

THE SCRIVENER



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

Number 193

Winter

December 2025

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, 2025, 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.

© Copyright of Scrivener is held jointly by CFHS and the contributors.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

EDITORIAL	5
COVER PICTURE	9
CFHS Talk - Sep 2024: I KNOW WHO I AM, THANKS TO DNA by Graham Farmer	15
THE HUNT FOR MARY HANNAH - AND HOW FINDING HER WAS A TEAM EFFORT	21
CONFESSIONS OF A GENEALOGICAL LUDDITE	24
ALFRED CROSSLEY: HALIFAX'S UNREMEMBERED NATURALIST AND EXPLORER	30
HATCHES, MATCHES AND DISPATCHES IN VICTORIAN SHELF	36

GENERAL INFORMATION

USEFUL CONTACTS	40
FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS, etc	41
HUDDERSFIELD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY	41
ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX ~ Chapelries & Townships	44

CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

ABOUT CFHS	2
COPY DATES	4
GENERAL DATA PROTECTION	4
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL	6
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL (FORM)	7
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL (Notes)	8
MEMBERS' INTERESTS	9
SOCIETY OFFICERS REQUIRED – URGENT !!	10
PROJECT UPDATES	12
REPORT on the CFHS OVERSEAS GROUP	13
MEETINGS (ZOOM only)	38
CFHS OFFICERS	42

PUBLICATION & SERVICES SUPPLEMENT	P1- P4
-----------------------------------	--------

THE SCRIVENER

Publication Dates

SPRING 2026 ((March))
SUMMER 2026 ((June))
AUTUMN 2026 (September))
WINTER 2026 ((December))

Deadline Dates for Copy

FEBRUARY 16th 2026
MAY 4th 2026
AUGUST 17th 2026
NOVEMBER 9th 2026

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

As anticipated, the baton of editorship has been passed on to me from Frances Stubbs. Thank you, Frances, for over a decade of hard work in the production of The Scrivener. You are missed already, I assure you! I only hope I can approximate the level of clarity, organization and professionalism we have come to expect in the Scrivener. You have been so generous in helping me find my way. Best of luck to you in all your new and continued endeavors.

I have never been an editor of any kind before, unless one counts grocery lists. I did go back to school at age 46 in order to get a degree in Family History, which had been my hobby/obsession for many years. Attending classes with 18-year-olds was daunting at first, until I became the "Mom" to fellow classmates. I listened to many an essay for those who needed some maternal support. Following graduation, I was hired by Legacy Tree Genealogy to basically answer their phones. But I got lucky when the Project Manager had to leave and I took her place. It was a dream job that I held for over 13 years and I will always be grateful for that experience.

My own ties to Calderdale come through my paternal second-great grandfather, William Stell of Stansfield, who left Yorkshire for the United States in 1849. I live in Virginia, but I have visited the Calderdale area several times in my attempts to trace the Stell and related families back further. Eventually, this search led me to the Calderdale Family History Society and I am proud to be a co-coordinator of the overseas group, a committee member, representing the overseas members, and now the editor. I am looking forward to reading the articles submitted and learning more of Calderdale and the people who came before us.

The resources available to us through the Society are remarkable. Thank you to all of those who have worked so hard to make this an outstanding Society. I look forward to many years of association with you.

Susan Griffith
Editor

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.

You will have read in February's Newsletter how 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.

Members' Interests

Surname	Location	County	Known	Wanted
GEE	OUTLANE, STAINLAND	WES	From 1830-1921	From 1700-1851
ACKROYD	HALIFAX, SOWERBY BRIDGE	WES	From 1841-1921	From 1700-1851
STIRK		YKS	From 1774 to now	Start to now

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



COVER PICTURE

Stainland (Providence)
 Congregational Cemetery

SOCIETY OFFICERS REQUIRED – URGENT !!

In the September Scrivener, I wrote a long article on the need for volunteers to fill vital positions within the Society, the 2 most urgent ones being Chair & Treasurer.

Happily, one of our members has stepped forward as a volunteer to fill the role of Treasurer from April 2026, when our current Treasurer stands down. 2 other roles, Project Coordinator and Systems Coordinator, do not need filling quite so urgently and discussions are already taking place regarding the Project Coordinator role.

However, our most urgent need is that of a new Chair. As I reported in September, I will most definitely be standing down from the post at the AGM in April 2026 but we have, as yet, not been able to find a volunteer to stand in my place. Several members have been approached individually, all of whom have declined. Other avenues are being explored but by far and away the best option is for an existing member of the Society to step forward to fill the position.

I am not going to explain the detail of the job again, as I covered it all in the September Scrivener, but I would like to emphasise that it is not a particularly time-consuming role & you will be supported by a team of willing & experienced officers carrying out their own responsibilities.

It would ideally suit someone newly retired, or running down in their full time work, and provides an opportunity to contribute to the running of a thriving & successful Family History Society.

So, having read this, please consider seriously whether or not you are prepared to step forward to fill this key role. One thing is certain – that without a volunteer the Society will be seriously compromised. One or two other societies have attempted to operate without a Chair & none have found it a sensible or successful solution.

You don't need to be resident in Calderdale, as all meetings, both General & Committee, are conducted remotely over Zoom.

I will be more than happy to discuss the detail or any particular aspect of Chair with anyone interested in stepping forward. All you need to do is to E-Mail me at chairman@cfhsweb.com or ring me on 01484-718576 & I can answer any questions that you may have.

So please consider this very seriously, as we can't continue to operate without key officials.

Peter Lord.



Project Update.

In the September edition of The Scrivener, we reported on two new projects that we have decided to do. In this edition we are updating you all on how things are progressing.

Brighthouse Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions.

Our Transcription Team have been busy working on these since the middle of September. The Cemetery is divided into 2 main areas – Consecrated & Non-Consecrated – each of which is sub-divided into 6 sections.

As promised, we are publishing the results section by section & we are delighted to report that all the Non-Consecrated Mis have already been published on our Online database, the number of graves involved amounting to 1844. These can be accessed via the Transcription Index on the Society website www.cfhsweb.com which then gives members a straight link to the records concerned on the Online Database.

Work continues apace on the Consecrated area, and, by the time you read this the first 2 of the 6 sections should already have been published, and the photography for the remaining sections almost completed.

As you will appreciate, Monumental inscriptions offer a unique insight into families, due to relationships expressed on them that are not always apparent from other records.



Work continues apace on the Consecrated area, and, by the time you read this the first 2 of the 6 sections should already have been published, and the photography for the remaining sections almost completed.

As you will appreciate, Monumental inscriptions offer a unique insight into families, due to relationships expressed on them that are not always apparent from other records.

Halifax Mill Records.

We have now received permission to transcribe employment records from 2 major Calderdale Mills for the late 19th/early 20th century. These are :-

- ❖ I&I Calvert Limited of Wainstalls Mill, Warley, Textile Manufacturers
- ❖ James Akroyd and Son Limited of Copley Mills, Skircoat

Work will begin on these in the early part of 2026, once the team have completed Brighouse Cemetery MIs.

Bank Top Methodist Chapel, Southowram.

We hope to start this project either in parallel with, or after, the Halifax Mill project.

Report on the CFHS Overseas Group

The Calderdale Family History Society has about 60 members who live overseas and, when surveyed by the Chairman, Peter Lord, last December, nearly 40 expressed an interest in forming a group to connect with each other. Two of us, Susan Griffith who lives in Virginia and Catherine Cruickshank in Wisconsin, volunteered to coordinate the group. Our overseas members live everywhere from western Canada to eastern New Zealand so, for the convenience of our members, a pair of meetings is scheduled so most can attend at a reasonable hour, and they always include the participation of a member resident in Calderdale.

