Journal of the

Huddersfield & District Family History Society



Volume 35, Number 2 **January 2022**

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, Mirfield and the Spen Valley. It covers an area of nearly 160 square miles and within its boundaries lie the ancient parishes of Almondbury, Batley, Birstall, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Emley, Hartshead, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Mirfield and Thornhill.

Membership of the Society runs from 1 August to 31 July and the subscription rates, per year, are as follows:

Individual Membership	**£12**
Family Membership	**£15**
Overseas Membership	**£18**
Electronic Membership	**£10**

Family Membership consists of two named persons at the same address, receiving one Journal.
Please ensure that cheques are in sterling only and are made payable to:

'HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT FHS'

Subscriptions may be paid by PayPal via the Society website, or to The Root Cellar by sterling cheque, or in person by cash. If you are a UK income tax payer you may consider paying your subscription with Gift Aid. This will increase the value of your payment to the Society at no extra cost to yourself. Life Membership of the Society is available at twelve times the annual subscription in force at the time of application. This sum is payable with Gift Aid in four equal, annual amounts.

Meetings are held at regular intervals during the year usually at Huddersfield Town Hall and more recently by Zoom, starting at various times. Please refer to the Programme in this Journal or the website for more details. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary to change the programme and so if you plan to attend a particular meeting, please make sure that you check the Society's website (see below), three or four days prior to the meeting.

Publications: The H&DFHS 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 the 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 available in booklet form and also on CD. The group is currently indexing Parish Registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for most local churches. This information is available in printed form, as is information from the ever-growing database. Most of these works are listed on, and can be purchased through, the Society web site (www.hdfhs.org.uk) or a full publications list can be obtained by emailing the Secretary – secretary@hdfhs.org.uk

Sale 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 book 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 on the Society's computers the personal data that you provide to us. We also make this information available to other members for the purposes of following up 'Members' Interests'. If you do not wish the Society to make any of your details available without your authority, please contact 'The Root Cellar' by letter, email or phone.

Society website: www.hdfhs.org.uk

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
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The Victoria Hotel, Bradford Road, Carlinghow, Batley (see page 38)
Photo by: Jane Roberts

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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, house 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: 25 February 2022

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Society News and Notices

Wishing a very Happy New Year to all our members. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends, wherever possible.

We start the year with a number of changes in personnel at our Root Cellar HQ, not least of which is a new Chair of our Society. Maureen has been our Vice Chair and Librarian for a number of years and for those who do not know her, she introduces herself on page 10. We would also like to welcome two new committee members in Jane Harris and Ruth Naylor. I am sure they will all soon settle into their new roles and make very worthwhile contributions to our work.

Our retiring Chairman, Ian Stevenson, thanks all our retiring volunteers in his report on page 5, and we are, of course, extremely grateful for the considerable contribution made by Ian himself over the last five years.

We also welcome all the new volunteers who have joined us in various roles over the last couple of years.

Depending on when you are reading this, you may have already found new information about your ancestors on the 1921 census, released this month by FindmyPast. As I write we are hoping that we will be able to arrange access to this on one PC at the Root Cellar where visitors will be able to pay with credits through their own bank account. We understand that it will not be available within our FindmyPast Library subscription for some time. Don't forget to register for our February talk, details on page 4, where you will be able to learn more from Myko Clelland at FindmyPast about this new set of records.

I hope you enjoy all the contributions in this journal, I am very grateful for them all. Perhaps you will let me know the family stories or brick walls you have broken down from the 1921 census before the deadline for the next journal.

I do hope that 2022 is the start of a much happier and less fraught period for all our members worldwide.

Susan Hutson
Editor

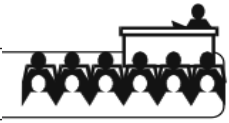
Family History in your Local Library

Many libraries in Kirklees offer family history sessions, often supported by members of our Society. We intend to update our records of 'drop in' sessions in local libraries in the near future but in the meantime please visit the Kirklees website:

http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/index.aspx

For more information about family history related events at your local libraries throughout the Kirklees area.

Programme of Speakers 2022



'Introducing the 1921 Census of England and Wales' with Myko Clelland
Tuesday 8 February at 7.30 pm by Zoom, £2.00 for non-members

The 1921 Census of England and Wales is here. Join Findmypast for an unmissable exploration of the biggest new arrival in family history. After years spent digitising and transcribing this unique snapshot of our recent history, discover the stories and secrets contained within. Along with the historical context, tips for effective searching and using it to trace elusive relatives, we'll learn how the 1921 Census will help you understand your ancestors' lives better, and your own.

A talk with a North Kirklees Focus (details yet to be decided) with Jane Roberts
Tuesday 10 May at 7.30 pm by Zoom, £2.00 for non-members

Jane is a professional family and local history researcher, a Society member and former Journal Editor, who lives in Batley. She writes a very popular blog which can found at: https://pasttopresentgenealogy.co.uk

Don't forget that you need to sign up to our email newsletters via our website to find out when our next online Open Forum will be held. This is where you can raise any topics of local or family history interest and seek help and advice from committee members and other attendees.

Events and Talks

The Society of Genealogists have a number of on-demand pre-recorded talks, all priced at £6.00 at: https://societyofgenealogists.arlo.co/w/events/cat-67-on-demand-prerecorded-talks The following is a selection:

- DNA for Beginners – Before Taking a DNA Test
- DNA for Beginners – Test Taken, Now What?
- DNA for Beginners – Starting to use your DNA Results in your Family History
- Using Free Websites to Research your Irish Ancestry
- Probate Records in England and Wales

Huddersfield Local History Society are planning the following talks, online. See: https://www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk/evening-talks/

28 February – **The Irish in Huddersfield** with John Lambe

28 March – **Financing Huddersfield's Industrialisation: learning from the Banking Crash of 1826** with Stephen Caunce

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

34th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 23 November 2021

Once again we held our AGM by Zoom in November and were very pleased that people joined us from around the UK, along with overseas members from Canada and New Zealand.

Committee members introduced themselves to the audience and the accounts seem somehow more interesting now that Karen, the Treasurer, is able to provide a presentation to accompany the analysis of the annual figures.

After the official meeting, we were entertained to an interesting talk by Jackie Depelle on Historic Houses.

If you've not yet taken the plunge and attended one of our online meetings do sign up to our occasional newsletters on the website to find out more about what we are doing and how to sign in to future meetings.

Susan Hutson
Secretary and Editor

Chairman's Report - AGM

Once again, like many others, we have faced a challenging year of difficulties.

We were unable to hold our annual fair last November and sadly it has been the same this year. The Root Cellar has remained closed until quite recently and so for the whole of 2020/21 we were unable to be open for visitors which of course has affected our income for the year.

We have been determined, however, to maintain contact with our members and visitors via our website, thanks to Roger with his regular emails and also via Zoom.

All our committee meetings have continued on a monthly basis by Zoom, as have our speaker meetings. Roger's Edgerton talk at the last AGM and then a new venture in the form of an open forum in January.

We hosted a very enlightening talk in February on House History research and then in May on Vaccination Records for Family Historians. In both April and June our Society was well represented by Susan and Maureen at two virtual Family History Shows and then we had a second open forum in July.

I am very pleased that all our virtual meetings have been very well received and in particular by some of our overseas members who we know have enjoyed the more personal contact with society committee members.

We felt that our very successful beginners' courses could not be delivered effectively by Zoom as one to one assistance is essential and so they have been postponed to a future date in the New Year.

Also our initial plans to further promote House History research through a series of weekend exhibitions at Colne Valley Museum had to be postponed. We were able to hold them this last September and early October which will of course be covered in more detail in next

year's report. As you will know, we have been carefully re-opening the Root Cellar over the past couple of months but that again is outside the scope of this report.

As my five year chairmanship comes to an end at this AGM I must give special thanks to three volunteers: Ros Buckingham, Winifred Barron and Joan Firth who after many years of dedicated work with the society have decided to 'retire'. In recognition of their service we have made them all Life Members.

Alan Starkey and Janet Le Billon as long serving and hard-working members of the committee have also decided to stand down. They have both over many years, and in different ways, given exceptional service to the society committee. We are pleased to say that Janet will continue with her invaluable research work and as a volunteer at the Root Cellar.

I would also like to thank all the committee who throughout this dreadful pandemic have worked tirelessly to maintain as many of the services of the society as they possibly could.

I hope to welcome (following the election of officers item later on the agenda) two new committee members, Jane Harris and Ruth Naylor, and hope that they get as much pleasure serving on the committee as I have.

I also welcome Maureen Wheeler to the 'Chair' where I know she will enjoy the role and her continued success.

Finally, my special tribute to Susan, our hardworking Secretary, who has once again kept the society firmly on track as we come through this second difficult year.

Thank you,

Ian Stevenson
Retiring Chairman

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 July 2021

(See the financial statement on Page 9)

Following the requirement to close our premises in March 2019 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the Society was unable to provide an 'in-person' service throughout the majority of this financial year. This had a direct impact on some of our major streams of income – Courses, Ancestral Tourism and Donations. We were of course unable to hold our Annual Fair which used to be the highlight of the calendar year. In the majority of these cases, income fell to virtually £nil.

However, building on what we learnt and tweaked as the pandemic went on, the Committee and Society volunteers ensured that as many of our services continued online as much as possible. These included a full and comprehensive research service – both of people and houses, online sales of publications, the quarterly journal and holding not only our AGM virtually but having open forums and speaker meetings all with the aid of Zoom. It has been lovely to welcome and see our members who do not live with easy reach of Huddersfield.

With more time on our hands, it is very noticeable that people are getting involved in researching their family history or helping friends, relatives and/or colleagues with their history and as a direct result of this, two of our income streams have benefitted from this.

Sales of publications continued to rise and although parish records accounted for the majority of the sales, we also saw a growing trend for our House History booklets being purchased.

In regard to publications, we have to thank Roger Gill for the co-ordination of the various Memorial Inscriptions and Transcription projects. Also, of course, Keith and Margaret Woodcock who continued to co-ordinate the printing, packing and despatching of all publications in what continued to be unprecedented circumstances.

The other area which saw significant increases during the first half of the year but has now steadied is that of royalty income or commission. The Society has three main streams of royalty income.

The first of these is Federation Royalties. A significant number of our transcribed parish records have been uploaded to FindmyPast. If you have a subscription to FindmyPast and are looking for ancestors in the Huddersfield area, it is more than likely that the parish record you are looking at has been uploaded by ourselves. For each click on this data we receive a small royalty. This accounts for, on average, between £300 and £350 a month, in fact one month was in excess of £400.

We also receive a small royalty if you subscribe or renew your subscription to FindmyPast through the link on our website – you will have seen an example of this in the past couple of days when the Society sent an email round whereby FindmyPast offered a 20% discount on subscriptions. If you clicked on the link in this email and subscribed, the Society received a small commission.

The other area of royalty that is beginning to show dividends in regard to our income is that of 'Give as You Live' - this is an incentive aimed at online shoppers. The basic gist is that you do your online shop via the Give as you Live website and a percentage of your shop is passed onto a Charity of your own choice - this being at no extra cost to yourselves. If you require any further information on this, please contact Susan Hutson.

The Co-op Community fund was a one year project whereby a small selection of local charities were chosen to receive a donation from Co-op customers and their use of their supermarket loyalty card.

