



Huddersfield & District Family History Society



Volume 38, Number 2

January 2025

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

The Society was formed in 1987 and its aims are to promote and encourage mutual help between people interested in family history and genealogy. It caters particularly for those with interests in the Kirklees Council area which comprises the towns and districts of Batley, Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Holme Valley, Kirkburton, Meltham and the Spen Valley. It covers an area of nearly 160 square miles and within its boundaries are the ancient parishes of Almondbury, Batley, Birstall, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Emley, Hartshead, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Mirfield and Thornhill.

Membership of the Society is an annual payment which for new members now runs from the date the subscription is taken out. Subscription rates, per year, are as follows:

Student Membership (age 16-25 in full-time education)	£6.00
Electronic Membership (including overseas)	£12.00
Standard Membership (up to two people at the same address)	£15.00
Overseas Membership (posted journal)	£25.00

Subscriptions can be paid through our website by PayPal or credit/debit card, this is the preferred method. They may also be paid at the Root Cellar by cash, card or cheque, or by Bank Transfer (please email for our bank details). Cheques may also be sent by post. Existing members should quote their membership number. If you are a UK taxpayer you may wish to consider paying your subscription by Gift Aid, this will increase the value of your payment to the Society at no extra cost to yourself.

Meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year, usually online by Zoom, starting at various times and on different days. Please refer to the programme in this journal, and our website for up to date details on how to join our meetings online. Members will receive an email invitation a few weeks before a meeting online, and then, if they sign up, they will receive a further email with the link to the Zoom meeting a few days before the event.

Publications: Our journal is published and distributed to members four times a year in January, April, July and October. The Society's **Project Group** has produced complete indexes of both the 1841 and 1851 censuses for the whole of our area (more than 200,000 names and 1/90th of the population of England and Wales for 1851). These are currently available in booklet form. The group is currently transcribing Memorial Inscriptions and continuing to index parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for most Churches. This information is available in printed form with many as downloadable files, as is information from our ever growing databases. Most of these works are listed on and can be purchased through the Society website (www.hdfhs.org.uk), or a full publications list can be obtained from the Secretary.

Sales of Goods Act: UK postal customers may change their mind within seven days of receipt of the goods, returning them at their own cost. There will be a charge of 50p per booklet plus 50p per order to cover our costs.

Data Protection: Our Privacy Policy is available on our website. As a 'not for profit' organisation, we are not required to 'notify' the Data Protection authorities in the UK regarding the holding of personal data. However, you should know that we hold securely the personal data that you give to us and that will be provided to the printer of our journal if you receive your journal by post. If you do not wish to make any of your details available without your further authority, please contact the Secretary.

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 702199

January 2025

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2



Thanks go to our member Chris Smith, who gave us a talk after the AGM entitled 'A Walk through Almondbury in old postcards', for this one from his collection. The building will be familiar to anyone who has visited Almondbury All Hallows Church across the road. Constructed by Isaac Wormald (also known as Wormall) in 1631, it became Almondbury Conservative Club in 1877.

The opinions and views expressed in this Journal do not necessarily represent the views of either the Editor or the Huddersfield & District Family History Society. This Journal is copyright, and no part may be reproduced for publication in any form whatsoever without the written consent of the Editor. The Society accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered as a result of any item published in this Journal.

Please note that queries regarding non-arrival of Journals should be sent by email to membership@hdfhs.org.uk or by post to the Root Cellar at Meltham.

Journal Submissions: Please send items for publication to the Editor by email or post, and include your **membership number, name and postal address**. Items sent by post can only be returned or acknowledged if a **SAE** is included. Please state if an article has been printed in or submitted to another publication. **Items should be clearly hand-written, typed in Microsoft Word with a file name ending in .doc or .docx.** Please do not send any attachments in Word formats which are pre-1997. The Editor welcomes letters and articles on any aspect of family or local history. Items with relevance to the Kirklees area are of particular interest; as are cuttings, hints and tips. Editing of articles may be necessary, depending on available space. Please confirm how much personal information you would like us to include e.g. address and/or email details.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Journal: 20 February 2025

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Editorial

As I write we have just had the first snow of the season, very early this year as today is 19 November. When we first moved to our house in Upperthong, Holmfirth in 1987, the winters seemed more challenging and when snow came it was often in drifts and took days to clear. Rarely so these days. In fact we chose the house on a snowy January day when the sun was shining, the views that day over to Holme Moss were incredible. The deal was sealed!

When I read about our ancestors I often think how lucky I am to live in a lovely country area with so much fresh, clean air. In the second half of the 19th century both sides of my family moved for work into more industrial areas. My paternal side came not far from Lepton and Kirkheaton towards the centre of Huddersfield and the maternal side from the farming communities in Herefordshire to Manchester. We can imagine how much smog and fog created by those new vibrant industries in the north of England there would be, there is no wonder many died so young of respiratory type illnesses.

For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM there are all the reports to read in this quarter's journal. As a committee we are proud of what we are able to achieve and I hope that you feel you receive value for money with your membership. It could not be done without so many willing volunteers, evidenced by the 24 people who were willing to help out at our Fair.

We are always trying to keep up to date in terms of what we offer and know that compared to many societies who struggle to retain their membership numbers we must be doing most things in the right way.

However, the society is for you its membership, and if you have any recommendations for new initiatives we might consider then do get in touch with your suggestions.

We are looking forward to some more interesting speakers in 2025 and attending lots of events.

Huddersfield and district is very lucky to have so many committed historians and there are small flourishing groups all over the area, some of which attended our Fair. My report on the Local History Day I attended on Page 24, along with two more of our members, was further evidence of this.

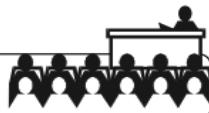
I also continue to mention Dave Pattern of 'Huddersfield Exposed' in many of my articles, because his contribution to the history of our area is quite phenomenal. If you are one of the few people yet to discover the 'Huddersfield Exposed' website, do go online and see what it has to offer, you may well disappear down a rabbit hole for hours.

Thank you once again to all the contributors to this journal, I am always looking for more of our members' own work, I really don't want you to keep seeing my name at the bottom of so many articles, I would much prefer to see your names and hear about your families. They say there is a book in everyone, all I ask is a couple of pages for the journal.

Good luck with all your research over the next three months, we will be back with the next edition in April.

Susan Hutson
Editor

Programme of Speakers 2025



Tuesday, 11 February at 7.30 pm - Buried Deep but not Lost Forever; Discovering Your Ancestor's Final Resting Place, a Zoom talk by Linda Hammond.

Tuesday, 10 June at 7.30 pm – Are You Sitting Comfortably? Writing Up Your Family History, a Zoom talk by Janet Few.

Tuesday, 9 September at 7.30 pm – What Made Yorkshire Great? – a Zoom talk by Stuart Hartley.

All our talks are free for members, and non-members may join us for a donation of £5.00

Forthcoming Events



The following Local History Society talks will be held in Room OA4/01, University of Huddersfield, Oastler Building, £2.00 for non-members:

- Monday 27 January at 7.30 pm – Ringing for Gold: The first bands. How Huddersfield exported the art of bell-ringing to the world, a film presentation by Peter Fawcett
- Monday 24 February at 7.30 pm – Sabra and George: Physical Culture and the New Life, with Cyril Pearce
- Monday 31 March at 7.30 pm - The Story of Holme Valley Hospital: A Community Commemorating their War Dead, with Carol Hardy

Other events:

Kirklees Local Studies Library Lunchtime Club, 16A Victoria Lane, Huddersfield HD1 2QF

- Thursday 16 January at 1.00 pm – Naturalists of Huddersfield c1850 – 1950, by historian and author Alan Brooke – free event – book here:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Kirklees/libraries>

For more details of family history fairs and events see: www.geneva.weald.org.uk

2024 AGM Chair's Report

Over the last year, the committee has been focussed on future enhancements for the Society.

Sadly, as you will have read in the October journal, Keith Woodcock, our bookseller, passed away. Keith quietly got on with the job of posting out books and publications. We are coming to terms with his absence and getting on with things as he would have wished.

The committee has held monthly meetings via Zoom, with other sub-group meetings held face to face at the Root Cellar.

Graham has continued in the role of Webmaster but is now moving on to other things. We are very grateful for all the effort Graham has put into developing the website and other IT initiatives and wish him well.

Thanks to Karen for her work as Treasurer and for preparing the annual accounts. Once more we are able to report a surplus for the year.

Ian Stevenson has stepped down as Vice Chairman. Russell Wattam has taken on this position and Pat Foster has joined the committee.

The Family and Local History Fair was held at a new location in Huddersfield, the Masonic Hall, on 26 October. This proved to be a successful move and useful feedback from both visitors and exhibitors will help with planning for next year.

The talks proved very popular and there are reports of these elsewhere in the journal.

Thanks to Susan, our Secretary, to Jane, our Social Media Secretary and to Ian for all their hard work to locate a new venue, and for organising and coordinating the day. Thank you to the volunteers for a great team effort, and thanks to everyone for attending, it was great to see so many familiar, and lots of new faces.

Margaret, our Publicity Officer, has continued to locate stimulating and interesting contributors for our online speaker meetings, and we have a greater participation from members far and wide. Where possible, the talks are recorded and made available in the members' area of the website. Thanks to everyone for supporting our online get togethers, and especially to Margaret for arranging them. The programme is in place for 2025 and can be seen at the front of the journal.

The sale of publications is an important part of our revenue stream. We are in the process of moving from producing paper copies of Parish Records, Memorial Inscriptions and Census Returns, to producing searchable pdf downloads. The 1841 and 1851 censuses are now available as downloads which can be manipulated, making searching for family groups and surnames even easier. Other record sets will be added in due course.

The 2023/2024 membership period saw an overhaul in membership categories and new pricing. This has been co-ordinated by Jane Harris, our membership Secretary. In January 2024 we changed the membership categories and pricing as follows:-

- Student £6
- Electronic £12
- Standard £15
- Overseas (Airmail) £25

This price increase was well overdue, as subscriptions hadn't increased since 2013 and the category change simplified the membership offer.

The new membership categories meant that the website's Member Press database couldn't simply renew memberships, instead all Members had to re-join the system.

The renewal process next year will be much simpler, as there will be no 'rejoin' process or price changes. We are encouraging our members to renew on the website, saving valuable volunteer time. Although we do recognise that this is not always possible and we still accept a wide range of payment methods.

Our membership numbers continue to grow and it is an important income stream for our Society. We currently have just over 700 members and look forward to welcoming more in the 2024/25 period as we plan to add more membership benefits in the near future.

Jane and Susan have continued to develop and increase our social media presence as a means of communication. We are extremely active and well established on both Facebook, Twitter (X) and have recently added Instagram and related Threads social media platforms to our communication channels.

The Research team deal with online requests from members with ancestors in the Kirklees area, coordinated by Janet O'Melia, whilst Ian has been working on house history commissions, assisted by the research team. Ian also leads the Ancestral Tourism team. They have escorted visitors from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA to locations throughout our area.

Ruth, the Memorial Inscriptions Co-ordinator and the MI team have had another productive year. The team of volunteers has increased this season following a successful email request sent out to local members. Volunteers have recorded and photographed the monumental inscriptions at the Methodist and Baptist Chapels of Outlane, Lockwood, Hade Edge, Gateshead, Lydgate Chapel near New Mill, and the Church of England graveyard at South Crosland.

The Holme Valley area projects have been managed by Pat and other volunteers have concentrated on the large project at Holy Trinity Church at South Crosland. This church closed at the beginning of September. Quite a challenging project due to the hillside location and very overgrown state of this graveyard.

