sometimes, this can result in the updating of the guidelines. However, it is impossible to read the original image, and so a protocol is adopted to show this in the final offering.

At the completion of all these stages, the project can be concluded. All the individual working files are merged into one file which has further validation checks such as the mis-keying of dates such as 1489 for 1849.

The final step is to add the information to the Master Database. This can often throw up errors which have been missed, enable further corrections and therefore ensure that the information which we hold on our master database is clean data. This information has then to be implemented. Data is extracted from the Master databases which is then passed onto our Webmaster who uploads the information onto the relevant tables on our online database. The first uploading is done onto a test system which is parallel to our website which shows that the uploading has been done correctly as well as throwing up any final errors. Once the Webmaster is sure that all is well, he uploads it onto our live system. All that remains then is to update our website to add new data information and advise the membership.

As well as advising the above via the Newsletter, information is also given as to the availability of information which hasn't been transcribed. Data is also passed to Find My Past for uploading to their systems so that we can receive royalties for each enquiry.

In conclusion, we have to decide if it's worthwhile if producing a downloadable system is required. This is done via a company called Genfair whose current system for this work is not as easy as in the past, and therefore is being looked at to try and ease this work.

We are open to suggestions from the membership as to what projects you would like us to do, and what subjects you would like to be covered in our monthly talks. Any suggestions can be made to projects@cfhs.com.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year has been a testing one for me personally as not only had I never filled a position such as this before, but my computer skills were/are somewhat lacking to say the least, and so I'd like to give grateful thanks to Peter for helping me with several issues which have cropped up over the last twelve months, and also to my committee colleagues for their patience with me when they haven't perhaps received messages and documents as and when they should have.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank my predecessor Margaret Smith for her several years of service as the Society's Secretary, and the help she gave when I first started, and also her help and advice in getting ready for this meeting.

Looking forward, thanks should again be given to Peter, for his years of unstinting service in various official positions, and although he has indicated his willingness to remain as a committee member, he will as I'm sure most of you will know, be resigning his position as Chairman at the end of this meeting. After much discussion in committee and work by Peter, a potential replacement has been found in Kevin Steward, who will be introduced to you later in the meeting when you will have the opportunity to show your approval, (or not)

Thanks should also be given to Annabelle McGuire, our Treasurer for the last twelve months, who took over in somewhat trying circumstances on the premise that it would only be for one year. Therefore after this meeting, Annabelle will be resigning her position as Treasurer, and also her position on the committee.

Fortunately, a new treasurer (Rob Varley) has been found, and proposed by Peter, and subject to all your agreements in a vote later, will be formally appointed as Annabelle's successor. So, fingers crossed, welcome Rob to your new position and appointment.

As far as the rest of the committee are concerned, all current incumbents have indicated their willingness to carry on fulfilling their roles, and again, subject to your later votes and agreement, will be re-elected to serve yourselves in the coming twelve months. Eileen Connolly resigned her position part way through the year for personal reasons, and so we have a vacancy on the Committee if anyone would like to volunteer please do so, although we can at the moment continue to operate.

Membership numbers during the last year:-

Local - 69
Away - 261
Overseas - 60
Family Internet - 21
Family UK - 21
Single Internet - 190
Single Overseas - 5
Single UK - 153
Total = 390

As of last year, there were 401 members so this year shows a slight reduction of 11.

The other main topic of interest to you all, has been that of the question of subscription fees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

During committee discussions, it has become apparent that the society hasn't had a subscription increase for several years. In that time, as you will all be aware, inflation has gone through the roof, and your society and committee have continued to absorb cost increases, but unfortunately, this approach is no longer sustainable. Therefore, your committee have decided

That an increase from £12 to £15 per annum from June 1st 2026 is necessary for ordinary members and from £6 to £8 per annum for Internet Members.

This is to cover such increases as insurance, Scrivener production and distribution etc. Annabelle will be giving more details in her report later.

At last year's meeting, it was suggested that perhaps the Society should consider an update and refresh of the Society's Home Screen on the website. During the course of the year, enquiries were made as to cost, and because it was deemed not to be cost effective as regards attracting more new members and ease of use etc. your committee decided not to proceed with this topic.

During the course of the past year, perhaps the most important and outstanding occurrence was that of the celebrating of the 40th anniversary of the founding of our Society.

Eileen Connelly did sterling work in organising a get together at Shibden Hall in May, which was well attended, and thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. So many thanks to Eileen for her work in this endeavour. We also attended the Huddersfield Family History Society open day to promote the Society locally.

Project work has been steady throughout the year and several projects have been completed and uploaded to the Society's website as well as being passed onto Find My Past for general online research, from which your society receives a gratuity for each enquiry. The main and biggest one was the completion of transcribing Brighouse Cemetery MI's, this involving the transcription and addition to our online database of 11,936 records.

Other projects completed were:- Shibden Tenants, 2833 records added to the Miscellaneous section of the database, Calderdale Wills which indexed entries from the Borthwick Institute for Calderdale Wills, 4031 records added to the Miscellaneous section. Additional records for Bolton Brow, Sowerby Bridge Chapel were also added to our MI Database. A small project transcribing details from the Halifax Butchers WW1 memorial containing 124 records was also added to the Online Database. Burial records from Bank Top Southowram Chapel were also added to the Online Database this month. Finally, in cooperation with Friends of Lister Lane burial details of 19,722 people are now on our Online Database and available for members to search for Lister Lane.

Projects in progress are Halifax Mills records, with two sets of records from the late 19th/early 20th century in the process of being transcribed, with the

SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

possibility of another 10 mills to be done. Calderdale Wills-a further opportunity to expand our records on this topic with a source provided by a Huddersfield Solicitor currently being assessed for possible transcription.

Looking forward as regards our project work, in line with Peter's wishes to reduce his workload, Ann Wilkinson has volunteered to possibly take over from him as Project Co-ordinator in the future and is currently working alongside Peter on the Mills Project to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to be able to do so. So thank you Ann for coming forward in this regard.

Another important progression during the course of this year has been the strengthening of our overseas branch.

This has so far been successful because of the hard work and commitment of Susan Griffith based in Virginia and Catherine Cruikshank based in Wisconsin who have been working together to promote CFHS in North America and Australasia. Their online talks and meetings don't necessarily follow those of our own from Halifax, so any of you who may have emigrant ancestors may find it of interest to join their meetings. You will however, have to get up earlier in the morning to participate because of time differentials. So thanks to both of them as regards their work in this endeavour.

As well as her work in this regard, Susan also took over as editor of the Scrivener part way through the year from Frances Stubbs, who resigned her position for a well deserved retirement. Thanks to both of them for their work producing an interesting magazine.

Finally, thanks must also be given to Pam Newby, Susan Clarke and John Barraclough. Pam and Susan for their work in producing the Newsletter and uploading it to our website, and John for his work in finding and arranging speakers for our meetings.