At our first pair of meetings, we introduced ourselves, partly by sharing our research interests, explaining why we joined CFHS, and the challenges we are facing with our research. The overseas members fall into roughly three categories: several were born and raised in Calderdale and moved abroad for university, work or retirement; others have a parent who grew up in the area and later moved away; while the rest have more distant ties to the area. Many in the latter two groups have had the opportunity to visit Calderdale. We agreed to meet bi-monthly to help identify and overcome the challenges we are facing in researching our family history from afar.

A desire was expressed to have a local person whom we could contact to answer questions about places, the correct pronunciation of names, the topography, distances between places, local features, etc. Peter Lord quickly found a volunteer, Duncan Mitchell, whose responses to our queries have resulted in links to useful websites, clarifying information on Halifax townships and chapelries, and spreadsheets with information on graveyards in Calderdale. Realizing that the information Duncan has generated is helpful to all, most of his research has been added to the CFHS website. It was apparent that many of the overseas members didn't know how to access some of the resources on the CFHS website, so Peter Lord added three short tutorials which members have found very helpful.

By our second pair of meetings, many of our burning issues had been addressed, thanks to the prompt responses by Peter and Duncan, so we decided to centre future meetings around specific topics. Susan Griffith is a retired genealogist who worked for LegacyTree and is extremely familiar with FamilySearch so, during our third pair of meetings, she gave a short presentation comparing the value of building family trees in Ancestry and in FamilySearch and the bonus information she has unexpectedly received from the latter. It was an extremely informative presentation, and those of us who attended both meetings learned as much the second time as we did from the first. It was recorded so we can use it for future reference.

We are also very fortunate that another member, Gary Muffley who lives in North Carolina, is a retired clinical psychologist who belongs to the DNA Working Group of the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society. He has a depth of knowledge about the use of DNA in genealogical research and gave us a brief introduction to the subject at our pair of meetings in September.

When we began the Overseas Group, we had no idea what the members wanted to get out of the meetings and what form they would take, but they seem to be evolving into informal workshops centered around a particular topic, with time to discuss that as well as other issues. The groups are small enough that we can ask lots of questions to gain a deeper understanding of the resources and tools that are available to help us with our research.

After the July pair of meetings, it occurred to us that UK-based members might also be interested in joining us, as the topics are of general value to anyone doing research into their family history, regardless of where they currently live. They are quite different from the monthly talks—which members also find extremely interesting and valuable—but don't have the format of an informal workshop. Our meetings are held during the second full week of odd numbered months, and the times will shift twice a year as we switch between daylight savings and standard time. They are always at a civilized hour for UK-based members who may attend whichever meeting is convenient for them. Zoom links to the pair of meetings will be sent out by the CFHS secretary and we look forward to seeing you at whichever time is more convenient for you.

Catherine Cruickshank and Susan Griffith.

CFHS Talk - Sep 2024
I KNOW WHO I AM, THANKS TO DNA
by GRAHAM FARMER

Good evening, good morning to some people. My name is Graham Farmer, and I'm a volunteer at Huddersfield District Family History society. I'm going to be talking about using DNA for family history, and using examples from my own history, a journey of the Pennines, from the 'deep south' around Barnsley, up to Gisburn, which is historical Yorkshire. My hobbies are family history, birding, and then nothing! I'm not a DNA specialist, I am a user of DNA in research. It's complicated, but there's a simplicity that runs through it because we're all used to following paths and looking for results.

Now! All family historians have a beginning, when they started this 'stuff', and many of them have a family secret bestowed upon them by an older relative, and with me it was Great Aunt Doris about 40 years ago.

She'd had a letter from a Canadian genealogist asking for information about the family for somebody in Canada. She asked me to research it & then she said 'I'm going to have to tell you a secret!' It was about my Great Grandfather who was born in Platts Common, and lived in Elsecar.

It all started with my Great Grandad Thomas Farmer.

So let's start the journey.

The birth certificate shows Thomas Farmer born 1872, Platts Common, son of Mary Farmer, no father. The family story is that Thomas's father died in a mining accident. It wasn't a certificate like that, and they stuck to that story, but really he was illegitimate.

Now where does Thomas fit? Well this fan diagram, you'll have seen them. I'm at the bottom as Graham, then you've got parents just above, grandparents and on. The star marks Thomas Farmer, my Great Grandfather on the Paternal side. When we fill it all in there's a big wedge bottom left which we can't fill in because we don't know who Tommy's father is.

It's frustrating when you've worked on everyone else, not to have that information, but we had to put up with it until, in 2010 I started using DNA.

DNA is that double helix, the magic thing that literally is who we are. It contains the information relating to growth, to traits, to what sex we are etc. A DNA test is looking along that DNA, taking measurements and then comparing my DNA with anybody else's. That is what DNA is, it is the message of life that we all carry in every cell of our body.

DNA tells it how it is, it can give surprises, and things you weren't expecting. Ask the 2 men that I've helped in the last 12 months, who found that their father was not their biological father. So if you're going into it you can get surprises. Not bad things, so don't be shocked because you're not alone.

If you do one then choose a company that has a big amount of results to check against.

In each cell we have 23 pairs of chromosomes, 22 are called autosomal, and the 23rd pair is the X & Y. There is also something called the mitochondrion and that generates its own mitochondrial DNA.

Y-DNA passes from father to son. Testing the Y chromosome uncovers a person's haplogroup, the ancient group of people from whom one's patrilineage descends. It also shows the individual's genetic signature, known as a haplotype.

[Graham shows family tree.] Graham is at the bottom, then father & mother, then Arthur & Martha his grandparents, and going up the male line, Thomas is next, but above him who?

Who was it who got together with Mary Farmer & produced Thomas Farmer?

Fathers pass y-chromosomes to sons, they pass their x-chromosomes to daughters. Mothers pass their x-chromosome to son and daughter.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed from mother to child, so both sons and daughters receive it, but only daughters pass it on to their own children. Fathers do not pass on mitochondrial DNA. MtDNA tests trace matrilineal line (mother line) only. Both men and women can take mtDNA tests. All human descend in a direct female line from 'Mitochondrial Eve,' a conceptualised female who probably lived around 150,000 years ago in Africa. Different branches of her line are different haplogroups.

Autosomal DNA tests trace a person's autosomal chromosomes, which contain the segments of DNA a person shares with everyone to whom they are related. (Maternally and paternally, and indirectly). Test results are compared to other individuals in the database, as well as reference profiles for, in Ancestry, over 1,500 regions around the world. Ancestry has an autosomal DNA database of over 25 million samples. They have tested more people in the UK and Ireland than all the other databases combined.

The more matching y-DNA markers shared with another tester, the more likely you are to be related. Matches are reported at different testing levels depending on which test is used, e.g. 12, 25, 37, 67, or 111 markers. Family history needs a basic 37 marker test minimum.

Only Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) does a full y-STR DNA test. (23andMe tests y-DNA but only for haplogroups) FTDNA has over 2 million results in their database. Tests cost around £100 but always look for offers.

Thomas Farmer, an illegitimate birth 1872. Starting my search with Ancestry Autosomal.

The test produced an overwhelming number of cousins. My paternal side has 13,000 matches, and my maternal 11, 000 matches! So suddenly I've got 25,000 cousins, some will be strong relationships, and some will not, and it's separating the grain from the chaff.

For the paternal side it's giving areas like East Midlands, Yorkshire, and North England, and the same for the maternal side.

The cost of tests varies with whichever company you choose, but always look for offers and choose one with big numbers of results to check against. Tests can then be uploaded to other platforms for comparison.

Take 4 people, from actual Ancestry tests.

	Person A	Person B	Person C	Person D
Maternal	11,217	22,181	15,388	318
Paternal	13,124	10,988	10, 926	45
Both	53	67	150	0
Unassigned	4,506	1,750	3,527	4,746

The first three have UK parentage, person D is European, and not many Europeans have taken tests. We uploaded person D's results into My Heritage which has more Europeans, so we can dig into that database as well.

