

# THE SCRIVENER



*The Journal of Calderdale Family History Society  
Incorporating Halifax & District*

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## ***CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY***

*Incorporating HALIFAX and DISTRICT*

Calderdale Family History Society was founded on the 7th March 1985.

### **We aim**

- To encourage interest in, and assist with, research relevant to the study of family history in Halifax and the Calder valley.

### **Our area**

- Covers the modern Calderdale Council established in 1975, which broadly covers the same area as the Ancient Parish of Halifax, with the addition to the west of the township of Todmorden and Walsden.

### **We do this by**

- Holding meetings, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (except December) in Halifax.
- Publishing *The Scrivener*, a quarterly journal, in paper form for full members and on our website for internet members. Contact the Editor.
- Hosting a website [www.cfhsweb.com/web/](http://www.cfhsweb.com/web/), and a members' forum. Contact the Web-master.
- Running a Research Room at Brighouse Library two half days a week for personal research. Contact the Research Room co-ordinator.
- Running projects to transcribe records relevant to members' research. Contact the Projects Co-ordinator.
- Publishing transcribed records. Contact the Publications Officer.
- Providing an enquiry and search service from our records in the Research Room. Contact the Enquiry service Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining a list of members' interests by surname and dates of interest, which are available to members on the website. Each quarter new additions are published in *The Scrivener*. Contact the Members' Interests Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining an index of "Strays" (Calderdale people who appear in records elsewhere). Contact the Strays Co-ordinator.

### **Membership**

- Is open to all family historians who have an interest in the area. Contact the Membership Secretary.
- Annual subscriptions are £10.00 for UK individuals (£12.00 for family membership), £15/ £17 for Overseas
- Internet membership is £5.50/ £7.50 which only provides information such as the journal on the Internet, but not on paper.
- Subscriptions are due on the 1st of the month, on the anniversary of joining the Society (cheques made payable to CFHS.) and should be sent to the Treasurer.
- Overseas payments must be made in sterling, drawn on a bank with a branch in the UK, by Sterling Money Order.
- Membership subscriptions may be paid annually by Standing Order:  
**Account Name** : Calderdale FHS **Bank Sort Code** : 30-93-76 **Acc. No.** 01670491  
**Reference to use** : Memb. No. & Surname. (eg 1234Smith)
- Credit Card payments for subscriptions and purchases of our publications may be made over the Internet via Genfair ([www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)).

### **Contacting the Society**

- All correspondence requiring a reply must be accompanied by a S.A.E. or 2 recent I.R.C.'s [International Reply Coupons]. Contact the Secretary or appropriate officer.
- The names, addresses and email contacts of the Society's officers and co-ordinators appear inside the back cover of *The Scrivener* and on the Society's website.

## **CONTENTS**

### **ARTICLES**

FRONT COVER	4
EDITORIAL	5
FEBRUARY TALK - David Glover - Piety at a Court	6
HELP WANTED - MIDGLEY	10
WHAT WILL THEY THINK?	11
BOOK REVIEW - The Spyglass File	11
MARCH TALK - Duncan Jagger - One Hour with the Ostler	12
IN MEMORIAM	16
POST BAG	
What's in a Name	17
Factory Workers	18
Soil Hill Pottery	19
MAY TALK - Trevor Moody - Yorkshire's Heritage Coast	21
PIONEERS of ESPERANTO in HALIFAX and DISTRICT	29
GRAFFITI is not a NEW THING	32

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

NATIONAL ARCHIVES	33
LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES	33
USEFUL CONTACTS	36
FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS, etc	37
ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX ~ Chapelries & Townships	40

### **CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS**

ABOUT CFHS	2
PROJECTS NEWS	27
NEW MEMBERS INTERESTS ADDRESSES	28
SPRING MEETINGS	34
RESEARCH ROOM DETAILS	35
CFHS OFFICERS	38

PUBLICATION & SERVICES SUPPLEMENT	P1- P4
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## *THE SCRIVENER*

### Publication Dates

**SPRING 2017 (March)**  
**SUMMER 2017 (June)**  
**AUTUMN 2017 (September)**  
**WINTER 2017 (December)**

### Deadline Dates for Copy

**FEBRUARY 13th**  
**MAY 1st**  
**AUGUST 21st**  
**NOVEMBER 13th**

***Please note that, due my other commitments, the copy date for the Summer issue is earlier than previously. Editor.***

### **Data Protection Act**

*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 computer the personal data that you provide us. Furthermore we make this information available to other members for the purposes of following up "Members' Interests".*

*As part of this, those details are posted on our Members' Only website, which, under certain circumstances, can be accessed by non-members. If you either do not want us to hold your details on our computer and/or you do not want your details made available to other members as described above, please contact our Membership Secretary by letter, or email at [membsec@cfhsweb.co.uk](mailto:membsec@cfhsweb.co.uk).*

### **Insurance Exclusions**

*The insurance which we hold for certain activities undertaken by members is limited to cover for members under 75 years of age. Consequently, any member over 75 who is concerned about taking part in specific Society activities should contact the Secretary for clarification.*

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### **FRONT COVER**

There has been a great deal of interest in the Soil Hill Pottery, following Peter Strong's article in the June 2016 issue.

This photo of Isaac Button, its last owner, was sent by Michael Jackson. See page 19 later in this issue.

## *Editorial*

My word!, what a lot of interest in the Soil Hill Pottery!

Thanks to all who have sent memories of this, and on any other subject. As always, I welcome all your contributions, large or small.

Writing seems to be a theme in this edition - Esperanto, Graffiti, see pages 29 and 32. Old handwriting can be a problem for us, especially those of us who are used to reading things on computer screens. Have you looked at any old printed books, or newspapers, recently? Like the ones you used to read in the 50's. They seem to be a lot less clear than modern books, where we have lots of different fonts, and printing is done by computer with "wysiswyg" - what you see is what you get. We don't have to rely on type setting and printers' ink any more! One drawback however, is the inappropriate use of colour. How many magazines do you read where you can't, because they have printed it in light blue on grey? Cookery books are my particular bugbear. They persist in printing the page numbers in pale grey, or leaving some out altogether! Bring back Mrs. Beeton! Of course the CFHS transcription team decipher the old records for you, and convert them into electronic form, which not only means you can search them easily, but you don't have to strain your eyes over antique handwriting on old documents.

So how will **we** leave **our** records for **our** posterity? We all know to write names and dates on the backs of photographs. But handwriting or computer printout? If we store our research on a computer, can we be sure that our descendants will have the technology to read it? If it's stored in the "cloud" the providers of the sites should keep access methods up to date with technology; but will they? I reckon printed photos and records are best - then we can write on the back, or in the margins, and print should be easier to read than handwriting, albeit less personal. And coming back to graffiti, I rather like the Victorian idea of recording births, marriages and deaths in the family bible. Of course, you could just chuck everything in a shoe box (or a cabin trunk?) and leave the children to sort it out themselves, and hope they won't just take it all to the recycling depot!

People seem to put everything on Facebook these days, so will our children just get onto our Facebook page, and not have to do any research at all?

You will notice that this issue is a bit thin. I don't think there are fewer articles - just that they are mostly short ones. Never mind, keep them coming! It still needs YOUR contributions.

**editor@cfhsweb.com**

**February Talk - Piety at a Court**  
**by David Glover**

I was fortunate to research my family history before I was 30, which meant that some of my older relatives were still alive. I am the child of older parents and grandparents, and was fortunate enough to meet my dad's cousin, Joyce Glover in 1987, living in Weston Super Mare, where her family had lived for the past 100 years or so. She had a great deal of family knowledge and passed on many wonderful family photos and stories to me. My mother is still alive and almost 98, and with a wider variety of ancestors, or so I discovered, when I researched her side of my family tree. Her grandmother was Swiss, with also Lancashire Quakers, Herefordshire gentry, Catholics from Elizabethan times, Anglo Irish lines and a slave ship captain who worked out of Bristol, all there in that side of her family. Her last known Yorkshire ancestor was a Betty Slack, born and baptised in Bingley in 1756. She married a Burnley cotton trader at Kilrick, and then a William Roberts at Craven in 1779, whose family rented rooms at the Halifax Piece Hall in the 1780's.

This talk today concerns a line on my dad's side which is quite an unusual tale. Many of his ancestral families were very ordinary and mainly connected to the wool trade in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Both my mother and father were born in Worcester, and I was born and brought up in NW London. My dad's parents were Cecil (1879 – 1944) and Eleanor Glover who married in 1912, my father being born in 1918. My grandfather Cecil almost died of the Spanish 'flu, which raged towards the end of the Great War, just before his son was born. Cecil's mother Jane Glover, formerly Jane Page, was cousin to Sir Frederick Camden Page the pioneer aeronaut, whose family my father knew well, and who lived at Cheltenham. Cecil Glover (my grandfather) was a house furnisher and the family were living at Weston Super Mare in Somerset at that time.