So that's income, let's look at expenditure. This is the area we continue to concentrate on – trying to reduce our costs but with no detriment to the running of the Society. The largest expenditure occurs in the following areas:

The Library which is constantly being updated and maintained by Maureen and is a very useful add-on for your family history – explaining how our ancestors lived, hints and tips on how to research various areas, what it was like to live in a workhouse etc. The majority of these books are available for borrowing (just like your normal library) and some are even available for purchase. If you want to know what books are available for loan, please contact either myself or Maureen via our society email addresses.

One of our largest expenses is that in regard to the costs incurred in the quarterly printing of ***the Journal***. As mentioned last year, we changed printers in January 2019. By switching to a company that deals with societies similar to ours, it meant we have seen significant savings in not just the printing cost, but also that of postage. On average, each journal run including postage and packaging now costs approximately £1,000 compared to £1,500 in earlier years.

Premises costs will continue to be our largest expense and there is very little more we can do to reduce these costs. Premises costs have increased on that reported for 2020. This is due to a £2,000 rate rebate received in October 2019 which affected previous figures. The

rebate was due to the Society being entitled to not only Small Business Rate relief but also Charity Relief.

The final area to look at in regard to expenditure is that of ***Subscriptions.*** We subscribe to the following – Ancestry Worldwide, FindmyPast Worldwide, the 1939 Register and the British Newspapers archive plus several other bespoke research tools. These subscriptions now cost just short of £2,000 per annum. These are all available for use at the Root Cellar and are used extensively by the research team.

As we noted last year, the Committee took the decision to designate £15,000 of our unrestricted surplus fund – and this would be used towards reviewing, enhancing and upgrading website together with consideration of what we can offer 'virtually' as well as in person. This project is well underway. The first phase of this project is that of database management. With the aid of an independent IT company, we are currently amalgamating over two million individual records which are held over 16 databases into one more manageable database. As you can imagine this is quite a large project and is taking time as we need to ensure that the records have been amalgamated correctly and that the new search functions being incorporated work!

So, what for the future – as things are beginning to return to a new normal, we are hoping to be able to restart courses and are looking at potential dates for our annual fair. The Root Cellar reopened in July initially on an appointment basis and it was so nice to meet up once again with some of our regular visitors. Our Research Team is still here and our online shop is still open and new publications are always being added.

Enjoy the rest of 2021, take care, stay safe …. and if you are like me you will be hoping that the 1921 Census helps break down some more of those brick walls!

Karen Lightfoot
Treasurer

The (unnecessary) age divide

I have borrowed this heading from the blog of a young genealogist called Daniel Loftus of https://thehiddenbranch.com. He is doing all he can to promote genealogy to young people and encourage our family history community to make life easier for the next generation, otherwise known as #GenZ genealogists.

Daniel is ever-present on social media, which is of course the only place to interact with young family historians - that is a statement which #GenZ believe is not up for discussion.

We, as a Society, are present on Facebook and Twitter and one of our new committee members, Jane Harris, has expressed an interest in further promoting our social media presence.

We would love to hear from you, our members, with your ideas to encourage young genealogists online and provide them with what is important to them. Please do get in touch with anything which might help us attract younger members.

Susan Hutson, Editor

Huddersfield and District Family History Society
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 July 2021

Detailed below is a shortened version of the financial statements as approved and adopted by the members at the AGM on the 23rd November 2021.

	Year ended 31 July 2021				*31 July 2020*
	Restricted funds	**Designated funds**	**Unrestricted funds**	**Total**	*Total*
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	*£*
Income					
Subscriptions	**-**	**-**	9,326	9,326	*11,363*
Donations	**-**	**-**	178	178	*2,667*
Research Fees	**-**	**-**	270	270	*821*
Publications	**-**	**-**	4,305	4,305	*4,317*
Royalties	**-**	**-**	4,144	4,144	*4,887*
Fair Income	**-**	**-**	-	-	*1,193*
Gift Aid	**-**	**-**	1,300	1,300	*1,387*
Course Fees	**-**	**-**	-	-	*615*
Other Misc Income	**-**	**-**	443	443	*10,036*
TOTAL INCOME	**-**	**-**	**19,966**	**19,966**	***37,286***
Expenditure					
Journal Costs	-	**-**	4,066	4,066	*3,625*
Premises Costs	-	**-**	6,335	6,335	*5,684*
Advertising	-	**-**	353	353	*765*
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	**-**	1,310	1,310	*1,971*
Subscriptions	-	**-**	2,125	2,125	*2,343*
Fair/ Speaker costs	-	**-**	210	210	*696*
Telephone	-	**-**	848	848	*1,244*
Goods For Resale / Library	-	**-**	1,130	1,130	*1,433*
Computer/IT costs	-	155	600	755	*973*
Database design	-	1,440	-	1,440	-
Other Misc costs			1,440	1,440	*738*
Depreciation	**-**	-	1,852	1,852	*2,134*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**-**	**1,595**	**20,269**	**21,864**	***21,606***
(Deficit) Surplus for the year	**-**	**(1,595)**	**(303)**	**(1,898)**	***15,680***

A Message from the New Chair of our Society

On behalf of everyone in the Society, I'd like to thank Ian Stevenson, our retiring Chairman, for all his hard work over the past five years. The Society continues to flourish due to the hard work of all the volunteers who give freely of their time to keep all aspects of the Society functioning, and Ian has been there to co-ordinate and oversee all of these aspects. He will be a hard act to follow. However, I shall do my best. Ian has kindly agreed to remain as Vice Chairman, so we will be able to call on his expertise for the foreseeable future.

I've been a member of the Society for several years, and like many people became involved with family history after I retired. I've recently taken a DNA Test and this has really opened up a new element of family history for me. I joined the committee as the Librarian and later became Vice Chair. I am a volunteer at the Root Cellar, which I enjoy tremendously, and help to deliver our family history courses, which we hope to continue with when circumstances allow.

The last two years have been challenging for everyone, including the Society, but without the continued support of the membership, things would have been much harder. Our book sales have flourished, requests for research have continued, and books have been loaned from the library. The closure of the Root Cellar was particularly difficult for visitors and volunteers alike, who enjoyed each other's company, particularly when a hard to find ancestor was located, much to everyone's relief!

Online meetings have opened up the Society to a much wider audience. It is great to exchange information with members and visitors across the globe, as happened in our Open Forum sessions and talks. Please look out for more upcoming events during 2022. Suggestions for talks and Open Forum topics very welcome.

Our website has played a pivotal role in keeping everyone in touch with each other and publicising our activities and events. We shall be developing this area further in the coming year. There are links on the website to our other online platforms including Facebook and Twitter, together with other sites where you can explore the historical background of your ancestors in our area.

The journal has continued to be our main source of communication with each other. Thanks to all those members who have contributed articles, tips and snippets and keep them coming.

The Root Cellar is fully open again and we welcome new volunteers to help visitors with their research. If you would like to become more involved in the Society, please get in touch. You don't need to live locally; many aspects of the Society are managed remotely.

Family History is all about looking back, and there is much to be learned from our ancestors about how they adapted to changes in their lives and overcame difficulties. Looking to the future there are many things to look forward to and lots more ancestors waiting for their lives to be revealed.

Enjoy your researching!

Maureen Wheeler
Chair

A Personal Journey Back In Time – The Unique Hortons of Kirkheaton

My personal journey began back in the late 60s whilst at university. My father, Edward Horton, told me a family tale related by his grandfather John Edward Horton who, after retirement in the 1930s, set out to discover the origins of his paternal line in the village of Kirkheaton, West Yorkshire by visiting the surrounding parishes and talking to their vicars. He ultimately found scandal during his research which, according to his Victorian sensibilities, caused him to destroy his notes; but not before relating a few clues as to what he had discovered to my father.

He said that the Kirkheaton Hortons were descended from a titled Horton family in West Yorkshire which included an ancestor who 'Rode to the assizes in York' as a magistrate. The reason for abandoning his research was that he also discovered that the Horton line in Kirkheaton descended from an unmarried female member of the titled family who had then carried the Horton surname. No mention was made of the possible father.

On hearing this I went to the University library and looked through Burke's Peerage and Burke's Landed Gentry trying to find any Horton lines which fitted and there seemed to be only one match, the Hortons of Howroyde, Barkisland near Halifax. At this point I was too busy with my studies to take the matter any further and did not return to the subject until 2006.

By this time my father had moved into the family house and I asked him one day to tell me about what he knew of our male ancestors. It transpired that the furthest he could go back was to his great grandfather Edward Horton (1830-1908), a 'shovel maker', who was buried in Kirkburton Churchyard but had been born and brought up in Kirkheaton. Were any of our relatives buried in Kirkheaton St John churchyard? He did not know of any which surprised me and so the quest began to find any who may be there. By this time I had also started researching on the Web for our direct male ancestors and mapped my line back as follows:-

Richard Horton	1950-
Edward Horton	1920-2011
Francis Horton	1892-1970
John Edward Horton	1872-1956
Edward Horton	1830-1908
William Horton	1807-1877
Thomas Horton	1784-1864
Joseph Horton	1751-1829
William Horton	?-1758

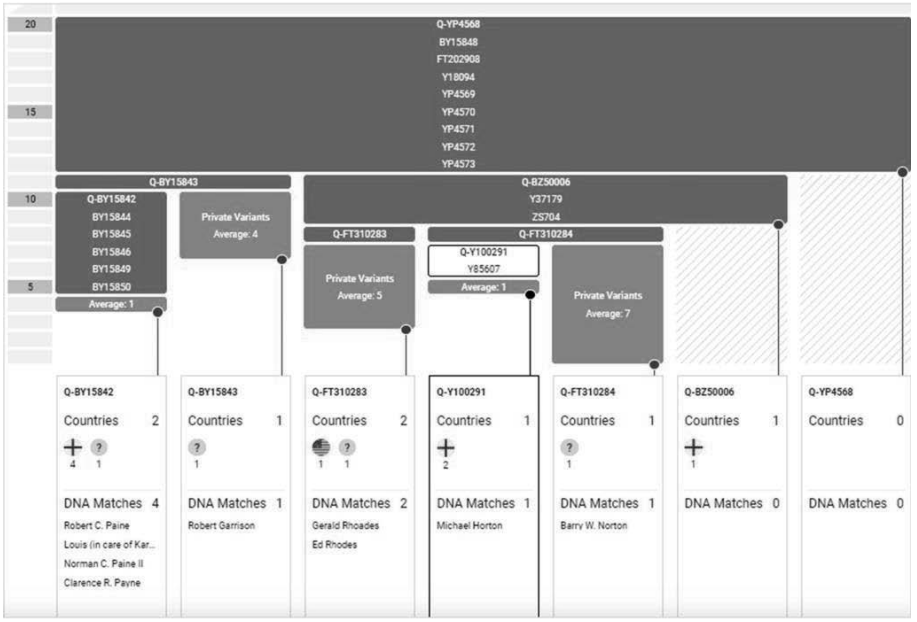
After an afternoon's search of St. John's churchyard I found the memorials of my two ancestors underlined above. This led to a full survey of the churchyard and creation of the website Kirkheaton.info. As may be seen from this list, I was unable to find any birth/ baptism record for William Horton who died in 1758 and concluded that he is the likely candidate for the illegitimate ancestor discovered by my great grandfather. It is worth noting here the dangers of listing and especially in copying information from public trees on sites such as Ancestry.co.uk. This William Horton is included in several such trees with a birth date of 1720 but with no recorded evidence that I can find.

Here we skip forward some ten years, during which time I was occupied in surveying the surrounding churchyards to Kirkheaton and in the process discovering the memorials of a substantial number of my relatives.

