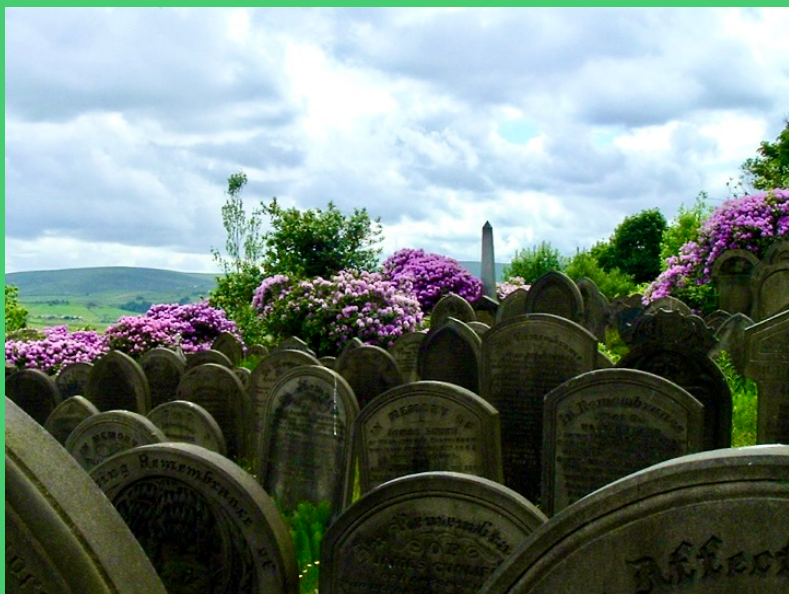


THE SCRIVENER



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

Number 194

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March 2026

CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Incorporating HALIFAX and DISTRICT

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 Membership Secretary.
- Annual subscriptions are £12.00 for UK individuals (£14.00 for family membership),
- Internet membership is £6.00/ £8.00 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.

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THE SCRIVENER

Publication Dates

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MAY 4th 2026

AUGUST 17th 2026

NOVEMBER 9th 2026

FEBRUARY 16th 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

Due to Coronavirus, Some Meetings, Events etc. now take place virtually, or are hybrids.

Please check with the organiser if you are unsure.

CFHS Meetings are now ZOOM only.

Editorial

True confession time: I never really liked history in school. Memorizing the dates and places of movers and shakers never captured my attention much beyond the exam. It wasn't until I was given an assignment to trace my family lineage back four generations that I discovered a latent love of history. It wasn't history found in a textbook; it was the unwritten story of the everyday people who lived before me, and without whom I wouldn't be here. Capturing their lives as accurately as possible has been the work of a lifetime. I've found brave people and cowards, heroes and, yes, the occasional villain - some day I will have to tell you the story of Lillian - but mostly ordinary people who faced the challenges of life with varying degrees of success. Sometimes the records give no clues beyond the bare "lived and died" information. But sometimes serendipity strikes and a clue, perhaps a letter or a newspaper article, is found that tells the rest of the story. That person is brought back to life, resurrected even, and flesh has been put on the bones. And then you really feel that you have met them and you know them.

This issue is full of stories of people in history, ancestors and non-ancestors, who have left a paper trail for us to follow. We learn some interesting things about their lives, and we are also left with unanswered questions. I think you will enjoy these stories, and learn from the methodologies exhibited in their unfolding. I know I did.

Susan Griffith
Editor

BAD BLOOD

Our very own overseas member, Robert Wade, has written a book. It is called *Bad Blood* and it is set in Halifax. It is available to download as an ebook from Amazon Kindle and is free to Kindle Unlimited members. It is also available in paperback. Check it out!

COVER PICTURE

Spring at St. Paul's Cross Stone Church Cemetery

Members' Interests

SURNAME	LOCATION	COUNTY	KNOWN	WANTED
PRIESTLEY	BARKISLAND	YKS	1770-1870	1700-1900
JOWETT	BARKISLAND	YKS	1730-1820	1680-1850
THWAITE	BARKISLAND	YKS	1770-1808	1700-1900
THORNTON	HALIFAX	WRY	1803-1849	1770-1850
GLEDHILL	HOVE EDGE	WRY	1803-1849	1770-1850
BALDWIN	BOLTON BROW	WY	1800-1900	
BALDWIN	WARLEY	WY	1750-1900	1700-1900
ELLIS	BARKISLAND	YKS	1760-1860	1660-1760

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



Celebrating the Value of Membership: Why Your Support Matters More Than Ever

As we look ahead to the 2026/27 membership year, it feels like the right moment to pause and reflect on what it truly means to be part of the Calderdale Family History Society. For many of us, membership is far more than a subscription — it's a connection to shared heritage, a gateway to discovery, and a contribution to preserving the stories of our communities for generations to come.

This year, the Committee has agreed to a small adjustment to subscription rates, effective **1 June 2026**. Before we outline the details, we want to take the opportunity to highlight the real value your membership brings — both to you and to the Society as a whole.

A Community Rooted in Shared Curiosity

Every member brings something unique to the Society: a family story, a research puzzle, a local connection, or simply a love of history. Together, we form a community that supports one another, shares knowledge, and keeps the past alive.

Membership gives you access to:

- A welcoming network of fellow researchers
- Expertise from volunteers who have spent years working with Calderdale's records
- Opportunities to learn, contribute, and collaborate

Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or just beginning your journey, you are part of something bigger — a collective effort to uncover and preserve the stories that shaped our region.

Growing Access to Records and Resources

One of the most significant benefits of membership is access to the Society's expanding collection of transcriptions and digital resources. Over the last four years, our volunteers have dramatically increased the volume of material available to members, including:

- Parish records
- Cemetery and burial registers
- Monumental inscriptions
- Local indexes and specialist datasets

These resources are the backbone of family history research, and they continue to grow thanks to the dedication of our transcription teams. Your membership directly supports this work — helping us digitise, preserve, and share records that might otherwise remain inaccessible.

The Scrivener: A Magazine Made by Members, for Members

Our quarterly magazine remains one of the most valued benefits of membership. Each issue brings together:

- Research tips
- Local history features

- Member stories
- Project updates
- News from the wider family history community

Producing the Scrivener requires time, skill, and rising printing and postage costs. Your subscription helps ensure we can continue delivering a high-quality publication that informs, inspires, and connects our members.

Supporting the Society's Digital Future

Family history is increasingly a digital pursuit. Members expect reliable online access, secure systems, and a website that is easy to navigate. These services come with ongoing costs — hosting, maintenance, software, and development. Your membership enables us to:

- Maintain and improve the website
- Provide online access to records
- Support digital communication and remote engagement
- Keep the Society relevant in a changing world

Investing in digital infrastructure is essential for our long-term sustainability, and your support makes it possible.

Why Subscription Rates Are Changing

We have made only two price increases in the last 18 years, despite significant rises in printing, postage, IT services, and general administration. The Society has absorbed these costs for as long as possible, but to continue delivering the services our members value, a modest adjustment is now necessary.

From 1 June 2026, the new rates will be:

- Full Membership: £15
- Full Family Membership: £17
- Internet Membership: £8
- Internet Family Membership: £10
- Legacy Overseas Memberships: No change

These increases remain competitive with others in the region and are designed to be fair, sustainable, and stable for several years.

Powered Entirely by Volunteers

One of the Society's greatest strengths is that it is run entirely by volunteers. Every transcription, every Scrivener article, every meeting, every email, every piece of behind-the-scenes- administration — all of it is carried out by people who give their time freely because they care deeply about Calderdale's history.

This volunteer spirit keeps membership costs low and ensures that every pound is spent directly on services, resources, and preservation work. It also means that anything members can do to make administration smoother is genuinely appreciated.

Helping Us Help You: Making Payments Run Smoothly

A small but important way members can support the Society is by helping us keep payment processes simple and efficient. With hundreds of renewals each year, even small administrative tasks can add up.

You can pay your subscription by standing order, bank transfer, or GenFair — these are our main payment methods. Please note that GenFair applies a processing charge to each payment made through their service.

If you have a UK bank account, you may also pay by cheque. However, CFHS is charged a bank processing fee for cheque payments, and we are no longer able to accept cheques drawn on overseas bank accounts due to the high charges and administrative burden involved.

Whatever payment method you choose to use, please remember to update the amount before your next renewal after **1 June 2026**.

Your Membership Makes a Difference

Every subscription helps keep the Society running — not just financially, but in spirit. It supports our volunteers, sustains our projects, and ensures that Calderdale's rich family history remains accessible to all who seek it.

Most importantly, your membership keeps our community thriving. It allows us to welcome new researchers, share discoveries, and continue the work that has defined the Society for decades.

Thank you for being part of the Calderdale Family History Society. Your support, enthusiasm, and curiosity are what make this community so special.