At the end of the formal meeting, a few words were spoken by John Barraclough congratulating Peter on his long service to the Society and the Committee. Therefore, he presented a Silver Salver to Peter, suitably inscribed to reflect this, and also announced that he had been awarded the post of Honorary President. Accepting the award, Peter thanked everyone for their support over the years, and that the only precedent for the award of Honorary President was to Barry Crossley, who had founded the Society in 1985.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Opening Statement

I stepped into the role of Treasurer after the last AGM in 2025, when the position became vacant, and the Society needed someone to ensure the accounts continued to be managed properly. I agreed to take on the role until the AGM in April 2026. I'm pleased to report that both I and the accounts have survived the experience, and with that commitment now fulfilled, I will be standing down at the close of this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT, continued

As I joined partway through the year, I did not set the budgets for 2025/26, and I was not a member of the Committee during 2024/25. All work undertaken this year has been carried out in line with Society procedures, and the figures presented in this report are based on the Society's audited accounts.

2. Financial Health

Overall, the Society's financial position is both stable and healthy, with no significant concerns or red flag areas identified.

2.1 Cash Summary: 2025/26 vs 2024/25

Cash Summary	2025/26	2024/25
Balance Brought Fwd.	£10,933.04	£10,716.19
Cash at Bank - Current	£339.37	£268.85
Cash at Bank - Deposit MCA	£5,124.06	£5,000.00
Cash at Bank - Deposit Lloyds	£4,016.52	£5,644.19
Amounts not yet presented	£0.00	£0.00
Cash in Hand	£0.00	£20.00
Balance Carried Fwd.	£9,479.95	£10,933.04

At year-end, the Society held total cash reserves of **£9,479.95**, compared with **£10,933.04** last year. This reduction reflects the planned investment in IT work. Society funds remain securely held across current and deposit accounts, with the majority retained in interest bearing deposits to support long-term stability. All accounts are reconciled, with no outstanding payments or cash in hand. The Society continues to maintain a healthy financial position, with reserves at a level that supports both ongoing commitments and future development.

Any recommendations in this report are minor and simply reflect no more than the observations of the outgoing Treasurer. It will be for the incoming Treasurer, working alongside the 2026/27 Committee, to review these points and decide whether any adjustments or actions are required.

2.2 Financial sustainability

The Society maintains a healthy operating reserve that is sufficient to absorb unexpected shortfalls. This reserve provides stability and helps ensure that essential activities can continue uninterrupted. The Committee may wish to establish a reserves policy to ensure it continues to reflect current operating needs and forthcoming plans.

2.3 Income - see Income Table at section 4 below.

Income for 2025/26 totalled **£5,292.01**, a decrease of **£690.96** compared with the previous year. The reduction is primarily due to lower membership income and fewer Pay Per View (PPV) orders.

Publication sales also fell slightly, while donations increased modestly. Bank interest rose again this year, continuing to provide a helpful boost to unrestricted funds. No grant income or compensation payments were received this year, in contrast to the one off Lloyds Bank payment in 2024/25.

Overall, the Society remains financially stable, but the downward trend in core income streams underlines the importance of the Committee's ongoing work on member engagement, subscription changes, and value-added activities.

Membership fees were reviewed during the year to determine if they continue to cover core costs. This review demonstrated that a rise in membership subscriptions was justified, and appropriate action has been taken. *It may be useful for the Committee to and identify emerging trends.monitor subscription income over the coming year to assess the impact of the new ratesand identify emerging trends.*

Some members have renewed their subscriptions at the new rate even though these do not come into effect until 1st June. We thank members for enacting the change and will gratefully accept the overpayment. Unless members wish it to be used as a reduction for the 2027/28 year. *If this is the case, then please let the Membership Secretary know.*

Royalty income for the period January 2025 to January 2026 amounted to **£1,548.21**, derived from usage of the various datasets on FindMyPast (FMP). Income continues to come from a broad spread of collections, with the strongest contributions from Yorkshire Baptisms and Marriages transcriptions. During the year the Society submitted a further 215,187 records to FMP which are entries for their National Burial Index (NBI). These are expected to go live shortly and, although they do not contribute to the current year's income, they represent a significant addition to published material and have the potential to increase future royalty income once they are in use. *Once the newly submitted records go live, it may be helpful to review royalty income trends to support future budgeting.*

2.4 Expenditure - see Expenditure table at section 5 below.

This year's expenditure totalled **£6,745.10**, compared with **£5,766.12** last year. The increase is largely due to the Societies continued investment in IT work, which remains essential to keeping systems reliable, secure, and accessible for members, and reflects our transforming world. This work supports everything from online searches to digital publications, and although it represents a significant cost, it is central to the Society's long-term resilience.

The Societies core activities remain steady. Scrivener production and postage costs are broadly in line with previous years, and meeting costs have reduced slightly thanks to careful planning. Speaker fees increased this year, reflecting the Societies commitment to offering engaging, high-quality talks for members (and rising prices).

A few smaller areas saw modest changes: insurance costs were incurred, officer expenses rose slightly, and bank charges were higher. These remain manageable and well within expectations. Other routine costs, such as Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) membership and fair attendance, stayed consistent.

Overall, the Society remains in a sound financial position. Spending continues to reflect Society priorities: supporting members, maintaining Society publications, investing in digital infrastructure, and ensuring the smooth running of the Society.

A periodic review, for example annually, of recurring expenditure would be beneficial to identify any potential efficiencies or savings. Furthermore, as IT work represents a significant proportion of annual expenditure, the Committee may wish to review future requirements and ensure planned work aligns with long-term priorities.

2.5 Record-keeping and financial processes

Internal checks and an audit were carried out by the Systems Coordinator to confirm that current processes are up to date and fit for purpose.

To support transparency, continuity, and ease of access, it may be helpful for the Society to store all financial documents — such as bank statements, receipts, and invoices — electronically in a central location. Doing so can make record keeping more straightforward and help future audits run more smoothly, including those carried out remotely.

2.6 Budgeting and forward planning

The budget is reviewed at each Committee meeting, ensuring that decisions are informed by up-to-date financial information. This approach is working effectively.

2.7 Risk management

The Society has minimised cash handling, with only one cash transaction taking place this year. Prioritising electronic payments reduces risk, improves traceability, and supports accurate record-keeping. Perhaps the Treasurer of 1996 would be astounded, but the Treasurer of 2026 is delighted.

2.8 Access to Lloyds Bank accounts

It may be beneficial for the Committee to review the current access permissions for the Lloyds bank accounts, to ensure they remain appropriate, secure, and aligned with present roles. Periodic checks of access arrangements can help maintain strong financial oversight.

3. Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Society's financial work over the past year. Appreciation goes to the Chairman for his support and his exceptional accounts spreadsheet. To the Systems Coordinator for carrying out the internal checks and audit, ensuring Society processes remain robust and transparent. Peter Lord's contribution (in both these roles) has been extraordinary, and I take my hat off to him. I imagine his wife Susan may also be quietly celebrating the possibility of seeing a little more of him — and a little less of Society paperwork.

My thanks also go to the Membership Secretary for managing subscription renewals with such care, especially during the transition to the new rates.