Jane (nee Page) married John Glover a draper by trade, in 1867 in Marlborough, Wiltshire. These were my great grandparents. John was born in British Guyana near Georgetown in the Demerara region of S. America in 1842, and left some of his family there and travelled to England in his early twenties to settle here. So possibly I have relatives out there now, but I haven't been able to check. My grandfather Cecil was born at Marlborough in 1869 and was their youngest child. The family moved to Weston super Mare during the 1880's and my great grandfather John Glover, after a long illness, died in 1891. The anecdote my father told about him was, that when visiting him as a child of 12, and shortly before he died, his grandfather said to him - 'I'm taking all this medicine and when you see my beard and whiskers turning blue, you'll know it's doing me good'. Unfortunately he died soon after, but Jane his widow lived until 1909 when she was 63. She died in Weston super Mare.

When I met Joyce Glover, my dad's cousin in 1987, she was living in Weston super Mare, where she had lived all her life, and was about 80 years old at this time. When she died in 2006 she was almost a 100. As I said before, Joyce supplied me with a lot of family information and photos, and now put me in touch with my grandfather's last surviving cousin, Norma Vauxhall. My great grandmother Jane Glover (formerly Page) had been born in 1846, and had two younger sisters – Annie, and also Minnie who was born in 1864. Norma was Minnie's daughter, and as Minnie married much later in her life, she was having her children around the same time as her own nieces and nephews were raising their families. Sisters Jane and Minnie were a generation apart in their dates of birth. Norma, whose maiden name was Salisbury, was now an old lady living in Devon when I met her in 1989. She died the following year. Most significant to her when she was young, was her aunt Annie Page, who was quite a matriarch and as she had never married, went round the family helping out with the children of her brothers and sisters. She actually kept house for my grandfather, just after he left home and before he got married. That was a long time before my father was born, and she died just after he was born. My dad never knew some of the stories which came to me from his cousins later on. Both Norma and Joyce had known Annie well when they were young and she had told them a fascinating tale. She had lived on until 1920, when both girls were around 13 or 14 years old.

So the story related to a family descent from nobility, which had been told to Annie directly by her grandmother, whose father had been a VIP. Jane Page's parents (also Annie and Minnie's) were Arthur and Annie Goddard Page (nee Phelps). The family were in the drapery trade and lived in Marlborough, Wilts. All these early members of my family and right down to my parents were, until recently, connected to the Plymouth Brethren. Arthur Page had health problems, probably consumption as a young man, and was sent to stay with an aunt in the Isle of Wight in 1840. While there, he and Annie wrote love letters to one another, and in order to save money, they kept the weight and cost of their postage down by writing the letters from left to right and top to bottom. This made them quite difficult to read with the criss cross effect. (Here the speaker showed us slides of these unusual letters given to him by Norma or Joyce, and which were confusing to see).

The first postage stamps, penny blacks, were issued around 1840 and were probably used on the letters. In the 1920's, my great great uncle Percy was having financial difficulties, and with his brother supporting him at the time, was looking for something to sell, and so, had cut the stamps from the letters and sold them.

Arthur Page's mother was born Charlotte Delbridge in London in 1787. I traced her marriage to Arthur's father in Marlborough, but knew no more than that. In the census, she was shown as being born in London, with no parents or brothers and sisters names being shown. Charlotte had told Norma (her

granddaughter) that her mother had been a maid and employed by the Duke of Beaufort at his London home. I went to see the archivist at Badminton House in Gloucestershire in order to discover where this house in London could be. The answer came back that the house had been in Grosvenor Square, the home of the Dukes of Beaufort. The location of the house led me to the church records of St George's Church at Hanover Square. I found the baptism in the right year and declaring Charlotte to be the daughter of Robert and Margaret Delbridge, at her baptism on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1787. So far as I could gather, her mother had been unmarried and a fictitious father's name was shown in the church records there. The following year Charlotte's mother was married off to William Besant, a middle-aged merchant from Reading Berkshire, and she was described as a spinster on their marriage licence. Mr and Mrs Wm Besant settled down in Marlborough Wilts, along with Mrs Besant's illegitimate daughter, who kept her maiden name of Delbridge. I have not revealed who Charlotte's father was, but this information was well known to Charlotte, as an allowance had been granted to her mother in the 1790's by the second Duke of Northumberland, Hugh Percy. This allowance was confirmed in the entries of the accounts at Alnwick Castle and photos of Hugh Percy and Charlotte show a definite resemblance, both having the same Roman nose. If I'd had any doubts, I think seeing the pictures make me 97% certain of the story – Hugh Percy being what BBC's 'Who do you think you are' would call a gateway ancestor. In 1806, Charlotte married John Page, who was old enough to be her father. Charlotte and John were married at St Peter's church in Marlborough, with her stepfather and mother signing their consent to the marriage, as she was only 19. John Page was shown to be a 'fine cabinet maker'. The couple went on to have a large family, my great grandfather Arthur Page, was their fifth son. Their eldest son was John Page also, and Charlotte now made application to her father - the Duke, for help with the education of her children. The Dukes of Northumberland could recommend children to be educated at certain places of education, in this case to Christ's Hospital School in London. One of their sons Henry, who was a bit older than Arthur, was the direct ancestor of Handley Page the aeronaut. When John Page died intestate in 1842, letters of administration were granted to Charlotte and one of the witnesses was Charles Awdry, a close relative of the creator of the Thomas the Tank Engine books, the Reverend Wilbert Awdry.

Now the life of Hugh Percy, who became the second Duke of Northumberland, as he was the eldest son of the first Duke. He held a command in the British army during the American War of Independence and had led the column which rescued the force sent out to Lexington to try and suppress the rebellious colonists in 1775. Whilst in America he became a close friend of Joseph Grant, who was a Mohawk chief who fought for the British. They became blood brothers and Percy was given a Mohawk name meaning 'a house that never dies'. Both men were painted by the American artist, Gilbert Stuart at different times, and in 1803 after the Treaty of Amiens, the duke sent the artist across the Channel to paint Napoleon, at a time of peace. As a young man, he ex-



changed mistresses with Giacomo Casanova, but in 1764 he married Lady Anne Stewart, the daughter of the Earl of Butte who was a favourite of George III. They were not happily married and the London newspapers and magazines were full of both their affairs, resulting in a very public divorce in 1779, citing her adultery with William Bird of Cambridge. They had no children in the marriage but, as her husband was heir to one of the wealthiest families in England, if she had had a child, it is unlikely it would have been acknowledged as his. The divorce came before the House of Lords and would have cost a fortune for an ordinary person, but this was the only way of obtaining a divorce then. She was divorced for infidelity, but her husband could never have claimed to be faithful. She moved to New York, where she married a German born American citizen, but that marriage didn't work out and she finally ended up in South Carolina. The Duke married again but his legitimate descendants of the marriage died out, but not his illegitimate ones.

Going back a generation were the parents of the second duke – Lady Elizabeth Seymour and Sir Hugh Smithson, who married in 1740. When her brother died young at 18, Elizabeth became heiress to her father and grandfather's estates. Her father was made 7th Duke of Somerset and in 1749 her husband adopted her family name of Percy and was made Earl of Northumberland, now owning Alnwick Castle and Zion House – all titles which should have been his wife's and not his. Lady Elizabeth became lady in waiting to the new Queen Charlotte (wife of George III), and attended the marriage of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette at Versailles in 1770. She died on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1776, as had been predicted when she was young. Sir Hugh Smithson, was now the Duke of Northumberland and had been born in a house in Northallerton, on the site of what is now the Barclay's department store. There is a plaque there now to commemorate this, but he had a quite insignificant start in life. His advancement in life had happened through his wife's connections and not his. The duke died 10 years later in 1786. He had fathered an illegitimate son, who eventually adopted his father's name of Smithson (not Percy). It was James Smithson – born in France, died in Italy, who had lived sometime in England, but never went to America, who left a large legacy, some of which went to the American people, who used it to build the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, founded in his name.

Lady Elizabeth Seymour had been born in 1716. Her parents were Algernon, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Somerset and Frances Thynne of Longleat, and as Algernon lived until 1748 when he was 86 as the Duke of Somerset, his son and his wife were known as the Earl and Lady Hertford. Frances Thynne was born at Longleat in 1699 and was partly educated by Bishop Ken, who wrote many hymns including 'Awake my soul and with the sun'. He was one of seven bishops imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1688 by Catholic James II, who had now fled to France. When William and Mary were received as king and queen, the seven bishops would not pay homage to these Protestant monarchs, as they had done so to James, even though they didn't want James as king. The

bishops were no longer employable as bishops, as a result, as they were not paying their allegiance to the rulers and Bishop Ken was offered a home at Longleat by the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount, where he lived until his death in 1711. Meanwhile Algernon and Frances lived mostly at Marlborough Castle, a manor house built by his father, which survives now as part of Marlborough College, and during a happy marriage they had two children. In public life, Frances became a Lady in waiting to Caroline of Ansbach, the queen of George II, and showed great interest in landscape gardening and the arts, throughout her life. During the 1730's, the family spent a lot of time at Alnwick castle, which the family had not been able to use, after the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland had been imprisoned in the Tower after being implicated in the Gun Powder Plot, many years beforehand. Frances had much sorrow in her life, with much doubt and questioning of her religious beliefs. This brought her into contact with Isaac Watts, a nonconformist minister, she herself being a member of the high Anglican Church. They however shared a very close spiritual friendship. After the death of Caroline of Ansbach in 1737, she retired more and more to the countryside, leaving public life behind.

