

Calderdale Family History Society

Syllabus

Meetings of the Calderdale family History Society are held at the Maurice Jagger Centre in central Halifax on the fourth Thursday of the month (excl. December) at 7.30pm. Subject to the agreement of the speaker, the meetings are recorded and repeated at 9.00am on Zoom the following Wednesday morning. Invitations to both meetings are issued to all members prior to the meeting. Hybrid Zoom meetings of this kind are now well established and continue to benefit those unable to attend in person and “away” members, both in the UK and throughout the world.

Forthcoming meetings:

APRIL - Thursday 25th April @ 7.30pm – Repeat Wednesday 1st May @ 9.00am

AGM followed by Demonstration of latest set of Society data – Undertaker Records – Peter Lord

The Society project to transcribe records, from a major Halifax undertaker, is coming to an end. This has involved some changes to the Society Online database to give members maximum benefit from the new data. Peter Lord’s presentation will try to show how to make the best use of the new information and how to match it with other data already available on the database.

MAY – Thursday 23rd May @ 7.30pm – Repeat Wednesday 29th May @ 9.00am

“My American Cousins” – Stuart Wilkinson (CFHS Member - Live Presentation)

It was during the mid-18c when Stuart’s 5 x Grandmother’s three brothers William, Joseph and Eli emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, in search of work and prosperity.

Whilst William stayed in Charleston his two siblings travelled to Pine Tree Hills (later Camden, SC), where they became very wealthy and later went on to fight in the American War of Independence (1775-1783) on the American side. The third brother, William, who had stayed in Charleston, fought for the British!

Stuart will focus on their military experiences and one of the brothers in particular who became a famous General; all this against the backdrop of slavery and the slave trade.

JUNE – Thursday 27th June @ 7.30 – Repeat Wednesday 3rd July @ 9.00am

Yorkshire’s Watermen - David Scrimgeour (Live Presentation)

The transportation of goods across pre-motorway Yorkshire relied heavily on the watermen, often accompanied by their families, who piloted their well laden keels along the numerous canals and rivers of the county.

As a founding member of the Yorkshire Waterways Heritage Society, David will share his new research examining the extant Canal Boat Registers to see what extra insight they offer the family historian.

The presentation is widely illustrated with real examples from watermen families across the county. The evidence collected will undoubtedly surprise members with the scale of the waterway’s trade, once widespread across Yorkshire, and the conditions under which the watermen and their families lived.

JULY – Thursday 25th July @ 7.30pm – Repeat Wednesday 31st July @ 9.00am

Heroes & Ghosts – Michael Hallett (Virtual Presentation)

Heroes & Ghosts is the story of Michael's grandfather, Wing Commander Harold Blackburn MC AFC, a pioneer aviator before World War I and war hero. After the war, scandal struck the family and plunged it into shame for three generations. Along the way, his story was lost, his memorabilia buried for decades.

Michael's presentation brings the story of his amazing career to life through the recognition of unconscious shame affecting multiple generations. Shame affects the way memories are carried in a family, both in terms of what is remembered - *or allowed to be remembered* - and in terms of what mementos survive.

Researching such events requires a softer approach than conventional, data-driven genealogy. While telling this story Michael shares tips and techniques that are useful for all genealogists.