I am highly appreciative of the Society external auditor who has undertaken a sterling job auditing the accounts for the first time. Plus, a huge welcome to the Societies incoming Treasurer, Rob Varley, who will (subject to voting) be stepping into the role of Treasurer. Rob, I promise the handover notes are clear, the accounts are reconciled, and nothing is on fire.

I am grateful to the whole Committee for their ongoing support, thoughtful oversight, and commitment to maintaining the Society's financial stability. Finally, my thanks to all members for your continued engagement and for the goodwill shown throughout the year — including those who renewed early at the new subscription rate. Your support underpins everything the Society does.

TREASURER'S REPORT, continued

4. Income Table: 2025/26 vs 2024/25

Income	2025/26	2024/25
Membership	£3,274.89	£3,602.77
Publications	£311.38	£409.27
Donations	£135.00	£72.73
Bank Interest	£156.10	£116.83
Misc. Income	£0.00	£0.00
PPV Fees	£1,412.25	£1,716.37
Grant Income	£0.00	£0.00
Transfers	£0.00	£0.00
Search Fees	£2.39	£0.00
Lloyds Compensation	£0.00	£65.00
TOTAL	£5,292.01	£5,982.97

5. Expenditure Table: 2025/26 vs 2024/25

Expenditure	2025/26	2024/25
Scrivener Production	£1,110.00	£1,136.00
Scrivener Postage	£634.74	£574.76
Officer Expenses	£36.35	£5.00
Meeting Costs	£458.00	£591.88
Speaker Fees	£520.00	£305.00
Publication Purchase	£0.00	£0.00
Other Publication Costs	£0.00	£0.00
Reprographics	£0.00	£0.00
Insurance	£152.00	£0.00
FFHS Membership	£152.00	£152.00
Members Interests	£0.00	£0.00
Other Postage	£0.00	£0.00
Fair Costs	£30.00	£30.00
Other Costs	£0.00	£0.00
Stationery Provision	£2.00	£0.00
IT Work	£3,460.09	£2,856.00
Project Costs	£30.00	£0.00
Search Expenses	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Charges	£69.92	£4.75
Gift Vouchers	£90.00	£90.00
Capital Expenditure	£0.00	£0.00
Raffle Expenses	£0.00	£20.73
TOTAL	£6,745.10	£5,766.12

Calderdale Family History Society

Incorporating Halifax and District

Application for Membership – “Single Use” membership only



NAME: _____ Tel. No. _____

ADDRESS:

House Number & Street _____

District _____

Town _____

County _____ Country _____

Post Code _____ E-Mail: _____

Circle or cross out if a New Member or a Renewal New Member / Renewal

Age Range (Optional) Under 25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 Over 75

What encouraged you to join ? _____

Methods of Payment.

Preferred - by Bank Transfer or via www.genfair.co.uk if by credit card.

Account Name: Calderdale FHS; Sort Code 30-93-76; Account. No. 01670491

Please include in the reference your name & initial & Memb. No. if a renewal (eg J Smith1234)

Alternative – By cheque, payable to Calderdale FHS & included with this Application Form.

Return this form to Chris Hiley, CFHS Membership Secretary - 53 Brandreth Drive, Parbold, WIGAN, WN8 7HB – alternatively, it may be scanned & sent to membsec@cfhsweb.com

If you do not have access to a printer, you may download this form from the Society website www.cfhsweb.com The option to use is Application Form.doc. You may then complete it electronically & attach it to an E-Mail to membsec@cfhsweb.com

I have read the GDPR notes below & consent to the conditions Signature _____

Membership Fees	Individual	Family
UK MEMBERSHIP	£15.00	£17.00
INTERNET ¹ (including Overseas Membership)	£8.00	£10.00

All subscriptions are due by the last day of the anniversary month of joining.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - how the Society keep & use your personal data.

By completing & signing this application/renewal for membership, you are consenting to Calderdale FHS holding your personal data in the following ways :-

Personal data provided by each member to us is held in 3 places :-

- Full details given on the Membership Application Form are held on a secure, passworded database. Only 4 officers have access to it.
- A sub-set of this information - Title, Surname, Forename & E-mail address - is held as part of the Society's website to allow privileged access to Members' Only information. Four officers have access to it.
- Also on the Society website, as part of the Members' Interests data, is held the E-Mail address of any member who submits their Interests. This is accessible by any member with a Username & password to allow them access to the Members' Only area of the website.
- Society procedures are compliant with all relevant aspects of the GDPR.
- If you decide not to renew your membership, or your membership of CFHS lapses, all your personal information will be deleted from all retrieval systems (electronic or paper hard copy) after up to 24 months of your membership expiring.
- You may, at any time, withdraw your consent by contacting CFHS Membership Secretary. This may limit your access to some of the Society's facilities. You may also view what data is held by contacting the Membership Secretary at membsec@cfhsweb.com.

¹ Please note that INTERNET membership provides access to the Quarterly Magazine and all other information from our Members Website only, not on paper.

NEW CALDERDALE WILLS DATA

New Data on the Online Database.

This month has seen the addition of some exciting new data from wills for Calderdale people from the mid 19th century through to later times, some as late as the 1950s.

There are 604 individual entries for 173 different surnames. These surnames will be listed in a later article in this Scrivener, so if you are lucky enough to be researching someone who has the same surname as one from our wills, you may be able to find some fascinating information not available from anywhere else. Some of the earlier records feature details from marriage settlements & the level of money involved can give you an idea of what was involved. Please see the article entitled, "**More Calderdale Wills to help your research**", page 37.

As well as the list of **surnames on page 38**, there will be details later in this Scrivener about how to get the best out of these records & give fascinating insight into the various family relationships. Please see the article entitled, "**How to get the best out of the new Wills records on the OLDB**" on page 39.

The records are in the sub-section "Wills" in the Miscellaneous table on the Online Database &, like all other records, can be accessed via the Transcription Index.

TRIBUTE TO PETER LORD, HONORARY PRESIDENT

We wish to thank outgoing Chairman Peter Lord for his decades of excellent service to our Society. Peter worked long and hard to make this Society successful, and we can attribute much of what the Society has become to his tireless work ethic and his vision. His insight and leadership will be greatly missed, but we are grateful that he is still working with us in the capacity of Projects Co-ordinator. We would also like to thank his wife, Susan Lord, for supporting Peter in his Chairman capacity. We know that she often bore the brunt of his many hours of service. Hats off to this wonderful couple. They have left a lasting legacy within the Calderdale Family History Society.

AND WELCOME TO NEW CHAIRMAN, KEVIN STEWARD

We are happy to have as our new chairman, Kevin Steward. Kevin comes to us from the London area, where he has been a member of the Lincolnshire Family History Society. Kevin is an avid genealogist and is eager to help us move forward with continued improvements. We are grateful for his willingness to serve and we want you to know, Kevin, that we will do all we can to support you in your new role. We are looking forward to working with you.

FROM RICHES TO RAGS

I never knew Mary Elizabeth Hanson, my paternal grandmother. She died in 1933 at the age of 33, apparently after contracting an infection following a visit to the dentist to have a complete set of false teeth fitted – not an uncommon procedure at the time. One of my father's abiding childhood memories was, as a seven year old, seeing her body laid out in a coffin in the front parlour at Lytham Street, Halifax. Thank heavens that is one tradition which has largely disappeared – it's hard to imagine how traumatic that must have been.