In 2016 my thoughts turned to using DNA Y chromosome testing to discover the origins of the Kirkheaton Hortons (there are 357 in my database). I decided to use the FTDNA company as they had both surname groups which included Horton and also ones for geographical regions. After a 37 marker test my Y-DNA Haplogroup turned out to be 'Q' and a check of the Horton group showed that of the 300+ members, I was the only 'Q'! A result I guess I anticipated to some extent. At least I did have some extra information in that my Q-M242 result put me into the Nordic project group (another, different branch of the Qs is that of the 'First Nation' Americans).

Y-37 marker tests are quite general in nature in that they do not contain sufficient numbers of chromosomes in the Y to give much granularity or dating information. The next big step (in terms of cost) would be to take the 'Big Y' test but before this I wanted to be reasonably sure that between myself and William Horton there were no paternal breaks in the line i.e. more illegitimacies. Traditional research had found a living male Horton cousin related to William's son Joseph, i.e. a common ancestor and this was Michael Horton. I managed to contact him and he was most willing for me to sponsor a Y test for him and interestingly did not know of the Kirkheaton connection, he lives on the western border of Yorkshire. The results came back as a direct match and thus the link through to Joseph proven. It was time to take the plunge and go for the 'Big Y' test.

The diagram below gives an overview of the results, called a Block Tree.



Starting with Michael Horton, my precise Haplogroup is now Q-Y100291 and the block above 'Average 1' in the centre of the diagram shows that he has one 'private variant' or genetic mutation in his Y chromosome compared with myself (represented by the white box above showing my Haplogroup). The Y axis of the diagram is VERY ROUGHLY time before present in hundreds of years. I was very fortunate to have the help of one of the Nordic project coordinators who undertook detailed analysis of these results and was able to conclude that in the 16C, the Kirkheaton Hortons and the West Yorkshire Rhodes had a

common ancestor i.e. at this time the ancestors of the Kirkheaton Hortons had the surname Rhodes. At a similar time, the Nortons (Welsh origins in the 18C) also split away from the Rhodes. Prior to this, around the 10C, the common surname had probably been Payne/Paine which I am led to believe means 'Pagan' and was often given to Nordic settlers, in this case, probably in East Anglia.

The only way of filling the gap between the 18C birth of William Horton and the 16C split from the Rhodes family will be if some intermediate male ancestor takes a Big Y DNA test which throws up a match to our Haplogroup and of course, I may never live long enough for this to happen.

But what of the possible connection with the Hortons of Howroyde? In front of the alter and under the carpet of the Beaumont Chapel inside Kirkheaton St. John there is a memorial tablet which reads:-

Here lieth the body of
Susanna the Relict of
Richd Beaumont Esqr
late of Whitley Hall
by whom she had four sons
& eleven daughters
She was one of ye Daughters
& Coheiresses of
Thos Horton Esqr
of Barkisland Hall
and died ye19th of
January 1730
in ye 48th year of her Age

It came as quite a shock when I discovered this memorial. What a coincidence that the landed gentry family I had found back in the 60s had a daughter who was in the Beaumont vault under their chapel in St John's Kirkheaton. On further research in the Huddersfield Archive section of the library, I discovered that Susannah's younger sister came to live in Kirkheaton to look after the children and act as bursar to the Beaumont estate. She never married and there is no evidence that I can find that she ever bore a child but could she be the mother of the Kirkheaton Hortons…….? We shall probably never know.

As children, both sisters worshipped and one was baptised in St. Mary's Church, Elland. If you visit the chancel, on the wall is a memorial naming Susanna with a glaring mistake, her husband and that of one of her sisters has been transposed and the mistake never corrected.

The photograph on the back cover of this journal was taken on the 1st December 1955 outside Lockwood Parish Church on the occasion of my Uncle Geoffrey's wedding. Behind me from left to right are my grandfather Francis Horton, my father Edward Horton and my great grandfather John Edward Horton.

I hope this has been of some interest and although I am no expert on any of the above, I am happy to be contacted via mail@Kirkheaton.info

Richard Horton (H366)

The Wedding of Benjamin Ineson and Gertrude Louisa Hepworth
Batley Parish Church – 29 December 1903

The bridegroom was the son of Mr & Mrs Barnabus Ineson of Batley, and therefore belonged to one of the oldest families in the town. His great grandfather was known in the district as 'Farmer Barney Ineson' of Clay Fold Farm which was at the bottom of Healey Lane.

As a pupil at Batley Parish Church School Benjamin won an Ackroyd Scholarship to the Grammar School. In time he became a pupil teacher, eventually spending two years at York Training College. From Purlwell Boys' School he was transferred to Carlinghow where he became Head in 1912. He left in 1919 to take on the Headship of Mill Lane School, Hanging Heaton, from where he retired in 1939.

He was a keen golfer, a past captain and honorary life member of Howley Hall Golf Club. Here he played with his friend, Captain Arthur Senior, headmaster of the Batley Parish Church School. They were known at Howley as 'Arthur and Ben', forming a formidable pair. It was said that they were so used to each other's play that they 'fitted like a glove'.

The bride was the daughter of Mr & Mrs John Hepworth of Hyrstlands View, Purlwell, Batley. Her father had been Head Gardener to the Ingham family of Blake Hall, Mirfield and he was accounted to be the best in the County. He left Blake Hall to take over the high class provision shop of his brother-in-law, W W Hinchcliffe at Mount Pleasant. It was John Hepworth who was responsible for creating the movement to establish St Andrew's Church, Batley and his correspondence with Canon Crowther Clark put the matter in motion.

The bridegroom was a life-long member of the Batley Parish Church congregation and his bride was a Sunday School teacher at the old Mission Church in Purlwell.

The *Batley News* contained the account of the wedding together with a list of presents received. The bride was attended by six bridesmaids and the groom's brother, Tom Ineson, was Best Man.

I am lucky to have an original invitation to this wedding, a card that was sent out with a piece of wedding cake, a photo of the cake together with an envelope which must have contained a gift of money to the bride from her father. Also the hand written instructions for the day.*

Mr & Mrs Ineson had one daughter, Kathleen, who graduated in French from Manchester University. She married a lecturer in French at Salford.

In 1953 Mr & Mrs Ineson celebrated their Golden Wedding with a luncheon party at the Lakeside Café, Wilton Park.

Mr Ineson's father and mother had emigrated to New Zealand so there were no other Inesons present at the wedding. From New Zealand they sent brooches for the bride and bridesmaids made from the famous Greenstone, cherished by the Maoris. I have the one sent for the bride inscribed:

'For Ben's intended Bride with Best Wishes'

Ben Ineson died 21 September 1957 and Gertrude 13 October 1961. So the line died out as Kathleen and her husband Norman Barnes had no children. They left memories – on the gravestone of Ben and Gertie is written:

'They were lovely and pleasant in their ways

And in death they were not divided'

I am a third cousin of Gertrude.

Brian Arundel (A037)
Siegen
Germany

**Brian has included a copy of the handwritten instructions for the wedding and a copy of the photograph of the wedding party but unfortunately they are not of sufficient print quality to publish in the journal – Ed.*

Unwanted Certificates

Name	Type	Date	District
John M Fisher	Birth	1944	Dewsbury
Andrew Smith	Birth	1955	Dewsbury
David R Smith	Birth	1953	Dewsbury
Pauline Smith	Birth	1961	Dewsbury
Herbert Harrison Alice Eyre	Marriage	1914	Leeds
Edward Mitchell Harriet Beaumont	Marriage	1858	Meltham
Joseph Pickles Doreen Wood	Marriage	1978	Dewsbury
Peter Wood Jean Archer	Marriage	1954	Dewsbury
Colin Hemmingway	Death	2000	Dewsbury
Colin Hemmingway	Death	2007	Dewsbury
James Varley	Death	1899	Leeds
William Horrocks	Death	1864	Manchester
Mary Thorp	Death	1864	Holmfirth
Mary Ann Thorp	Death	1864	Holmfirth
Joseph Thorp	Death	1869	Holmfirth
Richard Thorp	Death	1875	Holmfirth

Many thanks to everyone who has submitted certificates. If you would find any of these useful in your research, a small charge of £2.00 plus postage and packing will be made.

Margaret Woodcock
publicity@hdfhs.org.uk

2 Old Road, Hinchliffe Mill

Part 1 – A house with a history!



Figure 1

The property to the right of the photograph was the rented home of my **Moorhouse** family from 1910, when my newly widowed grandfather moved his family of two sons and six daughters aged between 16 and 38 from Booth House. They stayed until 1943 when the last working aunt retired and came with her sister to live with the family in Lindley. It was the home my father left to marry and is deeply woven into my childhood memories; a meaningful subject for a 'house history' study focusing on the claim made by my family that this house was built to house a clothier and his family.

My specific questions were:

1. Why did this house have three outside doors?
2. Why had the fourth storey been closed off?
3. Did the house date from before the New Road was built or after?
4. Was the allotment garden rented by my family and neighbours connected to the house?

I contacted H&D FHS Chairman, Ian Stevenson, and found to my great surprise that he knew of this house having worked on it as an architect. Very quickly I learnt from him of its' history as "*One of the three houses, garden warehouse and cart store in Old Road built by Jonathan Roberts (1751-1841) probably around 1785 for his family to use as clothiers' houses as they were slowly developing Yew Tree Mills from a small fulling mill and dye house into a steam driven wool mill".*

Eric Hadfield writes "*These cottages were often built by mill-owning families close to the mill and this weaving was done in the upper floors of the cottages but other stages of the textile production from the raw wool and finished cloth such as scribbling, slubbing, spinning and dying were done at the main mill. There is a 'taking in' door at this top level for getting materials in and finished cloth out".*



Figure 2

Looking at the three houses from Old Road *(Figure 1)*, despite the 'improvements' made by later owners, it seems obvious that they might have been built around the same time and might have been connected to the fourth floor as the only 'taking in' door exists on the Old Road side of No. 2. The view of the cottages on the 'mill side' from Woodhead Road (*Figure 2*) is more confused by later building showing separate access to this storey.

Ian continued: "*In 1809 the Holmfirth/Woodhead turnpike was improved and this 'improvement' of the old cart track to new road divided the mill premises, so a tunnel was built under the road, now blocked at either end".* Ian said that he has seen this tunnel and guesses that it ended in the warehouse next to No. 2. A building date of 1785 is suggested.

The similarities and differences in the three houses suggest that the lower ground floor of No. 2 with water access, the 'taking in' door above it, separate below ground entrance and access to 'warehouse' next door might originally have been used for the processes needed to create yarn to weave, pointing to the early date of the building.

The difference in window structure suggests that what is now known as No. 2 was the more 'important' house of three *(Figure 1).*

In 1868 the mill chimney was built at Yew Tree Mills marking the conversion of the mill to steam power. Cloth weaving would then have moved over to power looms in newly built premises at the mill although "*some hand loom weaving was still carried out in the Holmfirth area in the 1870-1888 period … as it was believed … top quality cloths were best if hand woven … top quality cloth was being produced at Yew Tree Mills".*

Sometime between the census returns of 1861 and 1871 the last members of the Roberts family moved out of these Old Road houses, usually to houses in Carr Buildings, and the need for weaving premises in Old Road changes. By 1910 when my family moved in, the fourth storey had been crudely closed off and occupied by the Working Men's Club (always referred to as the Liberal Club by my family). The remains of the staircase and trapdoor in the ceiling were evident as were the sounds and smells from the club in occupation. A family held certificate notes that my grandfather **Albert E Moorhouse** was a founder member of Hinchliff Mill Liberal Club in 1872.