Annabelle McGuire

CFHS Treasurer, volunteer, genealogist, wife, mother, retiree, fitness fanatic, and unofficial provider of "I'll sort it" energy

Calderdale Family History Society (ZOOM only) Meetings Spring 2026

23rd April @ 7:30pm (repeat April 29th@9.00am)

Calderdale FHS Annual General Meeting

Agenda & Notes

- 1) Opening Remarks
- 2) Secretary's Report
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Computer Security Report
- 5) Discussion & Vote re Amendment to Constitution
Membership Refusal or Termination Procedure
- 6) Election of Officers:

Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary

- 7) Election of Committee
 - 8 Election of Auditors
 - 9 Election of Chairman / Lady
 - 10) Announcement, voting and presentation of the Sutcliffe Awards
 - 11) Announcement and presentation of the Margaret Walker Award
 - 12) Any other business
- Following the formal meeting, Peter Lord will give a short talk.

28th May @ 7.30pm (repeat 3rd June @ 9.00am)

"Deserters of the First World War – the Home Front" by Andrea Hetherington

The story of the 306 deserters shot at dawn during the First World War, then pardoned nearly a century later has often been told, but these soldiers represented only a tiny proportion of deserters. More than 80,000 cases of desertion and absence were tried at court martials on the home front but these soldiers have been ignored.

Andrea, in this thought-provoking and meticulously researched presentation, sets the record straight by describing the deserters who disappeared from British camps and barracks at an alarming rate. She reveals a range of survival strategies, some ridding themselves of all connection with the military while others hid in plain sight.

Their reasons for desertion varied. Some were already living a life of crime whilst others were conscientious objectors who refused to respond to their call-up papers. Boredom, protest, troubles at home or physical and mental disabilities all played their part in men deciding to go on the run.

25th June @ 7.30pm (repeat 1st July @ 9.00am)

"Family History and the Media – behind the scenes of 'Who Do You Think You Are'"

by Nick Barratt

'Self-indulgent naval-gazing'. This was how one reviewer described family history when "Who Do You Think You Are" first aired in 2004.

In this talk, Nick uses a series of case studies and examples to explain how the show evolved over the subsequent 22 years, becoming both a mainstream branch of history and a commercial sector in its own right – as well as a powerful vehicle to explore one's sense of identity and share incredible stories from the past using the tools of the digital age.

Dr Nick Barratt obtained a PhD in history from King's College London in 1996, editing the 1225 Exchequer pipe roll and several Exchequer receipt rolls from the 1220s. His thesis became the cornerstone for his academic work on medieval state finance and fiscal history. Nick is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



CFHS Talk ~ February 2024

"History of a West Riding Medieval Village"

by John Lyte, Chairman of Bristfield Family History Group

On his retirement, John became enthusiastic about the history, people, jobs they did, rise and falls of the success of Bristfield village where he and his wife Joan live.

Bristfield is in the area of Upper and Lower Whitley, formerly called Brerethuisel. It wasn't listed in the 1086 Domesday record but the nearby hamlet of Lower Whitley is recorded with a value of £2 and four households. The University of Nottingham Institute for Name Studies confirms the meaning to be: brere = a briar, thuisel = a tongue of land in the confluence of two rivers, Bristfield and Howroyd Becks in this case.

John and Joan have lived in the village for 40 years at Chapel Row and spent many years renovating the property. They have also researched the history of the house from 1841 onwards. Despite the difficulty in finding early photographs of people and buildings, they found one of the neighbouring property, Blackerhill Farm, circa 1920 with Rhoda & Charles Stapleton. The rent was noted as £28 11s 6d per annum including rates.

40 years ago, Briestfield was almost derelict – it was very rural and miles from anywhere. John's photos add to the historical record as some of the old buildings photographed in the 1980s have now been demolished.

The Manor House is known as The Holt. In 2002, a gas explosion blew it up, at exactly 2.52pm when their carriage clock stopped. Four acres of land and gardens, set out by P J Walker – a large Dewsbury mill owner. Wormald & Walkers Mill produced Dormy Blankets.

250 years ago

The village was much busier and had a larger population 250 years ago – a thriving hive of industry with textiles and mining and, to a lesser degree, agriculture.

John showed a map of the area mostly covered with coal mines or pits: Emroyd Pit, Thornhill; Jagger's (Howroyd) Pit, Whitley which was abandoned at the end of 1962.

Grange Moor, Upper Whitley, took its name from Denby Grange, founded by the monks of Byland Abbey, North Yorkshire circa 1200. By 1792 the moor was common or waste ground used for sheep rearing. The sale of English wool to the continent was a main source of wealth for the Yorkshire Abbeys. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the dominant industries of weaving and agriculture developed until the discovery of coal. The land was then bought by Sir Arthur Lister-Kaye for grazing sheep until the 18th century. Due to huge demand in the industrial revolution, every possible local site was mined for coal. In and around the village, most of the land was owned by the Beaumont, Lister-Kaye, Earl of Dartmouth and Lord Savile families. Until 1922, the whole of Briestfield formed part of the Armytage estate. Generations of miners relied on the pits for their livelihoods: Shuttle Eye, Caphouse Mining Museum, Grange Ash, Emley and Lepton Edge.

The mining museum is directly opposite John's house. He showed an image of John Inman who started work at Cap House colliery (the museum) as a clapper boy at the age of six until his death 80 years later. Shuttle Eye Pit produced 45cwt per man per shift – 60% higher than the national average. It closed in 1973 and is now an industrial estate.

After 139 men and boys died on 4th July 1893 in the Thornhill Combes Pit Disaster, Queen Victoria sent a telegram of condolence and donated £500 to the relief fund. Every household was affected and hundreds waited at the pit head for news.

There were no mills in Briestfield but workers used to go down to Wheatleys Mill, Wood Bottom, Mirfield.

The Industrial Revolution

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the demand for coal exploded. The start of the 19th century brought mechanisation to the textile and other industries and job losses and destitution for many poor families.

The local area was a hotbed for Chartists and Luddites. Briestfield and Grange Moor were in the centre of the West Riding and hundreds of protesters met there on 11th April 1820 prior to marching to London. Despite huge numbers turning up, the march never took place and the protesters dispersed the next day.

With the coming of the new machines, some of the local villagers became involved with the Luddites. The Luddites were trying to halt mechanisation in Yorkshire and Lancashire textile industries – by violent means – with disastrous results.

In an official report of executions at Tyburn in York on 16th January 1813, 14 men were executed for various burglaries, felonies and tumultuously assembling at night to destroy frames and machinery, collect firearms and demolish mills, particularly that of William Cartwright at Rawfolds, Liversedge, near Birstall – 14 wives were made widows, and 57 children became fatherless.

Three of the men were convicted of a burglary in the house of Samuel Moxon of Upper Whitley: John Swallow, 37, late of Briestwhistle, coal miner; John Batley, 31, late of Thornhill, clothier, and Joseph Fisher, 33, late of Briestwhistle, coal miner. [Note: Samuel Moxon was an ancestor of member Pam Sykes (nee Moxon.)]

Prior to the attack on Cartwright's Mill, an army of Luddites met at Dumb Steeple, Cooper Bridge, now marked with a blue plaque.

Crime

You'd imagine, for such a small village, that there would be little crime but you'd be wrong!

The Beatson family had one son – William – a butcher who travelled to Ohio, America to make his fortune – with disastrous results. In April 1853, he asked a friend, James Dickenson (alias Parks), a petty criminal, to accompany him to Pittsburgh to purchase beef cattle. William was carrying a lot of cash. After boarding the wrong train, while drunk, they tried to walk the rest of the way and ended up in Cuyahoga Falls. Following a row, Parks murdered William, removed his clothes and took the cash, throwing the body into the river! The next morning, while crossing the river, a passer-by discovered William's nude, headless body. According to The Beacon newspaper a \$500 reward was offered by the sheriff.

Before Parks's eventual capture, he and his wife had tried to escape to Australia. Repeated trials found him guilty of murder in the first degree and he was hanged on 1st June 1855.

William is remembered on the family gravestone at Thornhill Parish Church.

Another gruesome murder took place in 1998. A local off-duty policewoman walking her dog discovered a bag full of 'body parts' in the village. They belonged to Nassar Ahmed from Bradford.

Later that year, an illegal still was discovered in an old cowshed found to have evaded £366,500 of excise duty!

Godfrey "George" Oldfield, involved in solving the M62 Coach Bombing case and also the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper between 1974-80, also lived in the village.

In 2016 the local post office was robbed by a 19-year old who was caught and sentenced to 7½ years. Unfortunately, this led to post office services now being supplied from a mobile van.