What about my ethnicity, my ancestral regions? Well 85% North East England and Europe, a bit of Scandinavian, bit of Welsh. My father's side, is very much Yorkshire and up into the North East, Darlington & Teeside. My mother very much the same, very local, apart from one line that came up from Stourbridge, they were puddlers in the ironworks.

When we get into the cousins there are different strengths. The first one, close family, is my fathers 1st cousin, my 2nd cousin, once removed.

The second one is a half second cousin.

The next one is my second cousin on my mother's side.

So you get results, and some of them you recognise, or you recognise the names, and you can start to say which side they're from and start to build up a picture.

But then within each of those cousins it will tell you who you have in common. I have a group of people that match with another cousin. If I know that cousin is maternal, well the connections are going to be maternal as well. So you can build up a picture of groups of people who are giving the same information, and it's good to know who they are, so you can group them together.

Now you have this massive data about you, what's next?

You communicate. Get onto your Ancestry DNA and exchange messages you hope! The number of people who reply to messages is very low, so if you're on Ancestry and someone sends you a message please reply, even if it's to say 'I don't know'.

It works better if you have a tree up as well, because the matching software can look at the trees, and in other people's trees and look for any common linkages. Some people put a tree online, but make it private, I respect their privacy, but it would be much more helpful if they shared it. So, get a tree up, make it public and you're likely to get a lot more information back.

I've mentioned my first cousin once removed, whose name was Dennis. Well Dennis was my dad's cousin and he is also descended from Thomas the illegitimate. If Dennis and I have anybody in common it's going to come from tracing that line back to Thomas or his wife. There's a 50% chance of it coming from the illegitimate side, so we can look at that line & see where it goes.

Tommy was born in 1852, so where was Mary in 1871? A census form shows that Mary is in Honley, which, when I was a kid was a different world from Elsecar. so how did she get there? Anyway there she was with a middle initial, but that's her. She's from Hoyland Nether, the right age, and in service to the family of William Taylor, who was in the Fancy Woollen manufacturing business. It's a big household, he's married with several children.

Now! Search the matches, look at shared matches, check the trees. When I did my matches, and Dennis did his, we started getting people in Honley, and yet it's a million miles away, so what's going on? There's another one in Ancestry called ThruLines. ThruLines will look at trees and they will come up with relationships, many of which are wrong, because it's just looking for common names, so use it carefully, but in this case we've verified it.

At the top of the tree there is John Taylor, then 2 lines connected to William Taylor, the same person, then over on the side is Jane. The left hand column, that's my line down through Thomas, Arthur another Dennis and me. And then from the middle William Taylor you've got 2 lines coming down, so lines coming down from 2 of his sons. The one on the right is Jane the sister of William Taylor. I have deep DNA connections to all the people in the bottom row, and given that one of them is going through William Taylor's sister the common ancestor would be John Taylor.

Well John Taylor died in 1870, so it wasn't him, but William Taylor the head of the household, the employer of Mary, is starting to look very suspicious.

It's not a straight line from Platts Common to Honley, there's a kink which goes through Barnsley. At that time there were Barnsley hiring or employment fairs, where people went who wanted to be employed. Prospective employers went from Honley and surrounds, to Barnsley to find staff, which meant that they were not having to employ local people who would know their business. So that is likely how Mary ended up in Honley. We know she's there at the right time, we've got William Taylor, & I've got links to William Taylor's sister as well as to his descendants, so it's all pointing in that direction.

William Taylor was born in Honley in 1830, his father John Taylor was born in Meltham about 1798.

Now back to the y-DNA line. I think William Taylor is The Man, so I would have the same DNA as William Taylor. y-DNA, doesn't mutate or change very rapidly, so it's a good one to use for that male line.

But it's not just me, it's any of his male descendants. Direct line male descendants, as long as there are no females interrupting the line, we'll all have it.

What I did then was go back to traditional research, and looked for John's sons, but they had all died by 1871 apart from William. I then looked at all William's sons, and their sons.

It took several years and I met some really interesting people along the way. I met them by email, in South Africa, my daughter went out to Australia, and was taken round by a descendant, who we now know is a cousin, and then we came across a male, who agreed to do a y-DNA test. He's in Australia, and he did a 37 marker test, and it was a perfect match.

So William Taylor was the guy! So I've identified my biological great, great grandfather, and we've got a more formal tree showing the Farmer line. Thomas Farmer, born in Platts Common, but likely conceived in Honley, Mary Farmer, she is the daughter of another Thomas Farmer, we'll come on to that in a moment. William Taylor the son of John Taylor & Sarah Schofield from Farnley Tyas. I've now got somewhere to fill that empty wedge in the fan chart.

As we go back to traditional research, we've identified William and John. John Taylor's will talks of a nephew Enoch Openshaw Taylor of Marsden, nephew of the famous Luddite Enoch Taylor.

His mother was Sarah Taylor, born in Meltham around 1799. If we look at the 1841 census, there's somebody called Becky Langfield living in Marsden,

next door to Sarah and Robert Taylor and their son Enoch. Looking at Meltham Parish records we see that Abraham Taylor and Mally Woodhouse were the parents of Becky, John and Sarah Taylor. So we've found the siblings and their parents, Abraham and Mally. We then find that Abraham was born in Pinfold Meltham, about 1765 was the son of Edward Taylor, born in Pinfold about 1740. Son of another Edward, son of John Taylor born about 1700.

So we've jumped from not knowing who my great great grandfather was to a Taylor line going back to around 1700, predominantly in the Pinfold in Meltham. Where and what is the Pinfold? The pinfold is where straying sheep were put, and you paid a fine to get them back. The Pinfold in Meltham was opposite the church. Nowadays it is a line of houses that were built on the Pinfold. It's very near where the Root Cellar is, so I sit at the Root Cellar and look out at where my ancestors were living 300 years ago.

When we moved to Meltham our house needed renovations, so we rented a little place just for six months while the work was done. Guess where it was, right in the middle of the Pinfold! Very Spooky!!

So that's taken my line back to about 1700, but what else can we do?

Well we can use DNA with traditional approaches to break down some brick walls. Back to the Farmerys, because in 1841 my surname would have been Farmery, and it includes a Y chromosome.

In the 1841 census in Elsecar there are Robert, Hannah, parents of 7 children. Robert died in December of that year, mother Hannah died in the January of 1842 and the children were put out amongst relatives. Some of them ended up in the States, and we had a good time when we went over to a Farmery reunion and met lots of people that we were related to.

The Lund Hill pit disaster of 1857, one of the biggest mining disasters in the country, one of the 7 children, Thomas died in that.

And now a little bit about Ancestry trees and securing a family line. This is the tree. At the top Robert Farmer & Hannah, the parents of the 7 sons & 1 daughter. Down the tree slightly there are 7 sons and 1 Daughter plus another son Thomas. I wanted to separate this Thomas out. Thomas married Emma Uttley and they had 5 children, one of whom was Mary my great grandmother, and I come down the line from Mary.

There is someone who has a DNA connection with me and other Farmer folk. His line goes up to Harriet Farmer, who is the daughter of John and John is the illegitimate son of Emma Uttley Thomas's wife. But if you look under Thomas there's an Elizabeth Farmer who was born posthumously, after the Lundhill disaster. Sadly she died at a year old, and then John was born in 1859. His father had been dead about 18 months! There are Ancestry trees with Thomas as John father which have been copied and it's not possibly correct.

Also at the bottom of this tree is Robert Darwin Farmer, who is the person who got in touch with Aunt Doris, so it's a 40 year story.

Anyway this person lives in the States and he has DNA connections with me and other Farmers. Where has that come from? Because John Farmer is the son of Emma Uttley, but there's no Thomas Farmer in John. There are 7 other candidates to be his father. We can't tell him who his 3x great grandfather was but we can tell him that his 4x GG is Robert Farmery.

So you can use DNA and look at where you would expect to see a connection, also where you wouldn't expect a connection but there is one.