Part 2 – The Roberts Family in Old Road

Ian Stevenson said "*I believe that the building was originally constructed about 1785 by Jonathan Roberts (1) after his marriage in 1772. The Austonley Tithe Valuation of 1847 shows he was the owner with John and William Roberts of three houses, dyehouse, yard and garden and with Hobson, Greensmith and 'another' of three houses and warehouses. He occupied one of the houses".*

This **Jonathan Roberts** (1) married **Rachel Littlewood** at Almondbury Parish Church on 7 June 1772. Their children were Hannah b. 1773 and Jonathan (2) b. 1775 at Waterside*.

Jonathan Roberts (2) married **Mary Barrow** in 1880 at Kirkburton, daughter of the late James Barrow and Martha, nee Wood, of Cinderhills, farmer/clothiers, a typical semi-arranged clothier marriage. Martha marries again as a young widow, **James Stanley**, clothier, first of Cinderhills and then of Ryecroft. The young Wood and Stanley children grew up together at Cinderhills.

Jonathan (2) and Mary nee Barrow have ten children, nine born at Waterside* in Kirkburton Parish and baptised at Holmfirth Wesleyans. The tenth is born at Hinchliff Mill in 1822, baptised at Hinchliff Mill Wesleyans. I presume that Jonathan and Mary moved to Old Road, Austonley between 1819 and 1822.

Three adjacent houses are noted in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 census returns as occupied by Roberts families: Jonathan (2) and his sons Jonathan (3) and William. These are presumed to be the three clothiers' houses in Old Road. If the supposition about the birthplace of William is correct, the house had already been cut off from Yew Tree mill yard by the new Woodhead turnpike before Jonathan (2) and his family moved in.

Jonathan Roberts (2) died in Hinchliff Mill in 1884 and in his will he split his considerable estate carefully between sons Green Roberts b.1835 and Jonathan Roberts (4) b. 1837. In this detailed will he leaves the Old Road houses to Green Roberts. Between 1835 and 1911 the trail goes cold.

Green Roberts does not include these houses or any other property in his will in 1911 but by then my Moorhouse family were renting the house and garden, although I do not know who their landlord was. As a small girl I remember my aunts paying 'rent' at the Yew Tree Mill office but didn't know if it was for the house or 'allotment' garden.

The Moorhouses did not work at Yew Tree Mills but they were Wesleyans, fellow worshippers with the Roberts at Hinchliff Mill Chapel and the menfolk were fellow Liberals. Were they invited to rent it?

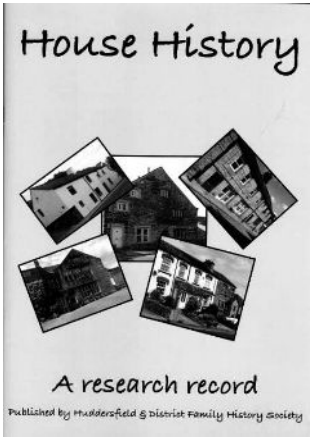
The three houses look to have been built to function as clothiers houses with easy access to Yew Tree Mill and yard and the access needed to get raw materials in and finished goods out on both Old Road and Woodhead (New) Road.

Access within and between the houses was good for both workmen and family; the 'back passage' allowed transport through No. 2 without disturbing domestic activities; plus easy access to the warehouses and the storage facilities the Roberts had built alongside.

The weaving lofts could have connected internally. The largest of the three houses, now No. 2, seems little changed up to 1943; at some point a water closet was installed in the back yard and gas lighting brought into th'owsebody and maybe the parlour grate was 'modernised'.

**The River Holme, dividing the parishes of Kirkburton and Almondbury and the districts of Austonley and Cartworth runs very near to these houses in Old Road. The Bilberry flood of 1852 damaged extensively the area around Waterstreet in Hinchliff Mill and Bottoms Mill so it is not clear just where the 'Waterside' site where the Roberts were living was situated.*

Elizabeth Green (G011)



Parts 3 and Part 4 of Elizabeth's house history will appear in the April journal when we hear the story of the Moorhouses and some comparisons and conclusions regarding the history of this property and the people who lived in it.

In the meantime do remember that if you would like to investigate the history of your own house we have a useful booklet available which will help you understand the records available to undertake house history research and give you space to document your findings.

It is available for £7.50 from the Root Cellar or plus postage and packing from our website – Ed.

Edwin Swift – A Linthwaite boy and a founder of the modern Brass Band

Edwin Swift (1843-1904) was one of a triumvirate of 19th century founders of the modern brass band, the others being the Manchester duo, Alex Owen (1851-1920) and John Gladney (1839 -1911). All of them were band trainers, conductors and contest adjudicators and were influential in raising brass bands' performance standards. The instrumentation of bands varied considerably and they were also prominent in establishing the instrumentation of the brass band as it exists today. Edwin Swift was of such eminence that a detailed article relating to his achievements was published in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* in 2004. He left the local elementary school at the age of 9 and a year later he took up the cornet with the Linthwaite band. He was essentially self-taught, but he showed such talent that before his 14th birthday he had risen to be the principal cornet and bandmaster. He was still in his teens when he began arranging orchestral music for the brass band. From the 1860s the Linthwaite band had several contest successes under Swift and in 1874 won the British Open Championship. In 1875 he became a freelance professional band conductor, trainer and music arranger. He took Wyke Temperance band to its triple success in the British Open Championship in 1888, 1889 and 1890.

Edwin Swift was born on 14 May 1843 at Upper Clough, Linthwaite on the southern slopes of the Colne Valley. The earliest direct ancestor I have been able to trace is his grandfather, Samuel Swift, born c1760 at Well House, Golcar. His son was Joseph, who was baptised at Slaithwaite in 1789. Joseph, a clothier, died aged 73 in 1862. The parish register death entry gives his abode as the Clough. The 1851 census lists Joseph (61) as a woollen weaver, born Golcar, his wife Hannah (49), born Linthwaite with Edwin (7) and two siblings Sam (17) and errand girl, Sarah Ann (9). Hannah, formerly Quarmby, was a widow, who in 1819 had married Joseph Baxter at Almondbury. Her marriage to Joseph Swift was also at Almondbury in 1829 and both were living in Linthwaite.

In 1864 Edwin married Maria Mellor,19, also born at Linthwaite. Edwin signed the marriage register in a good hand, whilst Maria made a mark. Both were recorded as weavers. Maria's father Thomas was also a weaver. Several children were born to Edwin and Maria, the eldest being Elizabeth in 1865. By the time of the 1881 census Edwin had given up his job as a woollen weaver and become a teacher of music. This latter occupation continued in subsequent censuses. In the 1893 Kelly's Directory he is listed as a Bandmaster living in Longwood, Huddersfield. The 1905 Probate records that he died on 9th February 1904 at 59 Manchester Road, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield. His effects were valued at just over £504, probate being granted to Maria, who died some 13 years later.

In the 1 March 1904 edition of *The Brass Band News* a long article was published reviewing his life and achievements and mentioning that playing members from over 17 northern bands felt a great personal loss at his death. Two direct quotations from the article best sums up his character and greatness:

'What was the secret of Mr. Swift's personal charm? It was the inborn greatness of the man. There was nothing mean, petty, small, narrow, selfish or envious in his composition. He did big things because he thought big. He inspired his pupils with faith because he himself had boundless faith. He inspired them with courage because he had courage born of knowledge.'

'But he was so exceedingly modest that he never knew his own greatness, never realised the magnetic influence he possessed. Never knew there were hundreds of his pupils who loved him with such love that they would have died for him if need had been.'

Dr Edward G Hellewell (H208)

New Members

A big welcome to all recent new members, we hope you enjoy being part of our Society.

Mem No	Name	Address
A144	Carol Armitage	HUDDERSFIELD
A145	Stephen Armitage	HUDDERSFIELD
B623	Robert Beaumont	TORONTO, Canada
F155	Christine Farragher	HOLMFIRTH
H527	Nigel Hopkinson	HOUSTON, USA
H528	Jayne Hutchinson	NORTHALLERTON
K125	Richard Kendall	RUISLIP
L208	Philip Lightowlers	LONDON
O057	Ken Owen	READING
S478	Alexandra Stocks	HUDDERSFIELD

Members' Interests

Number	Forename	Surname	Location	Area	From	To
H528	Joshua	Hoyle	Upperthong, Holmfirth	WRY	1797	1879
H528	Maria	Hoyle	Upperthong, Holmfirth	WRY	1792	1880
H528	Joseph	Brook	Upperthong, Holmfirth	WRY	1786	1857
H528	Sarah	Brook	Upperthong, Holmfirth	WRY	1810	1848
L207	Harriett	Wagstaffe	Wooldale, Holmfirth	WRY	1821	1884
P187	Eliza	Illingsworth	Brighouse	WRY	1802	1841
P187	Jonas	Taylor	Wike	WRY	1767	1836
L207	James	Sykes	Shepley	WRY	1785	1855
L207	Henry	Sykes	Fulstone	WRY	1830	1912
L207	Wilfred	Sykes	Birdsedge	WRY	1911	1991
L207	George	Broadbent	Shelley/Kirkburton	WRY	1737	1792
M313	Sarah Allen	Hinchliffe	Huddersfield	WRY	1816	1880
M313	Elizabeth	Battersby	Huddersfield	WRY	1790	1860
M313	John	Hinchliffe	Huddersfield	WRY	1790	1860
S447	David	Senior	Dewsbury	WRY	1813	1867

If you would like to contact any member with the above interests, please email the Members' Interests Secretary (details inside back cover).

Edgerton: Thomas Stinson A'Beckett Shearman

A recent request for details of the grave of a Canadian soldier buried in Edgerton Cemetery quickly developed into the story below.

The enquiry came from the Campus Arborist at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver where they have planted a Vimy Ridge anniversary memorial oak tree. They are planning a memorial plaque and dedication and hope to honour UBC students who were at the Vimy battle.



The tree they planted was made available by the Vimy Foundation in Canada. A Canadian soldier, Leslie Miler, brought home a handful of acorns from Vimy and planted them at his farm near Toronto. Cuttings from his trees were made available to Canadians for the 100th anniversary of the battle. UBC managed to purchase one and planted it by the Old Library at UBC in October 2020.

Their enquiry was for the grave of Thomas Stinson A'Beckett Shearman.

The following was extracted from https://militaryandfamilyhistory.blog/:

Thomas Stinson A'Beckett Shearman was born in Brantford, Ontario on July 8, 1895, to Arthur Evans Shearman and Lotti Bond. The Shearmans moved to Vancouver in the early 1900s to join Tom's grandparents. In 1912 Tom entered the Arts program at McGill University College of British Columbia, graduating in 1916. His military service began in 1915 when he joined the 72nd Regiment 'Seaforth Highlanders of Canada'. On April 28, 1916, he enlisted with the 196th (Western Universities) Battalion, leaving Canada on November 1, 1916, aboard SS Southland.

By February 1917 many, including Tom, were sent to France to join the 46th (South Saskatchewan) Battalion. On April 9th, the 46th was positioned at the northernmost point of Vimy Ridge. Heavy fighting continued for three days by which time the 46th had lost 67 men killed and 157 were wounded, including Private Tom Shearman.

Tom was evacuated to the Royds Hall War Hospital in Huddersfield and on April 22 he cabled his mother with the news that he was safe in England. Tragically six days later family friends cabled again with the news that he had succumbed to his wounds on April 27th. The funeral of Tom and his colleague Private J Lawson was held at Edgerton on 1 May 1917.

Based on information from the Huddersfield Examiner in 2016, Huddersfield War Hospital at Royds Hall Wood Estate in Paddock was paid for by voluntary subscriptions totalling £30,000 (over 1 million in today's money). Originally the mansion on the estate, where the nurses were housed opened in October 1914 for the reception of Belgian war refugees.