Work has begun on the graveyard at Holy Trinity, Linthwaite and future projects next year which will include the former St John the Evangelist Church at Newsome, now a local community centre.

There is access to the Memorial Inscriptions records and plans at the Root Cellar, and we are planning to give access to members via our website in the coming year. A full list of Graveyards and Burial grounds covered by the project can be found on page 23.

Outreach events have included talks to local organisations, attendance at the Family History Fair in York and participation in Heritage Open Day events at four local churches – more information elsewhere in the journal.

There have been an increasing number of visitors from overseas to the Root Cellar, as well as our local regulars. Our beginners' courses are well subscribed, with two evening courses over the Summer months, and two daytime courses over the Winter months.

The journal continues to be our main source of communication with members. Details of this year's winner of the Roger Gill prize appeared in the October journal. Next year's prize will be chosen from articles published in the October 2024, and the January, April, and July journals in 2025.

Please keep submitting articles, and thanks to everyone who gets in touch to say how much they enjoy reading the journal. Many thanks also to Susan, for all her work as the editor.

For a charity like ours to continue, we rely upon volunteers. If you would like to get more involved in any way with the Society, please get in touch. You do not need to live locally. There are several opportunities for contributing to projects and initiatives online. We are looking for volunteers with IT skills, particularly as we transfer data online.

How to contact members of the committee is printed at the back of the journal.

Our future developments are outlined in our full accounts, so finally it falls to me to thank everyone in the Society for their continued support, friendship and above all goodwill and teamwork, without which none of the above would have been achieved. Onwards and upwards!

Thank you.

Maureen Wheeler
Chair

Treasurer's Report to the AGM for the year ended 31 July 2024

The accounts were approved by the Committee at our November meeting and were presented to members attending for formal adoption at the AGM. Before we look in detail at the various income streams and expenses, the following is an overall summary.

We are pleased to report that we have returned a surplus this year – a significant turnaround from the previous two years. The surplus being £4,818 compared to the deficit reported last year. As you can see from the financial statement income has increased by about £9,000 whereas expenses have decreased by about £5,500. This leads to the net turnaround of approximately £14,000.

The committee made the decision during the year to July 2021 to future proof the Society and ensure that the IT infrastructure was maintained, kept secure and all data was preserved in a format that remains not only easily accessible by all the committee but can be manipulated into different formats so that it can be used by future generations. The main bulk, and therefore expense, of this project was completed last year.

I will look at income first. As approved at the AGM last year and mentioned in the Chair's report, the Society now offers four levels of membership. The number of members remained stable at approximately 850 at year end. Membership of the Society offers the following – a quarterly journal, access to the Members' area of the website, reduced entry to the Root Cellar, speaker meetings which are free to members, and exclusive member only talks.

You will have noticed an increase in the income reported in this area. The increase has occurred due to what we believe are two reasons – firstly, the increase in the annual subscription rate which was effective from 1 January 2024.

Secondly, as a result of the introduction of the new website and the initial integration of the membership database, we were unable to process subscriptions for the 23/24 year prior to 1 August whereas in previous years subscriptions could be taken and processed in advance.

We have also found that as the renewal notification was sent out in June of this year, many members paid direct to our bank account in July.

The Society receives donations from four main areas. These being entry into the Root Cellar, from the general public when we attend external events, donations through the website or one-off donations from valued members. This leads me to explaining the Designated Fund.

In early January we got a lovely email from a member who shall remain anonymous stating it was “as a result of all the good work done in the past and hoping for a successful future” and “since joining the Society many years ago I have seen it grow to become not only an essential resource for Huddersfield but for people all around the world with roots in Kirklees”. They donated the sum of £2,000. The Committee took the decision that we would designate this money to help finance the effective re-branding of our logos and associated marketing materials. We would just once again like to pass on our profound thanks to this member.

We all know from experience that trying to put together our family history and work out who exactly was our ancestor or where they lived is like putting together a 1,000 piece jigsaw where you aren't exactly sure what the finished product should look like.

If you want to know how someone links into your tree, where an ancestor is buried or where they lived, this is where our research team can help. All research requests are now formalised through our research co-ordinator and then passed onto one of our research volunteers who will then try and break down that brick wall for you. We are also able to research the history of a house. The research doesn't always have to be in direct relation to your own family.

Another area which is linked into research is that of Ancestral Tourism which is led by Ian and assisted by the research team.

Parish records still account for the majority of publication sales; however, we continue to also have a wide range of bought-in books available for sale.

The society has two main streams of royalty income. The first of these is 'Give as You Live' – this is an incentive aimed at those of us who do online shopping.

Royalties from FindMyPast account for just under £4,000 of income in the year to July 2024. As I have explained in previous years, a significant number of transcribed parish records have been uploaded to FindMyPast so if you are looking for an ancestor in the Huddersfield area, it is more than likely you will click on a record we have provided to FindMyPast – for each click on our data we get a small royalty.

We held our Family History fair in October 2023 – it proved to be very popular and was lovely to see people face-to-face. However, what we didn't realise at the time was this was the last one we would hold at Cathedral House. Unfortunately when we came to enquire for available dates for 2024, we were told that the cost of hiring the halls would not be viable, not just for us but also for the exhibitors. We were lucky to find a new venue at the Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road.

Another income stream for us is our successful beginner's family history course.

The final area of income is that of Gift Aid. This is money a registered charity can claim direct from HMRC on subscriptions and donations . The only criteria being that the donor is a UK tax payer. In a normal year, this accounts for about £1,300 of additional income.

As noted in last year's report when we came to prepare and submit the claim it was clear that all the data hadn't been pulled across correctly and some records were showing as not being eligible for Gift Aid when we knew they were eligible. As a result we only claimed Gift Aid on verified data. This meant the claim was substantially lower than previous years.

After the AGM last year a reconciling exercise was undertaken to reclaim any Gift Aid lost. In April this year I submitted a new claim and we received just over £600 of backdated payments

Now to review our expenditure. I am going to look at five main areas – these are goods for resale and library costs, journal costs, subscriptions, premises and finally those costs associated with IT.

Goods for resale and the library - the library is always being updated and maintained by our Librarian. Some books are available to purchase, the majority can be borrowed. All books bought and made available are useful resources for your family history research.

The journal is produced and sent out on a quarterly basis to all members either by post or electronically. On average each journal run including associated postage costs about £1,400.

We have seen a significant increase in the cost of some of the resources used at the Root Cellar and by our research team – access to Ancestry Worldwide increased by about £300. However, the largest increase is that in regard to FindMyPast. FindMyPast still have the monopoly on access to the 1921 Census. When the 1921 Census was released on a commercial basis it came at a cost. We had to move from an unlimited seat basis which had cost us approximately £500, to a three seat basis which includes access to the British Newspaper Archives and costs just under £2,000. We did have some issues in moving over to this three seat basis and after several conversations FindMyPast granted us a six month free extension. We understand that the 1921 Census will not be available on Ancestry until 2025.

The actual rent of the Root Cellar has remained pretty constant as we have an understanding landlord and we haven't had a rent increase for several years, but we have seen some increases in general running costs such as buildings insurance, electricity and even cleaning materials. The other reason for the increase in expenditure is the timing of the payments for the hire of Cathedral House for our Fair in 2022 and 2023.

The final item to look at is that of IT and related costs:

For a few years now the Society has engaged with independent third parties to provide appropriate levels of support and to help amalgamate our vast databases, and to write and design our new website. The Society was able to use our cash reserves to assist us in these projects.

Going forward into the future, the Committee do not expect or envisage any large significant expenditure and any future enhancements will be funded from that year's income.

Karen Lightfoot
Treasurer

Sixty five members joined our AGM by Zoom and the subsequent very interesting talk by Chris Smith – 'A Walk around Almondbury in Old Postcards,' which brought back many memories for me personally. Thank you to all our members, including Chris, for all your support – Ed.

Huddersfield and District Family History Society
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 July 2024

Detailed below is a shortened version of the financial statements as approved and adopted by the members at the AGM on the 19th November 2024

	Year ended 31 July 2024			31 July 2023	
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Subscriptions	-	-	12,499	12,499	8,355
Donations	-	2,000	2,608	4,608	2,721
Research Fees	-	-	2,677	2,677	1,403
Publications	-	-	3,332	3,332	3,206
Royalties	-	-	3,885	3,885	4,052
Fair Income	-	-	1,370	1,370	1,655
Gift Aid	-	-	2,237	2,237	296
Course Fees	-	-	870	870	480
Bank interest	-	-	294	294	109
TOTAL INCOME	2,000	29,772	31,772	22,277	
 Expenditure					
Journal Costs	-	-	5,006	5,006	4,585
Premises Costs	-	-	7,931	7,931	7,006
Advertising	-	386	331	717	418
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	-	1,524	1,524	1,717
Subscriptions	-	-	3,887	3,887	2,567
Fair/ Speaker costs	-	-	250	250	355
Telephone	-	-	1,269	1,269	1,151
Goods For Resale / Library	-	-	480	480	2,251
Computer/IT costs	-	-	3,390	3,390	4,219
Database design	-	-	420	420	5,613
Other Misc costs	-	-	1,973	1,973	1,223
Depreciation	-	-	107	107	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-	386	26,568	26,954	31,105
 Surplus (Deficit) for the year	 -	 1,614	 3,204	 4,818	 (8,828)

The Mourning Brooch - by Jean Renwick

A Zoom Talk – Tuesday 10 September 2024

We were delighted to welcome back Jean Renwick for our speaker meeting. She has now completed Book Two of 'The Mourning Brooch'.

Jean inherited the brooch, gold with plaited hair inside, from her godmother, her mother's best friend. She then researched the name on the back of the brooch and her first book was the result.

Book Two follows the lives of two sisters, the daughters of the women commemorated by the brooch. They take quite different paths, in various parts of the world. Jean has woven the story into factual places and people, but out of one hundred characters only six are fictional!

Her research and filing systems are thorough and meticulous, her discoveries are checked and double-checked, an admirable trait.

The books are available on available on Amazon and well worth buying.

Forty-five people attended.

Margaret Woodcock

Publicity Officer

New Additions to the Library

A selection of books recently added to the library collection. A full updated list will be published on the website shortly.

Holmfirth Gatehead – Extracts from the Burial Register (REF)	03.090B
Honley Independent Moor Bottom Baptisms 1795-1854, Burials 1811-1859, Mls, Plan (REF)	03.097A
Honley Southgate Primitive Chapel Burials 1847-1862 (REF)	03.099
Scammonden Church Plans and Sketches (REF)	03.151A
Church Court Records, Tarver A, 1995	05.013
Bishops Transcripts & Marriage Licences 6 th Edition, Gibson J., 2013	05.014
Poor Law Records for Family Historians, Fowler S., 2011	05.058
Family History Research Challenges & How to Solve Them, Waller I., 2019	07.019
How to Discover Your Family History using FREE Resources, Trice AE 2013	07.023
Mind Mapping For Family Historians, Hammond L., 2024	07.241
Huddersfield – 'Meet me at Harold Wilson', Verguson C & Norris B., 2023	11.016

Family & Local History Fair

Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield

Saturday 26 October 2024

Changing the venue for a big event is always a little challenging – will everything run smoothly, will everyone who attends enjoy what is offered? How many exhibitors will book, how many people will visit on the day, have we thought of everything?

We need not have worried as it all went well, we maintained our visitors numbers and had some really engaging exhibitors. We will be returning to the Masonic Hall later this year.

There are always tweaks that can be made and we have already put some in place for next time. We are also able to confirm a date to put in your diary for 2025 – **Saturday 25 October.**

I hope that if you were able to attend you will return next year, or you will come along next year if you haven't been before.

