



# Calderdale FHS Newsletter

Issue 06— June 2024

## Project update—Workhouses

The project team are diligently working their way through the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and largest) section of their transcriptions – that of Halifax Gibbet St workhouse. These records cover a period from 1871 to 1918.

The 1<sup>st</sup> 2 sections have now been completed and account for Halifax Ovenden from 1756 to 1838 and Todmorden from 1879 to 1924. These records have now undergone their final checks and have been loaded on to the master database. In the meantime, our commercial partner is carrying out the technical work required to allow us to lodge all the workhouse records on to the Online Database. This work should be completed by mid-June at which time we will start loading the records from Ovenden and Todmorden.

This means that members will be able to access the full data online from around mid-June. In the meantime, if you think that you may have ancestors in either Ovenden or Todmorden workhouses during the timeframes given, contact Susan Lord at [search@cfhsweb.com](mailto:search@cfhsweb.com) and she will look in the master database for you.

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## Government petition on destruction of Wills

You may have read of the proposal by the current government to destroy original wills after a certain length of time, having digitised them. The claim is that £4.5m will be saved.

Unsurprisingly, there has been uproar amongst the Family History fraternity and we, along with many others, have signed a government petition to stop such short-sighted legislation.

The government says that it is committed to debate any subject that receives 10,000 signatures, but, in truth, it is up to the Petitions Committee to decide which items go forward for debate. The calling of a General Election in July has meant that all work on this is suspended and once a new government has been formed a new Petitions Committee will be set up. It is not known when this will be and what, if any, action they will take on this particular petition. Information on this can be found on the [UK Parliament website](#)

Reading this site seems to indicate that, for this to progress, a new petition will need to be set up, although, if this particular petition has already received 10,000 signatures, then the new Petitions Committee may decide to continue with it.

We will give you more news on this as it progresses.

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## Rishworth School in the Great War

A new publication details the backgrounds of the 26 former Rishworth School pupils killed in World War 1. Also included are notable stories of others that served, Gallantry Medal recipients and the history of their longest serving Headmaster Richard Henry Elliot, known to them all, who also lost his son.

This book is available for £30 (plus P&P). Any enquiries, contact [lucyreardon@hotmail.com](mailto:lucyreardon@hotmail.com)



## Help for Society Zoom meetings

As you all know, much of our Society business is now conducted over Zoom software. We know that some members find following the proceedings a little difficult at times, so we are pleased to be able to tell you about a Zoom facility which may help you.

This is the **'Captions' option**, which, effectively, gives you **'sub-titles'** for what is being said. You can switch this on and off at will and it is entirely your choice as to whether or not you use this facility.

Exactly how it works depends on the computer and operating system that you use, but they all work in more or less the same way:

- A button along the menu bar entitled **'Show Captions'**. It is usually to the right of the **'Share Screen' button**. If you click on that button, you will get an option to choose the language, which will default to English. Click on **'Save'** and the Caption Option will be turned on and you will get text at the bottom of your screen of everything that is said. The button will now say **'Hide Captions'** and you can switch off the function simply by clicking on that button.
- If the **'Show Captions'** button is not on your menu bar, click on **'More'** at the right hand end of the Menu Bar (sometimes shown as 3 dots ...) and select the **'Captions' option**, which can then be used as the item above.

We hope that this information will enhance your enjoyment of Society Zoom meetings.

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## Dates for the Diary

**Hybrid meeting—Thursday**  
**27 June 2024 at 7.30 pm**  
**(Repeat 3 July at 9.00 am)**

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

***'Yorkshire's Watermen' by David Scrimgeour***  
***(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](http://www.facebook.com/calderdalefhs)

## New York City historical records collection

MyHeritage has published three essential vital record collections from New York City.

The collections contain a total of 37.4 million records and include a complete index created by MyHeritage alongside beautifully scanned colour images of the original certificates and licences.

These collections are particularly valuable due to the fact that the index contains not only the primary individuals listed in the record, but also secondary individuals (e.g. bride and groom plus parents).

[Search New York City births \(1866-1909\) on MyHeritage](#)

[Search New York City marriages \(1866-1949\) on MyHeritage](#)

[Search New York City deaths \(1866-1948\) on MyHeritage](#)