



Huddersfield & District Family History Society



Volume 37, Number 4

July 2024

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

The Society was formed in 1987 and its aims are to promote and encourage mutual help between people interested in family history and genealogy. It caters particularly for those with interests in the Kirklees Council area which comprises the towns and districts of Batley, Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Holme Valley, Kirkburton, Meltham and the Spen Valley. It covers an area of nearly 160 square miles and within its boundaries are the ancient parishes of Almondbury, Batley, Birstall, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Emley, Hartshead, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Mirfield and Thornhill.

Membership of the Society is an annual payment which for new members now runs from the date the subscription is taken out. Subscription rates, per year, are as follows:

Student Membership (age 16-25 in full-time education)	£6.00
Electronic Membership (including overseas)	£12.00
Standard Membership (up to two people at the same address)	£15.00
Overseas Membership (posted journal)	£25.00

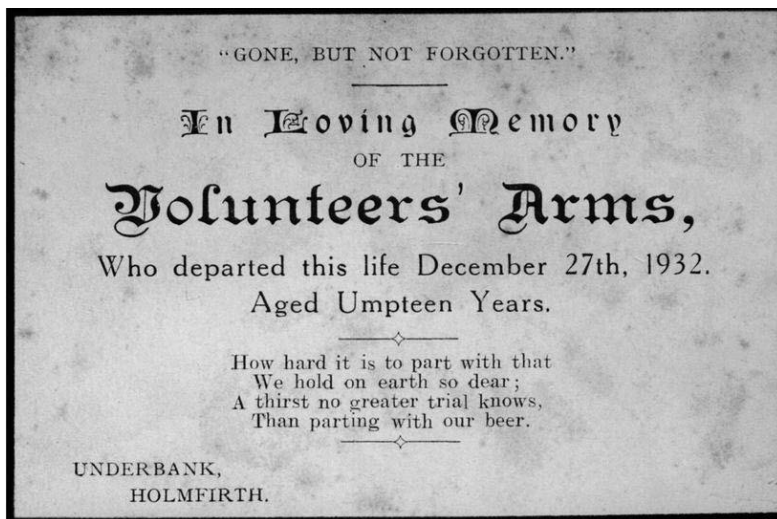
Subscriptions can be paid through our website by PayPal or credit/debit card, this is the preferred method. They may also be paid at the Root Cellar by cash, card or cheque, or by Bank Transfer (please email secretary@hdfhs.org.uk for our bank details). Cheques may also be sent by post. Existing members should quote their membership number. If you are a UK taxpayer you may wish to consider paying your subscription by Gift Aid, this will increase the value of your payment to the Society at no extra cost to yourself.

Meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year, usually online by Zoom, starting at various times and on different days. Please refer to the programme in this journal, and our website for up to date details on how to join our meetings online. Members will receive an email invitation a few weeks before a meeting online, and then, **if they sign up**, they will receive a further email with the link to the Zoom meeting a few days before the event.

Publications: Our journal is published and distributed to members four times a year in January, April, July and October. The Society's **Project Group** has produced complete indexes of both the 1841 and 1851 censuses for the whole of our area (more than 200,000 names and 1/90th of the population of England and Wales for 1851). These are available in booklet form. The group is currently transcribing Memorial Inscriptions and continuing to index parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for most Churches. This information is available in printed form with many as downloadable files, as is information from our ever growing databases. Most of these works are listed on and can be purchased through the Society website (www.hdfhs.org.uk), or a full publications list can be obtained from the Secretary.

Sales of Goods Act: UK postal customers may change their mind within seven days of receipt of the goods, returning them at their own cost. There will be a charge of 50p per booklet plus 50p per order to cover our costs.

Data Protection: Our Privacy Policy is available on our website. 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 securely the personal data that you give to us and that will be provided to the printer of our journal if you receive your journal by post. If you do not wish to make any of your details available without your further authority, please contact the Secretary.



I discovered this on the Holmfirth history page on Facebook. It is the first memorial card to a beerhouse that Garry Field has found during his research on pubs and beerhouses. It was originally called the Rifle Corps Arms. I found it very amusing, I hope you do too! – Ed.

The opinions and views expressed in this Journal do not necessarily represent the views of either the Editor or the Huddersfield & District Family History Society. This Journal is copyright, and no part may be reproduced for publication in any form whatsoever without the written consent of the Editor. The Society accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered as a result of any item published in this Journal.

Please note that queries regarding non-arrival of Journals should be sent by email to membership@hdfhs.org.uk or by post to the Root Cellar at Meltham.