Here are some photos of the day.



We had three very interesting speakers, Chris Smith did the first talk of the day, followed by Christine Leveridge and after lunch Jim Halstead.

The reports of the committee members who introduced them follow here.

A History of Huddersfield Fire Brigades – Chris Smith

The first fire brigades were formed following an Act in 1708 which decreed that every town had to have a pump to extinguish a fire, hence the term 'Parish Pump'.

Chris described one of the earliest documented fires in our area at Thomas Atkinson's cotton mill at Colne Bridge where many workers, some children, died after being locked in the mill.

The earliest firefighters were policemen and were known as 'fire bobbies'. The fire station in Huddersfield was located in Bull and Mouth Street, near the police station. Chris described how the first fire brigade was formed in 1849, when horses drew the carts but not the engines which were pulled and pushed manually. Using old postcards, Chris showed photos of local fires, one of which was Booth's fire in 1941, when 49 people died; they are commemorated at Edgerton Cemetery.

A very interesting presentation which demonstrated what a dangerous occupation it was and continues to be to this day.

King George V & Queen Mary's Visit to the West Riding 1912 - Christine Leveridge

Christine began her talk by saying that she got interested in King George and Queen Mary's visit to the area when she was researching their visit to Dewsbury, and she ended up researching the whole of the visit to the West Riding.

Many in the audience identified with the experience of one thing leading to another... and were treated to a fascinating and lively talk based upon Christine's collection of picture postcards. Although the royal party spent only fifteen minutes in Dewsbury, they visited a large number of other towns and villages. Christine had collected postcards of these locations and it was illuminating looking at the then and now images, the vast crowds, and hearing contemporary reports of the whistle stop tour.

One particular account was very moving. The King had said that the purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand knowledge of his people. This included a visit underground at Elsecar Colliery, a visit made all the more poignant, as the previous day there had been an explosion at the nearby Cadeby Main Pit and killing thirty five men and fifty three men in the rescue party in a further explosion. The king visited the pit the following day, and a reminder to us all, of the dangers our ancestors faced.

If Christine is giving a talk in your area do go along, I hope we will hear her again soon.

From Hanging Heaton to New York - Jim Halstead

Jim's extremely well researched and informative presentation was based upon an envelope he acquired, addressed to a person in New York, inviting her to a diamond wedding in Hanging Heaton. The event in 1912, was rare, a marriage of 60 years would be relatively unusual, the couple would be in their eighties, Jim researched the couple, their family, their daughter who went to America, and the granddaughter to whom the invitation was sent.

By means of old and modern-day maps, we got a sense of Hanging Heaton and New York State in the early years of the twentieth century and present day. The mix of social and family history resulted in an interesting and entertaining presentation.

Thanks to Ian Stevenson, Maureen Wheeler and Margaret Woodcock for their reports on the talks at our Fair – Ed.

St John's Church, Dewsbury Moor

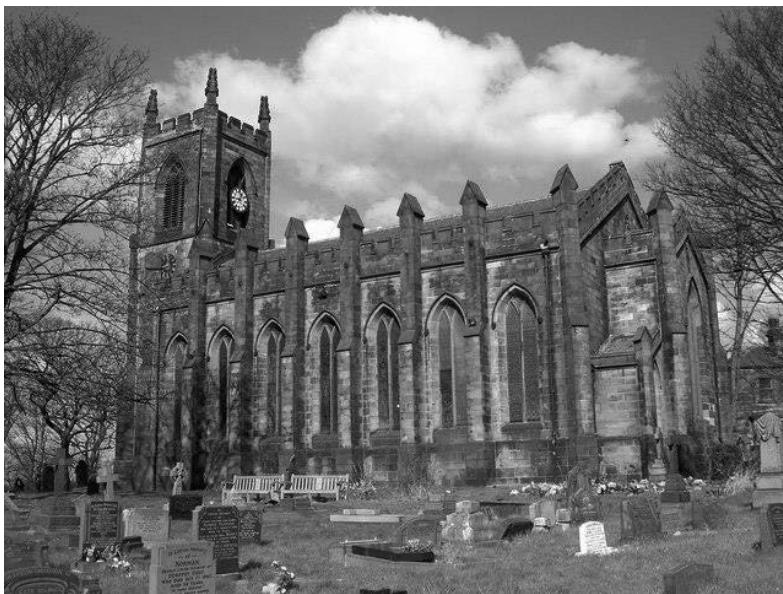
In September I was contacted by Mike Hobson, a church member at St John's, Dewsbury Moor, who has compiled a photographic log of the graves in their churchyard. This linked to a celebration of the anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone in 1823. Mike was concerned about the numbers of people appearing in their burial book who did not have a headstone and of people who appeared in the burial book who did have a headstone but where the details did not always completely match.

As many of us are aware there can often be mistakes in transcriptions or through different people giving the information at different times. There were of course also so many people who may have been buried in a churchyard but whose families could not afford a memorial.

Mike did all the work on his own and it took several months and the results are now held on a memory stick. The work will not be put online.

This led us to a long email exchange about how Mike had enjoyed putting it all together and that if anyone wanted to contact him they could do so through the church via the Team Parish of Dewsbury – <https://dewsburyteamparish.org.uk>

The church will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the building's completion and opening in 2027 when a display of archived material will be laid out along with PowerPoint presentations.



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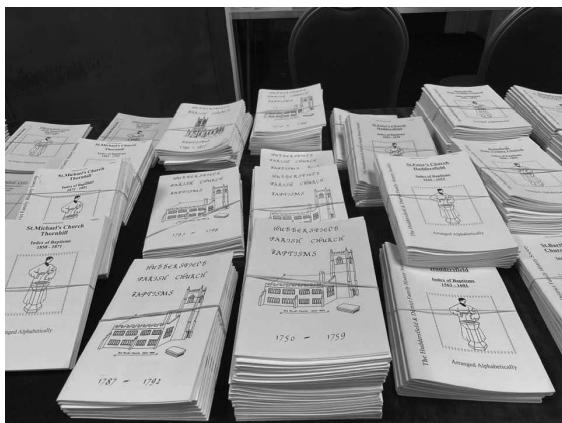
Susan Hutson
Editor

New items in the Website Shop, new Member Benefits and a **SALE!**

We are now looking to upgrade what we offer through our online shop, to make things more accessible to both our members and those searching online for Huddersfield and District family history related information.

We all know of course that there are benefits to being a member of a family history society but some don't realise that but are willing to buy some of our records. It is important that we keep up to date with our methods of sale and so our big move is towards selling downloadable files rather than booklets of our church transcriptions. Graham Farmer has been working on enabling this for the last few months and by the time you read this we expect to have created all our booklets as downloadable files. Please do take a look at the website shop, there is so much which may be of interest to you.

In the early days of the Society, many willing volunteers transcribed information from the 1841 and 1851 censuses and these were made into booklets for sale. This was before much became available online. However, this information continues to be valuable to family historians because of the ability to search by family names and groups within parish areas. We have been working on making all this data available in the Members' Area as a free resource and already we have loaded the 1841 census, with the 1851 census to follow shortly, along with much more other free data. Just a simple log in to the website will enable you to use this all free of charge.



So what will happen to all the hundreds of booklets which we still have in stock? If you attended the Fair you will know that we were selling them all at £1.00 each, most have been £2.50 in the past.

We are now selling them off at the Root Cellar for £1.00, and so if you are able to attend in person, you can buy as many as we have in stock that interest you. These will not be available for mail order, sorry, but the cost of postage would not make it viable.

What else is available for purchase? We have a wide range of genealogy and local history books for sale online and at the Root Cellar. Some are new additions to our stock, a combination of brand new books such as 'Old Honley Through a Lens', published by Honley Civic Society, and 'Mind Mapping Made Easy' by Linda Hammond as well as 'Tracing Your Servant Ancestors' by Michelle Higgs, and 'Writing Your Family History' by Gill Blanchard which has been a godsend to me when writing up my own history.

We must also not forget our best selling items – our Ancestral File and House History Notebook, priced at £5.00 and £7.50 (plus postage and packing if buying online).

Susan Hutson
Secretary

The Story of the Huddersfield Theatre Royal and its Last Owners - Peter Bernard and Nita Valerie

The first purpose built theatre in Huddersfield, The Theatre Royal, was opened on 11 April 1881 on the site of what had previously been The Philosophical Hall which had staged a wide range of political, religious and musical events. It was opened by Princess Victoria in May 1837 but was completely destroyed by a major fire on 15 December 1880.

The new theatre was constructed in an elaborate Victorian style and design. It had a dress circle for 120, an upper circle for 120 and a gallery and pit for 1000 as well as two tiers of private boxes.

The opening production was Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'. The owner was a Mr James Allen Love and it had been leased to be managed by Mr J. W. White.

By 1900 the theatre had been adapted to improve the exits and had a safety curtain added and the seating capacity was reduced.

For many years the theatre struggled on with various managers and licensees up to 1954 when a Mr Phillip Barrett was unable to make it profitable and surrendered the lease. At this point early in 1955 the lease was secured by Peter Bernardi LaMorte whose stage name was Peter Bernard and his wife Ann Ball whose stage name was Nita Valerie.

In October 2022 the society was contacted (via Dave Pattern of Huddersfield Exposed) by Brian Bonser from the U.S.A. who is a grandson of Peter Bernard and who was planning to visit Huddersfield in August 2023 to find out more about his grandfather and his connection to Huddersfield. He knew very little about him other than there was a connection with Huddersfield Theatre Royal.

The story that I discovered was quite amazing and I was able to meet up with Brian and his wife Carol on 25 August 2023 for an ancestral tour and to pass on my findings. The day ended with a visit to Huddersfield Crematorium where I had found where Peter's ashes had been scattered on a particular area of the memorial gardens in December 1960.



Peter Bernard

Peter was born on 30 January 1889 in Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A. and he arrived in England around 1910. By 1913 he was living at 7 York Street in London, aged 25. Described as an actor and theatrical agent at that time, I believe that he had been working on the cruise ships and he had met a Maori Princess who was a widow called Maud Airini Karauria Perry. She was 33 and from a wealthy family. She was a cousin of Sir James Carroll who was a member of the New Zealand Legislative Council and who had served twice as Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Maud's first husband was Frank Churchill Perry, a wealthy N.Z. businessman who died in 1906 and with whom Maud had three children – Nellie, Derek and Mori.

Peter and Maud married on 13 September 1913 in London but Maud's family did not approve of her marrying an actor

and they were divorced in November 1916. Peter had apparently claimed to be a wealthy American, but Maud knew otherwise. She kept in touch and even visited him in London ten years later as he was appearing in a Variety Theatre.

They had one child, a daughter called Dorothy in 1914 and I was able to find a very interesting news item from much later in 1923 when Maud was buying two classic Humber cars for £200. These were for her daughter Mori's wedding and she had provided a written sales document which said that she was the daughter of a high ranking Maori Chieftain but was also the mother of the famous Hollywood actress Dorothy Lamour whose father, she stated, was her second husband, "a wealthy American businessman Pierre La Morte", my visitor's grandfather. So this was one of the amazing and confirmed stories that I was able to tell Brian about Peter.

In 1926 aged 39 Peter had met and married Gwendoline Paulin an 18 year old model on 14 October in London. Their first child Patricia was born 28 December of the same year, in Stepney. Gwendoline was born in 1908 in Bombay where her father George was working as a marine engineer, but he died in 1913 and Gwendoline, aged 5, was sent back to England where she was placed in an orphanage in Newcastle. Peter and Gwen had two more children Antonio V La Morte born in 1928 and Peter Bernardi La Morte born 1930, named after his father.