Social Changes

Many things contributed to the decline of the rural village. Locally, the population fell from 1,500 in 1901 to 150 today. John has studied the census over the years for his home that was previously three cottages. In 1881 there were 23 people altogether; today just John and Joan live there. Studying the area further, up to 40 cottages have been demolished.

The manor of Briestwistle was part of the Armytage estate from 1599-1921, shown very clearly on the 1849 Enclosure Map. The surrounding landowners included the Earl of Dartmouth, Kay's, Savile's and the Beaumont families. The introduction of death duties in the 1890s saw changes in Briestfield when Sir George Armytage died in 1921. The estates were asset rich and capital poor. Up to 1,800 stately homes were demolished around the country. The value of the estate was often the value of the house. Therefore, if you demolished the house, the death duties were vastly reduced.

In 1952, cottages in the village were for sale for £150. Today they sell for between £200,00-£300,000.

John then played a video about Black Dick's Tower at Whitley Beaumont Hall: <http://www.ukntv.co.uk/documentaries/black-dick-s-tower/> that may not play in every country.

History of Whitley Beaumont Hall

There were several stately homes within a small radius of Grange Moor and Bristfield: Kay's Denby Grange, Ingham's Blake Hall and Overthorpe Hall with Whitley Beaumont Hall being the largest and owned by Sir Richard Beaumont. The Whitley Beaumont Temple, more commonly known locally as Black Dick's Tower or Temple, was built within the grounds. It was named after Sir Richard Beaumont, even though it wasn't built until sometime after his death. The gardens were created by Lancelot Brown, more commonly known as Capability. The use of the temple is unknown. However, it could have been used as a gentleman's reading room, common at that time, and a similar building has been found with that use in Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury. [clip shown from www.ukntv.co.uk]

Sir Richard (1574–1631) was the first Baron of Whitley Beaumont, knighted in 1609 and made a baronet in 1628. He was given the nickname Black Dick of the North by King James 1st, probably owing to his appearance. He was also MP for Pontefract in 1625. There are references to Sir Richard being a highwayman but this seems at odds to his position and status. On the other hand, he was well known for his criminal activities – a gambler and involved in piracy to pay off his debts – and said to have murdered a servant girl of his after learning that she was pregnant. Could this young girl be another one of the alleged spirits who are said to roam the grounds?



Remnants of Black
Dick's Tower

Sir Richard was buried at the Beaumont Chapel at Kirkheaton Church. Some accounts say that he was killed in a duel in a tunnel near Huddersfield. Others say that he was beheaded. His ghost is reputed to walk the grounds of Whitley Hall near the temple with his head under his arm – every year on 5th July.

Could this be a story confusing Richard 'Black Dick' Beaumont with Robert Beaumont, who was beheaded at Crosland Hill during the 16th century. Stories of this type are often started on purpose just to keep people away from some genuine nefarious goings on.

Upon Sir Richard's death, the estate was inherited by his nephew, Sir Thomas Beaumont, who fought on the side of the Royalists during the Civil War. The family hid their treasures in the estate grounds. Bonnie Prince Charlie also stayed at Whitley Hall during the 1700s. The hall must have been very grand in its heyday but fell into severe disrepair in the 20th century when its fittings were auctioned off in 1917.

The hall was bought by Charles Sutcliffe in 1924. His great nephew wrote in the Yorkshire Post about his memories of visiting the secret garden and sitting on an old WW1 field gun that was kept on the front lawn.

Charles would entertain friends by candlelight as there was no electricity at the hall. He was a member of the Rockwood Hunt and would hold lavish balls in the great hall. Shooting would have been a frequent pastime in the grounds with the temple probably being used for eating cucumber sandwiches on summer days. The four internal alcoves in the temple would be ideal places to temporarily store the shotguns.

During WW2, Charles would open the grounds for army training manoeuvres and camps. The tower, in its prominent position, was used as an enemy plain spotting lookout. Charles Sutcliffe died in 1948 and the hall became unsafe and was eventually demolished in 1951. All that remains today, in a tragic state of repair, is Black Dick's Tower.

1940s Cottages

When John and Joan bought their property, there was a set pot stone sink at the side of a large coal range. A fire was lit under the cauldron-like sink to heat water for washing. You had a bath in the tin bath in front of the range. John showed various examples of rooms through the 1940s and 50s that many people recognised.

World War 2 Preparations

- 1938 ration books were printed and ready
- August 1939, 800,000 children were on the move
- air raid shelter built, gas masks and blackout curtains issued with regular drills carried out
- Miss Clay and Miss Wray went to Huddersfield Station to meet evacuees and teachers from Dudley Hill, Bradford
- 1940 – very heavy winter snow 4-5 feet deep
- 1942 – another 20 evacuees arrived from Shoreham, Sussex

Grange Moor village was hit by a V1 flying bomb on Christmas Eve 1941, causing extensive damage to many of the buildings but luckily no lives lost. A.R.P. and rescue workers helped those people in homes without water, gas, power and phones.

Up to the Current Day

There is still an agricultural show in the village. John showed photos of various celebrations – possibly Whitsuntide Walk, 1911 and 1953 coronations, Grand Floral Bazaar and maypole dancing. Grange Moor Band still play. So many children wanted to go to school that a school house was built

The Changing Face of Bristfield

The village is changing. People are buying properties and restoring them. However, others are being demolished with one large home or several new houses replacing them.

Village Characters

Sir Malcolm Walker, born Grange Moor 1946, founded Iceland 1970

Ivy Hartley, recorded her childhood memories of Briestfield in her 95th year

Gladys Newsome, born Brier Croft Cottage and died aged 75. Gladys wrote a poem that mentioned the little chapel on the hill (1825-1985): The Road that Leads to God that Joan read at the end of the talk.



CFHS Talk ~ July 2024

**"Heroes and Ghosts:
How Scandal & Shame Affect Genealogy".**

by Michael Hallett

Summary by David Allen

When first starting his presentation, my first thought was that because of his accent, he was one of our Antipodean Cousins, and indeed, as his presentation progressed, it became apparent that although he had indeed spent time in New Zealand as a youngster, his origin and latterly his life was UK based.

The story concerned his Grandfather, who had been born in Dimmock near Gloucester in 1879, before the family moved to Doncaster when he was two, and Harold considered himself a Yorkshireman for the rest of his life and was one of the earliest pioneers of powered flight, particularly in connection with the original Royal Flying Corps, which in 1918/1919 separated from the Army and Navy, to become a standalone service which has been known ever since as the 'Royal Air Force'. The first dedicated Air Force in the world.

Grandfather's name was Harold Blackburn, who had been born in 1879, and the subtitle of Michael's presentation 'How Scandal & Shame Affect Genealogy' became very apparent and a pertinent reminder to all of us to bear in mind when carrying out our own research.

After attending the first major UK aviation meeting in Doncaster, Harold became bitten by the aviation bug, although Michael's family records suggest that he may have done so before this, and in 1909, at Dagenham,

After buying the principal reference book on pre-World War 1 aircraft, Michael could not find reference to this aircraft. Subsequent enquiries to Aeroplane Magazine and the book authors etc, showed that this was an unknown aircraft to the archives, and although opinion was that it had never flown, Michael was able to make an entry onto Wikipedia.

In 1912, Harold met Robert Blackburn (no relation), who was already building aircraft at Leeds, (possibly Yeadon?), for pleasure flights from Filey beach. having attained his Pilots Licence no 79 in 1911, and took up occupation for Robert as his pilot.

At that time, there was only one customer for aircraft and that was the War Ministry, and they had no interest in travelling up to Filey to see Robert's aircraft. Deciding that if the War Ministry wouldn't come to him, then he would go to the War Ministry, and set up his own flying school at Hendon, which at the time was the centre of British Aviation, and advertised for a Flying Instructor. Enter Harold, and the start of a firm friendship.

Whilst working as Flying Instructor for Robert, Harold was also testing new aircraft and flew the Blackburn Monoplane in 1913, which at the request of a wealthy pupil, Dr Christie, who had failed to get his own Pilot's Licence, after flying through a hangar, Robert built a two seat version which meant that Harold became Christie's 'Chauffer'.

As well as this work, Harold also became involved in taking people up on pleasure flights around Yorkshire, (including the daughter of one of the workers on the Wild Bill Hickocks tour of the UK, which went Bankrupt in c1913), before becoming involved in the Yorkshire/Lancashire Air Race which Yorkshire won (Hooray), in 1913. Michael still has this Trophy today.

On the 5th August 1914, World War 1 was declared, and Harold flew his Avro 504, which he had purchased after the Air Race, to a park in Harrogate where a recruiting station had been set up, and volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps. He was immediately signed up, and the War Ministry immediately commandeered his aircraft and paid £720 compensation!

In order to get Harold into service as quickly as possible, he was enlisted into the Special Reserve, which meant that he could avoid having to spend time doing basic training. The authorities therefore avoided regulations. He was obviously valued.