Mary with husband Ernest in the 1920s



Mary was from very humble stock indeed. Her father, Tom Hanson, started life as a miner before becoming a school caretaker. Her mother Rebecca was 45 when she had Mary, though 11 years previously she had had another daughter, Annie, out of wedlock. Her grandparents Abraham and Elizabeth were also both born illegitimately, and Abraham had worked at a quarry in Siddal, Halifax. Certainly her recent family were very much from the humbler echelons of society. But...

Go back as far as Mary's 12x great grandfather, and we find that he was a man called John Hanson, a member of the Hanson family of Rastrick. Records of this branch of the Hansons go back to the 13th century, and in the 16th century when John was alive they were a solidly, comfortably off family of yeomen farmers. Now the Hansons may have married for love, but they were also not averse to marriages which improved their social standing, and in the first half of the 16th century John had married Agnes Savile of New Hall, Elland.

New Hall Elland

At that time the Saviles were a very powerful and influential family indeed, not just at a local level but also nationally, so this would have been a very good marriage for the Hanson clan. As an example, Agnes's brother Henry (later Sir Henry) had three sons who all rose to prominence: John, who nationally was Baron of the Exchequer, and locally helped to fund Heath School; Henry, who became Proctor of Merton College Oxford and taught Greek to Elizabeth I; and Thomas, who succeeded his brother at Merton. Big hitters all of them. A quick aside on New Hall – it is still standing, and in the 1970s was bought by Con Cluskey, of The Bachelors pop group.

However, back to Rastrick. When John Hanson died in 1554 (wife Agnes had died earlier), he passed down much of his land and money to his eldest son, another John. There's a lot more to say about him below. My grandmother Mary descends from Thomas, John and Agnes's second son and her 11x great grandfather. He too inherited money and land from his father, and lived in one of the Hanson family homes, Rastrick Hall. Thomas also married well, to Janet, one of the Gledhills of Little Even, an offshoot of the powerful Gledhills of Barkisland.

There is another intriguing twist to this tale. In 2007, the British Library came into possession of a 50 page manuscript dating back to the first Elizabethan age. It was given to them by the Stanhope family of Barnsley, whose ancestors were neighbours of the Hansons in Rastrick. It is a very unusual document in that it was not written by a historian, or member of the clergy, but by a prosperous yeoman farmer. After investigation, the author of this remarkable document was proved to be none other than John, the eldest son of John Hanson and Agnes Savile mentioned above.

As mentioned, John inherited much of his father's worldly goods, and was able to live a very comfortable life at Woodhouse, Rastrick, which also still exists – see photo below. As well as being a successful yeoman farmer, he was Constable of Rastrick in 1559 and again in 1580. It is thought that he also did some work as a scrivener, writing out legal documents for the great and good of Elizabethan society. He eventually died in 1599 and was buried at Elland St Mary church. His most enduring legacy, though, has to be the 50 page manuscript which remained hidden in the possession of the Stanhopes for over 400 years.

The manuscript is bound in vellum, and its contents vary from the mundane to the extraordinary. Let's start with the everyday stuff. John wrote down several fairly complicated recipes for making stink bait, which sounds delightful but was apparently used very successfully for catching fish, particularly perch and pike. Ingredients included wheat meal, sesame, fennel and goats liver. Disgusting stuff, but it seems that the fish liked it.

John also wrote instructions on how to make your own ink. He produced recipes for many colours, including black, green, vermilion and yellow, as well as a form of invisible ink.

Woodhouse, Rastrick

Moving on to historical events, John laboriously copied out two versions of the story of the 14th century Elland feud (between the Eland and Beaumont families), one in prose, and another in ballad form. He also wrote many eulogies for prominent citizens of the day, including a fulsome one in praise of his uncle Sir Henry Savile, who had died in 1558.

Now on to some quite astonishing documents; the first is a lengthy poem entitled 'Now leave and Let Me Rest', part of which is shown below, and which is widely thought to have been written by Queen Elizabeth herself.

The first verse reads as follows:

Nowe leave and let me Rest
Dame pleasure be Content
Go chuse amongst the beste
my dotying Dayes be spent
By sundrye signes I se
Thy profferes are but vayne
And wysdom warneth me
that pleasure asketh payn

In the interests of accuracy, it should be said that modern historians have cast some doubt on the authorship of the poem, pointing out that it seems to have been written by an older person who wants to pursue a less vigorous lifestyle, an image which it is unlikely that Elizabeth I wanted to project.

Perhaps even more remarkable is John's transcription of two hitherto lost ballads written about the failed Spanish Armada of 1588. Part of one of them is transcribed below:

Gyve eare awhyle good people all
bothe younge and olde yea great and small
and unto yowe Declare I shall
Ryght Joyfull newes from London
the Nyententh of November Last
when al the Spanyshe feare was past
I sawe the people hying fast
To everye church in London

A final genealogical point concerning John Hanson. According to virtually all paper and online pedigrees, John's birth is given as 1517, although I have never seen anything which corroborates this date. Personally, I think it is too early. The earliest that John could have written his manuscript is 1589 (the ballad above refers to the Armada of 1588 as being the previous year), which would have put him in his seventies. The writing above shows a firm, steady Secretary Hand; certainly not that of an old man. John was an adult in 1546 (he received land from his father then, but was still unmarried), and I think that his birth was probably sometime in the mid 1520s.

So there we have it. There's an old chestnut in genealogy that most people will have ancestors who have both scaled the heights and plumbed the depths. I'm certain that my grandmother Mary would have been astonished to learn of her illustrious forebears. Thankfully I was able to tell her son (and my dad) about his before he died.

If anyone wants to delve more deeply into John Hanson's manuscript, there is a book available called *Ink, Stink Bait, Revenge, and Queen Elizabeth* by Steven W May and Arthur F Marotti, published by Cornell University Press. To be honest, it's very academic and a bit of a slog (the title is misleadingly interesting!) but it does give full details of everything contained in this amazing document.

BY DUNCAN MITCHELL



WOODHOUSE, RASTRICK

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Strengthening Our Foundations: Committee Terms of Reference Adopted

If you've ever wondered how the Committee keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes — from membership and meetings to finances, publications, and all the little bits in between — you're not alone. Like many long-established societies, Calderdale FHS has always relied on a mixture of our Constitution, good practice, and a healthy dose of common sense to guide the Committee's work.

This spring, we took an important step forward in strengthening that framework. At the April Committee meeting, members unanimously agreed to adopt a new set of Committee Terms of Reference — a clear, friendly, and practical document that brings together everything the Committee is responsible for in one place.

So what does that mean for the Society?

Clarity for Everyone

The Terms of Reference (or ToR, if you enjoy a good acronym) set out who does what, how decisions are made, and what the Committee is collectively responsible for. It's a bit like giving the Committee its own "job description", making life easier for new volunteers and ensuring continuity when roles change hands.