(During his talk, the speaker showed many family photos and memorabilia from his meetings with Joyce and Norma, as spoken about before. These photos were exceptionally good, made even better by the fact that he had noted down whom the relatives shown on them were, and when they were taken. This was priceless information given by the two ladies, who knew these relatives personally. This illuminated the whole talk).

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#### **HELP WANTED - MIDGLEY**

We have received a request from someone working on a Great War project in Perth, who wants to trace anyone connected with Albert and Arthur Midgely who died in the first World War.

"The family were originally from Yorkshire, and I think the father, Frederick, may have been born in Todmorden (although some of the records say that it was in Lancashire at that time). They moved to Perth, where Frederick, was the organist and choirmaster at St. John's Kirk, as well as teaching music. The mother died in 1921, and the father died in 1932, and they are both buried in Perth, along with their son Ernest, who died in hospital just before the start of the Great War. Albert and Arthur were killed in action, which leaves their sisters Nellie and Gladys Olga. I believe that Nellie died at Tehidy Hospital, Camborne, Cornwall, in 1983; and Gladys died in Mount Hawke, Truro, Cornwall, in 1958."

I have more information. If this rings a bell with you please contact me.  
**editor@cfhsweb.com**

**What Will They Think?  
by Jeannie Allergist**

What will **our** descendants think  
A hundred years from now?  
Will **they** be interested in **us**  
And when **we** lived, and how?

Will they read the articles  
That we're all busy writing?  
Will they be grateful for our work  
And find it quite exciting?

Will they browse through dusty tomes -  
Which can be lots of fun?  
Or will they surf the internet  
And find it's all been done!?

Or will some yet unknown device  
Provide an open book;  
A virtual reality  
They'll just walk in and look!?



**The Spyglass File - Book Review.**

Elsie's baby, born during WW 2, is given up for adoption. But who was the father, and where is that child in 2016?  
If your ancestors were in the RAF, this novel might just give you some clues about finding them.

**[www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)**

**March Talk - One Hour with the Ostler**  
**An amusing tale by Duncan Jagger.**

Horses are Duncan's passion and he has felt very fortunate to have made his living out of working with them. At our March meeting he shared many amusing and interesting anecdotes about his life as an Ostler. From a very early age, Duncan had wanted to be with horses, even though they had been replaced by cars as the main mode of transport. Duncan's grandfather and great grandfather had been employed as blacksmiths and wheelwrights and they had worked with horses. About the time Duncan left school, he told the careers officer that he wanted to be a farmer, but as his family ran a garage, Duncan worked at the garage for many years as a mechanic for seven days a week and 366 days a year. He always had dirty hands as no rubber gloves were worn in those days.

Duncan's parents eventually sold the garage and bought a milk round. When Duncan had time off from work he used to go to a horse sale in Mansfield. He met a friend who was called Ginger, even though he no longer had ginger hair. Ginger was leading a small pony on a piece of string, like a dog. Duncan asked Ginger how much the little pony would cost. It was twenty quid and as Duncan only had nineteen in his pocket, he owed Ginger one pound. Duncan had no way of getting this pony home and nowhere to keep it when it arrived there, and no food for it.

Duncan arranged for the pony to be transported home. He made use of his contacts with large gardens or allotments and was able to keep the pony by moving it around to these different places. It was three weeks later when Duncan managed to get around to telling his wife about the pony. As he came out of the kitchen he said, *'Oh, I have bought a horse, love.'* *'You've done what! What have you done that for?'* *'Well it was only cheap.'* and that's how the story started. Duncan sold the pony and bought a bigger one. He then bought a cart, a harness and a saddle, a load of carriages and a load of horses and he now works with horses for a living.

One day when Duncan was on his milk round, a thought suddenly popped into his head that he could make a living by hiring out his pony and trap. Two weeks earlier he had bought a Welsh cob and an elegant trap, built in 1884 at Crown Point in Leeds. Coincidentally, that same morning when Duncan returned home from his milk round and was filling in his delivery book, he had a phone call from the manager of Elland Co-op saying that they would like to do something different at Christmas time and deliver Santa Claus to the Co-op in a pony and trap.

The date, time and price were agreed and Duncan cleaned the trap and loaded it onto his wagon for his journey to Elland. He was getting everything ready when a very rotund fella wearing a red suit, with a big white beard came

down the street and said he was Santa Claus. The plan was that they would join the rest of the procession, which would include a band. Horses and bands do not normally go together but they went down the road to the sound of the music. Santa was delivered to the Co-op. Duncan was paid and he went home the happiest man in the world, thinking that this was the way he should be working with horses on a commercial basis.

Three or four years later Mr Smith, who used to be in the Elland Co-op, phoned Duncan to ask if he still hired out his pony and trap. With only three days notice, Duncan was asked if he could take part in a Santa Claus procession on the following Saturday. He agreed, but he had no horses as a week earlier there had been tragic accident when two of his horses had been run into by a motor car at a wedding.

A friend of Duncan's had told him of a pair of horses advertised for sale in the 'Yorkshire Post'. Duncan phoned to enquire about the horses and was told that they were black and that they were in Sheffield. He went to see the horses which were on the Penistone Road. He was told that they had worked commercially at Beamish and the reason for selling them was that they were wanted out of the way. The horses were on a steep hill, bigger than expected and were a bit tired and weary, but Duncan bought them and took them home to his stables.

As Duncan hadn't driven these horses before, he asked his groom to help him. The plan was to put them into the carriage and drive them from Wyke to Brighouse, by which time they would be working as a team. The groom looked very smart in her small topper, black coat, white shirt and jodhpurs and black boots. As the horses pulled up at the traffic lights, the horses stood to attention. The road near Brighouse was crowded with people. They approached Armitage Road where the parade was starting from. The horses looked grand as they stood to attention. The Marshall asked if the horses would be all right with the distractions of a band, majorettes, a professional kazoo band, walkers on stilts and two old cars, which were likely to pop and bang a bit.

A land rover pulling a huge caravan pulled by in behind the horses. It was Pennine Radios first commercial engagement and there were huge speakers on each corner of the caravan. Santa Claus had one or two helpers to throw sweets to the crowd. The procession disappeared out of sight and Pennine Radio increased the volume on their speakers. One of the horses reared up and started kicking the front of the carriage. The other threw itself on to the floor. Santa Claus was in the back with the elves. Almost two hours later the horse and cart was still in Armitage Road, which was like the Marie Celeste, as the procession and spectators had gone. The groom's white shirt and trousers were black from the sweat of the horse. Eventually the horses set off together towards the actions. Santa was delivered in a Morris 1100 and Duncan never did get paid for this job!

When the museum of the working horse was about to be opened in Halifax Duncan dressed himself up and went to persuade the organisers that they needed a pair of carriage horses in the museum yard. Duncan sold his milk round and was thrilled to be offered the position of running the stable at the museum and organising carriage rides. He had found the job of his dreams as coachman working with his carriage horses, shire horses, a donkey and two ponies.

Duncan was told that the museum had been given a contract for their horses to pull barges at Hebden Bridge. Although Duncan had experience of driving single teams of horses and a tandem six in hand, he had never pulled a barge with a horse. Duke was chosen for this task, a little horse with a reputation for travelling at one hundred miles an hour. It was decided that the best way to manage this task was to drive Duke with long reins from behind. A practice run was arranged without the barge, with the horse speeding up and down the canal tow path and negotiating the narrow path under the bridge.

At the occasion of the opening of the Calderdale Way, it was arranged for the Mayor to travel this route in different conveyances including an open top coach, and old car and a canal barge pulled by Duke, from the working horse museum. Duncan's friend Brian was going to be the first worker of a horse drawn canal barge for almost fifty years. He looked very smart, dressed in his Grandad shirt and waistcoat, with brown leggings, polished boots and a bowler hat. Incidental music was played by bands, playing the same song but not necessarily at the same time.

The Mayor told Brian that he was looking forward to this event which was to be the highlight of the day. The barge was 67 foot long and with the passengers, it weighed 22 tonnes. This was a new experience for Duke who was told to 'walk on'. Duke attempted to start off at his normal pace, pulled hard as he could as the rope tightened and he sank to the ground. The barge moved, the harness jumped up and down, caught Brian and knocked him into the canal. Brian surfaced with a supermarket trolley on his head and as he climbed out of the canal water, he poured the water out of his wellies.

A young lad caught hold of the rope and whipped it around a bollard, which caused the barge to come to a juddering halt. The Mayor spilt tea over his wife's new dress, and their sandwich tea landed on the floor. The tightened rope catapulted Duke backwards into the water. He surfaced, panicked and swam to the other side of the canal. As there was no bridge across the canal at this point, Brian jumped into the canal and swam across to get hold of the horse and drag it back to the other side. Duncan thought this would be the end of this work but it continued for another three years.