Peter Bernard Senior had continued his acting career throughout the 1930s, 40s and 50s and had travelled around the world as an entertainer. Sometime in the 1940s I believe that he met Nita in a repertory theatre group and they were together in the Winter Garden Players at the theatre in New Brighton around 1950.

They married on 12 November 1953 in London. At the time, and on his marriage certificate, Peter said he was a widower but Gwen was still alive and in America and I have not found any record of a divorce. In April 1955 Peter and Nita had secured a lease on our Huddersfield Theatre Royal and then they bought it outright in 1957.



Nita Valerie

Nita was born into a theatrical family in Preston in 1907 and was soon appearing on stage in various drama groups in the north. She had also appeared on television in a number of small parts including as a cleaner on Coronation Street. She was also offered an audition for the part of Ena Sharples in 1960 but at the time Peter was very ill and he died on 22 December that year. They had been in difficulties with the Theatre Royal, having tried various types of entertainment including wrestling, and so the theatre was sold and demolished for the town centre redevelopment in 1961.

Nita attempted to keep local theatre in Huddersfield and set up a small theatre group in a Venn Street building and called it The New Theatre. This did not succeed. Nita died in a Huddersfield nursing home in 1989, aged 82.

So, as we often find when researching family history, this can often lead to other very interesting stories and needless to say we had a very grateful and surprised American visitor.

Ian Stevenson (S251)

Joe Hoyle (1872 – 1932)



Joe Hoyle 1872 - 1932

(they're not all my own!).

May Elkanah Hoyle married Martha Hamer (1797-1880) and their daughter Sarah, third of five daughters, married William Lumb (1823-1852), and after his death, Jesse Riley (1827-1881).

They kept a large shop on the corner of Oakes Road, opposite Oakes Baptist Chapel. My grandmother Mary Shaw (1881-1971) was the granddaughter of Sarah Hoyle. She married Harry Shaw (1874-1958) in Oakes Baptist Chapel in 1907. She had been the chapel's Sunday School teacher which I understand was held in a building behind the chapel.

Harry Shaw became a sanitary inspector in Huddersfield after passing his exams. He had been a builder/stone mason like his father William Shaw (1850-1911). My grandmother said he (William) has 'built Blackpool Tower'. She was full of humorous family anecdotes, which I loved to hear as a child.

Sarah Hoyle, my great great grandmother had a sister called Eliza (1835-1922). Eliza married John Calverley (1831-1910) and had six children, one of whom was Oliver Calverley (1862-1937). Oliver married Marion Hall (1879-1930), the daughter of Charles Hall (1837-1904) and Martha Morton (1844-1922). This Marion Hall was the sister of Mary Edith Hall who married Joe Hoyle, the subject of this piece. They had one daughter, Marion, who never married.

My connection is therefore via the Halls. Mary Edith Hoyle, nee Hall, is the sister to my Marion Hall and so she is my cousin three times removed. A bit distant, I know, but nevertheless interesting and more so when you have the individuals' photographs for which I have to thank Maureen.

Members may recall a short message from our librarian, Maureen Wheeler, in the January issue of our journal. She had come by some very old photos of Joe Hoyle (1872-1932), his wife, Mary Edith nee Hall (1873-1965), and their daughter Marion Hoyle (1908-1995). Maureen asked members if anyone would like them.

I very excitedly went over my large Shaw family tree which has many Hoyles, Lumbs, Bamfords, Whiteheads, Halls, Gledhills, Mortons, Hansons, Shaws and Rileys. In fact, as a matter of interest, it was William Riley (b. 1855) in my tree who took Dobcross looms to Russia – according to my grandmother Mary Shaw (1881-1971). His two children, Clara (1883-1961) and Thomas H (1881-1946) were born in Moscow.

Now in April this year: brilliant! A new connection for my tree. I asked Maureen if I could have the photos. She sent them and I added the details to my tree. Apologies for the extra details of my tree which follow as they may be of interest.

So, my great great grandmother was Sarah Hoyle (1827-1905), daughter of Elkanah Hoyle (1796-1864). He is one of many Elkanah Hoyles who seem to pop up across the generations



Mary Edith Hoyle nee Hall 1873 - 1965



Marion Hoyle 1908 - 1995

My Shaw tree continues to grow aided by the booklets and articles produced by our society which have helped immeasurably since my joining in 1989. My best wishes to you all, fellow detectives!

PJA Evans (E011)

Unwanted Certificates

Ann Ellam	Birth	1839	Lindley
Henry Ellam	Birth	1852	High Hoyland
James Ellam	Birth	1846	High Hoyland
Joseph Ellam	Birth	1845	High Hoyland
Edith Gill	Birth	1869	New Mill
Joseph Henry Gill	Birth	1866	New Mill
Hannah Thornton	Birth	1839	Lockwood
Henry Gill	Marriage	1861	New Mill
Ann Ellam			
John Ellam	Marriage	1840	New Mill
Mary Lockwood			
William Gill	Marriage	1856	Kirkburton
Mary Ellam			
Deborah Gill	Death	1856	Fulstone

Please email Margaret Woodcock if these are of interest - £2.00 each plus p&p.

New Members

Here is the list of new members who joined up to the end of November. Welcome to you all and we hope you find real benefits to being a member of our Society.

We welcome new members getting in touch to ask questions, please contact us through the details on the back inside cover.

A203	Richard Ainley	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
B720	Jacqueline Brawley	Aberdeenshire	Scotland
B721	Doug Booth	Essendon	Australia
B722	Liz Batchelor	Henley on Thames	Oxfordshire
C415	Anthony Cree	Dewsbury	West Yorkshire
E205	Jacolyn Ewart	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
E206	Phillip C Ellis	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
E207	Fiona Ellis	Stroud	Gloucestershire
F206	Kim de Franzia	Toronto	Canada
H509	Patricia Halstead	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
H623	Charles & Annabel Howarth	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
H624	Jonathan Hunter	Wetherby	West Yorkshire
H625	Julia Hall	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
J203	Mark Jessop	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
K210	Janet Kittrick	Barnsley	South Yorkshire
K211	Barbara Kreft	Tasman	New Zealand
L311	Charlotte London	High Peak	Derbyshire
P208	Kathleen Phelan Mangan	Tucson	USA
P209	Angus Pogson	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
P210	Christine Peach	Crewe	Cheshire
P211	Ruth Pearson	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
P212	Angela Parr	Leigh	Lancashire
R208	Fiona Robson	Pateley Bridge	North Yorkshire
T208	Sarah Taylor	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
W510	Catherine Wollaston	Chelmsford	Essex
W511	Katherine Waters	New South Wales	Australia
W512	Julia Watton	Hinckley	Leicestershire
W513	Helen Wilson	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire

Jane Harris
Membership Secretary

Castles of Holmfirth

I'm a new member of the society and am researching the history of my family's business which closed down in August 1995. If you are from Holmfirth you will be familiar with Castle's garage premises which went on to be the Holmfirth Market and Edinburgh Woollen Mill on the main road in Holmfirth. Our family had parts of their business in various locations over the years around Holmfirth, including at Hinchliffe Mill and towards the bottom of Dunford Road and Swan Bank Mills.

My great grandfather, George Willie Castle, started a business as a baker in 1915 at 104 Woodhead Road then also across the road at No. 97 where he rented a house, living in half and using the other half as a bakery. He started giving local people lifts in the baker's van and saw a transport need, so gradually concentrated on his bus and garage business from the mid-1920s. In the 1930s he borrowed money from a local mill owner and had a



garage and house built at Woodleigh which still stands at the bottom of Shaw Lane. He had coaches, taxis, a private ambulance and then applied for a garage in Holmfirth. 1935 finally saw the completion of the garage but sadly he never saw it as he died.

Later my grandfather, Douglas Castle, had a

coach depot at Ribbleden but I don't know when this was purchased. In the 1940s the garage was altered and the family started selling British Leyland cars. Douglas and his male siblings, Eric, Herbert, Clifford and Leslie were not very forthcoming with family history information, and although they had sisters, the girls had nothing to do with the business.

1953 was a very important date as the first Castle's bus ran from Holmfirth to Upperthong via the Ford Inn, something the residents had wanted for several years. Sam Wrather was the driver and my grandad the conductor.

In the 1960s the garage was significantly altered with canopies and more fuel pumps, and the service department improved. By 1972 Dunway Motors had opened up Dunford Road selling Ford cars. In 1978 Baddeley's bus depot was bought (this was the former Wesleyan Chapel) and the top part was demolished in 1981 with the opening of Castle Ford. In 1991 the servicing of vehicles started to move up to Dunford Road and the dealership with Austin Rover was relinquished. By 1994 the sale was completed of buildings to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill and in August 1995 the last drops of petrol were served. The same year the business was sold but the property remained in the family.

I would love to hear from other members about their memories/anecdotes of my ancestors' company and possibly receive photographs. Whilst I have an extensive photo collection which I inherited, I am sure there will be many more around that will add to my history, so that I can fulfil a promise made to my father to research the history of G W Castle.

Helen Castle Wilson
helencastle001@gmail.com

The Federation's 'Really Useful' Podcasts

The Family History Federation has launched a new series of podcasts on its 'Explore Your Genealogy' website. Once again Joe Saunders is the host. Brief details are given below.

Researching Women - It is important and fascinating to research the women in our family histories. In this episode we discuss different things to consider and ways to approach researching, often forgotten women. Joe is joined by Janet Few who has a particular interest in researching the lives of the marginalised, including women. She is currently serving as president of the Family History Federation and had a book about women's occupations in preparation; Margaret Roberts, chair of FHS of Cheshire and trustee of the Family History Federation and British Society of Sports History, speaker and author, as well as editor/owner of the sport and leisure history research website Playing Pasts; and Liz Craig, who is researching the Temple Lodge Home for Inebriate Women, as well as One-Place Studies of Dunster and Sudbourne, and a One-Name Study of Willsman.

Introduction to Archives - Archives are key to family history and visiting them is essential to developing your research. Our guests demystify archives and dispel any fears you may have about using them. Joe is joined by Karen Cummings, professional family historian and managing director at Pharos Tutors; Andrew Martin, family historian, digital archivist, and host of the Family Histories Podcast; and Maxine Willett, freelance archivist and historical researcher with twenty five years in the heritage sector helping you unlock your history see <https://archiveangel.co.uk>.

Yorkshire Ancestors - Many of us have ancestry from Yorkshire, the largest English county. Our guests share things to consider when researching your Yorkshire family history. Joe is joined by Sue Swalwell, family and local historian, story seeker and speaker who runs the Swalwell One-Name Study; Jackie Depelle, based in West Yorkshire with research interests across the historic county as well as further afield who has been involved with family and local history for over thirty years - teaching, talking and working (Your Fair Ladies) <https://depellejg.wixsite.com/mysite>; and Jane Hough, family historian, Pharos student, occasional speaker, who blogs at www.allthosebefore.org.uk/ (*and who is one of our society members*). *I particularly enjoyed this podcast, probably because Huddersfield was mentioned so many times! – Ed.*

Talks - Talks are a great part of our family history world where we learn from one another. In this episode we discuss what makes a good talk and share advice on organising them. Joe is joined by Dr Sophie Kay a professional genealogist, geneticist and speaker (www.khronicle.co.uk) and the ancestry and genealogy expert for popular archaeology show, Time Team; Ruth Willmore the events and education manager at Society of Genealogists, co-organiser of All About That Place who is studying for a masters in genealogy, palaeography and heraldry at Strathclyde University; and Margaret Roberts, sports historian and editor of the Playing Pasts online sports history magazine, publicity officer for the FHS of Cheshire and society liaison officer for the Federation and part of the A Few Forgotten Women research team.