Journal Submissions: Please send items for publication to the Editor by email or post, and include your **membership number, name and postal address**. Items sent by post can only be returned or acknowledged if a **SAE** is included. Please state if an article has been printed in or submitted to another publication. **Items should be clearly hand-written, typed in Microsoft Word with a file name ending in .doc or .docx.** Please do not send any attachments in Word formats which are pre-1997. The Editor welcomes letters and articles on any aspect of family or local history. Items with relevance to the Kirklees area are of particular interest; as are cuttings, hints and tips. Editing of articles may be necessary, depending on available space. Please confirm how much personal information you would like us to include e.g. address and/or email details.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Journal: 20 August 2024

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Huddersfield & District Family History Society

First of all I just want to say that I have taken on board some comments I received about the new font which I used in the last journal and that it was difficult to read. It wasn't until I received my own journal I realised that myself. Looking at something on a PC screen is entirely different to when the printer reduces it down to A5 format for the journal.

We have now come to the time of year when I suspect many of you put your family history research on hold for the summer months. Although I do know that significant numbers of you will be planning holidays around ancestral visits to places your ancestors lived, often hundreds of years ago. I hope that those who do, have an enjoyable time making those connections to lives in the past.

Of course the society also sees the opposite with the ancestral tourism visits made to our area by many of our members, as well as others from further afield.

As you read this this, one of our members in Australia, Tony Walker, will be in the middle of such a visit to the UK when we hope to renew old acquaintance, although many will know him from his regular attendance at Zoom meetings.

This ability to connect throughout the UK and across the world is why we continue to hold all our speaker meetings now by Zoom. We are lucky amongst family history societies that we have our own premises where, if people are able to, they can visit and find valuable help from experienced volunteers, and so it is not as necessary to hold talks in person. How many of you are members in the Huddersfield area, and yet have never been to the Root Cellar in Meltham? You are missing some valuable sources of information not to be found online.

You will also see from our event programme that we are supporting a number of local events over the summer and autumn. We are opening longer hours on Saturday 6 July in support of 'Meltham Memories', why not pop in for coffee and cake?

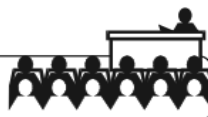
Heritage Open Days at Holmbridge should prove to be another interesting free event, particularly if you have roots in the Holme Valley. We are also supporting another event at the Newsome Centre on the first weekend of Heritage Open Days, but as we go to print full details have yet to be finalised; keep up to date by visiting the website.

Finally, we do hope that if your membership renewal is due on the 1 August you will make the time this month to renew. All the options are detailed by our webmaster on Page 16.

Please remember that if you have an existing standing order payable to our old bank account this should be changed to our new bank account as soon as possible and the amount uplifted to our new membership rates.

Susan Hutson
Editor

Speaker and Event Programme 2024



Saturday 6 July 2024 – Meltham Memories Event. As part of this annual weekend in Meltham, we will be opening the Root Cellar from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Our volunteers will be on hand to show what we can offer to anyone wanting to look back into the past. It may be family, wartime, local or house history that interests you – we can help. Open to all – this is a completely free event.

Thursday 11 July 2024 – Greasepaint and Limelight, an illustrated Zoom talk by Ian Stevenson, our Vice Chair, covering the cinemas and theatres of Huddersfield in their heyday. This event is for Members only. 7.30 pm – invitations will be sent to members by email, to which they should respond to register their interest.

Tuesday 10 September 2024 – The Mourning Brooch, Part 2, a Zoom talk by Jean Renwick who returns to update us on the fascinating story of her brooch. Members will receive an invitation by email, to which they should respond to register their interest. This talk is also open to non-members for a donation of £5.00 – look out for details of how to register on our website.

Saturday and Sunday 7 & 8 September 2024 – an event at the Newsome Centre (formerly St John the Evangelist Church) to celebrate Heritage Open Days. This is a free event which is open to everyone. We will have our own displays and will offer help with research. See our website for opening times nearer the time.

Saturday and Sunday 14 & 15 September 2024 – an event at Holmbridge St David's Church – 'People and Places' to celebrate Heritage Open Days. This is a free event which is open to everyone. We will have our own displays and will offer help with research. See our website for opening times nearer the time.

Saturday 26 October 2024 – Our Family and Local History Fair, Greenhead Masonic Hall, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4EN – Admission £5.00. Full details of all exhibitors and speakers will appear on our website and in the October journal.

Other Forthcoming Events



'All About that Place' is an online event that you can drop in and out of, where individuals and groups like our Society can contribute bitesize pieces on local places or buildings of interest. We intend to participate in this event so watch out for more details. It will run from **27 September to 6 October 2024** and we will ensure more information appears on the website when we know more.