Another opportunity arose when a retired farmer requested in his will that he

wanted to make his last journey in a farm cart pulled by a farm horse. Duncan had a new Clydesdale cross horse, called Colonel who was used to wearing a harness. As Duncan did not have a farm cart, he used a large old LMS (London, Midland and Scottish railway) dray they had in the yard. It had a big high seat at the front looking down onto the horse.

Duncan took the horse and 16 foot dray to Dewsbury with a black cloth under his arm. He covered the floor of the dray in the black cloth, gathered it down the sides and stapled it down. The coffin was screwed down in the middle of the dray which was filled with flowers. The horse was in his Sunday best wearing his horse brasses and black silk tied around the bells to silence them. Duncan wore a black bowler hat and a black arm band. He placed a black trailing ribbon at the top of the whip.

This unusual procession went through the town, bringing it to a standstill. Duncan was accompanied by a young Scottish lad called Joe, who walked by the side of the funeral dray. The hill out of Dewsbury got steeper and steeper and the horse was unable to pull the dray in a straight line. The horse stopped within twenty yards of the top of the hill and was unable to go any further. Duncan asked Joe to help to push the cart from the back. They feared they were going to be late. At that point, the doors of the funeral limo in front of them opened. Three of the farmer's beautifully dressed daughters got out to ask if Duncan was all right as they could see that the horse was tiring. Duncan told them he was just giving the horse a breather. The strong farmer's daughters helped to push the dray up the hill. They pushed so hard it never tightened the harness going up the hill.

The girls personally thanked Duncan and then sent him a letter of thanks for their father's 'super send off' on his last journey. They said the horse had been decorated just as their father would have wished. They felt that if their father had been living, he would have sat up and laughed and laughed to have seen his daughters helping to push the cart up the latter stages of the hill in order to get to the crematorium on time.

People advise never to work with horses, animals and children. Duncan said he has worked with all three and has thoroughly enjoyed it. Duncan now does funerals for a living. His final story was about a funeral in Liverpool. Whilst Duncan was getting changed into his clothes for the funeral, the two white Hungarian horses were harnessed and galloped off at full speed through the cemetery. Duncan chased after them, without his trousers, and managed to find the horses and took them back to the carriage, much to the amusement of the onlookers. Duncan is reminded of this event whenever he sees the undertakers who witnessed this event, as they teasingly ask him if his trousers still fit!



Stainland Independent Graveyard

**In Memoriam  
by Ann Cestor**

Tread softly in the graveyard -  
For **we** are lying there.  
So read our 'In Memoriam',  
And breathe a silent prayer.



## POST BAG



### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dear Frances,

In your article "What's in a Name?" in the Autumn 2016 Scrivener, you ask about the origin of the name Gaukroger.

I have certainly heard the name Gaukroger. I believe it is a Yorkshire name, specifically from the Halifax area. In fact, I have a Gaukroger in my family tree; a Percy Gaukroger married Fanny Young (b. 1877) who was my 1st cousin twice removed (her grandfather John Guest was my great-great-grandfather). So as you can see the relationship is a bit remote. I don't know any more about Percy Gaukroger.

I understood that the "Gauk-" bit derived from the French *gauche*, meaning "left." So Gaukroger can be a personal descriptive name meaning "left handed Roger." Alternatively, French *gauche* also gives us the English words "gauche" or "gawky" meaning clumsy - probably from a non-politically-correct view that left-handed people are clumsy. So Gaukroger could mean "clumsy Roger."

Thinking about surnames more generally, I have been listening to "A History of English Podcast" which is a fascinating review of how English has developed and the historical events that shaped it (you can Google it). It seems surnames developed some time after the Norman Conquest. Up till then, people had good old Anglo-Saxon names like Ethelred or Aethelstan, and there were lots of different names so there was little confusion. But in about the 1200s, there was a fashion for adopting Norman French names, and there were not all that many to go round, maybe a hundred or so. At one time, there were 140 knights called William at court! So it became a habit to add a descriptive name - either a description of a place, or of a person, or their occupation, or who they were related to.

You can imagine a conversation something like this:

**William:** "I saw John the other day."

**Henry:** "What, you mean John, Tom's son?"

**William:** "No, I mean John the Baker."

**Henry:** "Oh, I know him, He's a friend of Roger."

**William:** "You mean Roger who lives in the Wood?"

**Henry:** "No, I mean Gawky (left-handed) Roger."

Hope this is of some interest.

David Walmsley  
Wokingham, Berks.



#### FACTORY WORKERS.

Listen—we still have songs to sing,  
Soft songs, wild whirring wheels would drown.  
Shadowed by vast machines that frown,  
Uncowed our quiet songs we sing;  
Half-heard our thrill of music bring.  
One palid primrose in a jar—  
Thoughts of the bluebell-misted ground  
Dewed—though the dark walls make too far,  
Muffles a space their battering sound.  
Palely we see the sunlight still  
Rainbow spilled oil, and set the dust to dance;  
Unseen, we know the daffodil  
Laughs at the Spring-we-feel-not's glance.

Thought inward turned makes turning—turning—  
Wheels ever-turning—rhythmic dance.  
Rhythm scarce noted, so well known.  
Rhyme of our songs, their dance.

Sooted panes on smoky mart,  
Birdless, greenless, play no part  
To hurt a laughter in the heart.

And our mirth is absolute—  
Soulless, these machines, and mute.  
One dull rhyme is all they bring,  
While we've a million songs to sing.

Ethel Walter  
(First published in Bradford 1938)  
Contributed by her daughter, Frances Stubbs.

### **More about Soil Hill Pottery**

Dear Mrs Stubbs,

I have recently joined your society as although I now live in Northumberland my family originate from Halifax and I am hugely interested in all aspects of my family history.

I have seen the recent article and comments about Soil Hill Pottery and Isaac Button. My father Lewis Jackson and Isaac were "best friends" and went to school together at Bradshaw. I worked in the pottery for Isaac in my Easter and summer holidays for about 3 years in the 1950's and knew Isaac well – he was a very kindly gentle man.

I also attach 3 photographs of Isaac. The top one (see the cover picture) has "Isaac Button" in my father's writing on the back – I am guessing taken in his early 20's so would be about 1925 as he and my father were born in 1903. The other 2 photographs were taken by me about 25 years ago from an exhibition in the Cliff Museum in Keighley. I recall that there was a quite extensive display showing all aspects of work at Soil Hill – I don't know if it is still there.

I see on the front cover you are still using your bowls which you say came from Bradford. It may be the case that the bowls were made by Isaac as I recall him telling me that in the 1920's he moved temporarily to a pottery in Thornton as there were too many family members for the 6 wheels at Soil Hill. He used to tell me stories about the potters racing to see who could make the most plant pots or jugs in an hour and my father told me that Isaac usually won! I have several bowls and jugs from Soil Hill, including 2 puzzle jugs.



Lastly, I note the comment on Page 32 by K Marsden about Alan Margerison. I also remember him and his firewood business (he had a very attractive daughter!). On one occasion Isaac left Alan in charge of firing the kiln as he was away overnight at a funeral and Alan overheated the kiln and burned some of the pots. Isaac was not at all cross about that – as was his placid nature. Alan used to dip his kindling wood in naphtha which is of course highly flammable and eventually some wood caught fire and the whole building was burned down!

I hope I have not bored you with my reminiscing – I have nothing but the happiest of memories staying with my grandparents at Ogden and working at the pottery. I would be very happy to write a further article if you wish as I know there is still a great deal of interest in Soil Hill which is something of an icon in pottery circles.

With kind regards,

Mike Jackson



**May Talk - Yorkshire's Heritage Coast**  
**By Trevor Moody**

When I started these talks I called it the Yorkshire Heritage Coast but, strictly speaking, it's the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage coast. This went right up to the Durham area, and Cleveland was part of North Yorkshire. The Yorkshire coast has lots of fossils, the most recent find was a 10 million year old Plesiosaur in 2001 at Filey. The Cleveland Way follows the Heritage coast for about 40 miles starting off at Filey and ending up at Saltburn in the north.

In 1940 there was still an extensive fishing fleet, although the herring schools were dying out. To make ends meet seamen used to give boat rides to people. To get them to the boats they wheeled them out in carts, and helped them on and off. Butlins holiday camp started just before the war and eventually closed down and the remains of it are now being preserved as a heritage site.

At the southern end of the heritage coast there is a long finger of land known as Filey Brigg. In fact the Brigg is the exposed rock at the end, and the whole thing is called Carr Naze.

The Cleveland Way starts on the landward end of Carr Naze. It's also the finishing point of the Wolds Way. Looking at Carr Naze, you will see brown boulder clay, which was sitting on the sea bed millions of years ago. This exists along the East coast from Norfolk all the way up to North Yorkshire. It's the main reason for so much erosion on this coast.

The Brigg is the rocky bit on the end. As the boulder clay is eroded it exposes rock which is generally limestone. There is a very popular walk along the top or on the bottom. The quickest way is to go along the sand, there is lots of rock pooling for kids to enjoy. It can be dangerous though because the tide doesn't come straight in, it comes in at an angle. For anyone who doesn't know which way the tide is coming in, it's quite possible it will come in behind them. The north side of the Brigg is very rocky and the cliffs are much higher. Many years ago back to 1890 a lot of rock was exposed but a lot of that has now gone. It leaves a very good place for the fishermen because when the tide comes in and out the cod comes very close in to feed.