An emergency hospital was then built on the estate in about three months and given to the Army in October 1915. It was run as a military hospital with over 600 beds and an extra 80 beds were added in November 1916. In 1917 an extension increased its bed capacity to nearly 2,000 which relieved the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary for the remainder of the War.

The hospital cared for 7,200 soldiers until its closure in October 1918 having treated British servicemen from nearly every regiment and soldiers from all parts of the world.



The funeral of Privates Shearman & Lawson, from the Huddersfield War Hospital magazine (1917)

Roger Gill (G046)

Volunteer Opportunities for Members

I feel it is now time to let others have a go at some of the rather interesting jobs which I have been doing for the Society for some years now. Anno Domini and health matters are creeping up on me. I have listed below a brief description of some of the jobs I have an interest in:

- **Parish Register Transcriptions**
  - Borrowing and arranging scanning of registers and sharing batches with the Society's team of transcribers (a knowledge of spreadsheets will be useful)
  - Process the results into publishable forms
  - Co-ordinating with the Society Data Manager to add the data to the Society database
- **Memorial Inscriptions**
  - Answering visitors requests for Memorial Inscription packages (photo editing will be useful)
- **The Society's Website**
  - The website is running on WordPress Content Management System. This is, in my view, an editor friendly system, which works without the need for a knowledge of website coding. The web site has many sections so an interest in one or more is possible.
- **The Mailchimp Newsletter**
  - Compiling occasional newsletters re Society events and offers
  - Servicing Electronic Members with Journals etc. and other miscellaneous events

An interest in a topic is sufficient to get started. Ample guidance on making things work is will be provided. If you would like to know more about working with me on any of the above aspects please email me at roger.gill@hdfhs.org.uk or click 'Webmaster' in the Society contacts page on the website.

Roger Gill (G046)



Help Wanted

The Society Research Team received this enquiry in October and helped as far as possible including finding information shown below from the Huddersfield Exposed website.

This is the original enquiry:

Hi there, I wonder if you could help me?

I'm trying to do some research for my brother in law whose (now deceased) father was brought up in children's homes. He appeared in the 1939 Register (aged 7) at 3 Fenay Grange Farm, Fenay Bridge, which seems to have been associated with the All Saints Home for Boys in Almondbury. However, I'm not sure exactly what the connection was between Fenay Grange and the Boys' Home. We also know he and other boys were sometimes sent to stay with local Huddersfield families.

I wonder if you are aware of anyone with a particular interest in the home, where I could find any records, or whether anything has ever been written about it? I've done endless googling and I've come up empty handed!

I'd be very grateful for any help or advice.

Kind regards
Janet Keale

All Saints' Home for Boys was originally established in 1892 by the Dowager of Dartmouth and was maintained as a Cottage Home. In 1894 the Home moved from its original premises to a new location at Royds Lodge, which has a garden and a field. On moving in, it was cleaned and painted from top to toe by Miss Blanche Brooke. Miss Brooke also collected a small sum of money to pay for a trip to the seaside for the boys and their Matron, Mrs. Ford.

In 1907 Royds Lodge was replaced with a new home. This was built in Almondbury by Mrs C D Hoste on land donated by their father, Sir John Brooke. The new building could accommodate ten boys aged between three and seven. From 1914 they started to house older boys and their matron, Mrs Ford.

In 1937 a new wing was built for the home – the construction work forcing the children to be relocated to Huddersfield until it was complete. The Princess Royal's visit to open the extension on 23 September 1938, was a worthy treat for the children who couldn't wait to come back.

Later years saw many changes. In 1945 the Home started to care for girls as well as boys. In 1974, All Saints' became a centre for the specific care of physically disabled children.

With thanks to: https://huddersfield.exposed/

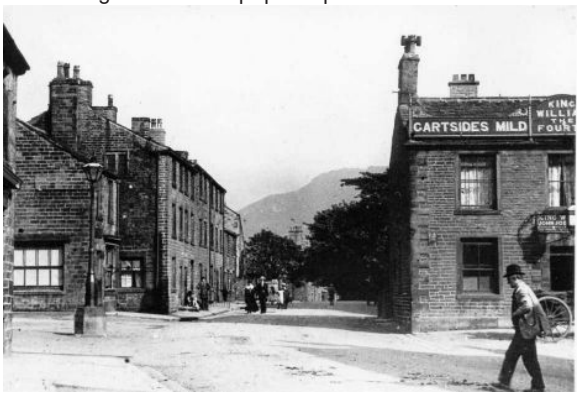
If anyone can help Janet further please do get in touch with me and I will pass on your information to her – Ed.

More on 'Bill's O' Jack's'

My great, great grandfather, John Bottomley, was born in Greenfield in 1792, the son of Buckley and Betty Bottomley. In August 1823 he married Sarah Buckley at Manchester Parish Church (later to become Manchester Cathedral). The marriage record shows that John Bottomley worked as a clothier but by 1829 his occupation was listed in Pigot's Directory as 'shopkeeper and dealer of groceries' at Kinder's, Road End, Greenfield, along with his brother Buckley Bottomley. In 1830 William IV came to the throne and the Beerhouse Act was passed which allowed any rate payer to brew and sell beer. In 1830 John Bottomley was granted a licence for his premises at Road End, which he named The King William the Fourth. This public house is today still operating on the same site and is locally known as 'The King Bill'.

It was whist researching my family tree that I discovered the connection between my great, great grandfather, the King Bill and the Bill's O' Jack's murders. Bill's O' Jack's was the local name for the Cherry Tree Public House which was situated on the Greenfield to Holmfirth Turnpike Road. The Cherry Tree had been run by William Bradbury and his wife but after the death of William's wife in 1828, his son Thomas Bradbury moved in to assist in running the Inn. In 1831 The Cherry Tree lost its full licence due to allowing Sunday afternoon drinking and so became a beerhouse.

On the 2 April 1832 Tom's niece, Amelia Winterbottom, visited the property and found Tom badly injured in the downstairs of the inn and her grandfather lying in bed, also badly injured. Both died later from their injuries. The victims were discovered on Tuesday morning "in a scene of bloody carnage" which sent shockwaves through the local community. According to witness accounts at the inquest, blood covered the floor, furniture, walls and stairs of the pub as if there had been a violent struggle. "The walls and flags were streaming with gore" according to one newspaper report.



The King William IV c.1900

On Saturday, 7 April 1832, an inquest into the murders took place in an upstairs room at The King William the Fourth Public House. It was reported that "*the day was remarkably wet, and consequently few persons visited the scene of the murders. However, the Inn at Road End was crowded to excess, principally by persons residing locally many of whom conducted themselves as if entirely unconscious of the fact that a solemn investigation was going on upstairs".*

"Sunday turned out to be a clear but cold day and the vale of Greenfield was thronged by an immense number of visitors from all the adjacent towns. It was said by those who were on the spot that 30,000 people visited the scene of the murders on Sunday alone. It was found necessary to place constables at the door of the house, who admitted the visitors by twelve or fourteen people at a time. On Monday the bodies, attended by relatives, were conveyed by hearse to Saddleworth Church and there interred".

The murders were never solved and it was first thought that they may have been committed by Irish navvies who were constructing the turnpike road at the time but no charges were

made. However, a report taken from a Huddersfield newspaper published in March 1853 contained the following information:

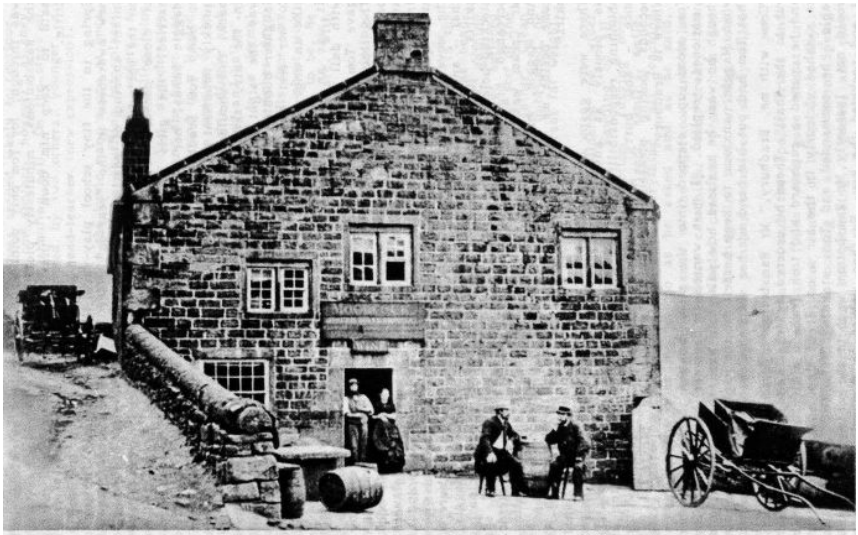
Mr Whitehead, sheep farmer, about 160 miles from Melbourne, Australia says "I went into a public house in Port Fary. Whilst there a man came in and said I know you and knew your uncles. There was a murder committed in Saddleworth; was it ever found out? Mr Whitehead replied he believed not. The man then said it was a young man hawking tape in a basket who murdered Bill and Tom O'Jacks. I was a young man working at repairing the canal in Saddleworth and the man, soon after the murder of Bill and Tom O'Jacks went to Leicester and committed a robbery upon a drover for which crime he was transported to Sydney. Since he came here he committed a murder for which he was hung in Hobart Town. Previous to being executed, he confessed to me that he had murdered Bill and Tom Bradbury, of Greenfield, but that he had no intention to kill anyone. He had set out to rob the house and for that purpose sent the old man upstairs, but soon coming down again, struck him on the head, which disabled him. The hawker said he was put off robbing the house by Tom coming in. Previous to his return, old Bill crawled up stairs. The tape-hawker was searching the drawers but found nothing. Whilst doing this, Tom came, when the man was going away. Seeing Tom come, he turned back, and as he entered the door, knocked him down with the fire-poker. The man who made this statement states that he had been a mate of the tape-hawker, who had confessed to him the crime which had so long and so mysteriously baffled all attempts made to discover its perpetrators".

A £100 reward was offered for any information regarding the case and although it was a huge sum for the time no one came forward and the reward was never claimed.

Thomas and William Bradbury are buried in the lower graveyard at St Chads Church, Saddleworth. Near the bottom of the graveyard is a huge flat sandstone grave-slab that commemorates the infamous murders. There is a lengthy inscription that has intrigued folk for nearly two hundred years which reads as follows:

> *Here lie the dreadful bruised and lacerated bodies of William Bradbury and Thomas, his son, both of Greenfield, who were together savagely murdered in an unusually horrid manner, on Monday night, April 2nd 1832, William being 84 and Thomas 46 years old.*
>
> *Throughout the land wherever news is read*
> *intelligence of their sad end has spread.*
> *Those now who talk of far-famed Greenfield Hills*
> *Will think of Bill o' Jack's and Tom o' Bills.*
>
> *Such interest did their tragic end excite*
> *That, ere they were removed from human sight,*
> *Thousands on thousands came to see*
> *The bloody scene of catastrophe.*
>
> *One house, one business and one bed*
> *And one most shocking death they had.*
> *One funeral came, one inquest past*
> *And now one grave they had at last.*

On the 17 April 1832 the public house was put up for auction and its name was subsequently changed to The Moorcock Inn.



An early photograph of Bill's o' Jack's inn. The name Moorcock can just be seen over the door.