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) 25 Years Conference – 27 to 29 September at Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry – www.fibis.org/25-years-conference

For more details of family history fairs and events see: www.geneva.weald.org.uk

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

Registered Charity No. 702199

Notice is hereby given of the

36th Annual General Meeting

To be held on Tuesday 19 November 2024

By Zoom at 7.00 pm

*Details regarding how to sign up to this Zoom meeting
will be provided to members by email and in the October journal*

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome, Chair's opening remarks and introduction of Committee Members
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2023
4. Matters arising
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Acceptance of 2023/24 Accounts
7. Chair's Report
8. Election of officers
9. Appointment of Inspector of Accounts

Please note that this AGM may only be attended by fully paid up members of the Society. Any items for discussion in addition to the above are now requested. Those wishing to submit items must do so in writing to the Secretary by 20 August 2024, by email: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk or to the Root Cellar (address at the back of the Journal). The revised agenda will be published in the October Journal with details of any items where a postal vote of members is required.

Speaker following the AGM

After his excellent presentation on the history of the Huddersfield Fire Brigade earlier this year, we are pleased to welcome back Chris Smith. Chris' presentation will be 'A walk round Almondbury in old postcards'.

Election of Officers - Postal/Email Nomination Form

Information for Members 2024

Please see the list of officer posts in the Society on the opposite page.

- Members are elected to all posts annually. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be elected for a maximum period of five consecutive years without a break in service.
- Nominations are now requested from amongst the membership, for **any** of the posts. The Constitution states that a maximum of ten members may sit on the Committee; currently there are nine committee members with the post of Journal Editor being held by the Secretary; the post of Librarian being held by the Chair and the post of Social Media Secretary being held by the Membership Secretary.
- All nine current committee members are trustees of the Society/Charity.
- According to the Constitution the posts of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer must be members of the Executive Committee.
- Please give the names of two members of the Society as your proposer and seconder who you have consulted and who agree to your nomination.
- If an election is necessary to any post, a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting and the Chair of the meeting will appoint two scrutineers to oversee the election and announce the result at the end of the meeting.
- If insufficient nominations have been received to fill the vacancies, the Chair of the AGM may, at their discretion, take nominations from the meeting.
- If you would like more information about any of the posts in the Society please contact me by email and I will get back to you.

Please note that Ian Stevenson, Vice Chair, is standing down at the AGM and Graham Farmer, the current Web Manager, is significantly reducing his role as Web Manager.

Although we may be able to ask an existing committee member to be the Vice Chair, we must find new volunteers to take on website responsibilities – please see Page 9 for more information. Please note that you do not have to be a member of the committee to assist with the website. If you have some relevant experience and are willing to help please get in touch with Maureen (contact details inside back cover).

Maureen Wheeler, Chair
Susan Hutson, Secretary

June 2024

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

(Registered Charity No: 709122)

Election of Officers - Postal/Email Nominations - 2024

Current Officers: - *Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Bookseller, Publicity Officer, Journal Editor, MI Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary, Research Co-ordinator, Social Media Secretary, Web Manager, Members' Interests Secretary, Committee Member (without portfolio).*

(15 posts held by 12 people, nine of whom are current committee members – see inside back page of this journal)

The Chair and Librarian are currently the same person; the Secretary and Journal Editor are currently the same person and the Membership Secretary and Social Media Secretary are currently the same person.

Current non-committee posts: Members' Interests Secretary, Research Co-ordinator, Web Manager

****Please see the notes on the opposite page and current post holder details inside the back cover****

Post

Full Name of Candidate

Membership Number

Postal Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

Name of proposer **Membership No.**

Name of seconder **Membership No.**

Please give some brief details about yourself to be circulated in case of an election:

.....

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Signed **Dated**

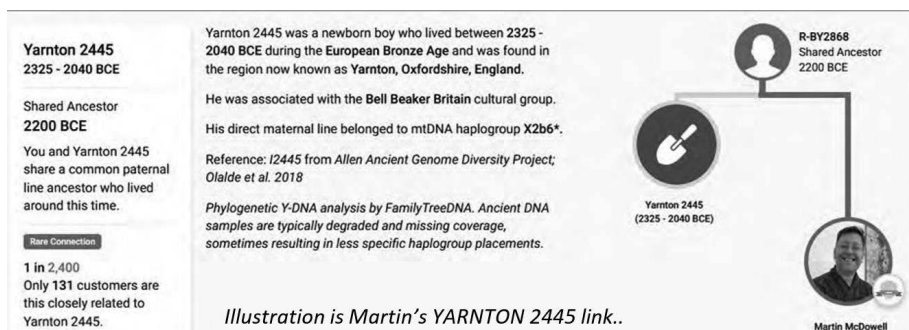
All nominations must be returned, by 20 August 2024 to the Secretary at: **The Root Cellar, 33a Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5NW** or by email to: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk

Haplogroups in Y-DNA, Part 1

By Martin McDowell of the Family History Federation



How can haplogroups help with family history? This is a question I am asked all the time and hopefully this article will help you understand the subject a little better. In this series of articles we are specifically looking at the haplogroups we get from Y-DNA, the test that follows the male line back through the generations, up the surname line, from father to grandfather to great grandfather etc.