Initially, Harold was sent to France on reconnaissance duty. He kept in touch with his family whilst serving, and with a somewhat lax discipline on censorship by later war and today's standards, some of his letters were published in Flight Magazine describing his activities.

In late 1914 and early 1915, the decision was taken to greatly expand the RFC, and so Harold was brought back to the UK, where he was appointed Commander of 'C Flight' 14 Squadron.

Instead of being sent back France as expected, 14 Squadron were sent to Kantara in Egypt to defend the Suez Canal against the Turks.

Once there, Michael described that they were flying Bristol Scouts, and how the Observers would have spare cans of fuel or even bombs between their legs, as there were no bomb racks fitted. This in addition to their duties as camera operatives in their role as reconnaissance flights.

One of the tasks given to 14 Squadron was to bomb a Turkish Base at Buhr Al Sani. Because of its size, it wasn't practical to try and destroy it, but what could be done was to destroy its water supply. Using a bomb sight designed and built by Harold, one of 14's pilots called Cedric Waters-Hill, an Australian, was able to destroy the water storage tank, which led to the Turks abandoning their base, and relieve the threat to the Canal.

It was around this time when Harold was awarded the Military Cross, and was promoted to Major in charge of a Training School in Egypt.



Harold Blackburn,
Royal Flying Corps,
after receiving the
Military Cross for
service in Palestine,
January 1916.

Unfortunately for Michael's family, this was about three months before 14 Squadron were assigned to liaise with Lawrence of Arabia, and so are unable to claim a connection to him.

Harold returned from the war as a Wing Commander, and his RAF Career tailed off. Harold now married Violet Lister.

He rejoined the RAF in 1922, as the Base Commander at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire, which at the time was the main repair base for the RAF. This was where Michael's mother was born in 1922.

In 1924, he was given his final RAF Posting as Base Commander at Martlesham Heath in Suffolk which was the home to the Aircraft & Armament Experimental Establishment.

Michael then went on to describe how the living conditions on Service Bases were pretty basic after the war, with no electricity, basic cold-water supplies and were quite isolated etc. This led to his Grandmother having an affair, resulting in her being 'kicked out' of the family, and a subsequent divorce from Michael's Grandfather. At that time, if a family split, then the mother more or less usually got custody of any children. However, Harold wasn't having that, and so pursued the case through the courts, and was eventually granted custody of Michael's then ten year old mother. Unfortunately, it seems as though this had an effect on his mother as she felt that she had been abandoned by her mother.

Michael's Grandmother eventually remarried to a wealthy industrialist and was presented to the King in 1949.

Following the divorce, Michael described how there were no photographs or records of his family for about ten years, and how this had left somewhat of a void in his families' history.

After the divorce, and Harold's retirement from the RAF, he, along with Michael's mother and her Nanny, moved to Jersey. Eventually, Harold married the Nanny, Ruth, shortly before WW2.

At this point, Michael gave a resume of a book called, 'Coffee with Hitler', which describes the activities of a group of people who, in the period leading up to World War2, tried to get Hitler not to go to war, and became known as Appeasers. One of the main people involved was the previously mentioned Dr Christie, who had been appointed Air Attaché to Germany, who met Goering, and was able to pass back various bits of information about the Nazis to our Government, Goering believing Christie didn't know anything about Aircraft or their construction taking Christie around various sites and giving Christie knowledge and information which he believed Christie wouldn't recognise as important.

Shortly before war was declared, Harold tried to send Michael's mother, by this time aged 17, back to England on an evacuation barge. On arrival at the Harbour, they were told that there was no more room. Waiting until the barge was about to leave, Harold 'threw' his daughter onto the barge, where it was found that there was in fact space, and so she made it back to England. Shortly after this, Michael's father and step grandma also returned to England and the family settled in Cheltenham.

After the war, they returned to Jersey, to find the Air Race Trophy and Harold's medals which had been buried in a potato pot in the garden. Michael has inherited the trophy and medals, and his brother the potato pot!

During the war, Harold worked as an Air Raid Warden, and his mother with the Cheltenham Fire Brigade.

One of Michael's wishes was to try and find his grandfather's war records.

Unfortunately, because Harold had left the RAF after world War 1 ended, and rejoined in 1922, his service records were split between the RAF Museum at Hendon, and The National Archives. Again, unfortunately, Michael found that Harold's war records had been destroyed in The Blitz at the start of World War 2.

During his presentation, Michael had shown a photograph of a family gathering, on the back of which his mother had written a legend stating that it was of the wedding of her Father and Mother in 1913. However, the photo clearly shows Harold wearing the ribbon of the Air Force Cross, which only came into existence after the creation of the RAF in 1918/1919, and so the legend can't be correct.

Lesson. Don't take as gospel written notes, comments, attributions etc as correct. Double check.

To try and further his research, Michael eventually plucked up courage to visit The National Archives, not to find his Great Grandfather's records, but research the record of his grandfather's divorce from his Grandma. He described how all the detail of the court proceedings as well as personal details were recorded.

Because of what he read, and the fact that there were also problems on his father's side of the family, Michael was able to describe how he now understood how there was a ten or so year gap in the family history, and how much it had affected his mother in that she wouldn't talk about it, and that the records/photos which had come into his possession on her death, which had been hidden at the bottom of a drawer for many years, helped him in his research.

Towards the end of his research, Michael and his wife decided to go along to a local recording of the Antiques Roadshow, taking all the records, photos and medals of Harold. The result was that Michael was selected to be the final contributor to an edition of that show.

Michael's overall message was that of showing how past family history can flit between hero and ghost. I.E. in his case, First world War Hero, and then the stigma of divorce, and how such occurrences can upset descendants.

Conclusion

A very interesting talk, especially if you have an interest in aviation, which when intertwined with our primary interest in family and local history, made for a very worthwhile talk.

Many thanks to Michael for his time and effort.



THE FIRTHS OF THORNHILLS

The censuses show that my three times great grandfather James Firth was born in 1802 in Lindley, and next door but one in Thornhills Briggs (north of Brighouse) was William Firth, born c1800 in Lindley, both plasterers, likely brothers.

This seems straightforward enough, but where were they baptised? Lindley St. Stephen wasn't built until 1830, so not there. Previously Lindley came under Huddersfield St. Peter, but no luck there. Maybe they were from Old Lindley, in which case they should have been baptised at Elland St. Mary. No luck there either, though they were both subsequently married there. There was a William Firth baptised in 1800 and a James in 1802 at 'Biers', Halifax, though with different fathers – Mordecai and Thomas, and the notes say different chapels, Lightcliffe and Illingworth. The Biers/Briers entries in the Halifax registers are a funny bunch, under the Illingworth section, but probably pertaining to 'Chapel A Brier'. This was a lost Tudor chapel more than halfway along the road from Southowram and Brighouse, replaced by Southowram St. Anne church nearer the village in 1816-19. The IGI has a James Firth baptised at Brighouse Wesleyan in 1802, son of James. When I went to a family history fair at Cleckheaton Library someone suggested looking at Salendine Nook Baptist Chapel. Not somewhere I'd ever heard of, it shows the benefit of local knowledge. This had a William 'dedicated' in 1802, son of John and Hannah. So, possibilities, but nothing certain.

Going forward, James married Martha Barber in 1826 and William married Mary Ramsden in 1827, both at Elland St Mary. Martha's details vary a bit between censuses, but according to the 1871 one she was born in about 1802 in Thornhills. Unusually, the 1831 census survives for Brighouse. This lists both men as wool combers, James living with three women (presumably his wife Martha and daughters Elizabeth and Mary), and William with two women (presumably his wife Mary and a daughter). James was still a wool comber when his children were baptised in the 1830s, but by 1841 James and William were both plasterers. 1830s baptisms, the 1841 census, 1840s baptisms and the 1851 census firmly place James in Thornhill Briggs, though by 1861 he was at Brighouse Road, Hove Edge. James stayed a plasterer in 1851 and 1861, though William was back to wool combing in 1851 then was a mason's labourer in 1861. Then came another change of career – by 1871 (probably by 1864) James was a farmer of 8 acres at Thornhills, north-east of Brighouse. His son John carried on the farming, but James was back to plastering by the time he died in 1875 and was buried in Brighouse Cemetery. These days most people work in a town then many move to the country when they retire. In those days people (well, at least those whose families had lived in the area from before the Industrial Revolution) tried to live in the country then moved into town centres when they were becoming infirm and needed a shorter walk to the shops. James and Martha had moved to Dale Street just north-east of Brighouse centre. After James' death Martha moved to Spring Street just west of Brighouse centre (possibly son William's former home). Martha died in 1889 and was buried with her husband.