The following information has been taken from an article published in the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin in 2020:

Prior to the 1832 murders it is important to note that the Bill's O Jack's was an established destination but this interest increased as a result of the gruesome murder – people journeying there to enjoy 'scenery, picturesque and beauty beyond description'. The original inn, a small single bay cottage, had been doubled in size by 1851 and later a separate outbuilding was added. There was a tea room which was used as a large dancing shed and for other entertainments included quoits and wrestling. By the early 1850s Sunday school parties from as far away as Manchester were making their way in Whit week to Greenfield. Works outings were also common. Numbers in these parties could be in their hundreds rather than scores. In 1857 Holmfirth Secular Society accompanied by Holmfirth Temperance Brass Band proceeded to Bill's O' Jack's to meet with contingents from Hyde, Ashton, Oldham and Stalybridge, Rochdale, Honley and Huddersfield, whilst a party of scholars and teachers who came in wagons and carts from Meltham in 1868 numbered over 300. Easter marked the opening of the holiday season for the inn. It was an especially busy period. A trip to Bill's O' Jack's became a regular part of the holidays in many surrounding communities, not at least in Saddleworth itself where the last day of August wakes became known as Bill' O' Jack's day. By the 1890s the numbers travelling by train continued to increase: in March 1894 over 3000 people had booked to travel by train to Greenfield, many of whom went on to Bill's O' Jack's. However, as numbers of visitors continued to increase, disputes over damage to the surrounding land and trespassing also increased and in April 1937 the Moorcock Inn was closed.

It is some time since I last visited the lower graveyard at St Chad's Church and at that time it was still possible to walk down a well-worn path to the site of the grave but over time the graveyard has become very overgrown so access may no longer be possible.

John Savage (S353)

The Forgotten Hall: A Biography of Jeremiah Hall

The third child of Joseph Hall and Ann Gledhill was born on 4 March 1804 in the Parish of Batley. A boy, he was given the name of Jeremiah and was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 2 April 1804.

Batley Parish Church was also the place where Joseph Hall and Ann Gledhill got married by banns on 20 November 1799. Joseph was able to leave his signature while Ann left her mark. By the baptism of his eldest child in July 1800, Joseph worked as a clothier. Clothiers made and sold woollen cloth with the wealth and status of each clothier varying greatly. By 1817, the couple had nine children in total, 4 boys and 5 girls, over a span of 17 years.

The family resided in a world that was rapidly changing, with Batley feeling the effects of the Industrial Revolution. Deserted rural northern villages were becoming influential, populated industrial towns.

Jeremiah's father, Joseph, aged 49 years, was taken, by an unknown ailment, to his grave in June 1826. His burial took place on 15 June 1826 at Batley Parish Church. Jeremiah was 22 years old at the time.

Four years later, Jeremiah married Harriet Keighley at Batley Parish Church on 8 September 1830. The marriage took place after banns, with Jeremiah being able to leave his signature, like his father, while Harriet left her mark.

The family continued to live in Batley, with Jeremiah taking the same occupation of his father. Jeremiah and Harriet had six children over a period of 11 years. Their eldest daughter Grace Hall died as an infant of an unknown cause. Her burial took place at Batley Parish Church on 22 Apr 1833.

By 1841, the Hall family was living at New Batley in Batley. Jeremiah continued to work as a clothier in an everchanging world. 1842 would mark the last addition to the Hall family, with the birth of my Great Great Great Grandfather William Henry.

He drew his final breath on 14 May 1845 at New Batley at the young age of 41 years. Phthisis, tuberculosis or a similar wasting disease, was what dragged him away from his family and life. His brother was in attendance at the time of his death. All five children that survived infancy outlived him, his mother and his wife also. Like his daughter and father, he was buried at Batley Parish Church on 18 May 1845.

He was just another of my Hall direct line to die young, following his father and like my grandfather. His children may not have necessarily forgotten he existed, but I think mainly about my Great Great Grandfather William Henry, who was only three at the time, of his father's premature death. His father's death may have contributed to William's alcoholism in later life which in turn affected subsequent generations.

I will never forget about Jeremiah Hall and his short but important story.

George Hall (H519)

Help us to tell the story of St George's Square

Christine Verguson

The first thing anyone arriving in Huddersfield by train will see as they descend the steps from the railway station are the fine Victorian buildings that make up St George's Square. As for the station itself, architectural critic Ian Nairn described it as 'a kind of stately home with trains' and Sir John Betjeman once referred to it as 'the most splendid in England'. But, from the businesses carried on in its buildings to festivals and royal visits, St George's Square has had a colourful history in which civic events, politics, transport, sport, music and religion have all played their part. And, of course, the Rugby League was founded at the George Hotel.

Huddersfield Local History Society has received funding from Historic England to celebrate the history and heritage of the Square, one of more than 60 sites across the country which have been designated by Historic England as High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ). We have already set up a dedicated website, *Memories of Our Square,* and we are also putting together an illustrated book, to be published in 2023, which will feature eye-witness accounts and images drawn from historical sources as well as present day reminiscences – your words and pictures could be included. We are also working together with the West Yorkshire Archive Service so that the stories and memories we collect can be preserved for future generations.



We all have our different memories of the Square and, for some of us, those stories may be part of our own family history. Although not in Huddersfield, my own parents first met under a railway station clock and perhaps readers may have similar stories to tell in which the Square or the Railway Station played a part.

Jessica has already been in touch to share her own story of how her boyfriend proposed to her there during lockdown and you can read her full account on our website, **oursquare.org**.

Over the years many businesses have been carried on in the Square and its surroundings and members of your family may have worked, shopped or even lived in the Square.

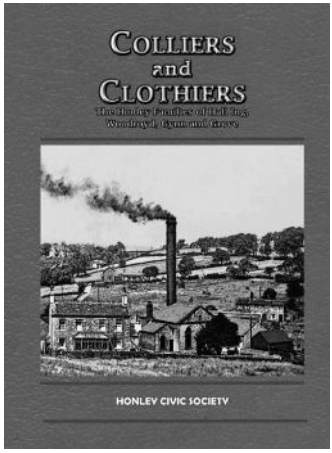
On occasion tens of thousands of people have gathered in the Square, sometimes to protest but also to celebrate. And, of course, it has always played an important part in the transport history of the town. John has provided us with a vivid description of regularly catching a trolley bus there after getting a late train home from Leeds but such experiences could soon be forgotten. The Square has many stories to tell and our website includes an extensive Timeline which was originally put together by the late Brian Haigh who sadly died in August 2021. Alongside the collection of memories, research for the book continues and some of the past stories and events we have come encountered are also being added to the website.

Perhaps you have enjoyed one of the food festivals or the Festivals of Light that culminated in the Square. There may be things that you now miss – several people have mentioned the floral displays or the fountain. If you have a story to tell about St George's Square, no matter how insignificant it may seem, then we would like to hear from you. You can add your memories to our website https://oursquare.org or contact us at email@oursquare.org

Christine Verguson is coordinating Huddersfield Local History Society's Memories of Our Square project. Let's help her to ensure she is able to produce as full a history as possible – Ed.

Book Review

This new book from Honley Civic Society looks at the families of Hall Ing, Gynn and Grove. It is an updated and expanded version of *Woodroyd, Honley's Hidden Hamlet* but there is lots of new detail and background to the many men and women who lived and worked in the area. I was most surprised to find photographs of my husband's Mellor ancestors, three of which I had not seen before and a whole page of text on the family, some of which was new to me.



There is also information about the Cinderella Children's Home at Honley which, after WW2, became a hostel for Ukrainian refugees. My maternal grandparents kept this home on behalf of Taylor and Stewart's Mill, although they are not named. I have a photograph in my collection of my grandfather acting as 'father of the bride' for one of the young Ukrainian ladies.

If you have ancestors with connections to Honley it will be a useful addition to your bookshelf. It is available through our website and at local bookshops in the Holme Valley. Please note that we are now stockists of a number of books produced by Honley Civic Society.

Susan Hutson
Editor

House History – Grove House, 60 Cleveland Road (Part 1)

My house history project came about largely by accident. Hitting a low point in the second Covid lockdown, like a lot of people I sought research activity online. Following the popular and excellent Triskele Heritage lockdown lectures/presentations I happened on one about house history and found myself hooked! The presenter and panel were well known from TV programmes and were very good at sharing both expertise and enthusiasm. From one session I picked up lots of information about places to gain research support and knowledge. This included the WEA courses and local societies and websites.

I have been a very amateur genealogist since 1976, and given the timescale, should really have made more progress. So, I did have some knowledge about researching in this field. Of course, in the intervening forty-five years technology has made an astonishing difference to the availability of material. It was technology that made the difference to researching during lockdown.

One key piece of advice was simple – start with what you know. This does mean that my research was not chronological but instead holistic. However, I did start with my deeds which told me that the original purchaser was one William Watkin, Inn Keeper of Shore Hotel, Huddersfield. Unlike most of the town, which was famously built on Ramsden land, Cleveland Road was built on land from the sale of the Thornhill Estates. The first name on the deeds was one William Capell-Clarke who, in 1855 married Clara Thornhill of Fixby Hall and took her name. Local newspapers have several accounts of parties held to celebrate the marriage: feasts given at the expense of the Estate. There were also sales of land and property made to the tenants and they praise the fairness of the transactions. Several speeches reported in the newspapers refer to the groom's military background as he fought in the Crimea War. I have done more research; great fortunes and scandal but probably well known locally. In *May* 1891 William Watkin bought a plot of land from the Thornhill Estate and upon signature agreed 'Will before the first day of *June* 1891 at his own expense complete in good substantial and workmanlike manner and of the best materials, dwelling house and insurance'. This quick turnaround was obviously a business proposition as in 1891 the Electoral Register reveals that the occupant of number 60 was Robert Arthur Rennards. I started my records using the booklet published by H&DFHS.

Born Robert Arthur Cecil Rennards in Birkenhead, Cheshire in 1854, by his 15th birthday he was lodging in Kings Mill Lane, Huddersfield and by the subsequent census of 1881 lodging at Shore Head, where he possibly knew William Watkin. In this same year Kelly's Directory lists him as a Woollen Manufacturer in business as Morrison and Rennards, Wentworth Mills, Fitzwilliam Street. Not all was well with the business as the Huddersfield Chronicle of the 17 October 1891 records the dissolution of the partnership with 'all debts paid by Arthur Rennards'. Meanwhile in 1889 Robert had married Ann Farrar Kilburn in Huddersfield.

60 Cleveland Road saw the birth of three daughters to this couple before a move in the early 1900s to Grasmere Road. These are the only three births to the house in its 130 years, all the girls being baptised in St. Stephens, Lindley. This was the story of an upwardly mobile family. The business, now Rennards and Garside was doing, and continued to do well. Still operating from Wentworth Mills in Fitzwilliam Street they were producers of Fancy Yarns well into the 1950s although the Rennards family moved to Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex where Robert died in 1921. The death and burial were recorded by the Bexhill-on-Sea Observer with '*flowers from the family and Mr. and Mrs. F.O. Garside and Mr. Alex Garside.*' Robert left a substantial amount of money, Ann 'living on her own means' until her death in 1964 at the age of 98.

Earlier in the century she was recorded as attending Suffragette meetings in Halifax and the daughters were independent, one making a living as an artist in London. The youngest signing up as a VAD nurse in 1914 and serving in the Military Hospital, Huddersfield.



What begins to be revealed is how the history of a modest terrace house intersects with the wider history of the time; the Victorian landowners, the rise and fall of the textile trade, the turbulent events of the Edwardian era, the way working people lived their lives and how they earned their livings.