Sporting Ancestors - Joe is joined by Margaret Roberts, chair of FHS of Cheshire and trustee of the Family History Federation and British Society of Sports History, speaker and author, as well as editor/owner of the sport and leisure history research website 'Playing Pasts'; Dave Day, emeritus Professor of Sports History with a particular interest in the history of sports coaching and training as well as the biographies of the men and women involved; and Dr Amanda Callan Spenn, historian, biographer, and professional genealogist, a trustee on the executive board of the British Society of Sports History. Some of our ancestors were amateur and professional sportspeople. Our guests discuss important things to know when researching sporting ancestors.



Dave Annal

Beyond the 19th Century - Researching further back past the nineteenth century can mean developing our skills and knowledge. In this episode we discuss how to research our ancestors into the eighteenth century. Joe is joined by Dave Annal, professional family historian, speaker and writer, who runs Lifelines Research; Sarah Pettyfer, who is a family, house and historical researcher and vice chair of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (you can find out more about Sarah as www.spfhhistory.co.uk); and Judith Batchelor, a genealogist, writer and tutor with the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

You can find her family history blog here: [Genealogy Jude – Unlocking the Door to Your Past](#)

The Federation's REALLY USEFUL podcasts are located here: <https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/podcast>

The Memorial Inscriptions Project

The Memorial Inscriptions Team have completed recording inscriptions for the following cemeteries, churches and chapels in our area. The inscriptions and plans are available to view at the Root Cellar and we hope to make them available to members online in the near future.

Please contact the Research Team with enquiries in relation to the following:

- Edgerton Municipal Cemetery (work completed a few years ago) and Lockwood Municipal Cemetery

Church of England churches at:

- Christ Church New Mill, Christ Church Helme, St John's Meltham Mills, St Mary's Wilshaw, St Bartholomew's Meltham (and the Calmlands Annex), St David's Holmbridge, Holy Trinity Hepworth, St Paul's Armitage Bridge, Holy Trinity South Crosland, Christ Church Linthwaite.

Non-Conformist Churches and Chapels at:

- Millmoor Road Methodist Chapel Meltham (and Calmlands annex), Mean Lane Baptist Church Meltham, Gatehead Primitive Chapel Holmfirth, Hade Edge Methodist Chapel Holmfirth, Outlane Methodist Chapel, Lockwood Baptist Chapel, Lydgate Unitarian Chapel New Mill
- St John's Church Newsome (now a Community Centre) is work in progress.

MI Team

Pioneering Huddersfield Women

Huddersfield Local History Society's Annual History Day

Saturday 9 November 2024

It was great to let others take the strain of organising an event, and I thoroughly enjoyed my day at the Brian Jackson Centre listening to a number of excellent speakers on the lives of various pioneering Huddersfield Women.

The day started, after introductions, with a fascinating study by Katie Broomfield entitled '***Mary Sykes: A rather independent manner***'. Mary Elaine Sykes, 1896-1981, was the first woman solicitor and the first woman Mayor of Huddersfield. She was a graduate of the Royal Holloway Women's College, University of London. Born in Honley, she trained to be a solicitor at a time when this was yet to be accepted as an occupation for women.

Her father was already a solicitor in Huddersfield and she became articled to him. Although she could study for a Law degree it wasn't until 'The Sex Discrimination (Removal) Act' of 1919 passed in 1921, that she and other women were able to join the Law Society and Inns of Court and she then became the first woman solicitor in Huddersfield.

She took her final examination, passing with honours, at the age of 25 and joined her father in the family firm of Armitage, Sykes and Hinchliffe. She worked for the family firm for seven years but was never really accepted by the male members of staff.

In 1930 she formed the practice Mary E Sykes and Co. and continued her business until 1968. By 1968 still only 2.9% of solicitors were women. She became a magistrate in 1955.

She was a pioneer for women's higher education, constantly seeking to improve the provision of education generally for women.

She was a confirmed socialist, her views being established whilst at University in London.

In 1930 she was elected as a councillor in Huddersfield and in 1945 she became Mayor of the town.

In January 1953 she married Richard (Harry) Brown but left Huddersfield in 1968 to be closer to her brother who lived in Suffolk. She died on 25 February 1981.

Apparently a blue plaque application has been made for her to English Heritage, with the hope that it will be placed on Britannia Buildings where she had her office. We can be very proud of Mary Elaine Sykes and her perseverance in becoming the first woman solicitor in the town.

If you would like to find out more about Mary's history there is an interesting podcast by Katie Broomfield which can be found on the Inner Temple website: <https://www.innertemple.org.uk/women-in-law/podcasts/>

The history day lectures continued with Bertrand Taithe speaking expertly about **Elizabeth Wilson** who was a humanitarian pioneer and the founder of Huddersfield Famine Relief. Elizabeth was born in Richmond but lived for many years at Richmond Avenue in Fartown.

Whereas Mary Sykes left no diaries, Elizabeth Wilson wrote two volumes of autobiography. She always had an 'open house' and took in Jewish refugees in the 1940s. She travelled widely and in 1959 imported the work of refugees from camps in Hong Kong.

She became a public speaker throughout the country and in 1968 became particularly interested in Buddhism. She also became involved in non-Christian religion in Huddersfield primary schools following the integration of many Asian children into Huddersfield schools in the late 1960s.

She was apparently full of self-doubt but had incredible energy and could be described in the 1960s as a 'hippy'.

After lunch Cyril Pearce, the Chairman of Huddersfield Local History Society, gave a lecture on Huddersfield's Women Conscientious objectors '**Huddersfield Women who said no to WW1**'.

Cyril has a database of conscientious objectors and it is hoped that this will be accessible online within the next 18 months. He discussed a number of women, some of whom are mostly known for their roles as suffragists.

The final talk included the launch of a new book '**An Ordinary Life – Florence Lockwood's Memoir of Life, Suffrage and War in the Colne Valley**', Edited and introduced by Rebecca Gill and Janette Martin.



In 2020 Janette bought a rare out-of-print edition of Florence's autobiography. Florence had written 'if the book is kept it will be interesting one hundred years hence' and so Janette and Rebecca were inspired to edit and republish the book through the Local History Society.

Florence was an artist, suffragist, pacifist, and the wife of Josiah Lockwood, textile manufacturer of Black Rock Mill in Linthwaite.

She takes us from her early days in Plymouth, pursuing art in London, moving from South to North, her marriage, votes for women, the war and the last days of Josiah. It is a fascinating account of a woman who was certainly yet another Huddersfield pioneer.

The book is a great read and well worth its £10 price tag. It is available through Huddersfield Local History Society's website, some local bookshops and at the Root Cellar.

Susan Hutson
Editor

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT FHS ‘THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP’

Whenever my Journal arrives I am an avid reader of it and have done so as long as I have had my membership. How long is that I hear you cry - G.O.K. says I, but it's a long time and at 86 years old plus, surely, I can be forgiven for forgetting.

In discussing my family history with a friend who is in awe of my achievement in this field because he has found it difficult to find as much information as I have amassed over a similar period of years. He boldly asked ‘why’? I discovered he was not too keen on ‘Clubs’ but he was happy to pick my brain for the lines to pursue to achieve my aim.

Where he had declined to join a group or Society I had in fact joined this FHS. It was on the recommendation of a council employee at Kirklees, following an approach to her department on a family history matter relating to what turned out to be a gross misspelling of Kirkburton. The Journal was my reference, the membership my helpers, without the backup I would not have pondered what I subsequently did. Firstly I decided to pursue the Earnshaw paternal line and upon the death of my French grandmother I chose to pursue her paternal and maternal lines.

My ancestor was James Earnshaw who left Yorkshire for Hexham, Northumberland in the first half of the 19th century ‘to colonise’ this County. I say this because I found that up to and including all Earnshaw named individuals born before 1950, they stemmed from the union of James Earnshaw born Kirkburton 1796 and Mary Charlton born Hexham 1797, producing three sons and one daughter. The eldest being my great, great grandfather James Earnshaw who had ten children - his eldest son, John, and next eldest son, James, had nine and ten children respectively. Families in previous generations were large and thirty plus years ago one member with whom I had contact suggested that I might have to put some reliance on Victorian naming patterns. Where was this going to lead I asked?

Firstly I thought what does my name mean? I had always known that the Saxon word Shaw meant Wood and as a consequence of membership I discovered the work of Dr Wood. Mindful that eagles were upland birds of prey Dr Redmond’s suggestion that this was not natural habitat associated with the West Riding and suggested to me that it might be of Germanic origin based on Saxon migration from Western Europe.

Once I had discovered the correct spelling of the place of origin of my four times great grandfather I thought there was great prospect of advancement as I had advice from a number of quarters – but ‘nay’ that was not to be. I had established that my James Earnshaw was indeed the son of Luke Earnshaw and Mary Lee but one has to remember towards the end of the 20th century the availability of sources of genuine records were not as available as they are today. I came across a number of individuals researching this family of mine and sadly much of the advice and research turned out to be ‘my parents or another relative said’ which was based on the wrong premise.

Thankfully I came across a contact that turned out to be a distant cousin with my own surname whose grandfather was my own grandfather’s cousin, who was 36 years his junior and junior to my own father. We discovered that Luke appeared so many times in our family that Luke son of Luke, Luke son of William, Luke son of James, there were others, all might have been of the same family and it had sent us by differing advisors down the wrong track by using naming patterns. It came as no surprise to us that relatives we had addressed as uncle or aunt all turned out to be of the same family line but a quite different relationship to our understanding.

Needless to say there is a nomadic tendency in this family over the generations now scattered throughout the UK based between the West Riding, Durham and Northumberland and believe it, or believe it not, Devon within twenty five miles from where I live who are the youngest sole male members of this family line.

On the death of my grandmother Eugenie Genevieve Julie Branthwaite, known to me as a Parisienne born in 1883 who taught me the French language whilst sitting on her knee, I was left two pieces of information which I received from my mother before her own death in 1992. It was a sepia photograph of a hearse 'en route' to a church in the background with the last letters 'ues' of the title of this tattered photo together with a letter from the Etat Civil in Paris confirming the name Batifol, her place and date of birth.

My initial reaction was what on earth am I going to do with this - well it quite quickly changed because I read an item in the HDFHS Journal which highlighted the value of membership and gave me encouragement to embark on my French research. I think the article must have sparked something in my head which prompted me to offer to take my wife to Paris for a few days which ended up as a flight to Paris, and she booked the hotel not too far distant from La Place de La Republique in Autumn of 2005. I hasten to add that I wanted to go the Archives De Paris for at least half a day and it was conditional on that.

Anyway what lady is going to miss the opportunity of a day or more shopping in Paris. The visit to the archives was a total success I think they were quite surprised to have an Englishman in their midst. What surprised me was that the French are terrific bureaucrats, such as the amount of information in the record of a birth as all are required to attend the Office with the child. For example it gives the full date, time and detailed address of the birthplace, their occupations, origins and often the witnesses are relatives with occupations and origins.

For us in England it is very obvious that the State in France is paramount and whilst there are ceremonies in Church it does not have the same importance in legal terms e.g. a legal marriage is subject to a contract and is held at the Marie of the town or village or arrondissements in Paris. My grandmother was born in 3rd Arr. (one of twenty).

What was more surprising, having read the detail at dinner at the hotel on the same evening, we found ourselves 200 yards away from the place where grandmother was born in the Rue de Notre Dame De Nazareth about 70 yards from the Place de la Republique and decided to visit it the following day. This was the start of a series of journeys in the search of my French ancestry.