James and Martha's children

James and Martha had children Elizabeth born c1826, Mary c1827, Ellen in 1832, William in 1835, John (my two times great-grandfather) in 1838, Ann in 1842, Sarah in 1844, Eliza in 1847 and Tom in 1850. Most were baptised at Brighouse St. Martin.

Elizabeth married Joseph Goodyear in 1851 but sadly he died in 1861 aged only 37. In 1871 she was a cotton reeler at 15 Mellor Square, Mill Lane, Brighouse. In 1881 she "worked in silk" and she and her children were living with her widowed mother. In 1891 (after her mother had died) they were at Bridge End, Rastrick.

Ellen probably died young as she doesn't appear in subsequent censuses.

William married Emma North (born c1834 in Paddock) in 1858 and they had children James born in 1859, Albert in 1861, North in 1863, Sarah in 1865, John Edward in 1867, Laura/Lavinia in 1869, Benjamin in 1871 and Mary Elizabeth in 1873. William was a plasterer and in 1871 was living at Spring Street, Brighouse. William then goes off the radar - I can't find him in the 1881 or 1891 censuses, but I can't find a plausible death in Halifax district before 1892 either. In 1901 he may be in the Colliers Wood area of south-west London. I used to live nearby, and 1901 would fit exactly with when the terraced houses of Colliers Wood were being built and when plasterers would have been in demand. The woman listed with him as his wife was a much younger lady called Elizabeth though, even though Emma didn't die until 1908, back in Brighouse, where she was buried with her parents-in-laws.

John married Zillah Micklethwaite (born in 1841 at Thornhill south of Dewsbury) in 1860 at the New Church (Independent) at Square Road, Halifax. Zillah's father Benjamin (baptised in 1798 at Wakefield All Saints) had been a coal miner but had died in a roof fall at Clifton pit in 1857 and was buried at Brighouse St. Martin. Strangely the only mention of Clifton pit in local newspapers for several months either side was about a fight between two groups of miners on the day that Benjamin died. John worked with his father, briefly as a plasterer then on the farm at Thornhills (said to be 15 acres in 1881), which he took over after his father's death. The main business of the farm was said to be supplying the Isolation Hospital on the road to Clifton, built in 1892 after a smallpox epidemic. Zillah died in 1906. Like his parents, John moved into town when he was old (about WW1 time), moving in with his daughter Annie and her husband at 46 Huddersfield Road, Brighouse, where he died in 1922. He left his long case clock (commonly known as a grandfather clock) to Annie and the rest of his effects (worth £164) to his son John William. John and Zillah are buried together at Clifton St. John.

Eliza died aged 3 and was buried at Brighouse St. Martin.

Tom died after a few months.

John and Zillah's children

John and Zillah had children Eliza born in 1861, Martha Ann in 1864, Arthur in 1866, Ada in 1869, John William (my great grandfather) in 1871 and Annie in 1875.

Martha Ann married Charles Morrison, a cabinet maker, in 1885. They lived in Thornhills. Their son John was a talented stone carver and once carved a violin from stone.

Arthur probably married Elizabeth Ann Hirst in 1889. He was a colliery banksman. They also lived in Thornhills.

John William married Martha Ann Wood 1898 at Hartshead St. Peter. Martha Ann had been born in 1871 at Track Quarry at the Staincliffe corner of Batley parish. Family legend had that her mother came from a wealthy mill-owning family but was disinherited for running away with an Irish road builder. Well, her father David (1845-1901) was a 'paviour' (road paver) but from an old Bingley family. Her mother Ann Elizabeth (1850-1905) was a Fox from the centre of Batley (when it was still just a handful of houses), and there was a wealthy mill-owning Fox family of Batley, but I can't find any obvious connection to the mill-owning family (or to the Fox's biscuits family either). Ann Elizabeth's parents had come from Leeds and a family Bible still exists listing the times and dates of birth of most of her many siblings. Martha Ann's parents travelled all over West Yorkshire, presumably wherever a road needed building, but finally settled in Clifton (east of Brighouse) in about 1886.

John William worked for his father on the farm at Thornhills, looking after the horses. He may have briefly taken over the farm after his father John retired, but by 1921 he was working for the Brighouse Co-Op looking after their coal delivery horses at Mill Lane. The tenancy of the farm was given up in about 1922, supposedly for only £50, at a tough time when many had no job at all. A 1922 deed mentions him as occupying a cottage at Holly Farm, a nearby smallholding. The Armytages of Kirklees Hall sold the farm land and 'new' farmhouse in 1923, and the 'old' farmhouse (with an Armytage coat of arms on the gable) and cottages in 1928. The Armytages had owned nearly all of Thornhills and Clifton (apart from, curiously, Tattersall's) and put their estate up for sale sometime in the 1920s (undated map in Calderdale Archives). The Thornhills farmhouses and cottages were demolished in about 1970 and replaced by a modern six-bedroomed house called Thorncliffe (possibly number 286). The last time I visited the barn still survived though converted into a house. Until recently the former farm entrance was distinguished by a bright red phone box outside. (Some of these details are from Margaret Sharpe's 'Down the Acres').

John William and family moved to 71 (subsequently renumbered as 85) Bradford Road, Brighouse in 1924. Later John William delivered the coal by lorry, lorries having replaced carts and horses, though he didn't do the driving. One day he dropped a sack of coal on his foot, gangrene set in, and he had to have his leg amputated below the knee. He died in 1948 and was buried in Brighouse Cemetery. Martha Ann died in 1951.

Annie married Harry Peel (also born in 1875) in 1897. In 1901 they were living in Raws Terrace, Wyke and Harry was a grocer's assistant. In 1911 and 1921 they were at 46 Huddersfield Road, Brighouse and he was managing a grocery store, probably at his home address. She died in 1927 and he in 1931, and they are buried together in Brighouse Cemetery.

John William and Martha Ann's children

John William and Martha Ann had children Zillah born in 1900, Ann Elizabeth (known as "Annie") in 1901, Nellie (my grandmother) in 1905, and Jack (my godfather) in 1914.

Zillah married Ernest Smith Alderson, a silk dresser, in 1922 at Halifax Register Office. Tragically Ernest died in 1933 aged only 33, leaving Zillah with seven children to bring up. Allegedly at one time they were all living in one room at the side of 231 Thornhills Lane, and at another the children (except for the baby) were put in an orphanage, but my mother said "Nonsense!, they all lived at 225 Thornhills Lane", and indeed that's where the 1939 register shows Zillah, though unemployed and with only two children living with her. By 1951 Zillah was at 10 Mill Lane in one of the poorer parts of Brighouse. She married again in 1955, to Fred Wainwright. She died in 1985.

Annie married Herbert Pybus, a joiner of Westgate, Clifton, in 1922 at Clifton St. John. For a while they ran a guest house at Blackpool, but by 1939 he was a funeral director in Chesterfield. She died in 1981 and he the next year.

For Nellie, the happiest days of her life were growing up at Thornhills Farm. For me it's hard to imagine my grandmother ever being naughty, but she told us many tales of her childhood escapades. At harvest time she used to bunk off school (probably in Clifton) to ride on her father's horse and cart. When in class she would eat rhubarb and sugar hidden beneath her desk. She would pinch the odd swede ('turnip') from another farmer's field. She would knock on the door of the man who owned the village well and run away. Her stories often featured being chased across fields by animals – cows ('beasts'), goats and geese. Geese were actually the most dangerous, one of her friends was badly injured by some. As for many children of that time, her favourite pastimes were rolling a hoop and spinning a wooden top with a little whip. These sound like simple games but are not so easy in practice. She had fond memories of celebrations held in fields at Clifton: for the 1911 Coronation when all the children were given buns, and for Victory (probably 1919) when they were given little keepsakes.

Nellie married Herbert Hardcastle in 1928 at Brighouse St. Martin. He was a wire-drawer and the son of Leonard, a well-known trade union official in the 'Heavy Woollen District'. (One of the witnesses was Annie Littlewood, probably the wife of William Littlewood who was subsequently vicar of Clifton St. John in 1960-63. My grandmother claimed that William was her cousin, but it's hard to see how this could be as it seems that he was the illegitimate son of a Keighley millworker). One of Herbert's gt-gt-granddads, Henry Barber, had been born at Thornhills and baptised at Hartshead St Peter in 1805, but the family subsequently moved away to the villages east of Halifax, though many were returned all the way to Hartshead St Peter for burial. (As half the pubs along the route were run by that family, they may have had some good wakes!). If Henry Barber was the brother of the previously mentioned Martha Barber, then it would imply that my grandparents were third cousins one removed without knowing it, though no baptism has been found for Martha to prove it.