So! Tales with a twist, I grew up as a Farmer, in Elsecar. We travelled with my work for 25 years, and when it came to retirement we decided to on Meltham, then I find that my three times Great Grandfather was born in Meltham.

Question? Am I a comer inner, a returnee, or am I just passing through?

The jury's out!



THE HUNT FOR MARY HANNAH – AND HOW FINDING HER WAS A TEAM EFFORT by Wendy Allison

I made a post outlining my situation and asking for any information, pointers, or even commiserations that people could share. Within a couple of days several people had responded with ideas, and some even did a little research on my behalf which was lovely. Nobody had yet found Mary Hannah, but I got several really helpful tips:

- The further back you go in the census, the less accurate the ages listed. People tended to estimate ages and it's not uncommon for three children in the same household to be given the same age.
- Spelling was similarly quite cavalier, and because many people were illiterate the spelling ended up being whatever the person recording wrote down, so you might find things like Abraham spelt Abm.
- Exacerbating this, people in the 'alifax area drop their aitches so Hannah could easily have been recorded as Anna.

- Family names were commonly handed down and this can sometimes be helpful when seeking family ties.
- Boundaries of censuses and some place names have changed over time so someone might live in the same house but be recorded in different areas across censuses.

Armed with this knowledge and a lot of determination, I carried out a massive database search of the 1851 census, looking for girls named Eastwood of the right age plus or minus 5 years, living within 10km of Warley. I also searched for girls born to unwed mothers named Eastwood, since Mary Hannah had listed no father when marrying. I found 86 individuals who all went into a spreadsheet and then I started following them up to see where they were in 1861. If they were still with their parents I could rule them out, as I knew Mary Hannah had married prior to the census. Those who weren't with their parents I tried to find marriages for and rule them out that way. Anyone I couldn't rule out like this went on a list for more detailed follow-up.

This ruled out around 70 people. I then started looking for things like parents' weddings, locations in 1841, and tracking the lives of siblings. It was during one of these searches that I stumbled across a wedding between a Betty Eastwood and John Heap, both of Warley, in 1846. For some reason I decided to see where they were in 1851, and there they were living in Sowerby, with a daughter aged 7 named Mary Hannah Heap, born in Warley!

While this seemed like it might be a hit, it was pretty circumstantial and I needed more information. I wanted to know where they were in 1841 and 1861, who Betty was, and where she came from. Betty had listed no father at her wedding but the census showed she was born in Wadsworth. From this I was able to locate Betty's birth and her location in the 1841 census, although it took some sleuthing as Betty was also illegitimate and her mother had married later and changed her name. In the meantime I continued ruling out other options and eventually only had Betty and John left.

Now I had some certainty on Mary Hannah's mother, the final piece of the puzzle was to look at civil birth records for girls named Mary born to women with Eastwood as a maiden name in 1842-44. There were only two and sure enough, "Mary Ann Eastwood" vol 22p216, was born to Betty Eastwood of Warley in 1843. It even listed a father (although he exits the picture as fast as he enters).

Several weeks, 86 individuals, 15 different family lines, and pretty much memorising the 1851 census later, I've finally untangled the web of illegitimate births, name changes, incorrect age recordings, lax approaches to baptisms, and remarryings and I'm certain I've found her. Here are the details for anyone else who is looking for this woman.

April 14 1825 – Hannah Eastwood daughter of Abraham Eastwood gives birth to Betty Eastwood illegitimately in Wadsworth. She is not baptised until 1837, at the Ebenezer Baptist chapel, Heptonstall.

1838 – Hannah marries John Greenwood, a widower, in the parochial chapel at Heptonstall St Thomas. John had 6 children with his previous wife who was also called Hannah. Hannah the First died in 1834 and her death is recorded in the Calderdale non-conformist records.

1841 census – Hannah and John Greenwood are living together in Upper Warley with 3 of John's children Betty, Thomas, and William, Hannah's daughter Betty Eastwood, and a new daughter Sally. Sally is incorrectly listed as aged 7 when she's actually 1. All of the children's ages have been listed a bit cavalierly, since they've recorded the two Bettys and Thomas as all being 15 when according to birth records there's three years between them.

21 Sept 1843 – Betty gives birth to Mary Hannah illegitimately. She's not baptised but is registered on 2 November 1843. She's incorrectly recorded as Mary Ann (there's that folks in 'alifax drop their aitches thing). This entry lists Mary Hannah's father as Aaron Helliwell, wool comber, and her birthplace as Oldfield, Warley.

26 June 1846 – Betty marries John Heap, a wool comber also from Warley, at Halifax St John the Baptist. Both are listed as 25 but Betty is actually 21.

1851 census – John and Betty are living in Sowerby at a place called Booth House. Mary Hannah is 7, and listed with the surname Heap. There are no other children.

24 April 1853 – Betty dies of TB at Raw End, Sowerby, and is buried. John Heap is present at the death. She's listed as 34yo on this record but would actually be 28. Mary Hannah is 9. John goes on to remarry to Sarah Hoyle, a widow, in 1856 and can be found in the 1861 census living with her and her 3 children (incorrectly listed as in-laws not step) in St Peters, Sowerby.

I can't find anything about what happened to Mary Hannah between her mother dying when she was 9 and her marrying George Bull in 1860. I suspect given that she went back to using her mother's name and she named none of her 14 children after John, there was no love lost.

From there, the records are all easy to find.

This is probably the most challenging tracing I've done. Mary Hannah was hiding behind a smokescreen of:

- being born illegitimately and never baptised, along with her birth name being misspelt
- her mother remarrying and MH's surname being recorded under the new married name in the 1851 census
- her mother being illegitimate herself and thus difficult to find in the 1841 census
- her mother dying shortly after the 1851 census and her stepfather almost immediately remarrying
- the general lack of information on civil birth registration indexes

Without the hints from the Calderdale Family History Society Forum participants I may not have got there at all. I'm now back on track and making progress on my tree. Thank you to CFHS and everyone who helped me with this hunt. Given how long this mystery has been around and how many people have been held up by it, it was suggested that I write it up for wider viewing. I hope that this information now becomes useful to other people.

CONFESSIONS OF A GENEALOGICAL LUDDITE

by Duncan Mitchell

About 40 years ago (my, how time flies) I was flicking through the Halifax Courier when I saw the prospectus for night school classes run by the local authority. Over the years I've done a few, including guitar playing, creative writing and even wine tasting; always over subscribed, that one, but those were the days, eh? On this occasion, however, what took my eye was the 'Tracing Your Family Tree' course being run Sat the local college. It was, of course, run by the sadly missed Barrie Crossley, to whom genealogy in Calderdale owes a tremendous debt of gratitude.

This was back in the 1980s, some time before t'internet was even a twinkle in some Californian's eye, so it was most definitely old school. We started, as you did back then, by speaking to our older relatives (blimey, I'm one of those myself now) and gleaning whatever we could from them. I remember Barrie saying that 'everybody has an old family bible lying around somewhere', and you know what, he was right. From there, he taught us how to link that information to census returns (1881 was the most recent at the time; I recall how excited we all got in 1991 when the next one was released), civil registration, and from there back to parish registers and non parochial registers – plenty of those around Halifax.

One of his more intriguing lessons was how to interpret the Latin in old registers, and then how to read court hand and ba...., sorry I mean secretary hand. The one overriding piece of advice he gave us was along the lines of 'don't believe anything if you haven't seen it for yourself'. My paid employment also meant making decisions based on cold, hard facts rather than conjecture, so it rang very true with me. It still does. I like to think I've probably irritated lots of people over the last 40 years by asking for some kind of evidence.