Note the original insurance plaque is still on the wall. Insurance was required by the terms of the lease of 1891.

In my next record, the census of 1911, number 60 was lived in by Thomas Henry Hirst and his sister Jane. The Hirst family had been longstanding residents from 1911 (or before) until 1949 when the last direct member of the family dies. The father of these occupants is Henry Hirst, and with his wife Jane Walker, the family live close to the centre of the town in 1851, on Northumberland Street. He is already a manufacturer of Fancy Woollen Goods and a likely employer. In the 1861 census they lived at 141 Commercial Street with one servant and a nurse and the business has 98 employees. Whether he is already dealing in Angola Yarn is not clear but in October 1867 the Huddersfield Chronicle reports that Henry attends a town meeting of Angola spinners regarding the excessive insurance charges for fire risk. The same newspaper reports that voting in various wards shows Henry Hirst standing for local positions. However, by 1871 they had moved to 66 Commercial Street with one servant and the business has 61 employees. He manufactures woollen yarn. This is the year that their son Herbert dies aged 18 and is buried in Edgerton Cemetery. This burial record was invaluable in helping me confirm family relationships.

All the above and more, are recorded in Block 43 and adjacent plots No 26 & 35 forming a double grave in the non-conformist part of the Cemetery (H&DFHS records). Before his death Herbert is in the cotton business and this may have been a contributing factor to the family business having changed by 1881 to the production of Angola Yarn. Again, it is a smaller concern with 55 employees.

Angola is a trade term used to describe a type of ‘union’ or a mixture of fibres produced from the short staple or ‘shoddy’ wool and raw staple cotton, blended by a ‘scribbling’ process to ensure thorough mixture before spinning. Different proportions can be used according to the ‘feel’ or ‘handle’ of the cloth required. The proportion is often 80% wool and 20% cotton.

In 1881 they have moved to 1 Greenhead Road, further away from the town centre. The census states that they are now dealing in Angola Yarn, they have two domestic servants, the business has 55 employees. This is just two years before the business is declared bankrupt.

The Huddersfield Chronicle of 1883 carries the details of the liabilities totaling £6,496.2s.8d with assets showing stock in trade at Thornbridge, materials and yarns, machinery as well as furniture at Greenhead Road, £135; and a share in a property at Lindley £50. Total net assets were £1,267.

After a long meeting it was decided to wind the business up in bankruptcy and not in liquidation. It appears that Thomas Henry his son may bear some responsibility as he is the chief clerk. Nevertheless, it is Henry standing up in court. They trade as Henry Hirst Jnr. & Co. from Turnbridge Mill.

It is no surprise that by 1891 the family are living at Cecil Street in a smaller terraced house and Thomas Henry ceases to be a Clerk and instead becomes a Yarn Salesman. Here Henry and Jane remain until their deaths in 1896 and 1893 respectively. The family burial plot records their demise, the memorial recording '9 December 1896 Henry Hirst age 88 Gentleman of 4 Cecil Street, Huddersfield'. Their son and daughter live for a further five – ten years at Cecil Street with Thomas Henry trading as a Yarn salesman or dealer, they now have one domestic servant. For the first time Jane is listed with an occupation – Embroidery Dealer.

Overall, this is perhaps a downward shift in the fortunes of this family and the consequences are dealt with by subsequent generations. Despite the gaps left to be filled what begins to be revealed is how the history of a modest terrace house intersects with the wider history of the time; the Victorian landowners, the rise and fall of the textile trade, the turbulent events of the Edwardian era, the way working people lived their lives, coped with personal tragedy, and how they earned their livings. More of which will be revealed in the next journal.

Kay Greenlees
2020/21

Writing my Family History

In 2017 I decided to take the first module of a 'Writing Your Family History' course by Gill Blanchard who is a brilliant tutor in writing family history. You may remember she gave us a talk on researching House History last year. This course was really enjoyable and meant that I was able to start on what has become a somewhat long-running project. In 2019 I decided to take the second module of the course and this gave me a more in-depth knowledge of crafting a written family history.

It has been difficult to find the time to do as much work as I would like on my own story, but I am pleased to say that I am about half way now, having recently spent a couple of weeks between journals doing nothing much else but my writing.

I am sure that if you have ever contemplated such an undertaking you have wondered how you can make it interesting – how to put the flesh on the bones. Gill teaches this in great detail and encourages you to use different sources of information, many of which I was not aware of. I show an example of an exercise I did on the next page where I wrote about the small hamlet of Gawthorpe where my paternal ancestors lived in the 19th century. A piece such as this is known as an 'interlude' where you can deviate from your family story and maybe discuss the area where they lived or perhaps an occupation one of your ancestors was involved in. My 'Gawthorpe interlude' will form part of a chapter in my Livesey History.

So, maybe this could be your New Year resolution – to write an interesting story around your own family. Gill Blanchard has a first online module starting in April 2022 if I have whetted your appetite. I have no commercial interest in promoting Gill, just a desire to encourage people to write their family histories. Go to: https://www.pastsearchlearning.co.uk

Susan Hutson
Editor

Gawthorpe was, in the mid nineteenth century, a small hamlet just a short distance from the villages of **Lepton** and **Kirkheaton**, some five miles east of Huddersfield. Many of my ancestors were born in Lepton and the surrounding area and a great number were baptised at the ancient Church of St John in Kirkheaton.



Today, Gawthorpe is still just a tiny hamlet, with many of the original cottages which have now been converted and merged into beautiful modern homes. Whilst from a distance these cottages from the outside look very similar today to how they looked more than 150 years ago, the amenities, décor and lifestyles of the people who live in them have changed beyond all recognition.



Hamlet of Gawthorpe, Photo: Susan Hutson 2009

The countryside around is much the same as it was in the mid nineteenth century, surrounded by open fields and beautiful, expansive views. One of the lanes nearby, Lucy Lane, is named after members of my own family. According to the late historian Dr George Redmonds, Lucy is the old Yorkshire dialect form of my maiden name Livesey and this was the road up to the farm of one of my ancestors.



Lucy Lane, Lepton, Photo: Susan Hutson 2009

150 years ago

News from the 6 January 1872 Huddersfield Chronicle

ACCIDENT TO BLACKSMITH – On Monday morning, Charles Benyon, a blacksmith, in the employ of Mr. J. Kilburn, Millmoor Meltham, met with an accident. It seems that Benyon and a number of the other employees at the mill, determined to keep New Year's Day as a holiday, they therefore left their work and proceeded over the fields, in the direction of the railway. To reach the road, it was necessary to mount a fence wall and clear rail fencing. In jumping one of these barriers, Benyon sprained his ankle so severely that he had to be carried to the house of Mr John Hollingworth, the Railway Hotel, and from thence to his home at the Mount, where Mr.Haigh, surgeon, attended him, and in all probability he will have a longer holiday than he at first anticipated.

ACCIDENT TO A DELVER – On Wednesday morning, an accident occurred to Robert Sykes, of Netherton, a delver, in the employ of Messrs' Ibberson and Varley, stone merchants of that place. It seems the men were about to lift a heavy stone from its bed, when the "dog" iron slipped from its position and striking a large piece of timber placed above Sykes, knocked it down, and it fell on him and broke his leg. He was removed home, and Mr Knaggs, surgeon, of Huddersfield, was sent for, and continues his attendance on the injured man.

UNRULY APPRENTICES –

At the County Police Court, Huddersfield, on Tuesday, before G Armitage and J Beaumont, Esqs. Mr Joseph Taylor, of Marsden, preferred a charge against John Marshall and John Mellor his apprentices, for unlawfully absenting themselves from his service – The complainant stated that he had 24 lads in his employment, and they had left their work very often. At length they became so unmanageable that he told them he could stand it no longer, and warned them of the consequences of their conduct, at the same time telling them that when they wanted to leave their work they must ask his permission. Notwithstanding those warnings, the defendants, with a number of others, left their work about a quarter – past seven that morning – Defendants pleaded guilty, and said that eight of the lads agreed to leave their employment. They worked till ten o'clock every night, and they thought they were entitled to a holiday now and then. – The complainant said that the defendants never worked overtime without being paid for it – a fact, which the defendants at once admitted – the chairman, addressing the defendants, told them it was their duty to obey their master's orders. They were two respectable looking lads, and the Bench should be sorry to punish them. On the defendants expressing their contrition, and promising to behave well or the future, the Bench mulcted the defendants in the cost only, which amounted to 5s. each

SEASONABLE BENEVOLENCE AT WILSHAW – Joseph Hirst, Esq of Wilshaw Villa, according to his annual custom, has distributed a large quantity of coal to the poor widows and other old people of Meltham, such thoughtful attention to the comfort of the aged at this inclement season, when warmth is so essential, is most considerate and well timed.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST TWO SISTERS – At the County Police Court, Huddersfield on Tuesday, before G Armitage and J Beaumont Esqs. Two sisters, respectively named Susanna and Jane, the daughters of Mr John Crowther, of Golcar were charged with assaulting William Whiteley on Sunday last – Mr Learoyd appeared for the complainant and said the charge was one which Mr.Whiteley felt compelled to bring against the defendants. For some time past he had been annoyed by them and when he went out of his house, which was very near to their own, they used very abominable and insulting language to him. On Sunday last, the 31st December Mr Whiteley went out of his house with his wife for the purpose of attending the church in which he worshipped.

One of the defendants came out of her house, commenced abusing the complainant, and threw a quantity of dust over Mr Whiteley and his wife. This was on the Sunday morning, when they had their best clothes on, and the insult was felt most keenly - Mr Sykes, who appeared for the defence, maintained that Mr Learoyd's case did not amount to an assault in law, but the Bench overruled the objection – Evidence was then given in support of Mr. Learoyds' statement, which was corroborated except in one point – the complicity of Susanna Crowther – the Bench accordingly dismissed the case as against her, but mulcted her sister Jane in half the costs.

News from the 13 Jan 1872

BRUTAL AND UNPROVOKED ASSAULT – Abraham Earnshaw, mill hand, Castlegate, was brought up charged with assaulting John Beaumont, of Spring Street, on Saturday night. Mr Withers opened the case, and said the complainant was passing through Kirkgate, when he saw the prisoner brutally kicking a female, in consequence of which, he remonstrated with him. Immediately the prisoner, with a number of others, set upon the complainant, knocked him down, kicked him, gave him two black eyes, and otherwise ill-treated him. The complainant confirmed this statement, and said he was going by the Horse Shoes Inn, about five o'clock, and saw the prisoner brutally kicking a young woman, and told him he deserved a policeman fetching to him. He again kicked the woman, and defendant immediately turned round and said to him " What business have you to call a policeman?" He (complainant) replied "you are a brute to treat a young woman in that way". On that, several other men came up, and they all set on him, knocked him down, kicked and struck him, and gave him the black eyes he then had. A witness corroborated. Inspector Townend said when at tea on the above afternoon, he heard the cry of police, and saw the complainant down on the ground, and the prisoner, with five or six others, kicking and striking him brutally. The prisoner was the leader of the gang. As soon as he (Townend) appeared, the whole of the parties ran off down Denton Lane, and the prisoner was the only one known as yet. The bench sentenced the prisoner to one month's imprisonment, without the option of paying a fine.