Nellie and Herbert initially lived at Highfield Terrace in Hartshead Moor, but once his parents moved to Halifax (in about 1934) they moved to Herbert's childhood home at 1014 Halifax Road, Hartshead Moor. I won't say much more about their lives after Thornhills otherwise this article will be too long, but Thornhills remained my grandmother's and mother's spiritual home, and they often visited. Before she married my mother worked at Ayrtown & Cornwell solicitors in Brighouse and often cycled to work, splashing through the ford at Thornhill Briggs. My mother named her house in Essex 'Thornhills'. Herbert died in 1974 and Nellie in 1983, both at Staincliffe General Hospital, and both cremated and ashes scattered at Dewsbury Moor.

Jack married Nellie Stubbs (born 1915 in Brighouse, my godmother) in 1942 at Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, Bradford Road, Bailiffe Bridge. At first they lived in Old Wyke Lane but from 1948 they lived at 5 Coronation Terrace, later renamed 9 Birkhouse Road, Bailiffe Bridge. As one might guess, they worked at the nearby T F Firth (no relation)'s carpet mills. During WW2 he was an ammunition loader for Hurricanes at RAF North Weald, then later in Egypt and Iraq. Jack died in 1981 and Nellie in 1997.

Calderdale Council are planning to build thousands of houses in Thornhills in a "garden suburb" so the hamlet my mother's family loved so much will soon be lost.

BY JEFF COUSINS



Betty 'Elizabeth' Hey née Firth: A Life in the Calder Valley

As family historians, we often find ourselves drawn not to the grand figures of history, but to the quieter lives lived in the shadow of mills, chapels, and cobbled streets. Betty 'Elizabeth' Hey née Firth — born two centuries ago in 1825 — is one such woman whose story might easily have slipped through the cracks of time. Betty is one of my paternal third great-grandmothers. Her life, though ordinary by Victorian standards, offers a vivid window into the realities of working-class womanhood in the industrialising West Riding of Yorkshire.

Betty was born in Clifton, near Brighouse, at a time when the Industrial Revolution was reshaping every aspect of daily life. In the year of her birth, George IV was on the throne, the Stockton and Darlington Railway had only just begun to prove the potential of steam transport, and the population of Brighouse was still small enough that most residents would have known each other by name. Life expectancy in the 1820s hovered around the mid-40s, and infant mortality was tragically common — a reality reflected in the Firth household, where several of Betty's eleven siblings did not survive childhood.

Baptised at St Peter's Church, Hartshead, in November 1825, Betty grew up in a parish once served by the Reverend Patrick Brontë, father of the famous literary sisters. Her parents, William Firth, a miner, and Ellen (née Lee), were typical of the rural-to-urban migration that characterised the early 19th century. As textile mills expanded across the Calder Valley, families like the Firths moved in search of steadier wages, even if the work was gruelling and the hours long.

By the age of 25, Betty was working as a weaver — one of the most common occupations for women in the district. In 1854, she gave birth to an illegitimate son, Albert William Firth. Victorian society was often harsh in its judgement of unmarried mothers, yet Betty appears to have been a woman of considerable resilience. Newspaper reports from the period show her standing up for herself in court on more than one occasion, including securing a bastardy order against a mill overlooker — a rare and courageous act for a working-class woman of her time.

In 1860, at the age of 35, she married Joseph Hey, a widowed barber nearly fifteen years her senior. Their marriage created a complex blended household, bringing together Joseph's seven surviving children from his previous marriages, Betty's son Albert, and later their daughter Mary Ellen. Victorian blended families were far more common than we sometimes imagine, largely due to high mortality rates, but they were seldom simple to navigate.

Betty spent most of her married life on Park Street, Brighouse — a bustling area close to mills, workshops, and the town centre. Her husband's trade as a hairdresser was a respected one; barbers often doubled as surgeons earlier in the century, and even by the 1860s they were central figures in local communities.

Widowed in 1873, Betty lived out her later years with stepchildren and her daughter Mary Ellen. She died in 1889 at the age of 63, having lived through the reigns of four monarchs, the coming of the railways, the rise of factory legislation, and the transformation of Brighouse from a modest township into a thriving industrial centre.

19th Century Brighouse

Understanding Betty's life means understanding the town that shaped her. Nineteenth-century Brighouse was a place in the midst of extraordinary transformation. When Betty was born in the 1820s, the settlement was still semi-rural, dotted with scattered cottages, handloom weavers' workshops, and small farms. By the time she died in 1889, Brighouse had become a bustling industrial town, its skyline dominated by mill chimneys and its streets humming with the noise of textile machinery.

In 1850, the population hovered around 6,000 — a fraction of the 33,000 recorded in the 2021 census — yet for its size, Brighouse was remarkably industrious. Contemporary accounts list thirteen cotton mills, several woollen and worsted mills, a carpet factory, engineering works, foundries, and even soap manufacturers. The River Calder powered much of this growth, and the Calder and Hebble Navigation made Brighouse a vital link in the region's transport network.

Betty in the News

Newspaper archives offer rare glimpses into the lives of working-class women, and Betty is one of the fortunate few whose name appears in print. Two surviving articles reveal a woman unafraid to assert her rights in a society that often expected women — especially unmarried, working-class women — to remain silent.

In August 1848, the Halifax Guardian reported a case in which Betty charged another woman, Mary Ann Wallace, with assault. The dispute appears to have centred on accusations of 'keeping company' with Mary Ann's husband, a mill overlooker. The magistrates dismissed the justification for the assault, ordering Mary Ann to pay costs. For a young woman in her early twenties, standing before a bench of male magistrates would have taken considerable courage.

A second article, published in March 1854, is even more revealing. Betty successfully sought a bastardy order against George Brooke, an overlooker at

the same worsted mill where she worked. Such orders were notoriously difficult to obtain; they required a woman to publicly name the father of her child and withstand cross-examination. That Betty succeeded — and that DNA evidence now supports the connection — speaks to her determination and resilience.

Victorian Bastardy Orders

- Required public testimony
- Often favoured employers or men of higher status
- Rarely granted without strong evidence
- Provided small weekly payments for child support

Census Records

1841: A Fragmented Household

The 1841 census shows Betty, aged about 15, living in Brighthouse with her siblings. Her parents appear two pages earlier, living with two young Smith children. Because the census did not require precise addresses and often grouped households loosely, it is impossible to determine whether the family lived together or in neighbouring dwellings.

1851: A Weaver Supporting a Widowed Mother

By 1851, Betty was 25 and working as a weaver in Hipperholme-cum-Brighthouse. She lived with her widowed mother Ellen, two brothers, and an elderly lodger.

1861: A New Name and a Blended Family

The 1861 census captures Betty shortly after her marriage to widower Joseph Hey. Now recorded as 'Elizabeth Hey,' she lived on Park Street with Joseph and five of his children. Her own son, Albert, then aged seven, was living with his grandmother Ellen.

1871: A Full Household

A decade later, the household on Park Street had grown even larger. Betty, now 45, lived with Joseph, her two biological children, and four stepchildren.

1881: Widowhood

By 1881, Betty was a widow living at Lane Court, off Bonegate, with two stepchildren and her daughter Mary Ellen.

Betty's Ancestry

Betty's parents, William Firth and Ellen Lee, both hailed from the Dewsbury area — William from Thornhill and Ellen from nearby Briestfield. They married in 1817 at Thornhill, a parish with deep medieval roots. After their marriage, they moved to Hartshead, where several of their children, including Betty, were baptised at St Peter's Church.

Why Betty's Story Matters

Betty's life is a testament to the resilience of ordinary women in extraordinary times. Her story — pieced together through parish registers, census returns, newspaper archives, and DNA evidence — enriches our understanding of the Victorian working class and the communities that shaped them.

“In telling Betty's story, we honour the countless unnamed women whose lives formed the backbone of our industrial heritage.”

BY ANNABELLE MCGUIRE

FOUR LIVES

There's an old expression; 'Conservation by neglect'. It is one which is particularly relevant to Halifax town centre. The boom in the second half of the 20th century of reshaping towns and cities with utilitarian concrete largely passed Halifax by. The end result was a reasonably complete Victorian town centre, the full beauty of which only really became apparent when a 1960s programme of cleaner fuels and sandblasting buildings to remove decades of soot and grime revealed the architecture beneath. Suddenly we realised what we'd got.

Most famously, of course, we have the Piece Hall; a simply stunning and unique building which rightly attracts many visitors to the town. However, one of Halifax's lesser known gems is the Borough Market. Completed in 1896, and opened by the Duke of York (the future George V), it was, and still is, a wonderful example of late Victorian civic architecture. It contains shops around all four sides of the periphery, a myriad of stalls in the middle, and of course, the 'street in the sky', houses built on the upper levels of the market to provide homes for the market traders below. It has a wonderful glass and metal domed roof, and comes complete with a suitably ornate central clock, and cast iron wyverns and dragons aplenty.