Alongside Barrie's evening classes, my days off were spent at Halifax library, looking at census returns, church registers, the International Genealogical Index (remember that?) and the like. So, armed with my trusty pencil (we weren't allowed pens in the archive department in those days), I used to make sure I arrived when they opened at 10am too, in order to get the best microfilm reader in the building, and to beat the rush for the IGI microfiche. Looking back, I was very lucky. I was born in Halifax, and as it transpired, so were most of my ancestors. Of my eight great grandparents, only two were born outside the town, and even those only hailed from Huddersfield and Selby. You have to go back a few generations more to find anyone from outside Yorkshire. So, my time was spent mainly at Halifax library, with the odd exotic away day to Huddersfield library, Selby library and the Mormon Church in Huddersfield to consult the IGI.

Barrie also gave us advice on how to record and store our information, involving keeping a file for each person we found. Now, at that time I was the proud possessor of a Sinclair ZX Spectrum+ computer, which as you may recall ran with the aid of a portable TV, a cassette recorder and quite possibly a hamster in a wheel. So, I went out and bought a filing system for it (on cassette of course) and set about transferring my findings on to it. About two hours later, and having got back as far as my great grandparents, it announced that it was full and that I'd run out of memory. Hey ho. My first venture into technology thus ended in a huge disappointment, and it was many years before I thought about trying again.



The infamous ZX Spectrum+ - the hamster was on holiday

Having thus decided to use a paper system, and carefully recalling Barrie's advice, I got files for all my different lines (colour coded, too), and filled them with pedigree charts, sheets of paper recording any related findings, BMD certificates and anything else I thought relevant. Actually I think Barrie may have been responsible for most of WH Smith's profits locally during the 1980s. I also invested in some fake parchment pedigree charts and filled them in using a calligraphy pen.

Fake parchment pedigree chart – you don't get quality like that these days

In addition, I had a card index file, and something else which I christened the Surname Index. Let me tell you how that came about. As I've mentioned, most of my ancestry is from Halifax, so I spent a considerable amount of time searching through local church registers. Whilst I was normally searching for a particular person, because of my plethora of local ancestors, more often than not I came across other surnames that appeared in my tree. Not knowing at the time if they were relevant or not, if they were in roughly the right place and time I started noting them down for future reference. It fairly quickly spiralled out of control, if I'm being honest, and eventually grew to fill three A4 files. Mind you, it was invaluable. I've found lots of ancestors in it over the years. I still have it too. At the end of this article there's a list of the surnames which appear in it, and I'm quite happy to do look ups if they would help anybody. It's a bit hit and miss, so no promises, but there are a lot of entries which don't appear if you use online search engines.

So, after I'd built the extension on the house for all the paperwork, things muddled along for the next few years, with the odd break for work stuff, family stuff and occasionally just falling out of love with genealogy for a while. Then, in the mid 90s, I got a proper computer, complete with a whole bank of hamsters in wheels, and I went out and bought some genealogy software. Aha, you say, now you can get rid of all the paper files then? Not a bit of it. Having what I consider to be a healthy mistrust of technology, I used a hybrid system which actually meant twice as much work because I still used the paper system as well as putting the information on computer.

And that was pretty much how things stayed until the dreaded Covid pandemic. During the period when we weren't allowed out very much, I thought I'd have a go at my wife's family tree on the internet, and being a Yorkshireman I thought I'd try and do it for nothing by using the free search sites out there. I have to say it's surprising just how much free information there is available by trawling some of the dusty corners of the web, but eventually I exhausted them, and was left with a family tree with enormous holes in it. So I did something which I swore I'd never do, and about which I still feel a bit guilty. I subscribed to Ancestry.

Now, in view of some of the things I'm going to write, you may get the impression that I don't like Ancestry. Actually, and much to my surprise, I do. I particularly like the facility to examine digitally enhanced original documents, which do appear to be way clearer than the old microfilm versions. A shame that not all registers are available yet, but I'm sure that will come. It is also a fantastic tool for finding ancestors who moved into the local area from elsewhere. For example, with regard to my wife's tree. Her maternal line had the good manners to be fairly local by and large; however her paternal line was from here, there and everywhere, and would previously have been difficult, if not downright impossible to track down, like looking for a needle in a haystack. Another example; in the early 17th century two ancestors of mine, on two different lines, but both in Halifax at the time, had the given names Lancelot and Roland. Extremely rare names locally, but a quick search on Ancestry found that they had both independently travelled south from Westmorland (where both names were surprisingly prevalent), probably to avoid the famine which occurred there about that time. I suppose that, pre Ancestry, we could still do everything we can do now; it's just that things are so much easier now, and above all exponentially quicker. What used to take weeks of searching can now be done in a couple of hours. But...

I think the thing which gets on my wick the most about Ancestry (and I'm sure other providers are similar, but I don't have any experience of them) is that it makes it possible to put together some form of family tree without doing a single piece of Barrie Crossley style original research. To put that in context, I was chatting recently with an old (non genealogical) friend who I hadn't seen for some time. When he asked me what I was up to, and I mentioned genealogy, he said 'but that only takes 20 minutes now doesn't it?'. How many people who believe that to be true, have used their free 14 day trial, or even subscribed, found a likely looking tree and sat back thinking 'job done'? Everyone will have seen member trees with in excess of 100,000 people in them. They simply cannot possibly have done the research themselves; for heaven's sake my tree has around 9000 names in it and it's taken me over 40 years.

Which brings me on to my other big beef. As I mentioned earlier, Barrie Crossley's advice left me refusing to accept anything as fact unless I'd seen evidence. It was therefore quite a shock to my system when I found that there is absolutely no necessity to provide any form of proof, or references, when uploading your family tree. I could claim to be the secret love child of Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher and it could go completely unchallenged. A lot of the information contained in member trees (especially the information predating civil registration and census returns), is extremely suspect and often biologically impossible. And yet you see the same, wrong, misleading information being added to people's trees time after time after time without any effort to check it. The lies are repeated and become fact. Just as a for instance,

someone may have Fred Bloggs marrying Doris Smith in London, producing a child a year later in Newcastle, then another in Cardiff and another in Southampton before dying in Birmingham, purely because that person has found names that fit, and other people have absorbed this into their own trees without anyone pausing to consider how unlikely it is to be true. To be honest, once you get pre civil registration and census returns there is always going to be a degree of uncertainty with any findings, and I'm sure we've all got the wrong people somewhere in our trees, but at least doing your own research keeps those to a minimum.

One final thing about genealogy websites. It is very easy to forget that they don't carry all the records and information available out there. When I first subscribed, I reopened some long abandoned lines, and to my delight on one found a baptism with the right name, in exactly the right place and time. I was about to accept this as fact when I got to wondering how I'd missed it before. So, I looked in the legendary Surname Index (see, told you it comes in handy) and found that record, plus three others which all fitted the bill but which didn't come up on Ancestry. I'm sure most people reading this will have similar tales.

Anyway, rant over. Overall, Ancestry is a fantastic research tool, as long as you have a large pinch of salt to hand. In conjunction with more traditional research methods such as examining records at the archive departaal library it opens up possibilities that were unimaginable even a generation ago. I'm writing this, you'll be pleased to know, sat on a balcony in Cyprus in 29 degrees and a cloudless sky (it's a tough job but someone has to do it). 30 minutes ago, from the same balcony and using technology which I still vaguely mistrust, I was attempting to unravel the complications of my wife's Cheshire ancestors – and a right bunch of ne'er do wells and rogues they were too; now I know where she gets it from. Just imagine that 40 years ago.

Yes, since my first tentative footsteps in the 80s I've had great fun. I've found relatives who were aristocrats and paupers, serial killers and international footballers, men who taught Greek to Elizabeth the first and families born in workhouses (on the same line as well, the last two). And one final irony; the oldest ancestor that I have a name for, going back over 1000 years, lived in Elland about 200 yards from where I do now. Hopefully, with a combination of technology and Barrie Crossley's advice, there'll be a few more revelations yet.

As promised, the list of names from my surname index. Mail me on pdmitch56@btinternet.com for any look ups. A caveat; I have lots of information for some names, very little for others. All information is for Halifax parish, but only in the time periods I was researching at that point.