Arriving at the end of this road a mixture of shops with housing above and behind and what we might describe as Georgian or early Victorian properties I was approached by an occupier of part of the property which was my principal interest. Mindful of his suspicion I introduced myself and showed him the document I had acquired from the archives. He was surprised by some of the information in it in so far as his great grandfather was one of the witnesses to the birth. His origin was Jewish, a dealer in leather goods. He launched into addressing me in Hebrew as he was of the mistaken belief I was of his faith despite the fact I had indicated I was an English Protestant.

He told me that during the purge of Jews by the German occupation of Paris in 1944 the owner of the property had been betrayed, sent to Dachau, never to return. It appeared that part of his family were sheltered by residents of Cantal which prompted me to widen my search for my ancestors. This turned out to be a valuable piece in the search as I remembered once being told of the hot springs in the volcanic region of France and with this in mind I scoured the maps of the region indices in my map book of France. At last I found the answer to my quest, Chaudes Aigues the town known for the hottest volcanic spring in Western Europe. It was the place as shown in the sepia photo.

The real search had begun and I had to decide how far I should go so I decided to restrict the main thrust of my search to the surnames of my great grandparents Etienne Eugene Batifol and Marie Eulalie Bical. I joined two groups in France which covered the whole of Paris and the second which covered Cantal, Auverne and Lozere. The reason was Etienne was born at Vedrines not too far distant from Chaude Aigues, Marie Eulalie in Paris (11 arr.) and clearly over the generations at different times they travelled frequently between Paris and their places of origin in the mountainous regions of France. The Batifol family were principally farmers in and around the villages of Nasbinals, St Urcize, and to this day the family have a farm bought by my great great grandfather in the early 19th century at Vedrines in Cantal. They breed the hill cattle for its meat and milk for the local hard cheese, Cantal.

The Bical family on the other hand are sedentary whose origin can be traced back to La Trinitat in the early 16th century where they were born and raised in 'La Moulin Bical' which remains in the ownership of a member of the Bical family who is an eminent architect in Paris. He has upgraded the mill by extending it and it is assumed his family uses it for holidays. I learnt this when a very distant cousin Jean Louis Remise first approached me through the French Group and told me he was in touch with my Batifol family. He had asked me to contact Louis Batifol whose great grandfather was the brother of my great grandfather Etienne Eugene Bernadette Remise (John Louis' wife), whose cousin had written a book which contained the history of 'La Moulin Bical' and its improvement. So I received an extract of the section of the book from her. At which point I was urged to subscribe to Geneanet which they thought would help me with my research. This lead to more visits to France. The Etat Civil Records took me back to the time of the French Revolution in the last decade of the 18th century and from 1792 it was difficult to understand the revolutionary method of record keeping.

The result was I delved into the parish records to find it easier to discover earlier records reaching as far back as the year 1550. Sometimes this raised more questions than answers. Undeterred I was determined to visit the Plateau de L' Aubrac where most of the villages appearing from my research were situated. Namely La Trinitat, Nasbinals, St Urcize, Vedrines and of course Chaude Aigues.

I visited Chaudes Aigues Tourist Information Office to be sure my photograph was genuinely of that place which had changed beyond recognition by the beginning of this century. The purpose to find the cemetery, but because it was so large I was directed to the Parish Priest who was anxious to see my wife and I. He told me he knew the family Batifol well; his record of the time indeed confirmed the death and funeral of Marie Eulalie Bical in 1895 but I would need to go to the local authority to find the actual grave. I declined his offer to actually make contact with the family there and then. The question now was why did my gran keep this photograph and why did she decide to leave France, and never to mention the family comprising of three other siblings. Namely Jean Antoine, Marie Anastasie and Eugene Marcel who I had discovered from research.

Subsequently I made the discovery that at the age of just 36 years Marie Eulalie died on 16th September 1895, eight days after her birthday, at her home at L'Hert a hamlet close to Chaude Aigues and a short distance from her in-laws' village. Was the sepia photograph a record of her funeral? I came to the view it was so (why else would she keep it for 70 years?). The cause of death was undefined but I knew her first child died at eight weeks and my cousin hinted she might have died during a pregnancy but declined to discuss the full detail. He did, however, indicate the death caused a major upset within this family. My grandmother and the elder brother were abandoned by their father - the younger siblings were taken with him to Paris - the two eldest were taken in temporarily by their grandmother with help from other members of the family.

They were coming up to the age where they would seek employment. Gran was placed in service and is believed to have come to England around 1900 - first to Kent and then to Northumberland, County Durham and Cumberland.

What of the letter from the L'Etat Civil, this was evidence of a French National who had to register as an Alien prior to the First World War and she had to justify her status.

I made a point of visiting the unique style Romain Churches of La Trinitat and St Urcize, the former was the venue for my great grandparents' wedding with a war memorial in the yard surrounding it. There were twelve names on it mainly from the 1st World War - I was related to ten of the persons named on it and the 12th name of a Jewish deportee of the 2nd World War to Dachau, was this the person mentioned earlier? This had a marked effect on me as I learnt later that the population of this village was 64 persons in 1914.

Continuing the journey to St Urcize we made our way to the church and not too far distant was a Dolmen of early history. At the boulangerie I discovered a book of the village's history and discovered that evidence of the Batifol family appeared in the first written record of all families listed. I was encouraged by the owner to visit the cemetery who directed me to the grave of my 2x great aunt Catherine Batifol married into the Raynal family, to discover that this was also the resting place of Pierre Raynal, a member of George Pompidou's government.

On return to our base we came across a monument above a steep valley, now bypassed by a modern road improvement, commemorating the battle that took place at the Pont Rouge where the Marquis battled with a body of German SS supported by a huge contingent of at least 300 Azerbaijanis to delay their progress north at the time of the Normandy Landings. The monument commemorates those twenty or so men that died where they stood and the grave of their leader buried in a wood not too far distant from it. The third memorial at the very spot where a gendarme was shot and killed; his body was interred elsewhere. The survivors of the battle during a monumental mountainous storm filtered into the night after bravely completing their task to delay and disrupt troop movement.

I hear you say what has the third issue to do with family history – well it all happened on the farm bought by my 2x great grandparents, Jean Batifol and Genevieve Chaupit, and their family. For my part I am in the twilight of my life and doubt I will be given time to fully explore all aspects in any great detail of a family which has served and died in the Royal Flying Corps, Army, Navy and Merchant Navy in two world wars. Most of whom have known graves with one exception whose death is recorded on panel nine of the Menin Gate at Ypres.

However, I will leave it to the reader to judge 'The Value of Membership'.

John Earnshaw (E066)
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Thank you John for showing how you never know how you might suddenly be able to further your research by an article, a chance comment by a fellow member etc. Sometimes people ask us what they will gain from joining the society, there are so many reasons for doing so, some of which can be quite difficult to explain!

I am so pleased that you have found the 'Value of Membership' – Ed.

Supporting Heritage Open Day Events

We have been involved in the Heritage Open Day initiative for a few years now. It provides us with excellent opportunities to support churches and others in our communities and to let people know more about what we can offer in terms of family history, local history and house history research.

2024 was no exception and for the first time we were able to attend four venues over the two weekends of the event in September. Three of these were our first time at these locations.

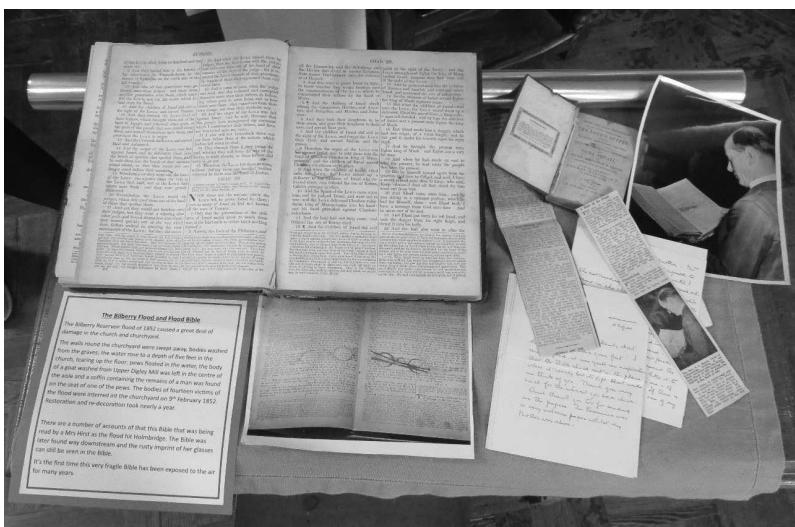
We had a display and offered family history expertise at the Newsome Centre, the former St John's Church, and we were able to help a number of visitors over one of their heritage weekends. The Newsome Centre is a community centre and those who run it want to maintain the historical aspects of the venue and provide a hub for the local community.

Our MI team had recently completed their work at New Mill Christ Church and so were keen to support them on their heritage open day, arranging walks around the graveyard and displaying their work within the Church. They too had a number of visitors.

Two of our volunteers attended a regular venue at Golcar St John's Church where they helped visitors with family history research. Local people know that they can consult our own volunteers, one of whom is Colne Valley expert, Steve Whitwam, on that day each year.

Our fourth event was at Holmbridge St David's Church where volunteers assisted over two days. At this event we promoted MI work and House History research and Ian Stevenson was amazed to find that he received seven house history commissions which will be keeping him and others busy for some time yet.

The Church at Holmbridge had some fascinating displays of their own and this included the 'Flood Bible' which had an incredible history in the Holmfirth Flood of 1852.



The following is part of a contemporary newspaper account from the Huddersfield Chronicle, 14 February 1852, which has been transcribed on the '*Huddersfield Exposed*' website.

'A correspondent informs us that a day or two ago he had an opportunity of hearing from Mrs. Hirst her own account of the painful narrative in which she figures as the principal sufferer in point of property throughout the entire catastrophe. Mrs Hirst, it seems, had been repeatedly urged during the evening to leave her house, as danger was apprehended from the rapid filling of the reservoir, but as these warnings came principally from her young family, and had been given on previous occasions, they were at first disregarded. A female friend, about 12 o'clock at night, called upon her, begging of her to leave.

By arrangement they set off, intending to go towards the reservoir (Mrs. Hirst throwing a shawl over her head), but they met a man of whom they enquired as to the safety of the reservoir; he told them he thought there was no danger, as it was still a foot from the top. They then went back, her neighbour returned home, and Mrs. Hirst says:-

"I went into the house and opened my bible and thought I would read a little about the troubles of Job. After this I went to bed. By-and-by I was again alarmed by my neighbours, who urged me to fly for my life. The members of my family said they would go in different directions to my relations and friends, and they did so. I put, as I thought, many things out of harm's way, by taking them from the lower rooms into the chambers. The heavy pieces of furniture, such as the piano, sofas, tables and chairs, were left below. I got into the cellar, and there thought of staying for safety.

By-and-by two of my neighbours came and urged me to run, but I refused, and clung to the cellar stone, but they forced me away. I then seized my youngest child, who was in bed, wrapped in a table-cloth and we fled for our lives, the men carrying us along, and as soon as ever I got over the wooden bridge I looked and saw the water coming in great force, mountains high, and dashing in the windows of the house. I just saw white window blinds floating on the water, and then I remembered nothing more. Another minute and I had been lost. The reservoir must have burst before I left the house. All I had was swept away."