Back in the day, whilst the central stalls provided goods to satisfy a plethora of household needs, the peripheral shops were nearly all butchers. This was a time before refrigeration when meat needed to be bought on a daily basis. There were around 50 butchers shops to supply this demand; most have now gone as supermarkets have taken hold and shopping habits change, but a few still remain.

Tucked away (it's a fair bet that most locals don't even know it's there) in a passageway by the public toilets, is a quite remarkable object; the Halifax Butchers' Roll of Honour. It gives the names of all the butchers who joined the armed forces in the first world war. It was produced during the conflict, and a close inspection of it reveals that there is no end date anywhere, and space for more names, simply because at the time no one knew when the war would end. It is shown below.

There are over 120 names on the roll of honour. Except of course that they aren't just names. Every single name on that list was a real person, with real life experiences before, during and (for those who survived) after the war. Even if they escaped bombs and bullets, their lives would have been permanently altered by their experiences. This is the story of just four of them.

HERMAN WOODHEAD

Herman was born on July 13th 1895, at 258 Gibbet Street, Halifax. It would remain his home for the vast majority of his life. He was the oldest of the three children of Sam and Lily Woodhead; Sam was a butcher who had his shop at Gibbet Street and lived above it with his family. When the Borough market opened the year after Herman was born, Sam opened a second shop there, at number 27. The shop still survives, and is now Yo DeeJay records.

Herman grew up at Gibbet Street, one of the many long arterial residential roads radiating out from the town centre. It was a mainly working class area, providing housing for Halifax's factory workers, as well as shops such as Sam's, providing goods for the local residents. By the time of the 1911 Census, the 15 year old Herman was already working as an assistant in the local business, probably splitting his time between the shops in Gibbet Street and the Borough market.

Three years later came the start of the first world war, and two years after that, in 1916, Herman joined up and was assigned to the Yorkshire and Lancaster regiment.

258 Gibbet Street today

He and his comrades saw active service in Ypres and the Somme, but thankfully Herman survived and was able to return home to Halifax at the end of the war. He resumed his former life as a butcher, and in 1920 he married Lilian Copley at Rhodes Street Methodist Chapel, near to where he lived.

The following year, Herman and Lilian were still living above the shop at Gibbet Street, along with his parents. He remained there all his working life,

successfully trading both there and in the butchers shop in the Borough Market. In 1945 he even had a phone line at Gibbet Street (Halifax 5992, if you're interested). He and Lilian did not have any children.

Herman eventually died in Halifax on October 4th 1968. As a sign of his success, he was able to leave almost £20,000 in his will – a considerable sum for the time.

EMPEROR PICKERSGILL

The splendidly named Emperor Pickersgill was born in 1888 in Holmfield, around three miles north of Halifax town centre and by then a suburb of the expanding town. He was the son of Fred Pickersgill, an iron tool maker, and his wife Elizabeth, a worsted twister. He was the second oldest of seven children, though two died young. Looking at the fairly normal names of his surviving siblings; Rhoda, Maurice, Ethel and Annie, you do have to wonder where his first name came from.

In 1891 the Pickersgills lived at Holdsworth in Holmfield, and the young Emperor attended Bradshaw school, around a mile away. In 1901 they had moved to 10 Holmfield Terrace, and Emperor was already working at a worsted mill. They were still there in 1911, but by this time Emperor and younger brother Maurice were working as butchers and carcass dealers.

In March 1913 Emperor married Clara Heywood, and later that year, on October 31st, daughter Nancy was born. Another daughter, Mona, followed on May 8th 1915, and the family set up home at 18 Brighton Street, Lee Mount, not far from where Emperor was born and raised.

Then, in July 1917, family life was interrupted when Emperor was called up, firstly to the Duke of Wellington Regiment (along with many other local men) and then to the Border Regiment. He would never return to his wife and young family again. In 1918 his regiment joined an action in Ghelapac Valley, Italy, against troops from Austria, and sometime during the night of 9/10th August, Emperor was killed. He was 33 years old. His photograph and a short obituary appeared in the Halifax Courier on the 31st August. His grave can be found at Boscon British Cemetery in Italy.

Even though she received a widow's pension, his wife Clara must have been devastated by the loss. In 1921 she and her daughters were back living with her parents, and later Clara moved in with her brother Fred and his family. By a strange quirk of fate, Clara also worked in the Borough Market in the years between the two world wars; she and her brother had a toy shop at stalls 45 and 46, a site now occupied by Toffee Smiths sweet shop, a real Halifax institution. Clara eventually died in Halifax in 1964. She never remarried.

But what happened to Emperor and Clara's children, Nancy and Mona? Thankfully a happier outcome for both. In 1939 Nancy married Lewis Kirby. They had a daughter in 1947, and Nancy eventually died in Halifax in March 2001, aged 87. In 1937 Mona married Harold Briggs Norville. They too remained local, producing four children; Mona died in Halifax in February 2000 at the age of 84.

WALLACE CHARNOCK

Wallace was born in Southowram, Halifax, on the 21st September 1887. He was the son of Edgar Charnock, a stone merchant, and his wife Ellen. Interestingly, the Butchers Roll of Honour isn't the only Charnock connection with the Borough Market; Wallace's uncle George Charnock's company built it – his name (and address – a smart piece of advertising!) can be found on the foundation stone at the market entrance on Southgate. In 1891 the Charnocks lived at Grange House, Southowram, and in 1901 they were at 28 Chester Road, Boothtown. Wallace had three siblings; Raymond, Milford and Lois.

By 1911 Wallace's older brother Milford was tenant at Cote Hill Farm in Southowram, and Wallace was living with him. His occupation is given as a wagon driver and carting agent. Presumably he was transporting meat from the farm to the wholesale and retail butchers in Halifax. This would explain his presence on the Borough Market Butchers' Roll of Honour – there is no evidence of him working as a butcher.

Wallace joined up in 1915 and was posted into the Labour Corps. Often comprised of men graded unfit for front line duty, the Labour Corps were indispensable, provided manual and skilled labour, digging trenches, building roads and railways, evacuating wounded and often burying the dead. It is not hard to imagine some of the events that Wallace would have witnessed, but at least he survived the war.

Lower George Yard in the 1960s

In 1921 Wallace was still single, and we find him living and working at Lower George Yard in Woolshops, in Halifax town centre (see photo above). This was attached to the Lower George Hotel, one of the nearest buildings to the central Halifax abattoir and the Piece Hall, then being used as a wholesale fruit and vegetable market. From here, Wallace traded as a carrier, moving goods backwards and forwards from wholesaler to retailer. In the 1921 Census he is described as a sole trader, ie a one man operation.

Wallace was still single, but living with him at Lower George Yard in 1921 was a Laura Stirk, described as a housekeeper, and her infant daughter Kathleen Stirk, born the year before. We can't know with certainty whether Kathleen was Wallace's daughter, though it is possible, even likely. In the census her

relationship to the head of the household (Wallace) is given as daughter, but the return had been filled out by two different hands, presumably those of Wallace and Laura, and it may be that Laura was recording Kathleen as being her daughter, not Wallace's.

Ten years later, in 1931 Wallace and Laura actually married, and it may be relevant that Kathleen took the surname Charnock. In 1936 and 1939 the family were still at Lower George Yard, and Wallace is described as a master carrier. However, Wallace died shortly afterwards in spring 1940, and in the same year Kathleen married a man named Thomas Graham. They lived in Halifax for a while afterwards, and had a family of four children. Kathleen lived to the ripe old age of 97, dying in Redcar in May 2017.

As a final postscript to Wallace's story, Lower George Hotel and yard were demolished in 1972, in preparation for the building of the Woolshops Shopping Centre. Marks & Spencers now stands on the site.

HORACE SYKES

The last of our quartet, Horace, was born at Salterhebble Terrace, Halifax in the summer of 1891. He was the second of three children of Walter, a stuff worker, and his wife Sarah. At some point between the birth of Horace's sister Minnie in 1895 and the 1901 Census, Sarah had died and Walter is described as a widower. However, later that year Walter married again, to a Lavinia Thornton, and in 1911 the family were still at Salterhebble Terrace. Horace, then 19, was a butcher's apprentice, working in the Skircoat Green branch of the Halifax Industrial Society (later the Co-op).

Horace and his family went to church at the nearby Salterhebble Methodist Chapel, where he developed a fine singing voice and joined the chapel choir. In 1914, he married Edith Smith and they set up house at Chapel Lane. They hadn't moved far; it is just across the road from Salterhebble Terrace.