Good Governance, Made Simple

The ToR also help us stay on top of the important stuff — finances, GDPR, risk management, insurance, and constitutional compliance. These may not be the most glamorous parts of running a family history society, but they're essential for keeping everything safe, transparent, and well organised.

Better DecisionMaking

By setting out how meetings run, what counts as a quorum, and how votes are taken, the ToR give us a consistent framework for making decisions. It means we can work more efficiently and with confidence, especially when tricky or time-sensitive matters arise.

Supporting Our Volunteers

One of the biggest benefits is for our volunteers. Clear expectations mean smoother onboarding, less guesswork, and more time spent doing the things that matter — supporting members, running events, and helping people discover their family stories.

In Line with Best Practice

Most voluntary organisations now operate with both a Constitution and Terms of Reference. By adopting ours, we're simply catching up with modern governance standards and ensuring the Society is well-placed for the future.

The new ToR don't change how the Society works day to day — they simply capture what we already do, in a way that's accessible and easy to follow. Think of them as a tidy, well-labelled filing cabinet: everything in its place, easy to find, and reassuringly organised.

If you'd like to read the Terms of Reference yourself, they're available to members on request. The Terms of Reference will also be placed on the Society Website for easy access. And as always, if you're curious about how the Committee works — or fancy getting involved — we'd love to hear from you.

Annabelle McGuire (CFHS Member)



Some of you may have noticed a discrepancy between the print copy of the Scrivener and this online edition. It was brought to our attention that documents were published in the print copy that were extraneous and they have been removed. We apologize for any resultant confusion.

Calderdale Family History Society

Virtual Meeting – July 2026

Talk: Finding Women Investors in 19th Century
Halifax – Mortgages and the Yorkshire
Register of Deeds

Speaker: Dr Joan Heggie

Date: 23rd July @ 7.30pm (repeat 29th July @ 9.00am)

“Women and money” is an area of research which has gathered momentum over the past three decades, and includes work on women and the securities market, women as shareholders and women investors in such things as Turnpike Roads and Joint Stock Banks.

However, hardly any attention has been paid to women and the borrowing and lending of money within mortgage transactions, or indeed the buying and selling of mortgages for investment purposes. The Registers of Deeds are especially useful when investigating the scale of peer-to-peer mortgage lending as the Deeds Registers were unique in their systematic recording of such agreements.

Joan has been working with the Registers of Deeds for the County of York for many years to investigate women's involvement with property. Her most recent research focusses on examining mortgage documents for four Yorkshire towns – Middlesbrough, Scarborough, Halifax and Hull – to establish women's role within such transactions.

The presentation demonstrates the vital part that women's investment played in the growth of **Halifax** during the late 19th century, where c. 30% of all mortgage transactions and almost 50% of transfers involved at least one woman. In addition, Joan will highlight the differences between Halifax investors and the three other Yorkshire towns, as well as using case studies of several local women (and men) named in these documents to demonstrate the usefulness of the Registers of Deeds for family history and local history research.

For further information visit [Calderdale Family History Society](#)

Virtual Meeting – August 2026

Talk: Trials & Executions

Speaker: Karen Adams

Date: 27th Aug @ 7.30pm (repeat 2nd Sep @ 9.00am)

Though finally abolished in 1969, capital punishment had long been the statutory judicial sentence for a wide range of crimes stretching back several hundred years. In her presentation, Karen will initially feature York and explore where the prisons and gallows once stood.

Executions in York were a historically frequent event, with public hangings occurring from 1379 through to 1868. Karen will expand in more detail on some of the criminals who were held in York's prisons for trial until their execution. Some you will have heard of, such as Dick Turpin, although others, who were perhaps well known at the time their fame having not lasted through history quite so well, such as Elizabeth and Helen Drysdale.

The presentation will also include a number of cases from Halifax and the surrounding area – perhaps they might include some family connections?

Virtual Meeting – September 2026

Talk: Canal Boat People

Speaker: Dr Wendy Freer

Date: 24th Sep @ 7.30pm (repeat 30th Sep @ 9.00am)

Wendy's presentation will look at the everyday lives of the men, women and children who lived and worked on canal boats throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th

Families, sometimes with numerous young children, lived their whole lives in the tiny cabin at the back of a working narrowboat. How did they manage life's daily chores such as laundry and cooking? Did the children ever go to school? What was it like to give birth in that cabin and how did they look after a tiny baby or a toddler and work the boat at the same time?

All this and how one might go about researching families who lived and worked on the canals will be covered.

For further information visit [Calderdale Family History Society](#)

MORE CALDERDALE WILLS TO HELP YOUR RESEARCH

You will have seen in the June Newsletter that we have recently added over 600 new records to our Online Database. These were kindly provided to us by a Halifax solicitors who had no further use for them.

In truth, the base information is more than just Wills. Many of the files of information for a family contain much more than just the wills themselves. They may contain receipts for the funeral, Inland Revenue returns for taxation purposes, details about properties changing hands &, most fascinating of all, marriage settlements entered into during the 19th & early 20th century.

At the end of this article you will find a full list of the 173 family surnames covered by these wills & we have tried to give sufficient information on each record so that you can trace back to the other family members referred to in the documentation. For example, here is an entry for:

<i>Fielding</i>	<i>John Edward</i>	<i>9/11/1930</i>	<i>Age 55</i>	<i>Testator</i>
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Address 7, Leamington Avenue, Halifax

Ref B41 - Estate Value £1033-0-7 - Executors Percy Stead & William Stanley (or Stanley Davies) - Beneficiaries Executors £10 each, Margaret Enid Ackroyd (godchild) £100 - residual estate a third each to Colin Heap Fielding (nephew), John Trevor Fielding (nephew) & Doris & Marion Pratt (jointly) - will dated 29/7/1930 - death certificate shows him as a Joiner & Builder (Master) & signed by Mark Littlefair (brother-in-law) 68, Edith Street, Lancaster - will dated 29/7/1930 - multiple bank books & papers held.

You can see a wealth of information, apart from just the basic personal details & from the names listed you can interrogate any name there to see what further detail there is about each person. For instance, from this record you can see Doris Pratt was a beneficiary and her record reads:

<i>Pratt</i>	<i>Doris</i>	<i>9/11/1930</i>
<i>Beneficiary</i>		

Ref B41 - Beneficiary of a sixth share of the residual estate of John Edward Fielding - adopted daughter of Martha Horsfield & Emily Fielding of Lancaster.

Another example is that for someone involved in a Marriage Settlement. In this case there are a other records which help you trace activities through an individual's life:

<i>Richardson</i>	<i>Isabel Mary</i>	<i>3/8/1874</i>	<i>Age 21</i>	<i>Marriage</i>
<i>Settlement</i>				

Kilburn Vicarage, Yorkshire

Ref 7 - Marriage settlement prior to her marriage to Thomas Hirst Bracken with trustees John Richardson, Rev Richard Jackson Steele & John Caw the younger - value of settlement £1360 - though not stated, it is likely that John Richardson is Isabel Mary's father. Further Appointments & Settlements concerning the original settlement enacted on 28/1/1892, 1/11/1894, 1/3/1900, 26/10/1904, 27/8/1910, 2/9/1919, 1/12/1919 & 15/12/1919 - all pertaining to changes of trustees.