SURNAME INDEX

ACKROYD, AINSWORTH, AMBLER, ARMITAGE, BAIRSTOW, BAMFORTH, BARRACLOUGH, BATEMAN, BAXENDALE, BENTLEY, BLAND, BOOCOCK, BOOTH, BRADLEY, BREARLEY, BRIGG(S), BROOKE, BUTTERFIELD, CHADWICK, CHARNOCK, CLAPHAM, CLAYTON, COCKHILL, COCKROFT, CRABTREE, CROWTHER, DRAKE, FARRAR, FIRTH, FRANCE, GELDER, GIBSON, GLEDHILL, GREEN, GREENROYD, GREENWOOD, HANSON, HARDISTY, HARGREAVES, HEY, HODGSON, HOLDSWORTH, HOLLINGWORTH, HORNER, IBBETSON, JAGGER, JOWETT, KITSON, KNOTT, LACY, LEAROYD, MAUDE, MIDGLEY, MITCHELL, MOORE, MORLEY, MURGATROYD, NAYLOR, NUTTER, OATES, OLDFIELD, PARKE, PEARSON, PICKLES, PRIESTLEY, RAMSDEN, RAWNSLEY, RAWSON, RIDEAL, ROBERTSHAW, ROBINSON, ROTHERA, ROTHERY, SAVILE, SCHO(LE)FIELD, SHAW, SHEARD, SHEPHERD, SKELTON, SLATER, SMALLPAGE, SPENCER, SQUIRE(S), STEAD, STOCKS, STOTT, SUNDERLAND, SUTCLIFFE, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TOWNEND, VICARS, WADE, WADSWORTH, WALKER, WALTON, WEBSTER, WHITEHEAD, WILKINSON, WILSON, WORMALD.



ALFRED CROSSLEY: HALIFAX'S UNREMEMBERED NATURALIST AND EXPLORER

by Ian Tattersall

One of the most dramatic lives lived by any Halifax native in the nineteenth century was that of Alfred Crossley, a natural history collector who was active mainly in Madagascar between 1869 (possibly earlier) and 1877. The great island in the western Indian Ocean is a sanctuary for a unique and diverse insular fauna, and at the time Crossley began working there it was just opening up to outsiders following the traumatic reign of its notoriously cruel and xenophobic Queen Ranavalona I (d. 1861). Crossley was one of a very small handful of naturalists who systematically documented that charismatic fauna for scientific study during this early window of opportunity. The specimens he collected enabled scientists to name numerous new species of mammals, birds, and butterflies; and many of those specimens now reside in major natural history museums in London, Paris, Berlin, Leiden, Basel and various other cities. His collections were made during long and difficult field expeditions to poorly explored parts of Madagascar, as well as to several equally undocumented African locales.

Yet despite the scientific importance and popular interest of his activities, Crossley has been erased from the historical record – or, more accurately, seems somehow to have contrived not to enter it in the first place. I am providing the following summary of the little I have so far been able to glean of the naturalist's life to alert Scrivener readers to the historical significance of this remarkable Haligonian, and in the hope that someone has, or will, run across some further mention of him in the local documentary record.

According to his birth certificate, Alfred Crossley was born to Hannah Crossley on August 11, 1839, at Savile Row in Halifax. His closest male relative is given as his grandfather William Crossley, a carpet weaver. The main current source of information on the naturalist is an obituary published in the Halifax Courier on June 16, 1877 (Anon. 1877). This records that, presumably at a quite tender age and while residing with his family in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, the young Alfred was apprenticed to become a sailor. Subsequently he was shipwrecked off Madagascar and, with one other survivor, made it ashore on a raft. The two were "detained two years as prisoners, but not very hardly treated." This choice of words suggests that they were enslaved rather than imprisoned, which in Madagascar at the time would have meant that they essentially became the lowest-ranking members of a household, tasked with undesirable and usually messy chores.

Exactly where and when this drama took place is unknown, although the fact that the sailors were not taken immediately as captives to the capital city of Antananarivo (as the Austrian traveler Ida Pfeiffer [1861] records a group of shipwrecked French sailors was in 1857) suggests that it might have unfolded in the far south of the island, which in the late 1850s was not yet under the complete control of the central government. Eventually, the obituarist records, Crossley and his companion escaped, and “reaching the civilized parts of the island ... got away.” It is astonishing that this extraordinary and doubtless hugely eventful episode seems entirely to have escaped the notice of the authorities, the press, and private chroniclers alike: similar episodes both earlier and later were chronicled in books (Cauche, 1651; Drury, 1729; Cubbin, 1870). But its anonymity set the pattern for the rest of Crossley’s under-the-radar career.

It seems likely that during his captivity the young Crossley learned Malagasy language and culture: skills that would have served him well in his later career, during which he apparently adopted local hunting techniques in his pursuit of zoological specimens. Indeed, the lack of notice taken of him in Madagascar (and elsewhere) by his fellow *vazaha* (foreigners) might conceivably have been due, at least in part, to disapproval of a propensity to “go native” during his forays into the forests (Tattersall, 2024). This would have exacerbated the already lowly social status he enjoyed among expatriates as an impecunious member of the English working classes.

According to his obituarist, writing in 1877, Crossley’s shipwreck was not the end of his sailing career. He returned to sea, and at some time before his last voyage as a mariner he married Sarah Parker, “daughter of ... a blacksmith in Crib-lane.” Eventually he decided to settle down in Halifax to a conventional married life, but “circumstances not favouring that disposition” (i.e., he was likely broke) it appears that he decided to take up an offer to return to Madagascar as a butterfly and general natural history collector. The offer was extended by the wealthy Halifax lepidopterist Christopher Ward. Apparently anxious to describe new Madagascar and African butterfly species, Ward had presumably been agreeably surprised to find someone on his doorstep with the skills and experience necessary to travel and collect in the poorly known and roadless island (Crossley was apparently taught how to preserve his specimens by one of the dealers who later sold them on). Certainly, previous Madagascar experience provides the only evident explanation for Ward’s choice of a sailor, with presumably minimal formal education, to be “my collector in Madagascar” (Ward, 1870). The date of the offer is unknown (see below), but it is perhaps most likely to have been made in early 1869.

The first published mention of Alfred Crossley occurs in February of 1870, when the French geographer and explorer Alfred Grandidier published descriptions of new bird and mammal species that the English naturalist had collected in eastern Madagascar in November of the preceding year. It is not known how Grandidier obtained these specimens, though both individuals were in Madagascar at the time (Tattersall, 2024). Shortly thereafter the British Museum ornithologist Richard Bowdler Sharpe (1870) noted, in describing a long list of Madagascar birds the naturalist has also collected in 1869, that it was Ward who had outfitted Crossley's expedition. While the butterflies amassed during this foray apparently went straight to Ward, the birds were handled by a commercial dealer, a method of distribution that Crossley stayed with for the remainder of his career. Oddly, Grandidier himself (Grandidier, 1892) suggested that Crossley might already have been working in Madagascar in 1867, or even in 1865 (see Tattersall, 2024); but 1869 is the earliest date for which we have specimens that we know were collected by him (see Tattersall, 2024). It is not known exactly when in 1869 Crossley commenced working in Madagascar; but he evidently remained there until late 1870 when, at Ward's behest, he visited Cameroon on his way home to England, collecting there between November of 1870 and late February of 1871.

