



Calderdale FHS Newsletter

Issue 04— April 2024

Project update—Workhouses

Work continues apace on this project which covers the transcription of various Calderdale Workhouse records from the late 18th century right up to the early 1920s.

The photographers are trying to keep up with the transcription team and the 1st phase of transcription is nearing completion, so that we have been able to start validating what has been done. It is hoped that all the images will have been photographed by the end of April.

Appeal for talk summarisers

In last October's newsletter, we appealed for assistance in summarising the monthly talks, so that they can be published in the quarterly journal, *The Scrivener*. Unfortunately, we didn't get any volunteers.

We currently only have 2 summarisers, plus the editor herself, doing this important job and one of those 2 has had to withdraw from her role for a few months, due to other commitments.

One of the main purposes for the journal is to pass on interesting information to our members, particularly to those who have not been able to attend the monthly meetings themselves.

There are a maximum of 10 talks per annum, so two more volunteers would mean that no-one would have to summarise more than 3 to 4 talks every year. It is not normally more than 3 to 4 hours work, which includes watching the recorded talk, making notes and then writing a summary of no more than 3000 words, generally fewer.

If you feel that you can contribute to this, please contact Peter Lord at systems@cfhsweb.com and he will arrange for a talk to be sent to you.

Proposal to destroy old Wills—Government response

The Government have responded to the petition of over 10,000 signatures concerning their proposal to destroy old Wills. The Government is currently consulting on the storage and retention of original will documents submitted with applications for probate. At present all wills and documents submitted in support of probate, are preserved indefinitely in the original paper form. These records date back to 1858 and make for a substantial and growing archive. In total this amounts to around 110 million paper documents and the cost of preserving this archive is currently £4.5 million per annum.

Wills received since 2021 have been automatically digitised with older wills copied into digital format where a request is received to inspect a copy. The consultation proposes a reform that would enable older wills and documents to be converted to a digital form and then destroyed after a certain number of years (25 being suggested). Responses are also being sought on whether all the documents currently submitted to support a probate application needed to be preserved (as at present) - for example bank statements or copies of death certificates.

The consultation proposes that an exception to preserve original paper documents should be made for famous and noteworthy people. No decisions have yet been made and the Government's formal response will be published later this year.



Dates for the Diary

**Hybrid meeting—Thursday
25 April 2024 at 7.30 pm**

**Maurice Jagger Centre, Lister Street, off
Winding Road, Halifax**

*‘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.

Admission £1 (Members free)

Future CFHS meetings—2024

Thursday 23 May 2024—7.30 pm

*‘My American Cousins’ by Stuart Wilkinson
(Live)*

Thursday 27 June 2024—7.30 pm

*‘Yorkshire’s Watermen’ by David Scrimgeour
(Live)*

Contact us

If you have anything you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Editor, newsletter@cfhsweb.com or Secretary secretary@cfhsweb.com.

Website: www.cfhsweb.com/web/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/calderdalefhs

My Heritage—latest updates

Some members may use My Heritage as part of their research. If so, you may find the YouTube video that they have just created useful in that it details the latest tools and developments on their site. It is quite long—lasting 58 minutes—but, if you have the time, it is well worth watching.

The link is on [YouTube](#) and you will also find this link on the scroll bar on our [Society website](#).

Copley history

We have been contacted by Helena Smith who says, ‘Several years ago an elderly relative (first cousin once removed), gave me a copy of a lengthy verse written in the 1930s by a resident of Copley, reminiscing about the residents of Copley in the late 19th Century.

She had kept it because it mentioned her paternal grandparents. I discovered it also mentioned my paternal great grandfather.

I decided it would be fun to research as many of these inhabitants as I could online and I have been largely successful.’

If any of our members would be interested in this research, Helena would be happy to share this. Please contact Peter Lord systems@cfhsweb.com who will pass this on to Helena.

Holroyd family

From the Librarian at Huddersfield District and Family History Society. ‘We have had a family tree for the Holroyd family of Barkisland, Rishworth, Soyland, Sowerby and Halifax areas left with us.

It is an extensive tree, together with a folder giving a history of the Holroyd family, compiled by Douglas Holroyd.’

If anybody is interested in this family tree, please contact chairman@hdfhs.org.uk.