Coming up towards Scarborough is Cayton Bay. The bay is unique and has a very popular surfing community. It is the only bay in the country where a surfer can get on a wave from the right hand side of the bay and, if he is clever, stay on it until he gets to the other side. In October people come from all over the country for a competition to see who can get the furthest.

At the other side of the bay are folds of vegetation. The reason they are in folds is because it is sitting on boulder clay which soaks up water like a

sponge then slides like jelly, with drastic results. Back in 1974 the Nalco Holiday Camp closed. The lovely bungalows that were at least a ¼ of a mile from the cliffs were slipping. The council decided it was too dangerous to live there and sent bulldozers in to demolish them. The people who owned the bungalows had to pay for it.

Scarborough was the first Spa town on the coast. Elizabeth Farrow discovered a sulphuric water spring which was widely believed to have healing powers. This caused a massive invasion over a period of years to take the waters and bathe in the sea, as doctors were also saying that salt water cured gout. So in mid 1800 Scarborough was the centre of high society for three months of the year. By 1859 a promenade had been built, and down below a saloon to be able to take the water. The saloon is closed but there is still an outlet for the spring halfway down the steps to the beach.

The original Spa building dates back to 1700-1879, and it had to be replaced several times. It was built too close to the sea, and was poorly designed. Even today it is in danger because the soil behind it is starting to slide.

In 1993 there was a severe case of boulder clay turning to blancmange, when the Holbeck Hall Hotel slipped down the cliff. It went quickly bit by bit, and as the clay slipped away it took chunks of the house with it. At the end of it a huge amount of clay had slipped into the sea. The local council have landscaped it now.

Looking over the South Bay towards the Marine Drive is where the sea bathing pool was. The changing rooms were actually built into the cliffs. It declined and was eventually filled in, and is now a star chart.

Nearby is a house built by a shipping magnate, who did not like the idea of walking to his private gardens across the promenade amongst the plebs. He had a tunnel built under the promenade, which is still there. There are skylights built into the road that light the tunnel underneath.

On Castle Cliff there was a Roman Signal station. They had a whole series of these on the North Yorkshire coast as warning stations for Viking invasions. In the space of a couple of hours they could get a signal back to York to let them know the Vikings were coming.

The castle is looked after by English Heritage and a lot of work was done a few years ago to strengthen the keep. The entrance is through the barbican gateway. The barbican was actually a fortification, and if any enemy got inside there they got bombarded from above. Below the castle is the parish church of St Marys where Anne Bronte is buried.

After many problems the two bays at Scarborough were finally joined by the Marine Drive, which was finished and opened 1908. By 2002 it was decided that the Marine Drive was being worn away with constant battering by the sea, it was becoming dangerous and needed repairing. It had lasted well over 100 years which is surprising for Victorian promenades as they didn't put the foundations deep down to stop the sea undercutting. They went down 30 ft with the piles to stop the waves undercutting. They got Norwegian granite underneath some concrete blocks which were designed to break up the waves.

At one time Scarborough had a pier which was built on the North Side. It suffered severe damage and only lasted 10 years.

Scarborough had bathing huts on wheels which allowed the ladies to get into the water without showing anything more than their faces, at that time they weren't even allowed to show an ankle. The men in the meantime could leap in and out of the sea naked. Later around the 1930's there were little tents which could be hired, and the men had to stay clothed.

In 1914 war was declared. The Germans believed that the way to shorten the war was to terrify the British public. On the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1914 the German fleet came up the East coast and when they got to Scarborough they just sent off broadsides. They did a lot of damage and 81 people died in the bombardment causing a huge outcry. The battleships then carried on up the coast, inflicting damage at Whitby and Hartlepool too.

The Rotunda was built in 1829 because geology was very popular. It was considered to be the first dedicated museum for geology to showcase William Smith's work. The Rotunda has been extended and has some wonderful displays. It has a lot of information about George Cayley, Father of Aeronautics. He was a local man and the first person to put a man in a flying machine and fly it successfully. Before even the Wright Brothers.

Behind the Rotunda is the Grand Hotel. It is built on the site of Woods lodging house, where Ann Bronte was staying when she died. At the time it was built it was the largest hotel in Europe. Designed in a V shape to honour Queen Victoria, it was built with 12 floors, 52 chimneys and 365 rooms.

The bridge now known as Valley Bridge was built in 1826. This is when the seasons had started and the well to do people wanted to live on the slightly more elegant south side but didn't like going down into the valley to get to the town. Hence the reason why the bridge was built.

Peasholm Park is a very popular pleasure gardens. It forms part of the Manor of Northstead, one of two places that an M.P. can apply for the stewardship of if he wishes to leave Parliament.

Hayburn Wyke a delightful little nature reserve. You can park next to the Hayburn Wyke Hotel and have a very pleasant walk down to the beck running right down to the sea. There are usually a couple of waterfalls if it has been raining. When you get down to the beach there are some curious stones including some volcanic rock, which is not local. It came across in the ice age when the ice floes went from Cumbria to the North Sea here bringing with them these stones that are on the beach today. From here steps go up and up to 600ft above sea level. There are some spectacular views.

The highest point is at Ravenscar, originally called Peak. Today there is the old Alum Bridge and the old Alum quarries, Raven Hall hotel and the village. In 1842 a London business man William Holland bought these alum works as alum was still a viable business, but by the 1860's new processes and dyes had been discovered and the Alum works closed. In 1845 William Hammond took over Peak Hall from the Willis family. Dr. Willis became wealthy through treating King George the 3rd, and other Royals throughout Europe.

William Hammond became a local benefactor, and was prominent in bringing the railway to Ravenscar as a director for the Scarborough and Whitby Railway Company. However, he insisted that as the railway passed his estate it went under a tunnel, which cost an extra £500 to dig out. The line has some of the most severe gradients in the country. When it first opened, the Mayor, Councillors and local Dignitaries went up the line to Whitby and back again. On the journey back the engine couldn't get up the incline so another engine was called for to come and help pull the train. Sadly Mr Hammond died three months before the line opened.

Four business men formed the Peak Estate Company and bought the village of Peak from Mr Hammond's daughters. They believed they could build a holiday resort to rival Scarborough and Whitby. They laid out roads and drains for 1,500 houses and the name Peak was changed to Ravenscar. These businessmen produced a wonderful plan of all the houses they were going to build and invited people from all over the north to come. They got Whittaker's brick works from Leeds to come and build a brick works to supply bricks for the houses. They built a show house, flats and a little restaurant to entertain the people who came to the site and hopefully buy. The show house is still there, it is called the Old Cliff House Hotel. It is built on a mile long esplanade which looks out over the sea. They put out posters all over the north of England showing a rather golden beach. They built steps from the top to the bottom, to impress the people that came to see the houses. Around 1911 the company was declared bankrupt, and Ravenscar became the town that never was.

This part of the coast is where it changes from sand stone which the hotel was built on, and northwards onwards it is shale which is where you get the fossils.



Near the Abbey overlooking Whitby there is the lovely little church of St Mary's. It still has the original box pews, and a lot of the old Victorian look about it, it hasn't changed much over the years. This too is in danger; two years ago there was a land slip which exposed some of the graves, and put the houses underneath the cliff in danger.

The famous whale bones have to be replaced every so often, as they rot. The Victorians knew all about that as they used to make their false teeth out of whale bones, and they found that it wasn't long until they had to make some more.

George Hudson brought the railway to Whitby and built houses on the Crescent. He was the man who put Whitby on the map and started it off as a popular holiday resort, but he went bust so the Crescent never got finished. The piers did and were completed in 1912. The Dimitri, a Russian ship, came in and beached on the beach at Whitby harbour. It just so happened that Bram Stoker was staying in Whitby and was writing his book Dracula. In the first few pages you will read about this boat coming in and beaching and as it hit the sands a great black hound leapt from the bows and ran up the 199 steps into the church yard.

Goth weekends are very popular in Whitby, and people come from all over the world to take part.

The jet industry was very extensive in Whitby. It peaked when Queen Victoria chose to wear jet while mourning Prince Albert. It is made from fossilized Monkey puzzle trees.

The sands are very extensive at Whitby they go 3 miles right the way round to Sandsend. When Duleep Singh rented Mulgrave Castle he brought his elephants with him and had a road built so they didn't have to walk along the sand. Another quarry was here but today it's very peaceful. Quite contrary to when the railway bridge ran right across the bay spoiling everybody's view. That disappeared in 1960 after Dr. Beaching wielded the axe.