Crossley subsequently visited Madagascar several times, ultimately visiting all major areas of the island except the far south (see Figure 1). The anonymous obituarist movingly explains how "Mr Crossley would disappear in the romantic and most beautiful wilds of the island for weeks, sometimes months," with his Malagasy assistants, a habit consistent with a report in a Mauritius newspaper that, in May-June of 1870, he had "gone missing". Still, the obituary also notes that after a few months in the field, "a strong homesickness used to come on him. And he would hasten away to the port and quickly home ... often astonishing his friends ... when they thought he was thousands of miles away." He seems to have habitually sailed to and from the UK via the neighboring British colony of Mauritius; but even though the Colonial Secretary there was an avid ornithologist who was certainly aware of Crossley's work, the naturalist left virtually no official traces in the smaller island either (see Tattersall, 2022). What is more, once back in Halifax, the naturalist seems to have been very reluctant to speak of his experiences, for "only now and again, under favourable conditions, could he be drawn out to speak of his travels."

At some time in the early to middle 1870s Crossley's first wife Sarah had died, and in February 1876 he was remarried to Rebecca, "the daughter of Mr Wm. Dennis, a gentleman well known as a vocalist in

Halifax.” Nonetheless, most likely because he needed money, he returned to Madagascar within four months of this second marriage. Those circumstances make the obituarist’s next remarks even more distressing: “Somehow, things did not go well with him, and several mishaps occurred. Then he was stricken down with sickness – an inflammation; this was in February [1877]; he could not, because of weakness, write all he had to say to his wife, and a friendly hand wrote part of it.” Clearly, this last letter reached its destination – and one would like to think it has been miraculously preserved somewhere. But mail service from Madagascar was then interrupted by a smallpox epidemic, until finally a telegram was received in Halifax on June 13, 1877, saying in “but a few words” that Crossley had died on February 28. The probate of his will (executors: George Clegg, Spinner, and Henry Keighly, Iron Moulder, both of Halifax) states that the place of his death was Tamatave, Madagascar’s principal port on the east coast, and the naturalist’s likely base of operations. He was 37.

What were the “mishaps” to which the obituarist referred, and that evidently doomed Crossley’s last journey in Madagascar? One can only speculate. But one possible scenario involves the German natural history collector Josef-Peter Audebert, who was sent to Madagascar in 1875 by Hermann Schlegel, director of the Dutch National Museum of Natural History in Leiden. Through dealers, Crossley had already sold Schlegel a significant amount of Madagascar material; and, following his rival’s death, Audebert sent Schlegel a defamatory letter that indicated considerable personal animus towards him and included the accusation that Crossley had tried to hijack his field crew (see Tattersall, 2022).

Audebert had arrived in Tamatave not long after Crossley had left Madagascar for one of his periodic breaks in England and had got off to a fast start in his collecting activities. One reason for this alacrity might well have been that, on his arrival, Audebert had found the English naturalist’s field crew temporarily unemployed, and had immediately recruited them. Returning the next year, Crossley would certainly have been upset to find his painstakingly trained assistants missing; and it would have been natural for him to go in search of them, thereby setting himself up for the confrontation that Audebert described in his letter, and that would have preceded the series of “mishaps” to which the obituarist refers. Given that soon thereafter Crossley contracted a mysterious malady (evidently not one of the usual tropical diseases) from which he ultimately died, it is at least possible that at some point during this drama he had been poisoned, something that would not

have been unusual in Madagascar at the time. Tantalizingly, it seems clear that the anonymous obituary-writer knew more than he wrote about the events that followed Crossley's return to Tamatave. Most likely, this would have been through letters that Crossley sent to family and friends in Halifax. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that some of this correspondence might be preserved somewhere.

Crossley's life was short; but it was packed with experience and achievement (there is a suggestion that he worked in what is now Zimbabwe, as well as in Madagascar and Cameroon). And although it is difficult to find any documented traces of them today, his adventures apparently did not go unnoticed at the time. For while the obituary in the Halifax Courier is the only one yet found that contains much useful information (there is, appallingly, not one note of appreciation in the scientific literature), a search has turned up at least 20 thumbnail obituaries of the naturalist that appeared in local newspapers published throughout Scotland, Wales, and England very soon after the sad news of his decease had reached Halifax. Pretty clearly, in his day Crossley's exploits were familiar to people throughout the United Kingdom.

That makes it even more mystifying why so little evidence of them remains now. My hope is that there exists somewhere, and maybe in multiple places, some documentation of Crossley's life of achievement and understated drama: the life of a "simple, honest and brave" man of a "fine and intelligent nature," who accomplished and experienced so much while contriving to attract next to no attention. I hope that awareness of Alfred Crossley's life will encourage archival researchers to be on the alert for any information that might turn up on this remarkable Haligonian. If anyone does find any, I should be most grateful to be contacted at the email address below.

iant@amnh.org

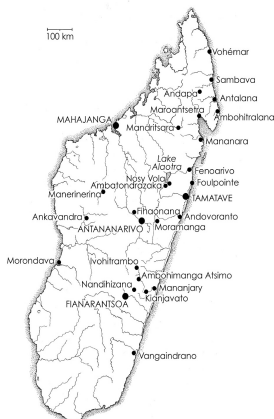


Figure 1

Bibliography

Anon. 1877. Death of a Halifax man in Madagascar. *Halifax Courier*, June 16, 1877.

Cauche, F. 1651. *Relation du Voyage que François Cauche de Rouen a fait à Madagascar, Isles adjacentes, & Coste d'Afrique*. In: A. Courbe (ed): *Relations Veritables et Curieuses de l'Isle de Madagascar et du Bresil*. Paris, Courbe.

Cubbin, T. 1870. *The Hurricane Wreck of the Ship 'Serica': a Personal Narrative pf Peril and Adventure by Her Captain*. London, Simpkin Marshall & Co.

Drury, R. *Madagascar: or, Robert Drury's Journal During Fifteen Years' Captivity on that Island*. London, W. Meadows.

Grandidier, A. 1870. *Description de quelques animaux nouveaux découverts a Madagascar en Novembre 1869*. *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie* 2 (22): 49-52.

Grandidier, A. 1885 (rev. 1892). *Histoire physique, naturelle et politique de Madagascar*. Vol I: *Histoire de la Géographie*. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale.

Pfeiffer, Ida. 1861. *The last Travels of Ida Pfeiffer. Inclusive of a visit to Madagascar*. New York: Harper Bros.

Sharpe, R. B. 1870. *Contributions to the ornithology of Madagascar – Part 1*. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1870: 384-401.

Tattersall, I. 2022. *The itineraries of Alfred Crossley, and natural history collecting in mid-nineteenth century Madagascar*. *American Museum Novitates* 3987: 1-25. <https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/handle/2246/5>

Tattersall, I. 2024. *Alfred Crossley and Alfred Grandidier: an enduring mystery of early natural history collecting in Madagascar*. *Madagascar Conservation and Development* 19: 00-000. <https://doi.org./10.4314/mcd.v19i1.1>

Ward, C. 1870a. *Descriptions of new species of diurnal Lepidoptera from Madagascar*. *Entomologists' Monthly Magazine* 6: 224-225.FIGURE

Fig. 1. Map showing towns and known Crossley collecting sites in Madagascar. Those known sites broadly reflect Crossley's various itineraries between 1869 and 1875; but many of the naturalist's collecting localities are unknown, and the complete itineraries may therefore have been more extensive than this map suggests. During the 1860s all travel in Madagascar was by palanquin or canoe, or on foot. Map drawn by Patricia Wynne; from Tattersall (2022).

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DISPATCHES IN VICTORIAN SHELF

by Ben Stables

Life's milestones revolved around Church and Chapel for many. Baptisms were probably simple events, but examination of baptism registers show that they often took place on Sundays presumably before or during services. In the year 1870, 26 baptisms took place at St. Michael's Church, 24 at Bethel (Independent Methodist) Chapel, 5 at Wade House (Primitive Methodist) Chapel, 3 at Witchfield (Wesleyan Methodist) Chapel, and none at Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel. Baptisms usually took place when the infant reached a few months old unless the child was ailing in which case the nearest minister was called for so that the child would not die unbaptised. Children tended to be baptised at the place of worship associated with their mothers family rather than their fathers.