ANOTHER UNPROVOKED ASSAULT – Edward Flaherty, 18 years of age, spinner, Castlegate, was placed in the dock charged with severely assaulting John William Hopkinson, of Fartown. Mr Withers said this was a case that was almost entirely similar to the last, and was an unprovoked attack, and without any interference on the part of the complainant, who was returning through Castlegate, and because he refused to pay for beer for the prisoner and another man, they knocked him down and assaulted Him. – The complainant stated that on Saturday night he was returning from Moldgreen, where he had been to see his uncle, through Castlegate, and when near the Unicorn Inn, he met the prisoner and another man, who put their legs through his and tried to throw him down but failed. They then asked him to pay for a pint of beer for them. He refused to do so, and instantly he was knocked down by them, and kicked severely on the legs and other parts of the body. Police-constable Rowley said that at 20 minutes past twelve on Saturday night he was in Castlegate, and saw the assault, and apprehended the prisoner. Flaherty pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s. and costs, total 15s.6d. or 14 days imprisonment.

CAB ACCIDENT, AND NARROW ESCAPE – On Wednesday night, the wife of Councillor Henry Crossland, of Longwood House, Fartown, experienced a narrow escape from severe personal injury. It seems the lady had engaged a four-wheeled cab, belonging to James Kay, to take her home. On passing through the bar at Fartown, the horse turned up in the direction of Spanes (sic) Lane, but was instantly brought back by the driver, and its head put in the right direction.

The vehicle had not proceeded far before the driver espied a lurry in front. In attempting to pass between the causeway and the lurry, the cab came into violent contact with the latter vehicle, and so great was the concussion that the fastenings of the springs gave way, and the body of the cab was landed in the hollow between the front and hind wheels, where it became impossible to open the door of the vehicle, and the lady with some difficulty was extricated from her perilous position through the glass slide of the door without injury beyond the fright.

ACCIDENT TO A JOINER- On Monday afternoon, a young man, named Charles Brearley, a joiner, in the employ of Mr John Rushworth, builder, &c., Lockwood, met with an accident. He was engaged chipping a piece of wood with a sharp chisel on the bench at which he was working, when the wood slipped and the chisel inflicted a severe wound on the left wrist, cutting through the flesh and severing several veins. Mr Dow, surgeon, was at once consulted, and on his recommendation the young man was taken to the Infirmary, and attended to by Mr Smith, the house surgeon.

NEGLECTING TO SUPPORT AN AGED MOTHER. – At the County Police Court, Huddersfield, before B Shaw, George Armitage, and Joseph Norton Esqs., Joseph Cookson, factory worker, Kirkheaton, was charged by Mr Mellor, relieving officer, with suffering his mother to become chargeable to the Huddersfield Union. The officer stated that the old woman was now at Kirkheaton, and the defendant with his wife and children were earning 30s, per week, and wished for an order making upon the defendant for 1s, per week towards her maintainance (sic). The defendant had appeared before the board of guardians, and they had agreed to accept the offer of the defendant to pay that sum weekly. The order for 1s. per week was then made.

OLD MAN DROWNED- On Wednesday, the body of an old man named Jonathan Hanson, was taken out of the river near Mr Brearley's Mill, Spa Bottom, Lepton. Deceased was above 70 years of age, and was the oldest man employed as road worker for the township of Almondbury. On Monday he felt unable to continue his work and remarked to the overlooker, John Spivey that if he was not better in the morning he should not be at his work. After drinking a glass or two of beer, he left Almondbury to return home, and was not afterwards seen alive. Not returning home on Monday night his daughter, with whom he lived, became uneasy, and on the following morning she went to seek for him in Almondbury. No tidings were heard of him till Wednesday morning when his lifeless body was found as above described, and it was removed home to await an inquest…

Initially I thought this to be an example fake news until I checked the coroner's inquest for this date confirming the correct details of name and age.

11 January 1872 It read Jonathan Senior deceased – John Sykes of Spa Bottom Lepton, Cotton Weaver says, the deceased was my father in law and he lived with me. He was a Widower and 69 years old and a Road Labourer. He was rather feeble and both his hearing and his eyesight were bad. Last Monday morning between 6 & 7 o'clock he left home to go to his work as usual in Almondbury. He took his meals with him. He had talked for a few months back of getting lodging nearer his work and he had the promise of some. He generally reached home before 6 o'clock. There was no mark on it and nothing belonging to him is missing. He was a very temperate man.

Janet Le Billon (L137)

Speaker Meeting via Zoom
Understanding and Dating Old Photographs by Steve Gill

Steve began by saying we should give our photographs a second or third look, more often than not we do not see what we think we see, we do not usually know why a photograph was taken, research must be done. Clues may be there upon close inspection: jewellery, signs in the background, dress, cars, or lack of them. The history of the photograph was discussed.

Daguerrotypes - from about 1840 to 1851 in Europe and in the USA they were in used until the 1860s. The process used a sheet of silver-plated copper, and the image will show as either positive or negative, depending on the angle it is viewed from. Long exposure times were needed; hence the subject may be blurred if he or she moved. **Ambrotypes** replaced Daguerrotypes, these were photographs on glass.

Ferrotype or Tintype photography then replaced the Ambrotype process, in use from about the 1860s to the early 20th century. The dating of old photographs can be aided by discovering the process used.

The **Cartes de Visite** (CDV) were photographs the size of visiting cards and were relatively cheap to produce in large numbers, they were printed eight to a sheet and were extremely popular during the American Civil War. If an American CDV has a postage stamp on it then the date is around 1884-1886. **Cabinet Cards** replaced the CDV, these were larger photographs about 4.5 in by 6.5 in, they are often found in Victorian/Edwardian photograph albums.

Steve emphasised that care must be taken as it is possible to date a photograph wrongly, perhaps by researching the photographer, and the majority of photographs were taken by professionals. He gave an example of a photograph being dated by knowing when the photographer started his business, however, it was found that the photograph was copied from an earlier print.

Not everyone had the ability to hold a pose for the length of time required for the exposure, and so posing stands were used, either to lean against or in some cases to be fixed under clothing such as crinolines. With the invention of the Eastman-Kodak range of cameras, photography became available to the wider public, 'walking photos' often taken in the street, especially at seaside resorts may be familiar to many of us.

Steve stressed that the key to dating and understanding old photographs is to look slower, longer and harder, revisiting as necessary and not to get too focussed on details. His talk was interesting and extremely informative, enhanced by his examples.

Margaret E Woodcock (W030)

The Denby Dale and Kirkburton Archive Collection

A joint venture by the parish councils of Denby Dale and Kirkburton, this website is an amazing repository for a vast number of archive documents and photographs, all of which will be of interest to family historians with an interest in the areas of the former Denby Dale and Kirkburton Urban District Councils: https://denbydalekirkburton.past-view.com

The Victoria Hotel, Carlinghow, Batley

The photo on page 1 is of the Victoria Hotel, which still stands on Bradford Road in Carlinghow, Batley. Public houses have important roles to play in family history, not only for those with publican ancestors. They were community hubs, places where people gathered to meet, drink, socialise, catch up on gossip and the latest news. You may even find newspaper references to your ancestors in public houses – possibly in the Court pages for drunken behaviour! They were also, surprisingly, a place where inquests – and even post mortems – took place.

The 1875 Public Health Act legislated for local authorities to provide public mortuaries and dedicated suitable places to conduct post mortems. Prior to this date they were often carried out in public houses, or even private homes. In the years immediately after the 1875 Act they continued to be utilised for this purpose. These same venues were also used to hold inquests.

For example, in January and February 1881 the Victoria Hotel was one of the locations for a series of very high-profile inquests relating to a major Carlinghow boiler explosion at a Messrs. Graham and Hirst woollen manufacturers. The explosion, at their New Brighton Mills mill, resulted in the deaths of 16 workers – men, women and children. In May and June 1881, the pub was the venue for the post mortem and inquest into the mysterious death of John Critchley, second son of prominent local Batley coal mine proprietor and J.P., James Critchley, whose body was found dumped on the doorstep of former sweetheart Mary Wrigglesworth's house and butcher's shop.

Even if your ancestor's death was not the subject of an inquest, the records are worth checking as they may appear referenced as an inquest juror or a witness giving evidence. The British Newspaper archive has a wealth of information from the detailed press reports on inquests. Ancestry has the West Yorkshire Coroner Notebooks 1852-1909 (originals held at West Yorkshire Archives). So, next time you're having a drink in your local, take a moment to think about the more unexpected history associated with it.

Jane Roberts (R128)

Norma Maxwell

Obituary

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Norma Maxwell in late September 2021. Norma was a long standing member and former Treasurer of our Society and contributed as a volunteer over a number of years. She lived in Golcar and was pre-deceased by her husband Harry in 2015. Norma and her husband had a great interest in Huddersfield Crown Green Bowling and after Harry's death, Norma took over the running of the Junior Bowling Section.

Our condolences go to her two sons and her wider family and friends.

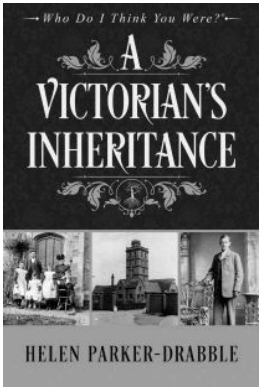
George Taylor of Meltham and the Maine Connection

As introduced in a previous copy of the Journal, one of my lockdown projects was to start a study on the surname Taylor in Meltham using traditional family history approaches and, where possible, DNA results. That has, so far, led to a database of over 1500 names of Taylors and related spouse families, and a number of side diversions to look at interesting stories. One such person in the database is George Taylor, born in Meltham in 1823 and who died in New England, USA in 1878.

George was born on 23 March 1823 to David Taylor and Betty Swallow. In the 1841 census the family is living at Lane Bottom in Meltham, just above the junction of what is now Colders Lane and Matthew Lane. George entered the cloth industry as a youth and then, in 1846, emigrated to the USA. Starting in Rhode Island he first moved on to Massachusetts and then on to Maine, eventually ending his days as a partner in very successful mills in Bridgton, Maine and a Representative in the State government. He died in 1878 while visiting his cousin, John Taylor (1820-1899) in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

I am in contact with George's 4 x great granddaughter, who lives in Maine, and in August my wife and I plan to be in the USA, including a week in New England, visiting sites along the Taylor trail, so to speak. When George's business was at its peak, he is believed to have visited Meltham and surrounding places, encouraging families to relocate to New England. So, if you have any family links to the textile industry in New England, let me know. I am not saying that we will track down every linkage, but it will be good to have a more detailed picture to discuss with the relatives and local historians that we plan to meet over there. As always, I am happy to receive information, comments and suggestions on gfpersonal@gmail.com

Graham Farmer
Data Manager



This is a particularly interesting approach to a written family history. Helen Parker-Drabble draws on her own experience as a counsellor and geneatherapist to tell the story of her grandfather, Walter, and his parents Stephen and Ann. If, like me, you have often wondered if your ancestors' life experiences are reflected in the way you were brought up and how you live your life today, then this author's research may well confirm that. It is certainly thought-provoking; you find yourself starting to wonder about certain aspects of your own ancestors' lives as you read.

It is rich in information about Victorian life in a small village and beautifully illustrated. I would have appreciated this aspect much more had I read a hard copy of the book, rather than reading it on my Kindle. It is interspersed with Helen's family tree, so that you don't forget how people relate to one another, another aspect which would be better seen in traditional book form.

Who Do You Think You Were?: A Victorian's Inheritance is published by Animi Press and can be purchased via Helen Parker-Drabble's website in various formats: www.helenparkerdrabble.com/shop-a-victorians-inheritance/ or on Amazon.

THE ROOT CELLAR

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(Adjacent to Greens End Garage)



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Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
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Carry out your research
Speak to people with similar interests
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The Horton Family of Kirkheaton
Richard Horton (H366)