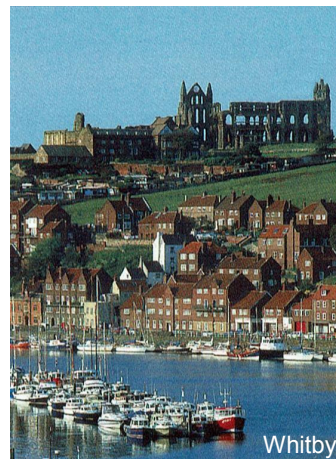
Runswick is a very popular retirement sea side town. It has now got its own sea wall, running water and decent roads. In the 1880's it was a fishing village with about 40 boats operating out of here and the Marquis of Normanby had a little cottage which was his holiday home. Today it is still there and rented out as a holiday cottage. They have put down granite to stop the coast eroding and there are half a dozen fishing boats as opposed to the 40 or 50 they used to have. Along from there the Cleveland Way goes along the top to Mulgrave harbour. There is one piece of history here, which is the tunnel that went 7 or 8 miles inland to the ironstone mines which were highly productive in those days. The only way to get ironstone from there up to the Tyneside shipyards was by sea, so they built a tunnel to bring it out on a rail, put it on boats and

take it up the coast. Port Mulgrave harbour was abandoned in 1916 when the mine was connected to the main line railway. In 1939 when war was declared the remaining landing was blown up, to stop any possibility of it being used as a landing or marker point.

Staithes became very popular with the artists and photographers in the 1880's because Frank Meadow Sutcliffe was also very active taking pictures here.

Saltburn by the Sea; Henry Pease was a director of Darlington railway, he decided that Saltburn would make an excellent sea-side resort and it did. In 1863 the first thing he did was to build a hotel. A magnificent hotel in true Victorian style to house all the people. The other thing he did was to build terrace houses 4/5 storeys for people to come and stay. He used his influence to go a step further. He had an expensive hotel and he expected to have people with money, so he persuaded the railway people to bring the railway right up to the hotel entrance. Saltburn has a pier, it is one of the few piers these days that are still standing. At one time there were eleven up and down the east coast, and 4 or 5 in Yorkshire. They all got destroyed by ships and the sea but this one survived. It opened in 1869. It is 1400 ft long it had a little salon/entertainment place at the end. Eventually it got rammed by a ship in a storm which reduced it to 1200 ft leaving a chunk of it a danger to shipping, which was eventually removed. That brought it down to about a 1,000 ft. In 2006 a huge renovation scheme was created and it was all painted, including the lift.

This is a unique piece of equipment and there are only two in the country. It is a water balanced tram, the principle is quite simple. At the top you have a control point with a pump and the two carriages each have a water tank underneath them connected directly through the control at the top. If the man at the top wants the right hand one to go down, he pumps water from the left hand carriage into the right hand one and slowly, quietly, silently it slides to the bottom and reverses the process to get it back up again. The pier opened in 1884, with a new electric pump in 1924 and a major overhaul in 1998. It is reduced to 600ft now with nothing at the end of it but people love walking along it and watching the sea go by.



## **Project News.**

Quite a lot has been happening on the project front over the last few months. We mentioned it, briefly, in the November newsletter, but here is a bit more detail.

We have 3 projects either on the go or about to start, each initiated from different sources.

### **1. MI Transcription Project.**

This is the on-going project, which involves our transcription team in transcribing & validating Monumental Inscriptions or Burial Records from 22 different Graveyards around Calderdale - many of them in the Queensbury area - a place that we seem to have ignored up to now !

Our team had a bit of a breather during late September & early October, when Susan & I were on holiday, but they are now back up to their usual breakneck speed. At the time of writing, (mid-November) we have completed 84% of the transcription & 73% of the validation (79% overall). We hope to be able to publish the results early in 2017, but you should have received a more up-to-date progress report in the December Newsletter.

### **2. Warley Town Graveyard.**

A couple of years ago, we were approached by the Warley Town Historical Society for help in transcribing 200 pages of the Burial book for the local graveyard. We entered into an agreement that we would show them what to do & we would also transcribe & validate the 1st 50 pages. This we did (& they are now available on one of our databases), but, unfortunately, the Warley organiser fell seriously ill &, sadly, subsequently died.

We did not feel able to press them to continue, due to the unfortunate circumstances they found themselves in, but, recently, we have renewed contact with them & they have passed over the image files for the remaining pages.

Consequently, we are now in a position to complete the task, once we have some transcribers & validators available. It is likely that we can produce something to publish by the middle of 2017, if not before.

### **3. Heywood URC Northowram - MIs & Grave Books.**

As part of the MI Transcription Project, described above, we will be covering the MIs from this Chapel, which has been part of a thriving community for over 100 years. In addition to these, though, we have been offered a set of Burial

Books, which add much more information to the burials covered by the MIs, and, additionally, provide details of burials which took place but where no headstone was commissioned.

We hope to make a start on these about the same time as the Warley Town work, with a view to having something to publish in the 2nd half of 2017.

So, as you can see, there is plenty to do, all of which adds to the information available to researchers. As always, we are keen to add to our team of Transcribers & it may well be that some of you have a particular interest in one of the areas mentioned above. If this is the case, and/or you feel you can spare an hour or so each week, then please get in touch to offer your help on any one of these projects.

All you need is a computer with software to allow you to produce an MSExcel file (or equivalent) & an E-Mail account. We will provide you with guidance & get you started. In any event, help is always available either an E-Mail or a 'phone call away.

The person to call to offer assistance is me, the Project Coordinator, Peter Lord, either by E-Mail at [projects@cfhsweb.com](mailto:projects@cfhsweb.com), or by telephone on 01484-718576.

**Peter Lord - Project Coordinator.**



MEMBERS' INTERESTS							
Surname	Location	County	Known from	Known to	Wanted from	Wanted to	Code
NORMANTON	BARKISLAND,SOYLAND,RIPPONDEN	YOR					3673
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Address</b></p> <p>3673, Mr J. Normanton. <a href="mailto:jeffnormanton@hotmail.com">jeffnormanton@hotmail.com</a></p>							

### Pioneers of Esperanto in Halifax and District

The international auxiliary language Esperanto was first published in 1887 by an idealistic Polish Jew, Dr Zamenhof (1859-1917) and its first adepts lived in the then Russian Empire, but it began to gain adherents in Great Britain from about 1900 onwards. 2017 sees the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the language and a century since the death of its founder.

The names and addresses of seven early speakers of Esperanto in Halifax and district with their registration numbers are found scattered throughout the *Adresaro de Esperantistoj* (collection of addresses of Esperantists) between January 1903 to January 1903 (Series XXIV) and January 1908 to January 1909 (Series XXIX). All of the following are listed in Birmingham Anglujo, i.e. England. Each individual is ascribed a unique number, which I do not reproduce here. Indeed, early users of the language frequently signed articles with that number alone, knowing that anyone wanting to contact them could easily find their address in the published *Adresaro*. A further three Esperantists are listed in old journals.

These listings contain occasional spelling errors because each individual filled in a pre-printed form in their own handwriting. I reproduce the addresses as they appear.

Here are the names of those Halifax and district pioneers of over a century ago:

R. H. HAYHURST, Ipimmingham, Villas-West End, Halifax, Yorkshire. Anglujo (Series XXIV, 1903-01-14 to 1904-01-01)

E. J. CHRISTIE, Sona House HALIFAX, Anglujo (Series XXVI, 1905-01-01 to 1906-01-01)

T. J. Christie, Iona House Halifax, Anglujo  
Ernest Whitehead, 29, Knight Street, Parkinson Lane, Halifax, Anglujo (Series XXVII 1906-01-01 to 1907-01-01)

Andrew Lochhead, Eastcliffe, Lightcliffe, Nr. Halifax, Yorks, Anglujo (Serio XXVIII, 1907-01-01 kaj 1908-01-01)

J. E. Greenwood, 16, Thrum Hall Lane, Halifax, Yorks, Anglujo  
-S-ino (=Mrs) Christie, Iona House, Halifax, Yorks, Anglujo (Series XXIX, 1908-01-01 to 1909-01-01)

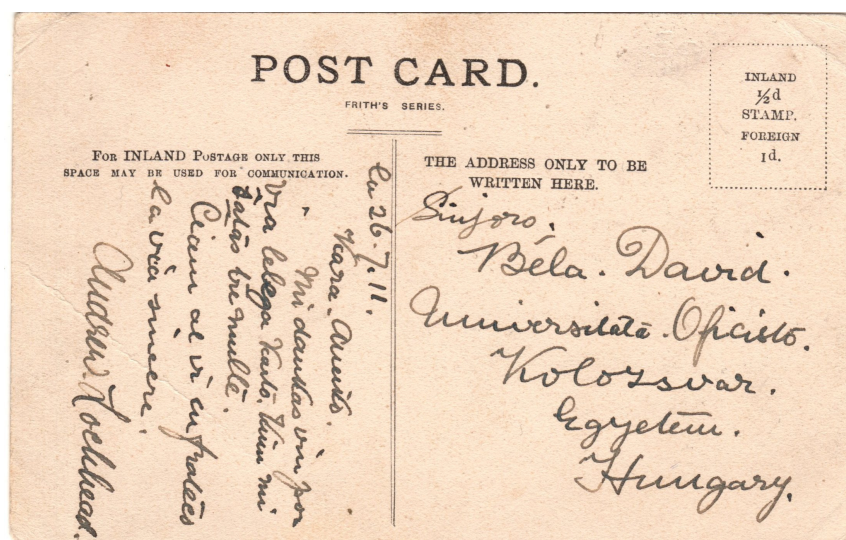
Men outnumbered the women in this list, perhaps unsurprisingly in the society of that time.