The Victorian age produced some notable and interesting forenames, many of which are unthinkable as forenames today! At baptism, the maiden name of the mother might be used as a Christian name. And so, babies baptised at Shelf included Ambler Woodhead, Asquith Woodhead, Harrison Woodhead and Sanderson Woodhead. In the St. Michael's baptism register can be found both Captain Pickles and Sergeant Pickles. Local journalist Harry East (1910-1989) recalled, "it was a foible of the time to give such military names. There were Captains and Sergeants, and one West Riding labourer, having the surname of Wharton, had the Christian name Lord conferred on him, no doubt in admiration of Philip, Lord Wharton who, by his will distributed Bibles to all and sundry provided they could recite a series of Psalms." Lord Wharton was a local man who was both baptised and buried at Bethel Chapel in Shelf. He had an uncle named Bethel Wharton who was born before Bethel Chapel was built but was later buried there in 1908 aged 59 years. The towering figure of John Wesley must have inspired the name John Wesley Worsnop for a man who attended Witchfield Chapel in the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1871, the three most common surnames in the village were still Jagger, Sharp and Woodhead – just like in 1841. Certain surnames continued to dominate the village. In 1933, three of the people nominated to the Local Council had the surname Barraclough. When local historian Cyril Metcalfe moved to Shelf in 1950, he "was warned of the B.B.C. influence and connections...it soon became clear that the reference was to the popular Shelf names of Bartle, Bottomley and Crowther."

Marriages would have been simple affairs too, although wedding services for the wealthy often included robes choirs and multiple clergymen. Before the local chapels held marriage licenses, nonconformists often decamped to Bradford or Halifax to get married which probably betrays dislike of the local Church of England clergy.

Funerals could be more elaborate as relatives and friends came to view the deceased in the best room of their house before the funeral. Mourning cards or ribbons were printed and handed out. The hymn 'Peace, Perfect Peace' written in 1875 would have been a popular choice and these words are often found inscribed on gravestones. Parents of young children could lavish expense on gravestones for their infant children with lines of poetry and decorative carving, but reading on often shows that the first child to die was usually followed by others. The newspapers were full of reports of grisly deaths, including the following

SHELF GRAVEYARD ACCIDENT.

FATAL RESULT.

During Thursday night Mr. Frank Mitchell, who met with an accident while making a grave at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shelf, a few weeks ago, died. From the first it was feared he had little chance of recovery, but he had been a temperate and strong man, and the end has been delayed. It is expected that an inquiry will be held. The accident occurred whilst Mr. Mitchell was digging a grave, a headstone slipping and falling on him and severely injuring him whilst he was engaged in the task.

Frank was buried at Bethel Chapel instead of the graveyard where the incident took place!

shelfhalifax.wordpress.com



Bethel Chapel, Shelf, in a sea of Victorian headstones. (Courtesy of John Whiteley)

**Calderdale Family History Society
(ZOOM only) Meetings Winter
2026**

**22nd Jan @ 7.30pm (repeat 28th Jan @ 9.00am)
"FamilySearch 101: The Research Tool Extraordinaire"
by Susan Griffith**

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, American CFHS Committee member, Susan Griffith, is eminently well qualified to speak on the historical background of FamilySearch, how it initially came about and its close association with Ancestry. The presentation will also provide a unique overview of the purpose of FamilySearch, how to navigate the website, the pros and cons of different features, and why it is a must-use website for every serious researcher of family history.

**26th Feb @ 7.30pm (repeat 4th Mar @ 9.00am)
"The Art of Criminal Conversation": Researching Divorce
Records"
by Claire Moores**

The presentation will delve into original records of marital unrest over the centuries and discover the differing experiences of men and women during these often turbulent and emotional times. The talk will present an overview of the historical context in the 16th century and what is meant by the term 'divorce'. Key records useful for tracing our ancestors' marital unrest will be explored, including:

- The information that can be gleaned from Poor Law records
- Legal documents of judicial separation in ecclesiastical courts or by Act of Parliament
- Private deeds of separation
- Private letters
- Newspaper extracts

26th Mar @ 7.30pm (repeat 1st Apr @ 9.00am)
"Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy"
by Dr. Penny Walters

I'm a nice person. "I'm just compiling our family tree, what possible problems could there be?" Researching a family tree traditionally involved asking relatives about their lives, drawing a tree and undertaking a paper trail, but it now involves finding new, mostly online records, and dealing with strangers on the internet.

What information should and shouldn't you include on your tree? Attendees will benefit from reflecting on their own ethical dilemmas and considering ethical issues with empathy, sensitivity and diplomacy. What is the way forward? Are you an ethical genealogist? What ethical dilemmas have you found in your family history research?

The Society Monthly Meetings are now virtual only. If you would like to attend but do not have Zoom installed on your computer, you need to install it on to your com-puter, I-Pad or other device. This can easily be downloaded from <https://zoom.us/download> – hopefully anyone who needs help with this has a relative (usually a grandchild !!) who can do the business. If all else fails, get in touch with us at

systems@cfhsweb.com <<mailto:systems@cfhsweb.com>>

Once installed you will be able to attend each month by joining via the E-Mailed invitation that is sent out to all members a few days before each meeting.

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 3040. 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 lgyfh@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
-------------------------------------	--	--------------

Treasurer Ms Annabelle McGuire	e-Mail – treasurer@cfhsweb.com	
--	---	--

Membership Secretary Mr Chris Hiley,	53 Brandreth Drive, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire WN8 7HB e-mail - membsec@cfhsweb.com	01257 464134
--	--	--------------

Editor ~ Scrivener (for submission of articles, letters, etc.) Mrs. Susan Griffith	e-mail - editor@cfhsweb.com	
--	---	--

Editor ~ Newsletter Pam Newby,	e-mail - newsletter@cfhsweb.com	
--	---	--

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
---	---	--------------

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
 Currently Vacant
 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

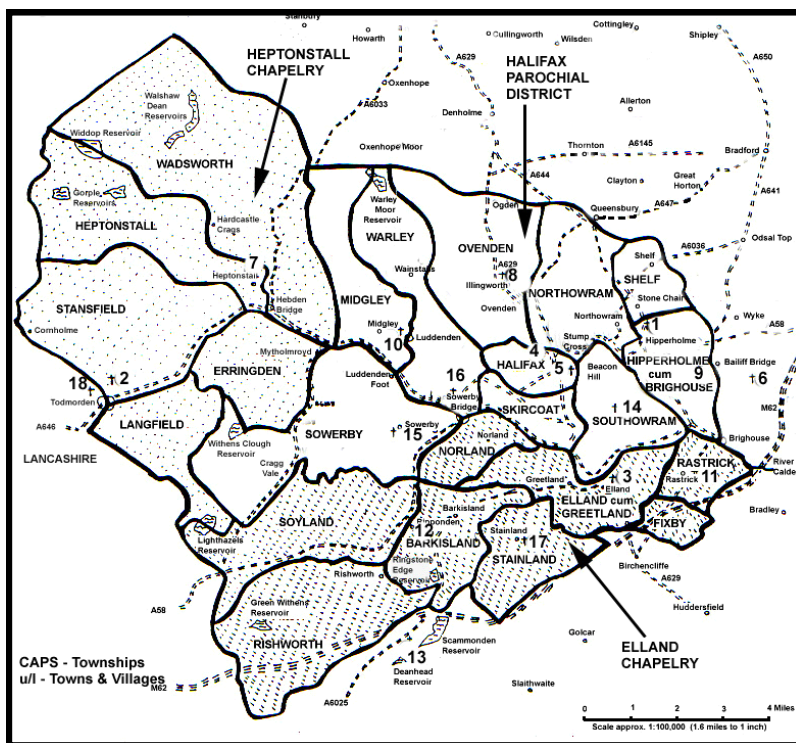
Publicity & Meeting Organiser
 John Barraclough
 e-mail - publicity@cfhsweb.com

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.