MORE CALDERDALE WILLS, continued

Followed by:

Bracken Isabel Mary Hirst *23/2/1942* *Age 89* *Testator*

94 Bishop Mansions, Fulham, London SW6

Ref 7 - Estate value £1766-3-9 - beneficiaries & executrices, daughters Georgina Grace Hirst Bracken & Mary Dorothea Hirst Bracken, both spinsters - Isabel Mary shown with 3rd forename of Hirst on her will - date of will 17/12/1932 at which time she was a widow.

For obvious reasons, we have not been able to transcribe all the detail from all the documentation, some of which, particularly the early wills, are quite voluminous. Happily, we have come to an agreement with the donating Solicitor that we can operate a special system for our members. This will work as follows:

- Calderdale FHS will hold all the documents for a period of 6 months.
- During that time, for any of our members who can show a relationship to an individual named within a document set, we will donate that set to them.
- After 6 months has elapsed, we will donate all remaining document sets to West Yorkshire Archive Services.

This means that, if you come across someone that appears to be one of your descendants, or has a direct link with them, then we will donate the original documents to you. This means that you would then have in your possession documents that give a far fuller account of matters than we could ever get into our Online Database. Some of these documents date back nearly 200 years and most are in excellent condition.

There would just be the cost of transportation for you to pay for, which would have to be of the secure type, due to the intrinsic value of the material. Of course, anyone local to Halifax can call in & collect the documents for no charge.

Finally the Solicitors concerned tell us that they should have some more documents that they can pass to us in due course, so we will be able to add even more records to our Online Database.

The list of surnames covered by this new data is:

ACKROYD, AGUS, AINLEY, ALLEN, AMBLER, ASHTON, ASHWORTH, BAIRSTOW, BARKER, BARRACLOUGH, BAXENDALE, BELL, BLACKBURN, BOOTH, BOOTHMAN, BOSWELL, BOYES, BRACKEN, BRAIM, BRAITHWAITE, BRETT, BRIGGS, BROUGHTON, BUTTERWORTH, CAMERON, CARNELLEY, CHAMBERS, CHAPMAN, CHARNOCK, CLAY, CRABTREE, CROSSLEY, CRUM, DANIELS, DAVENISH, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, DEAN, DUCKWORTH, DUNLOP, DUNN, EASTWOOD, EDLESTON, ELLIOTT, FARMAN, FARRAR, FIELDING, FLEMING, FLETCHER, FOOKES, FOSTER, GARAGHTY, GAUKROGER, GIBSON, GLEDHILL, GOODAIR, GREEN, GREENWOOD, GRUNDY, HAIGH, HALEY, HALL, HALSTEAD, HAMER, HAMMERTON, HARDMAN, HARGREAVES, HARTLEY, HAYES,

HELM, HESSELDEN, HILL, HIRST, HOLLAND, HOLLAS, HOLLINRAKE, HOLMES, HOLROYD, HOPKINSON, HOWARD, HUDSON, HUGHES, HUNT, HUTCHINGS, HUTCHINS, JACKSON, JOHNSON, JOHNSTON, JUBB, KIPPAX, KNOWLES, LAW, LEACH, LEE, LEECH, LIVERSEDGE, LODGE, MACFARLANE, MAKIN, MALLINSON, MARSDEN, MARSHALL, MAWDSLEY, MEAKIN, MIDGLEY, MITCHELL, MORGAN, MORLEY, MORTIMER, MORTMER, MURGATROYD, MURPHY, NASH, NAYLOR, NEEDHAM, NIXON, NORMAN, OGDEN, ORMEROD, OSBORNE, PATTERSON, PEARSON, PETTYT, PHIPPS, PICKERSGILL, PICKLES, POLE, POLLARD, POPPLEWELL, PORTMAN, PRATT, PRIESTLEY, RAINFORTH, RAWSON, RAYNOR, RICHARDSON, RILEY, ROBERTS, ROBERTSHAW, ROBINSON, ROGANS, ROTHERY, RUSSELL, SAYER, SCOTT, SHACKLETON, SHAW, SHEMILT, SIMPSON, SMITH, SPURR, STEAD, STEPHENSON, STEVENSON, STOCKS, STOKOE, STOREY, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TODD, TURNER, WALKER, WALLER, WALMSLEY, WARREN, WEDGEWOOD, WHITELEY, WHITWORTH, WILKINSON, WILLIS, WILSON, WINSLADE, WRIGHT.

HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF THE WILLS DATABASE

You will have seen elsewhere in this edition of the Scrivener the explanation about what the new set of Wills offers you in terms of your research. However, we thought that a more detailed example of how to get the very best from these records would be worth doing. So this article uses one set of data from the file to show you how to get all the detail from it as easily as possible.

The data set that we are going to use in this example is that associated with the Fielding family. Each data set has a reference at the start of the "Detail" field which ties together all the different records in that set. The one in this example has the reference "Ref B41".

The first thing to say is that this is not an exact science, but hopefully, following this example will help you get as much information as you can from each data set. Let us assume that you have an interest in John Edward Fielding whose main Will entry reads :-

Ref B41 - Estate Value £1033-0-7 - Executors Percy Stead & William Stanley (or Stanley Davies) - Beneficiaries Executors £10 each, Margaret Enid Ackroyd (godchild) £100 - residual estate a third each to Colin Heap Fielding (nephew), John Trevor Fielding (nephew) & Doris & Marion Pratt (jointly) - will dated 29/7/1930 - death certificate shows him as a Joiner & Builder (Master) & signed by Mark Littlefair (brother-in-law) 68, Edith Street, Lancaster - will dated 29/7/1930 - multiple bank books & papers held.

You will probably have picked up the earliest entry for him under "Wills" from the Transcription Index", which is for the date 6/9/1900. This will take you to the OLDB & display the entry for his marriage. Click on the magnifying glass & you will get

Id 23005
 Surname FIELDING
 Forename John Edward
 Date 6/9/1900
 Age 25
 Event Type Marriage
 Abode 48 Union Street South, Halifax
 Detail Ref B41 - marriage to Hannah Maria Bairstow, Worsted Coating Mender - his occupation Joiner (Journeyman) & father John Fielding, Joiner (Master) - Married at Mount Zion Methodist New Connexion Chapel - witnesses Albert H Fielding & Sarah Alice Eastwood - Reg no. 152
 Database Wills

Close window



You can see that he has married Hannah Maria Bairstow. 2 other names, as witnesses, have been assumed not to be relatives, so there will be no further mention of them.

The next thing to do is to note the reference at the beginning of the Detail which, in this case, is Ref B41. This will help in identifying other entries associated with this data set.