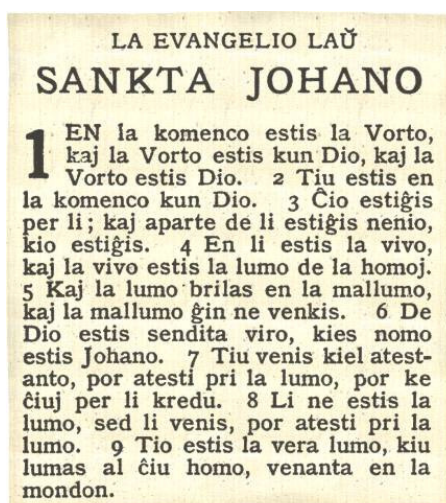
After about 1909, there was no longer any need to 'sign up' to Esperanto, and text books about Esperanto in a variety of languages, including English, were becoming more common. An increasingly large number of magazines catered for users of the language seeking contacts in other countries.

Not much is known to me about those listed, although some are to be found in post office directories. An exception is Ernest Whitehead (born 1885). He was a blacksmith at a gas engine works in 1911.

Clearly those interested in the language, although spread over the city, came together from time to time. According to an inside cover of *The British Esperantist* magazine for 1908 an Esperanto Association in Halifax had been founded in November 1907. Its secretary in 1908 was E. WHITEHEAD of 29 Knight Street and the President is listed as Albert MILNER. In 1913 the secretary was E. BOOTHMAN, 13 Hume Street, Gibbett Street. The organisation met Hoyle's Refreshment Rooms in Gibbett Street.

We know that Andrew Lochhead used the language to correspond with people overseas. The postcard illustrated, postmarked Brighouse, was sent by him in 1911 to a university official in Cluj, then in Hungary, now in Roumania. His brief message contains the greeting "fratece", meaning "fraternally".





From St John's gospel in  
Esperanto (published in 1912)

Are there early minute books  
of the Halifax Esperanto Asso-  
ciation's activities in existence?

Did any of these enthusiasts  
pass on letters or postcards in  
the language to later genera-  
tions?

I am dreaming of someone  
saying they have their great  
aunt's diary written in Espe-  
ranto in the attic - I will happily  
share them with you in case  
they are worth printing.

Acknowledgement. I am grateful to my wife Patricia for her help in tracing one  
of the individuals involved.

**Bill Chapman**  
**patbillchapman@gmail.com**



### **Graffiti Is Not a New Thing**

Whilst researching things at St John's Bradshaw some years ago, I noticed various names and initials carved into the book rest on a pew at the south side of the church, this has always intrigued me. I have meant to try and investigate this, finally I recently did so.

I picked one name out of the carvings, John Braithwaite 1888. First place to look was the 1891 Census. In this I found a John Braithwaite living with his two brothers in the Household of one William Brear born 1837 in Ovenden, Halifax, Yorkshire. The address impressively was Ovenden Hall, (on the town side of the former Police Station at Ovenden). He was listed as a Brewer. I was on the point of dismissing this when I remembered the Tablet on the north wall of the Church towards the front, this spoke of William Brear.

I followed the Census trail from 1891 to 1901 and lastly 1911. The last two showed John Braithwaite living with his Uncle William and Aunt Hannah at The Grange in the Parish of St Mary's. This address had to be the big house down the Carriage way above what was Crossleys Playing Fields. On the 1901 Census his two brothers Harry and Leonard Ralph were still with him. On the 1911 Census they were no longer there. However his sister Ellen M Braithwaite was also now in residence. William Brear is shown on all three Census as being born in 1837 at Ovenden, Yorkshire.

Now I had to prove that the Uncle William Brear had the necessary connection to St John's. The 1841 Census showed a William Brear at four years old living in the Household of eight others called Brear. It is not possible to define a relationship from this Census, the address is South Cockhill. Born in Ovenden would seem to be a problem until we realise that the area from the Borough boundary on Soil Hill to and including present day Ovenden was always known as Ovenden. The area of Bradshaw was generally known as the Ovenden Heights Coal Field. Mary Brear 55 years was apparently the Householder and is shown as being a Farmer I will examine this Census in detail in a later article.

The 1851 Census shows him at the same address with his Aunt Betty as householder. He is shown as a Wool Comber. The 1861 Census for Bradshaw is missing. It is known that William Brear married a Hannah Braithwaite in the September Quarter of 1869. We cannot say that they married at our Church unless we get a Marriage Certificate and they are expensive. We have no records before 1982 due to a Burglary. However there may be another way, perhaps more later.

The 1871 Census shows him and his wife living at 19 North Parade. This is in the Parish of St James'. In the household with them is John, Hannah's Father, who is shown as a Widower.

**John Kiddle**



### **Lancashire Archives**

Lancashire Archives have reduced their opening hours due to funding cuts.

Jacquie Crosby  
Archives Service Manager  
Lancashire Archives  
Lancashire County Council  
01772 533028  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

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### **National Archive**

The following has been received from the National Archives, Via FFHS

We are seeking your views on a new strategic vision for the archives sector.

Over the summer, we engaged<<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/projects-and-programmes/consultation-on-a-new-vision-for-archives-developing-a-future-vision-for-archives/>> with users, the archives sector, partners and key stakeholders to develop a new strategic vision for archives. We identified key themes and priorities that we need to address in order to deliver the vision.

A period of consultation has now started - based on your views we want to co-create to an action plan that supports the vision.

The consultation runs from 11 October 2016 to 11 January 2017.

Read the new strategic vision for the archives sector<<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archives/consultation-strategic-vision-for-archives.pdf>>

Leah Chapman  
Communication and Development Manager

## **CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **2017 SPRING MEETINGS ~ Thursdays 7:30pm.**

**At The Shibden Room, North Bridge Leisure Centre**

#### **January 26th**

**Jackie Depelle ~ Upstairs/Downstairs - From Humble beginnings to the American Dream (a relative who becomes a butler in America).**

Everyone researching their family history looks forward to finding out something interesting about their Ancestors – it always happens in the television programmes. We are also often trying to confirm family stories, maybe what they did or who they met. This story takes us from Norfolk to New York with an upwardly mobile gentleman and includes all these things. However whether he spends his life upstairs or downstairs you will have to come and listen to find out.

#### **February 23rd**

**Alan Stuttard ~ An Off Cumder in Hebden Bridge**

Stories of a foray into amateur dramatics and experiences as a compere for a junior Brass Band including four European tours.

#### **March 23rd**

**David Glover ~ Buried Alive (past funeral customs in Calderdale)**

Tales of Deaths and Funerals in Calderdale, from early times down to about 1900. Includes stories which are spooky, quirky, and even amusing. Learn who was buried alive in Halifax Parish Church, and hear about the burial of eccentric Jonathan Walsh in his Southowram field. Where did the drunken gravedigger choose to sleep? Were Quakers once buried standing upright, as recorded by Oliver Heywood? While factual, this is quite a light-hearted talk!

#### **April 27th**

**Annual General Meeting**



View our website at [www.cfhsweb.com](http://www.cfhsweb.com)

and visit

**Calderdale Family History Society's**

**RESEARCH ROOM**

**Brighouse Library  
Rydings Park, Halifax Rd., Brighouse, HD6 2AF**

**Tuesdays 1:30pm to 4:30pm & Thursdays 10:00am to 1:00pm**

**Open to both Members & Non-Members**

**Facilities include :-**

- Searchable information on 4 computers.
- Fiches for all Calderdale C of E churches.
- 6 Internet terminals, with access to Ancestry.com  
(Note—now increased from original 4 terminals)
- Wide range of books, journals, cuttings, etc.

**For more information and bookings ring 07952-211986 during the hours given above.**

**HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**The Root Cellar**

THE PLACE TO FIND YOUR ANCESTORS

**33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth HD9 5NW**

	Morning	We are Open Afternoon	Evening (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Th)
<b>Monday:</b>		2 pm to 4.30 pm	
<b>Tuesday:</b>		2 pm to 4.30 pm	
<b>Wednesday:</b>	10 am to 12.30 pm	2 pm to 4.30 pm	
<b>Thursday:</b> (alt )		2 pm to 4.30 pm	7.30 pm to 10 pm
<b>Saturday:</b>		2 pm to 4.30 pm	

No appointment necessary, just come along and carry out your research, seek advice, explore our resources and speak to people with similar interests.

**Ring the Root Cellar 01484 859229** for information, or to make a booking. Booking is not essential but is recommended, especially if you are travelling a distance and wish to access particular information.