Our correspondent adds:- 'And thus this good lady, a widow too, only recently bereft of her husband, the mother of a large family, - who but one hour before was possessed of a respectable home, and excellent furnished house, a well-stocked farm, a large and most valuable mill, with well-appointed machinery, was suddenly bereft of all, and her means of livelihood gone, and, like the messenger to Job, of whose troubles she had been reading, she may now in truth say. 'I am only escaped along to tell thee!'. Not a vestige of property variously estimated at from £10,000 to £15,000 now remains, and even the very clothes her family now wear, they have had to sue for and obtain from the 'Sisters of Charity, who are now so praiseworthy discharging their duties at the Town-Hall'.

Looking at the display at Holmbridge Church, I found the most poignant aspect of the bible found afterwards in the detritus of the flood, was the mark of Mrs Hirst's glasses which remained between its pages and which can just about be seen in the photograph.

If you would like to find out more about the Holmfirth Flood of 1852, then a good place to start is *Huddersfield Exposed*, which has an incredible amount of information, thanks to local historian Dave Pattern.

Susan Hutson
Editor

Emigrating to Żagań

In c1880, my great grandparents Joseph and Eliza Senior took the whole family from Golcar to Sagan in what was then Germany (now Żagań in Poland). This is where a Yorkshire mill owner called Oldroyd set up a textile factory (which is still running today, now in local Polish ownership). He took a skilled labour force with him from different areas of the north of England, including great granddad Joseph Senior, who was a loom tuner. Tuners were responsible for a number of looms and to an extent, the wellbeing of the associated weavers. A tuner was also responsible for ensuring good-quality materials were produced and that the looms worked to their highest capacity.

I have recently discovered that great granddad Joseph sent his wife, great grandma Eliza, back home to England to give birth to my grandma, Maggie. They re-joined the family back in Żagań sometime after their recovery from the birth. Eliza gave birth to three more children while in Germany, but sadly the youngest two babies died at birth. The second child had foetal hydrocephalus, a condition that causes the baby's head to swell therefore making the delivery very difficult. Instruments were used during the birth and as a result, Eliza developed septicaemia and died soon after in 1897. They had nine children in total; she was 42 years old.

Żagań was in Upper Silesia, and even though it was originally Prussia and then became Germany, this area was persecuted by the German Nazis soon after they invaded Poland in 1939. It was also one of the first areas where the Jewish community was victimised. Ethnic cleansing was subsequently carried out and sympathetic German nationals were moved into that area. This was precisely what the Russians did just a few years later following the end of WW2. Stalin was able to persuade the Allied combatants to allow him to move the border, and Żagań then became part of Western Poland, controlled by the USSR (Russia).

My brother Nick and I, along with our partners, visited Żagań in September 2008, in an attempt to find great grandma Senior's grave. Unfortunately, due to Hitler then Stalin's need to create a buffer zone of a sympathetic population, it was impossible to find what we were looking for. Even though most of the buildings survived this turmoil, most local documentation concerning Prussia and Germany was lost or destroyed. Also, under the orders of Stalin, the Russian government deported many ethnic groups including Germans, Poles and Ukrainians into that area, so Russia could move a sympathetic Russian population into the void. The new local population consequently had little interest in its history and was no doubt recovering from the nightmare of war.

The recent generation of people living in Żagań are now taking more of an interest in what has become their history and place. While my brother Nick and I were there, a local historian and council member called Marián took us to many places in an attempt to find evidence of great grandma's grave. He stayed with us for three days – a fine fellow. He could speak Polish and German but not English; my brother and I could speak pidgin English and a tiny bit of German, but we got by with lots of grunting and pointing.

Staying in the hotel at the same time was a German film crew making a documentary about Żagań's connection with the Panzer regiment stationed there during WW2. Our guide Marian had arranged that both the German and British groups have a meal together in the hotel on our final evening. Amongst the others were the director and his father. Later in the evening the father passed round photos of his parents and his home town but I noticed that he kept a couple back, I persuaded him to show us the others, they were photos of his parents (the director's grandparents) taken during the war and he was wearing his German panzer

uniform. He was reluctant to show us these photos in case it offended the English sat around the table. I was able to tell them that our parents had an almost identical photo taken at the same time.



This is a photograph of Clifford and Mary Norcliffe in early 1942. The photo was the one I was referring to; it was almost identical to the one we were shown that evening. It was quite a touching moment, and I can't really explain why.

Two years after the death of Eliza, and following a promise made to his wife, Granddad Senior returned to Golcar with what was left of the family in approximately 1899. He had already sent the eldest son Willie on ahead, and then the eldest daughter Edith soon after. Edith had become pregnant following a romantic liaison with a German army officer.

Żagań was, and still is, a garrison town, initially for infantry, but after WW1 a tank regiment was stationed there. The prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III was also located in the town during WW2. This camp became famous for 'The Great Escape', where close to 90 allied airmen made a daring escape during the night of 24/25 March 1944. It is now garrisoned by a polish

tank regiment.

This is a photograph of Żagań tank garrison museum within the camp grounds, 2008.

There is no evidence that Great Granddad Joseph was patriotic or nationalistic, but he must have had good reason to send his wife Eliza back to England to give birth to my grandma Maggie, then to send his daughter Edith back following her pregnancy. Edith's son was named Victor and was brought up as the youngest child of Joseph and Eliza. I don't know how convincing their story was, considering that Eliza had been

buried in Germany approximately two years earlier, but due to the stigma of a child born out of wedlock this practice had been common over many hundreds of years, therefore I'm sure there were few, if any questions asked. Incidentally, John Lennon of the Beatles was another famous example: he called his mother 'Aunty' for most of his childhood.

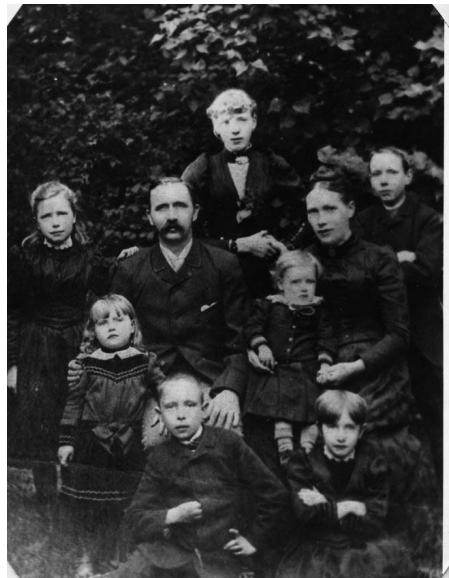


On their return to England, the family lived on Handel Street, Golcar where the eldest son Willie was already living; it is also where Edith and her new child Victor lived, otherwise she would have been living in destitution or worse. Even then it must have been very difficult to get by, as the welfare state was still more than 50 years away.

Victor was clearly someone who wanted to make his mark in the world – soon after he was able to use a hammer and nail (no doubt influenced by the male brain beginning to melt at the onset of puberty) he carved his initials on the stone mullion around the front door of the house. He also carved the initials of his cousin Thelma Littlewood. Their initials are still there to this day: 'VIS TL'.

The younger Senior children had to withstand a certain amount of teasing at school, for they all could speak German and had German accents. Some locals actually called them "that German family". I think I'm correct in saying that England and Germany have always had a mutual respect for each other, which is surprising really when considering the two world wars. But even then, it must have been difficult to fit in to a completely new environment. Nine family members living in one household and three or four siblings arriving in your school, possibly in the same class, must have created some local tension.

In the photo below, my grandma is the long blonde-haired girl stood just in front of her dad. Edith is the tall figure stood at the back. Granddad Edward and Grandma Maggie were married in 1913 and by 1926 they had six children, two dying within the first few days, luckily four surviving well into adulthood, including my mum, and all having children of their own. Grandma lost all her hair in 1921, soon after her third child Frank was born.



Apparently it is common for mothers to experience hair loss after childbirth, but with Grandma it was permanent. She wore a woolly cap for a while. I only ever saw her wearing a wig, and growing up with that image never felt odd. It was just how grandma looked.

This article forms just one of approximately 170 other rambles, many of which are already published in an on-line magazine called Yorkshire Bylines.

Three books of these rambles are also now on sale, they are a collection of stories, anecdotes, history, local history and general rambles about anything that pops into my head. They are not political, religious and so-called celebrities don't get a look in anywhere. I limit my admiration to my family and some notable dignitaries.

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Tracing Romany, traveller or fairground family history? Why not try this useful website:
www.rtfhs.org.uk

Five Brothers - from Longwood to New England

John Iredale and Hannah Hirst lived in the Thornhill area of Longwood, they had five sons: William (1826-1886), Joseph (1829-1895), Thomas (1834-1929), John William (1839-1912) and George (1846-1922). Thomas is the great, great grandfather of my husband.

Thomas married Rebecca Beaumont in 1856, they had three daughters and in 1861 Rebecca is living with her daughters at her brother Eli's home in Longwood. Thomas is nowhere to be found, for years I searched for him with no luck, then a conversation with a colleague at Colne Valley Museum who is related to Thomas and Rebecca, brought the response, "oh he ran off to America with the barmaid from the Slip" (the Slip Inn at Longwood which would then be the New Inn).

I found him in the 1870 US census, living at Sommersworth, New Hampshire, occupation: 'works in a Woolen (sic) mill'. In the house were also Elizabeth Bean and her son Frank, both born in the USA, so she was not the barmaid! In 1868 Thomas applied for Naturalisation/Citizenship saying he had arrived in 1864. In 1877 he and Elizabeth married, I can find no evidence of a divorce from Rebecca, he probably did not bother. In 1910 he is a widower, living in Strafford, New Hampshire. In 1920 he is living as a boarder at the home of Fred and Grace Hamilton, in Strafford, and his Will dated 1828 leaves everything to Fred Hamilton. Thomas died in 1929 and is buried at Gonic, New Hampshire.

So, there it was, Thomas made a new life in America, Rebecca lived until 1918, bringing up her daughters alone. However, during my research I kept coming across Iredale and Huddersfield, and soon realised that all five of John and Hannah's sons had gone to America.

William married Ann Swift in 1846; in 1851 they are living at Cliffe End, Longwood, he is a cloth dresser. He was the first to go to America, arriving in 1856, he obtained citizenship in 1860, in 1870 they were living at Salisbury, Massachusetts, William's occupation is 'designer in a Woolen mill', they had no children. William died in 1886 and is buried at Bridgton, Maine. There is a flag by his gravestone, and I discovered a record that states he is a veteran, serving in the American Civil War.

Joseph was a shoemaker in 1851, living at Longwood. He arrived in New York in 1853. He was naturalised in 1875 and he married Sarah C McClure; they had four children. In 1880 the family are living at Merrimack, New Hampshire, Joseph is a shoemaker, he died in 1895 at Swansey, New Hampshire.

John William - in 1861 he was a cloth dresser, living at Longwood, he married Martha Wray in 1862, Martha came from Tadcaster. They had two sons, Charles and William. In 1871 the boys are living with their grandparents in Tadcaster, Martha is elsewhere in the town, in service. John William was in America in 1871, he married Mary Elizabeth Edson that year, at Sommersworth, NH. John William was a labourer in a Woolen Mill, he was naturalized in 1882, where he stated that he arrived in America in 1864. He became a farmer in later life, dying in 1912 and is buried at Bridgton.

George, the youngest, was the last to leave Yorkshire; in 1881 he married Susannah Dyson, they had four children. In 1881 he was a postmaster and gardener at Longwood. In 1900 the family were at Bridgton, his occupation was 'Farmer'. He was a widower by 1920 and died in 1922, his occupation was given as 'Gardener and Florist'. George is buried at Bridgton. He did not apply for naturalisation, classed as 'alien' on the census.

