



# Calderdale FHS Newsletter

*Issue 07— July 2024*

## **Project update—Workhouses**

The project team continue to work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and largest) section of workhouse transcriptions – that of Halifax Gibbet St workhouse. These records cover a period from 1871 to 1918.

During the month of June, we have completed testing and the records for the workhouses at Halifax, Ovenden and Todmorden are now available on the Transcription Index on our website and thus on the Online Database for members. These provide yet another angle on areas to research for your ancestors.

We aim to complete the Gibbet Street work before the end of this year, by which time we should have upwards of 20,000 records available for researchers to explore.

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## **Society Newsletters**

The Society's monthly Newsletter (which you are reading now!!) gives much immediate information about our Society. Your Committee has decided that it deserves a wider distribution than just our membership, so we have updated the website to allow both you and non-members to read any of the last 12 months' issues.

- 'Click on the 'About Us' menu item
- Select the 5th option—'Society Newsletters'
- Select the month that you want to read—it will open that Newsletter for you

Each month, as a new newsletter is published, we will replace the previous year's issue for the month with the latest one.

We hope that this will provide you with an extra way to keep up to date with what's happening in the Society.

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## **Surname Ryburn—Ryburn River/Ryburn Valley**

I am seeking any information regarding the naming of the RYBURN Valley/River. I have traced my ancestors back to Ayrshire in the 1600s. Based on the 'localisation' theory of surname, is it possible that pre 1600s, my ancestors may have derived from the Ryburn Valley/River area? Did Yorkshire farmers/folk emigrate to Ayrshire for better opportunities or to escape 'troubles'?

Any assistance and sources appreciated to assist with the writing of my family history. Please contact Peter Raeburn [preaburn55@gmail.com](mailto:preaburn55@gmail.com). Cheers from Australia!



## Dates for the Diary

**Hybrid meeting—Thursday  
25 July 2024 at 7.30 pm  
(Repeat 31 July at 9.00 am)**

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

***‘Heroes and Ghosts’ by 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.

## Forthcoming meeting

**Thursday 22 August 2024**

***‘Hartshead, its peoples and environs’, by Margo Atherton (CFHS member—Live presentation)***

### Contact us

If you have anything you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Editor, [newsletter@cfhsweb.com](mailto:newsletter@cfhsweb.com) or Secretary [secretary@cfhsweb.com](mailto:secretary@cfhsweb.com).

Website: [www.cfhsweb.com](http://www.cfhsweb.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/calderdalefhs](https://www.facebook.com/calderdalefhs)

## Use of the ‘Forum on Society Website

One of the facilities open to members is the Forum on the Members’ Area of the Society website. We are not sure that members fully appreciate how useful a tool this is for both sharing information or for seeking help from other members.

All you need to do is to go into the Members’ Area of our website and click on the ‘Forum’ option. There you will find all the topics that have been discussed amongst members – there have been 12 subjects where ideas have been exchanged over the last 12 months.

The site is ‘moderated’ so that a Society officer can see what is being discussed and sometimes be able to add content to the entries, to the benefit of everyone.

So, please consider using this as one of your methods of research – you may be amazed at how much other members can help.

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## Genealogist adds 20,000+ obituaries

The Genealogist, a leading resource for online genealogy and family history research, has significantly expanded its historical record collection with the addition of 20,000 obituary records dating back to the 1600s.

[Search Genealogist here](#)