## USEFUL CONTACTS AND SOURCES FOR RESEARCHING WEST YORKSHIRE ANCESTORS

**West Yorkshire Archive Service ~ [www.archives.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archives.wyjs.org.uk)** (*This can be a good place to start to access the West Yorkshire Archive Catalogue*)

**Calderdale District Archives, (Registers, BTs, Census, etc. etc.)**  
Calderdale Central Library, Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax HX1 1UN  
Tel: +44 (0) 1422 392636 e-mail [calderdale@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:calderdale@wyjs.org.uk)

**WYAS Headquarters, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE** (*Registers, WRiding Registry of Deeds, Manorial Records etc.*)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1924 305980 email : [wakefield@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:wakefield@wyjs.org.uk)

**The Borthwick Institute ~ [www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/)** (*Peculiar + PCY wills, BT's etc.*)  
University of York, Heslington, YORK YO10 5DD  
Tel: +44 (0) 1904 321166 email ~ link on website

**Calderdale Central Reference Library** (address as above) Tel: +44 (0) 1422 392631 e-mail [reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk) (*local studies collection, newspapers, maps, trade directories, IGI, GRO indexes, census and parish register fiche, on-line Familysearch and Ancestry; research service offered*).

**Weaver to Web ~ [www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/)** The council maintains a website with a miscellany of information from the archives (*a wide range of photos, maps, census returns, parish registers, poll books, wills, etc., have been digitised to view online*).

**Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion ~ <http://www.calderdalecompanion.co.uk>**  
(*Large collection of trivia, miscellaneous facts of people and places and other bits of local history about Halifax and Calderdale*).

All the Parish records transcribed by the Society are available to search (for a fee) on **FindMyPast.co.uk** (*In addition there are many other records available to search*)

West Yorkshire Parish Registers have been put online (for a fee) by the West Yorkshire Archives Service which can be accessed on **Ancestry.co.uk**. (*Again, many other useful records, for a fee*)

**[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)**  
(*Thousands of records for free including the IGI and some census data*). LDS Family History Centres are invaluable for 'distance research'. Check local telephone directories.

**The National Archives ~ [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)** (*a wealth of data arising from public records, including BMD's, census and much much more*).  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876

**[www.direct.gov.uk/gro](http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro)** is the website of the general register office for everything concerning civil registration and to order certificates.

Consider subscribing to a periodical such as Family Tree Magazine or BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. Online sites such as **GenesReunited** and **LostCousins** may help you find relatives researching the same family.

### **LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS etc**

#### **Forthcoming Events of Interest :-**

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#### **The London Group of Yorkshire FHS. Programme of events - 2017**

Sat 18th March 2017

Debbie Kennett ~ DNA and its benefits in family history.

Sat 17th June 2017

Else Churchill ~ Women in family history.

Sat 23rd September 2017

John Hanson ~ My ancestor left a will – well they should have done!

Sat 18th November 2017

Ian Waller ~ Sold, Separated & Divorced: marriage breakdown over the centuries

**Meetings held at the Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.**

Starting at 10.30am All welcome.

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### **WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE**

6th - 8th April 2017 WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE Exhibition  
NEC Birmingham

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### **The Federation of Family History Societies**

Federation of Family History Societies' web site  
[www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

This site has a wealth of links to events & information of interest to family historians.

Find the EVENTS tab for a list of forthcoming events.

***Calderdale Family History Society***  
*Incorporating Halifax and District*

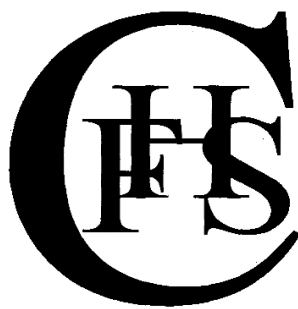
**Officers and Co-ordinators of the Society**

<b>Officer and Name,</b>	<b>Address and E-mail</b>	<b>Tel. No.</b>
<b>President</b>		
Mr. Barrie Crossley,	9, Victoria Terr., Delph Hill Road, Halifax, HX2 7ED e-mail - president@cfhsweb.com	01422-366931
<b>Chairman</b>		
Mr. Clifford Drake,	22, Well Grove, Hove Edge, Brighouse, HD6 2LT e-mail - chairman@cfhsweb.com	01484-714311
<b>Secretary</b>		
Mrs. Margaret Smith,	4 Rawson Avenue, Halifax, HX3 0JP e-mail - secretary@cfhsweb.com	01422 -345164
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>		
Mrs. Susan Clarke,	33, Cumberland Ave., Fixby, Huddersfield, HD2 2JJ e-mail - membsec@cfhsweb.com	01484-304426
<b>Publications Officer (sales of books, CDs, etc.)</b>		
Mrs. Joan Drake,	22, Well Grove, Hove Edge, Brighouse, HD6 2LT e-mail - publications@cfhsweb.com	01484-714311
<b>Editor ~ Scrivener (for submission of articles, letters, etc.)</b>		
Mrs. Frances Stubbs,	Beech Trees, Hollybush Close, Potten End, Berkhamsted, HP4 2SN e-mail - editor@cfhsweb.com	01442-871847
<b>Enquiry Service Co-ordinator (for research queries and search requests)</b>		
Mrs. Susan Lord	288 Halifax Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse, HD6 2PB e-mail - search@cfhsweb.com	01484 718576
<b>Research Room Co-ordinator (for information about room at The Rydings)</b>		
Vacant	e-mail -researchroom@cfhsweb.com	

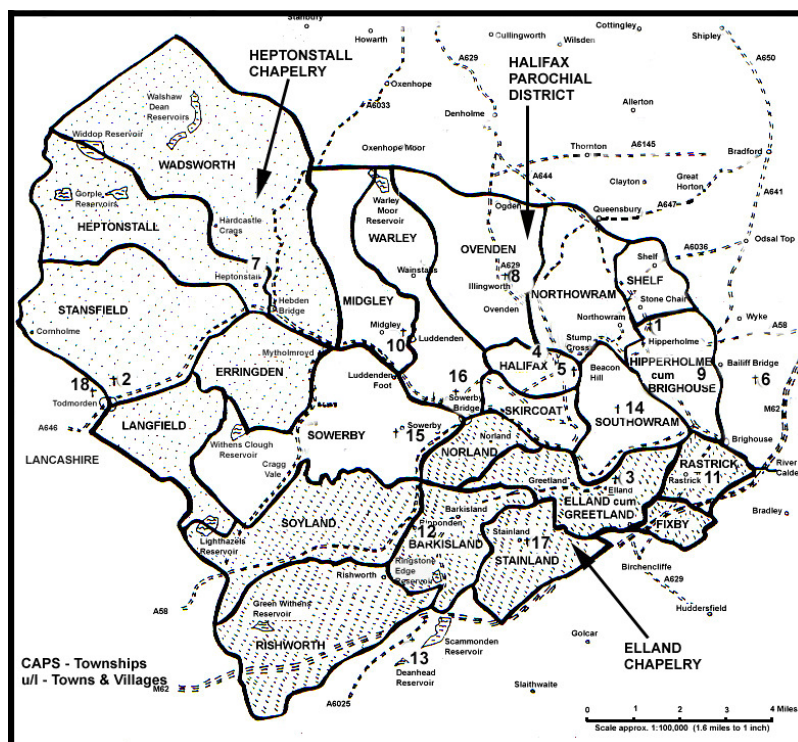
**[RR Bookings and Information Tues pm/Thurs am 07952-211986]**

<b>Officer and Name,</b>	<b>Address and E-mail</b>	<b>Tel. No.</b>
<b>Projects Co-ordinator</b>		
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<b>Librarian</b>		
Mrs. Anne Kirker,	356, Oldham Rd. Sowerby Bridge, Halifax HX6 4QU e-mail - librarian@cfhsweb.com	01422 - 823966
<b>Members' Interests Co-ordinator</b>		
Mr. Mike Hardcastle,	Cedarwood, The Grange, Huddersfield Road, Brighouse, HD6 3RH e-mail - interests@cfhsweb.com	01484 715493

**The Society's Home Web Page on the Internet is**  
<http://www.cfhsweb.com>



# CHAPELRIES AND TOWNSHIPS OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX



CHURCH/CHAPEL	Registers begin	BAP. MAR.**	BUR.
1. COLEY	St. John	1735	1745
2. CROSS STONE	St. Paul	1678	1837
3. ELLAND	St. Mary**	1559	1559
4. HALIFAX	St. James (inc St Mary Rhodes St 1953)	1832	1837
5. HALIFAX	St. John**	1538	1538
6. HARTSHEAD	St. Peter	1612	1612
7. HEPTONSTALL	St. Thomas**	1599	1593
8. ILLINGWORTH	St. Mary	1695	1697
9. LIGHTCLIFFE	St. Matthew	1703	1704
10. LUDDENDEN	St. Mary	1653	1661
11. RASTRICK	St. Matthew	1719	1839
12. RIPPONDEN	St. Bartholomew	1684	1686
13. SCAMONDEN WITH MILLHEAD	St. Bartholomew	1746	1886
14. SOUTHOWRAM	St. Anne	1813	1838
15. SOWERBY	St. Peter	1668	1711
16. SOWERBY BRIDGE	Christ Church	1709	1730
17. STAINLAND	St. Andrew	1782	1844
18. TODMORDEN	St. Mary/Christ Church	1678	1669

\*\*Following Hardwicke's Marriages Act of 1754, Banns and Marriages will only be found in the registers of these churches. After 1837 they lost their monopoly of marriages.