Now you need to find the will record itself. The way to do this is to search for "Fielding" as a surname to see what records are available. Then sort by "Date" as this will help in identifying the records that you want, as it is possible that there are "Fielding" records from a different period (eg 17th/18th century). This is the screen that you will get

Add new
Delete
Help

Displaying 1 - 6 of 6
20

Sort by
Date

☐	Surname	Forename	Date	Age	Event Type	Database
	☐ FIELDING	John Edward	6/9/1900	25	Marriage	Wills
	☐ FIELDING	Hannah Maria	4/6/1930	53	Intestate Testa	Wills
	☐ FIELDING	John Edward	4/6/1930	55	Trustee	Wills
	☐ FIELDING	John Edward	9/11/1930	55	Testator	Wills
	☐ FIELDING	Collin Heap	9/11/1930		Beneficiary	Wills
	☐ FIELDING	John Trevor	9/11/1930		Beneficiary	Wills

This shows all the Fieldings & you can see they are all 20th century.

The details of any wills will appear with the Event Type "Testator" so John Edward's will details will be that for the date 9/11/1930. Click on the magnifying glass & you will get

Miscellaneous [23010]

Id 23010
Surname FIELDING
Forename John Edward
Date 9/11/1930
Age 55
Event Type Testator
Abode 7 Leamington Avenue, Halifax
Detail Ref B41 - Estate Value £1033-0-7 - Executors Percy Stead & William Stanley (or Stanley Davies) - Beneficiaries Executors £10 each, Margaret Enid Ackroyd (godchild) £100 - residual estate a third each to Colin Heap Fielding (nephew), John Trevor Fielding (nephew) & Doris & Marion Pratt (jointly) - will dated 29/7/1930 - death certificate shows him as a Joiner & Builder (Master) & signed by Mark Littlefair (brother-in-law) 68, Edith Street, Lancaster - will dated 29/7/1930 - multiple bank books & papers held.
Database Wills

On this entry you will see all the major people involved in the will – executors, beneficiaries etc – which will allow you to interrogate all the other people involved in more detail. Make a note of all these & you can then interrogate each one in turn to find out more detail. For instance, Doris Pratt was left some money, so if you interrogate her you will get

Miscellaneous [23016] ✕

Id	23016
Surname	PRATT
Forename	Doris
Date	9/11/1930
Age	
Event Type	Beneficiary
Abode	
Detail	Ref B41 - Beneficiary of a sixth share of the residual estate of John Edward Fielding - adopted daughter of Martha Horsfield & Emily Fielding of Lancaster
Database	Wills

Close window ≡

From this you can see the detail of what she inherited (although, in this instance, that detail was on John Edward Fielding's record) but you also learn that she was the adopted daughter of another family member. As we have no further information on either Martha Horsfield or Emily Fielding there will not be an individual record for either of them.

There will not always be an individual record for every person mentioned on the main "will" record either because it was thought that they had no direct relationship to the testator, (in this case the executors) or there was no more information to be discovered.

Given that John Edward Fielding married Hannah Maria Bairstow, it will be worth looking at what other information there is about the Bairstow family. So interrogate just the surname Bairstow

Surname						
Equals						
Bairstow						
Forename						
Equals						
Date						
Contains						
Database						
Equals						
Wills						

☐ Surname	Forename	Date	Age	Event Type	Database
☐ BAIRSTOW	John	4/8/1546		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	John	2/3/1589		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Margaret	16/4/1596		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Alice	24/9/1602		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	John	13/8/1663		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Jeremy	12/5/1679		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Susanna	12/5/1679		Wills	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Hannah Maria	6/9/1900	23	Marriage	Wills
☐ BAIRSTOW	Fred	4/6/1930		Trustee	Wills

This gives 9 records, but 7 of these are in earlier centuries, so you will only be interested in the bottom 2, which will give you

Miscellaneous [23006]

Id 23006

Surname BAIRSTOW

Forename Hannah Maria

Date 6/9/1900

Age 23

Event Type Marriage

Abode Albany House, Clay Pits, Halifax

Detail Ref B41 - marriage to John Edward Fielding, Joiner (Journeyman) - her occupation Worsted Coating Mender & father James Bairstow, spindle maker - Married at Mount Zion Methodist New Connexion Chapel - witnesses Albert H Fielding & Sarah Alice Eastwood - Reg no. 152

Database Wills

Close window

and

Miscellaneous [23009]

Id 23009

Surname BAIRSTOW

Forename Fred

Date 4/6/1930

Age

Event Type Trustee

Abode 7 Leamington Avenue, Halifax

Detail Ref B41 - Trustee of will of Hannah Maria Fielding, with John Edward Fielding, Hannah's husband

Database Wills

From these you can see that the marriage record is very similar (understandably) to that of her husband, shown earlier, but the record for Fred shows him with the same address as John Edward, so he is probably his brother, or his father. But most likely his brother, as his father would have been quite old by that time.

Other information can be gleaned from examination of all the other Fielding & Bairstow records which may give you detail that you couldn't get from anywhere else (Doris Pratt's adoption being an example).

As we said earlier, this is not an exact science, but exploring all the associated records from a data set can be very rewarding. If you have any comments or queries about this method, feel free to contact projects@cfhsweb.com

PUBLICATIONS & SERVICES

The Society offers its members a number of Publications & Services, in the form of downloadable files of data & Search facilities from our extensive database. These are in addition to the provision of the Online Database of over 2 1/2 million records available through the Members' Area of the Society website.

Publications.

These can be purchased via www.genfair.co.uk and are products that group data of each particular type into individual downloadable files. The full detail of each product can be seen on the Genfair website, under the Supplier "Calderdale FHS".

If you have a particular interest in a single type of data (eg School Admissions) you may find it useful to have all the data presented to you in this way. All products are chargeable, generally at £5 with the larger sets of data sometimes a little more.

Searches.

All individual searches on the Society databases can be done most easily by logging on as a member to the Members' Area of the Society website www.cfhsweb.com & using the Transcription Index to find the names that you want.

However, if you are uncertain about this method, we offer a service whereby you can contact us & we will do the search for you. This is a free service to members. To use it, please send details of the information you require to search@cfhsweb.com.

More general enquiries about historical matters in Calderdale can be addressed to West Yorkshire Archive Service in Calderdale either by E-Mail calderdale@wyjs.org.uk or by telephone 0113-535-3050

USEFUL CONTACTS AND SOURCES FOR RESEARCHING WEST YORKSHIRE ANCESTORS

West Yorkshire Archive Service ~ www.archives.wyjs.org.uk *(This can be a good place to start to access the West Yorkshire Archive Catalogue)*

Calderdale District Archives, (Registers, BTs, Census, etc. etc.)