Then, the outbreak of war altered Horace's life forever. He volunteered in November 1914 (not 1915, as written on the Roll of Honour) and joined the Duke of Wellington regiment. He was to serve in the 1st and 4th Battalions. It is said that he regularly entertained the troops with his excellent singing voice. His regiment were deployed in the thick of the action on the Western Front, and in December 1915 the German army launched a gas attack on Horace and his comrades. Horace showed enormous bravery by venturing out and bringing an incapacitated colleague back to safety. For this he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry, one of the highest awards a soldier can receive. The award citation mentions that he had done the same thing on two or three other occasions.

Skircoat Green branch of the Halifax Industrial Society in the 1890s

Horace actually survived the war, and restarted civilian life with wife Edith. In 1919 he resumed work as a butcher at Skircoat Green, this time as manager. Within days, tragedy struck. Like so many others in the immediate aftermath of the war, Horace contracted Spanish influenza. He died on 4th March 1919, and is buried at All Saints Church, just around the corner from where he was born and raised. In 1960, his wife Edith was buried with him.

So, just four stories from four of the names on the Butchers' Roll of Honour. There are over 100 more, just to add to the millions of others from those fateful four years.

I'm indebted to Malcolm Bull, via his Calderdale Companion website, for some of the background information on Emperor Pickersgill and Horace Sykes.

BY DUNCAN MITCHELL



Halifax Butchers Roll of Honour by Stephen Craven,
CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons, unaltered.

Membership Application & Renewal.

We have recently been trying to streamline our systems so that it makes life easier for both our members & officers to renew membership of the Society, or for one of your friends to join.

At one time, members only renewed each April, but a few years ago we changed the system so that people could join the Society at any time of the year for a full 12 months. Although longstanding members tend to have April as their renewal time, more & more people renew at a different time of the year, so may not always find it easy to have the Application Form to hand.

As a result, we will now print a copy of the Application Form in each edition of the Scrivener (ie 4 times per year) & hope that this may make things easier for you.

In line with all UK high street banks, our bank is now making charges for processing cheques & therefore, although cheques of course still be welcome, we would like members to use a different system of payment. Where you do this, there is no need to complete a paper form for renewal – it helps our Membership Secretary, though, if you quote your membership number when doing so, as this means that he can separate renewals from new applications more easily.

So, to summarise, here are the options for renewing your subscription when the time comes (you will always get a reminder in good time, by E-mail) :-

- Make payment through Internet banking direct into our account, adding in the reference your name & either your membership no. or the words "renewal".
- Renew via www.genfair.co.uk when you can pay using your credit card. Again, please indicate that it is a renewal.
- Completing the Application Form printed in the Scrivener & paying by cheque, sending both to our Membership Secretary, at the address on the Application Form.

We hope that these changes in our process will make it easier & clearer how to renew your membership. If you have any queries about payment, please contact our Treasurer, at treasurer@cfhsweb.com

Peter Lord – Chairman.

**Calderdale Family History Society
Incorporating Halifax and District
Application for Membership/Renewal – “Single Use” 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

Membership Fees	Individual	Family
UK MEMBERSHIP	£ 12.00	£ 14.00
INTERNET ¹ (including Overseas Membership)	£ 6.00	£ 8.00

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

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

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

PTO

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 memb-sec@cfhsweb.com

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

Signature _____

**General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
how the Society keeps & uses 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 memb-sec@cfhsweb.com.

Please read these notes before completing & signing the Application Form on the reverse of this page.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CFHS CONSTITUTION

This amendment to the Constitution will be put to the Society membership at the AGM on Thursday 23rd April 2026. The members attending will be asked to vote on this and it will require a majority of two thirds of meeting attendees in favour for it to be passed. Your Committee have indicated their approval for the motion.

A constitutional update is proposed to clarify clause 4.6 regarding the Committee refusing or terminating membership. The current clause is broad and provides no examples of conduct that may justify such action or procedure to manage such situations. Without clearer guidance, decisions may be vulnerable to challenge, inconsistency, or perceptions of unfairness.

CFHS does not currently have a member Code of Conduct. In the absence of this documents, this amendment retains the existing clause but adds a line confirming that the Society will maintain a formal procedure and an appeals process. This strengthens clarity for members, aligns the Constitution with modern governance practice, and ensures that existing powers are exercised fairly and transparently.

Motion

That the Society amend Clause 4.6 as follows:

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.”

Rationale

- Provides clearer expectations for members and protects them by ensuring decisions are evidence-based, proportionate, and subject to appeal.
- Supports fair, consistent, and transparent decision-making.
- Strengthens governance and reduces legal, financial, and reputational risk.
- Reflects good practice for voluntary organisations.
- Ensures the Constitution remains relevant and fit for purpose.
- Encourages member engagement in shaping governing documents.
- This proposed change forms part of the Society's ongoing commitment to maintaining clear, robust, and member-informed governance.

Thank you to the CFHS membership for considering this motion.

Annabelle McGuire

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/bihr/ (*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 returns, 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 is a free website containing billions of searchable records and one large global collaborative tree.

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 concerning 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 lgyhfs@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

Officers and Co-ordinators of the Society

Officer and Name,	Address and E-mail	Tel. No.
Chairman Mr. Peter Lord	288 Halifax Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse, HD6 2PB e-mail - chairman@cfhsweb.com	01484-718576

Secretary Mr. David Allen	31, Scarlin Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2HX e-Mail – secretary@cfhsweb.com	07851-076698
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Treasurer Ms. Annabelle McGuire	e-Mail – treasurer@cfhsweb.com
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Membership Secretary Mr. Chris Hiley,	53 Brandreth Drive, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire WN8 7HB e-mail - membsec@cfhsweb.com	01257 464134
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Editor ~ Scrivener Mrs. Susan Griffith	(for submission of articles, letters, etc.) e-mail - editor@cfhsweb.com
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Editor ~ Newsletter Mrs. Pam Newby	e-mail - newsletter@cfhsweb.com
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Enquiry Service Co-ordinator (for research queries and search requests) Mrs. Susan Lord	288 Halifax Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse, HD6 2PB e-mail - search@cfhsweb.com	01484-718576
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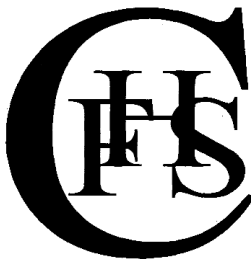
Officer and Name,	Address and E-mail	Tel. No.
Projects Co-ordinator		
Mr. Peter Lord,	288 Halifax Road, Hove Edge, Brighthouse, HD6 2PB e-mail - projects@cfhsweb.com	01484-718576

Web Administrator & Facebook
 Mr. Mark Harrey
 e-mail - webmaster@cfhsweb.com

Members' Interests Co-ordinator
 Mr. Chris Hiley 53 Brandreth Drive, Parbold,
 Wigan, Lancashire WN8 7HB
 e-mail - interests@cfhsweb.com 01257 464134

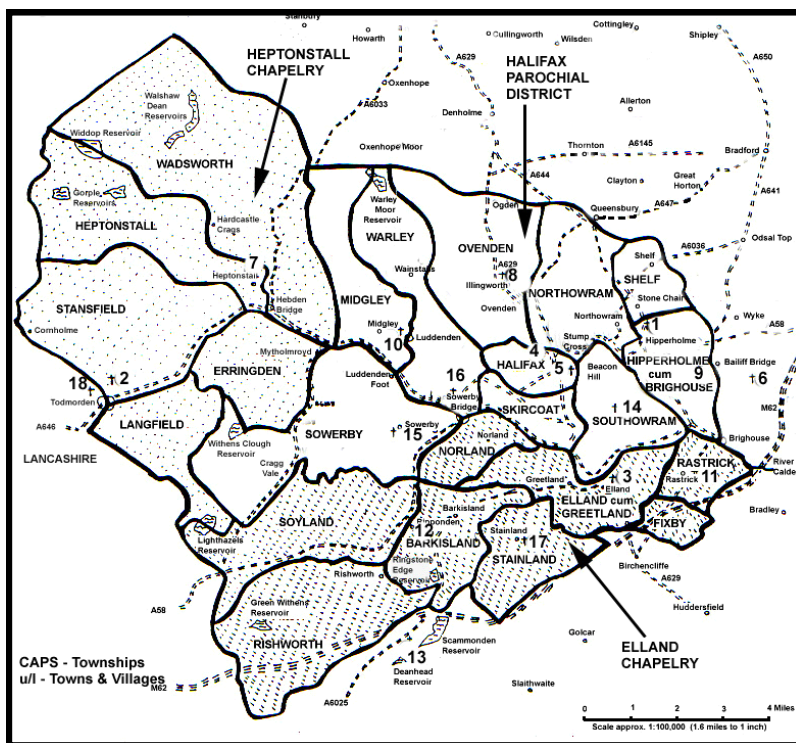
Publicity & Meeting Organiser
 Mr. John Barraclough
 e-mail - publicity@cfhsweb.com

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. RIPPPONDEN	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.