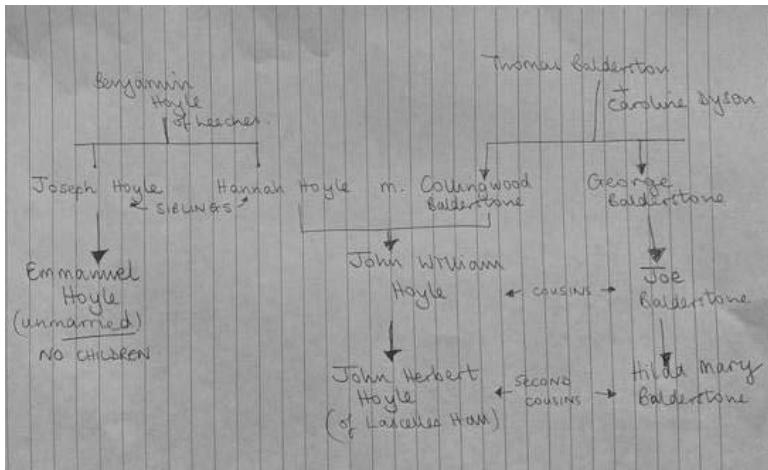
I wonder what was the 'push-pull' that sent the men to America? Wanting a better life? Escaping from unhappy marriages? I discovered more questions than answers.

Margaret Woodcock (W030)

My Balderstone Family

I always find the articles in the journal fascinating and very interesting. I have put together the following article from my research into the Balderstone side of my family history. My paternal grandmother was Hilda Mary Blakey (nee Balderstone) of Longwood (1906 - 1980). Her father (my great-grandad) was Joe Balderstone (1866-1957), born and bred in the Longwood/Outlane area.

I have been researching my family history using Ancestry and Find My Past and have been asking my parents and relatives for anecdotes and photos of their parents, friends and relatives. My uncle will be 90 in November and my parents are in their late 80s - I am well aware that vital information will be lost once they are no longer with us.



Whilst trying to find information about our family's possible link to the Whitakers (of Olympic horse jumping fame), I found that we have a direct link to Sir Emmanuel Hoyle and to Joseph Hoyle's mill in Longwood.

When I told my uncle about this link, he was very interested. You see as a boy, he used to deliver a Saturday morning paper to John Herbert Hoyle's mother who lived on Raw Nook Road, Salendine Nook, and was a good Christmas tipper! My uncle told me: "She was known as Mrs Hoyle, so was not a Hoyle by birth but by marriage, but I assume not to Sir Emmanuel Hoyle. However, it was her son (John Herbert - probably a nephew) who inherited the business of Joseph Hoyle's mill. He was also nominally a member at Longwood Methodist Church which was our family Church where we had several family pews. Whatever the collection totalled at our Church Anniversary, he automatically doubled it and that was his annual and only attendance."

My uncle asked me to delve further ...

Further research confirmed that Joseph Hoyle had a sister called Hannah. Hannah had a long relationship with one of our ancestors, Collingwood Dyson Balderston, with whom she had eight children, all illegitimate. All the children used their mother's maiden name, Hoyle. Hannah eventually married Collingwood who by that time had dropped the Balderston surname, preferring to use Dyson which was his mother Caroline's surname before she married Thomas Balderston. Was this because he was 3 weeks old when they married?

Did they have a falling out?

Caroline Dyson and Thomas Balderston had seven children, the eldest being Collingwood and the third son being George Balderston who was the father of Joe (my great-grandad). One of Collingwood and Hannah's illegitimate children was John William Hoyle – Joseph Hoyle's nephew.

John William Hoyle became mill manager/overlooker at Prospect Mills and his son John Herbert Hoyle (Collingwood Dyson Balderston's grandson) worked his way up from woollen mill apprentice to Governing Director when Sir Emmanuel Hoyle (son of Joseph Hoyle) died.

When John Herbert Hoyle died tragically in a car crash in 1954 aged 55, he lived at, and owned, Lascelles Hall at Kirkheaton. He'd apparently been at a business meeting at The George Hotel in Huddersfield which finished late and witnesses reported he was angry and sped off in his car about midnight. Police reports say he had smelled strongly of alcohol when he crashed around Cross Church Street on his way home to Lascelles Hall.

My uncle emailed: "I remember the day of John Herbert's death; as you can guess, it affected the whole village and was big news. I can see his silver Triumph Roadster two seater open top coupe now - such a rarity in those days when I was a bit of a car buff and forever designing cars. One such drawing was framed and put on the living room wall! John Herbert was somewhat of a flash bachelor boy and a known speed merchant and I think the accident happened on his way back to his Lascelles Hall home!"

Collingwood, Hannah and their children lived at Leeches/Larches, Outlane - they were all weavers or labourers. Collingwood was always in trouble with the police, in fights, drinking bouts etc. and in 1861 being sent to prison for two months for assaulting a police officer. He died in 1904 not knowing how successful his son and grandson would become.

Joseph Hoyle's early life was hard like Collingwood's (being brought up at Leeches/Larches too), but I've read that he was determined to be successful. When Joseph was young, he apparently told a mill boss who wouldn't employ him that he'd one day have his own mill - that showed them, he had three! His nephew, John William Hoyle, became one of his mill managers, and his great-nephew John Herbert Hoyle (of Lascelles Hall), a director.

I wonder if my great-grandad Joe Balderstone ever knew his Uncle Collingwood and that the Hoyles were related to him? John William Hoyle being his cousin? I also wonder if my grandma Hilda Mary realised that John Herbert Hoyle, owner of Lascelles Hall and managing director of three mills in the Colne Valley was her second cousin? We will never know.

Coincidentally, in the 1911 and 1921 censuses, John William Hoyle, his wife Amy Elinor and son John Herbert Hoyle were living at Ingfield View, 132 Longwood Gate. My parents' first house (and my first home) was 130a Longwood Gate, next door across the passage to where the Hoyles used to live. I'll bet we didn't realise.

John William Hoyle and Amy Elinor (née Hardisty), his wife, later moved to 14 Raw Nook Road, Salendine Nook, to whom my uncles and father delivered papers in their youth.

My dad told me that he and my mum had to go to be interviewed by 'Lady' Hoyle before they could rent 130a to see if they would be suitable tenant; they later went on to buy the property from the Hoyles. It seems that maybe Amy Elinor had designs of grandeur as it was her husband's cousin who was 'Sir' not her husband. However, as my uncle says, she was 'a good tipper'.

Or was it the real Lady Hoyle, wife of the late Sir Emmanuel who died in 1939, Amy Hoyle (nee Hilton) who lived at Banney Royd, Edgerton and then at Briar Court, Daisy Lea Lane, Lindley, who used her relative's home to interview prospective tenants of the Hoyle's rental properties?

What about the spellings of Balderstone? Going back through baptism, marriage and death records as well as the census, it seems that there were a variety of different ways - Balderston, Balderson, Baldersone ...family folklore has it that when Great-Grandad Joe went to school, his teacher told him that the correct spelling was to be Balderstone, and that is what it has always been since then.

Lynne Rutter (R193)

The Millennium Window St David's Church, Holmbridge (Back Cover Photograph)

After the great Victorian religious revival which brought about a considerable increase in new church building and revived the traditions of stained glass, it has been significant national events which have seen an upturn in the commissioning of stained glass windows. This obviously occurred following the two world wars with a great output of windows to commemorate those who had given their lives. The Millennium also saw an increase in the number of new commissions as churches across the country chose to commemorate this significant date with a new stained glass window. For me this resulted in designing new windows for The Ecumenical Church, West Bretton, St Stephen's Church, East Hardwick, St Michael's Church, Shap and St David's Church, Holmbridge.

The first contact from Holmbridge church was not until 1999 and it was February 2000 before they had raised sufficient funds to proceed. As an initial element to the project the children at the two schools in the parish, Hinchliffe Mill and Holme had done a project on The Millennium, producing artwork illustrating what they felt was significant about the Millennium. I was sent two stacks of drawings to look through to use as my design brief. Many of the drawings covered common themes such as the local landscape, farm animals, the church, the river Holme and many scenes included a sky with stars but there was the occasional oddity such as the child who had drawn the local supermarket!

I knew the Diocesan Advisory Committee would only pass a design which had a religious basis and with such a varied collection of images the only subject I could think of which would use as many of the children's subjects as possible and satisfy the DAC was "The days of creation". The design incorporates earth and the heavens, day and night, rivers and seas, trees, fish, birds and land animals, the planets and constellations. The church which featured in so many drawings was an inclusion and was used to represent mankind and to bring the design to the present day.

A preliminary sketch was prepared in March of 2000 and a final design sent to the DAC in October which was approved in December. The wheels of the Church of England move slowly. Once a design is finalised the next stage is to draw what is called a cartoon, which is a full-size working drawing. All lead lines and painted detail are indicated on the cartoon in its exact size and position.

The window is 13½" ft high and 2ft wide and is made in five sections. A sheet of tracing paper, the 'cutline' is laid over each section of the cartoon and a 1.2mm line drawn down the centre of each lead line. This line represents the centre or 'core' of the 'H' section leads. The glass is then cut to either side of this line so that when the window is assembled, 'leaded up just enough room is left for the lead core.

All the glass used in the window is English Antique glass made by Hartley Wood & Co., in Sunderland. The word antique refers to the process of manufacture rather than age. Antique glass is handmade, mouthblown glass which varies in thickness across a sheet. The variation can be as extreme as from 2mm to 5 mm so the strength of colour varies. Added to this the glass contains 'seeds' tiny air bubbles and 'reams' thin ribbons of thicker glass. This results in a glass which is alive with movement and texture. Sadly Hartley Wood & Co, are no longer in business and the best quality glass no longer available.

The fish, trees, sheep and stars were created using a glass consisting of two layers, 'flashed' glass. This glass has a thick base layer of clear or tinted glass and an upper, flashed layer which is thin and of a dark colour. The piece is covered with Fablon and the sheep / stars etc. cut out with a scalpel. The glass is placed in a tray of hydrofluoric acid and the exposed area is etched away.

The detail and shading on the glass is achieved with glass painting either with solid lines 'trace painting' or shading 'matting'. Every piece of glass was painted and kiln fired at least twice and some up to six times. After leading the panels and soldering each point where the leads meet the panels were 'cemented' which means brushing a putty substance under the leads which makes the panels watertight and rigid. All these processes from cartooning to cementing took 737 hours. It then took two people two days to remove the old window and fit the new one. The window was dedicated on 1st December 2001 by the former Bishop of Wakefield, then Bishop of Manchester, The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch.

The reason for my membership of H&DFHS is twofold. Initially I started to research my family tree, the Goodyears from Huddersfield and the Parkers from Wrenbury, Cheshire. It didn't take long for me to discover that I had access to British Newspapers online at the Root Cellar and so the family tree was temporarily put to one side. I have been researching a stained-glass artist, Hugh Easton (1906–65), since College days, with the intention of writing a book and the Newspaper archive is a wonderful source of information with reports of the dedications of many of his 300 plus commissions.

Adam Goodyear (G195)
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In the October 2024 journal we asked for names of the attendants in the photo of the Holme Valley Hospital Rose Queen event in 1935. Thank you to Bridget Gunson who identified 13 year old Mildred Armitage on the right of the photo, who was her father's first cousin. Also thanks go to Mike Howard, who identified 9 year old Jean Howard, the daughter of Hannah and Percy Howard of Holme, who is second from left on the front row.

On a related subject Mike Howard would like to know if anyone is aware of any books or articles about the history of Holme Valley Hospital – Ed.

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The Millennium Window – Holmbridge St David's Church
Designed and made by Adam Goodyear (G195)