Calderdale Central Library, Square Road, Halifax HX1 1QG

Tel: +44 (0) 1135 350 151 e-mail calderdale@wyjs.org.uk

Calderdale Central Reference Library (address as above) Tel: +44 (0) 1422 392 630 e-mail reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk *(local studies collection, newspapers, maps, trade directories, IGI, GRO indexes, census and parish register fiche, on-line FamilySearch and Ancestry; research service offered).*

WYAS Wakefield Office, WY History Centre, 127 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG *(Registers, W Riding Registry of Deeds, Manorial Records etc.)*

Tel. 0113 535 0142. email : wakefield@wyjs.org.uk

Details of where to find us and our opening times are available on our website:

<https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/contact-us-and-opening-times/west-yorkshire-history-centre-wakefield-archive-service-opening-times-and-information/>

The Borthwick Institute ~ www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihrl *(Peculiar + PCY wills, BT's etc.)* University of York, Heslington, YORK YO10 5DD

Tel: +44 (0) 1904 321 166 email ~ link on website

Weaver to Web ~ www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/ The council maintains a website with a miscellany of information from the archives *(a wide range of photos, maps, census re-turns, parish registers, poll books, wills , etc., have been digitised to view online).*

Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion ~ <http://www.calderdalecompanion.co.uk>

(Large collection of trivia, miscellaneous facts of people and places and other bits of local history about Halifax and Calderdale).

All the Parish records transcribed by the Society are available to search (for a fee) on **FindMyPast.co.uk** *(In addition there are many other records available to search)*

West Yorkshire Parish Registers have been put online (for a fee) by the West Yorkshire Archives Service which can be accessed on **Ancestry.co.uk**. *(Again, many other useful records, for a fee)*

www.familysearch.org - the world's largest free genealogy organization and website, operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It provides global access to billions of historical records, a collaborative shared family tree, a massive digitized library, and in-person assistance at thousands of local centres. Check local telephone directories.

The National Archives ~ www.nationalarchives.gov.uk *(a wealth of data arising from public records, including BMD's, census and much much more).*
Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU Tel: +44 (0) 208 876

www.direct.gov.uk/gro *is the website of the general register office for everything con-cerning civil registration and to order certificates.*

Consider subscribing to a periodical such as Family Tree Magazine or BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. Online sites such as **GenesReunited** and **LostCousins** may help you find relatives researching the same family.

LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS etc
Forthcoming Events of Interest

The London Group of Yorkshire Family History Societies

Our forthcoming meetings:

At the moment, all meetings held by Zoom, starting at 10.30, with the room open from 10. In addition, there are also free monthly social meetings.

Our Website

The blog is at <http://yorkslondongroup.tumblr.com/>. Contributions always welcome!

Contact Ian at lgfhs@virginmedia.com for more information.

Family History Federation

(was Federation of Family History Societies)

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

This site has a wealth of links to events & information of interest to family historians.

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

If you have ancestors in the Kirklees area, which covers the towns of Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley, Holmfirth and surrounding villages, then why not contact our Society for help and advice.

We have a research room at **the Root Cellar, 33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5NW** and we are open at the following times on these days:

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday:		2 pm to 4.30 pm
Tuesday:		2 pm to 4.30 pm
Wednesday:	10 am to 12.30 pm	2 pm to 4.30 pm
Thursday:		2 pm to 4.30 pm
Friday:	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	
Saturday:		2 pm to 4.30 pm

Our telephone number is 01484 859229 and details of all our activities and how to join can be found at **www.hdfhs.org.uk**. You can also find us on Twitter and Facebook by searching for '**Huddersfield Family History Society**'.

Calderdale Family History Society
Incorporating Halifax and District

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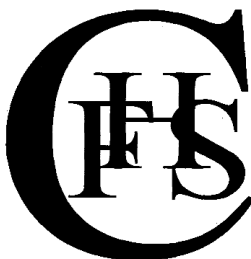
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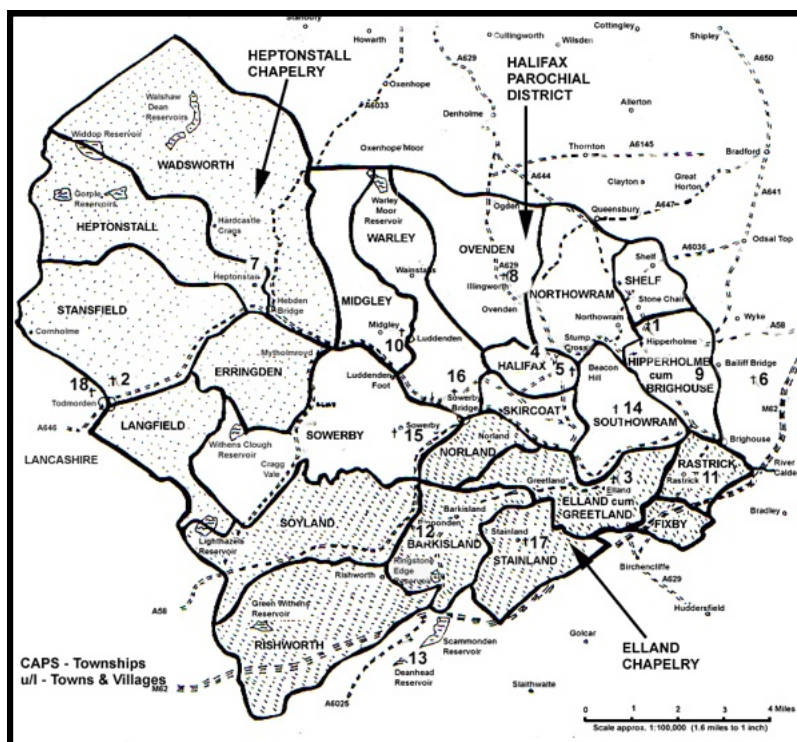
Publicity & Meeting Organiser		
John Barraclough	e-mail - publicity@cfhsweb.com	

The Society's Home Web Page on the Internet is
<http://www.cfhsweb.com>



RESEARCH ROOM & LIBRARY
 Now closed permanently.

CHAPELRIES AND TOWNSHIPS OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX



CHURCH/CHAPEL	Registers begin	BAP.	MAR.**	BUR.
1. COLEY	St. John	1735	1745	1734
2. CROSS STONE	St. Paul	1678	1837	1678
3. ELLAND	St. Mary**	1559	1559	1559
4. HALIFAX	St. James (inc St Mary Rhodes St 1953)	1832	1837	nk
5. HALIFAX	St. John**	1538	1538	1538
6. HARTSHEAD	St. Peter	1612	1612	1612
7. HEPTONSTALL	St. Thomas**	1599	1593	1599
8. ILLINGWORTH	St. Mary	1695	1697	1695
9. LIGHTCLIFFE	St. Matthew	1703	1704	1704
10. LUDDENDEN	St. Mary	1653	1661	1653
11. RASTRICK	St. Matthew	1719	1839	1798
12. RIPPONDEN	St. Bartholomew	1684	1686	1684
13. SCAMMONDEN				
WITH MILLHEAD	St. Bartholomew	1746	1886	1746
14. SOUTHOWRAM	St. Anne	1813	1838	1818
15. SOWERBY	St. Peter	1668	1711	1643
16. SOWERBY BRIDGE	Christ Church	1709	1730	1821
17. STAINLAND	St. Andrew	1782	1844	1783
18. TODMORDEN	St. Mary/Christ Church	1678	1669	1666

**Following Hardwicke's Marriages Act of 1754, Banns and Marriages will only be found in the registers of these churches. After 1837 they lost their monopoly of marriages.