Haplogroups are a designated group that you find you are part of when you do a Y-DNA test or a mitochondrial DNA test. Sometimes you can also get this information from an autosomal DNA test. Y-DNA and mt-DNA give you the information on only one line in your family tree and because of this they can help you identify matches who are related to you only on that one specific line.

Haplogroups are a series of letters and numbers which identify mutation (or copying error) which occurred on one individual person somewhere back in time. Only those who are his descendants will share that classification. Haplogroups can be far back in time, identifying a very distant ancestor, or they can be very recent. My most recent one is dated to about 1900 AD. When haplogroups are in the last 500 years they become very genealogically relevant.

Ancestry and My Heritage don't provide haplogroups but Living DNA and 23andMe give you some information which can be used to look for someone on your DNA match list with the same haplogroup.

However, Family Tree DNA has, over the last few years, built up a database of information which provides a date for every haplogroup identified that two men share. This is publicly available here: <https://discover.familytreedna.com/> and aims to make the whole subject of &-DNA interesting, understandable – and sometimes fun.

FTDNA Discover provides a date alongside each haplogroup and therefore you can instantly see whether the haplogroup you are looking at is genealogically relevant or not.

It also provides examples of ancient people who you are related to and gives an estimated timescale for when your common ancestor lived.

It also does this for notable people whose haplogroups they have. These include such varied persons as Matthew Perry, Woody Harrelson, Michael Jackson, Tutankhamun and Beethoven!

Next time we will look at how to find others who match your haplogroup through DNA tests. In the meantime if you want to find out your own specific haplogroup you can do so by purchasing a family finder and/or Y test from Family History Books here: <https://familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376>

I would recommend the Y37 +Family Finder test for reasons I will explain next time.

Could you look after part of the website?

The current Web Manager needs to step down from some of his activities due to other commitments. Could you possibly volunteer to take up part of the website load? You do not have to be 'a local' to play a role in the website.

The Society's website is our front window for the outside world. It shows people what we do as a Society and what they could gain from joining us. It also acts as a place for us to share information within the Society. Coordination across our social media sites presents a professional and inviting look to potential Society members. The challenge is in keeping that look fresh and current, because stale websites do not generate interest.

We are looking at ways to distribute the website load across a number of volunteers, each of whom will bring specific skills to the solution. A schedule is being prepared to support quarterly updates of the website and different skills are needed - content writers, website editor, web manager and technical backstopping.

1. **The Website Editor(s)** possibly a joint approach, will check, create and upload content, maintaining house styles in coordination with our Secretary and Social Media Secretary.
2. **Content Writers** will be tasked periodically by the Editor(s) for specific content. Are there parts of the website where you have additional interest or knowledge to share?
3. **The Web Manager** will maintain the structure of the Wordpress based website and keep the system running. This will include management of the integrated membership database, which is held in Memberpress.
4. **Technical Backstopping** is currently provided through our existing, external ICT support. It is there to be called upon by the Web Manager if something more out of the ordinary should occur. We have also received strong support previously from the teams at Wordpress, Memberpress and our Service Providers.

Please consider whether you can help to share the load of this important function for our Society. If you are interested, send a message to chairman@hdfhs.org.uk

Thank You

Maureen Wheeler
Chair

Y- DNA Origins of the Beaumonts

My first DNA test was through the *National Geographic's* Genographic Project, which was created to study patterns of human migration. Two interesting facts emerged from this test. First, I had about 3% Neanderthal genes. My wife quipped, "Is that all?" Second, my Y-DNA haplogroup was identified as R-L21, which is Brythonic Celt.

The Celts were the people who migrated from the Continent to the British Isles during the Bronze Age. The Celts were also the Iron Age people in Britain when the Romans invaded 43 CE. The Y-DNA of Celts is still present in the British Isles, with especially strong representation in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and northwest England.

NatGeo ended their DNA effort in 2020 and made an agreement with *Family Tree DNA* to absorb accounts, so I transferred my results. Soon after, the Covid lockdown arrived, so I had a lot of time to start a Beaumont surname project and explore Y-DNA.

Early on in the project, I connected with Edward M. Beaumont. He agreed to DNA testing, which was instrumental to the success of the Beaumont, West Yorkshire, Y-DNA surname project. Also, since the 1700s, his family actively saved information that is key to the story of the West Yorkshire Beaumonts.

Edward blogs about his research at <https://beaumontarchives.blogspot.com> and the full report of the Beaumont, West Yorkshire project contains a detailed table of his paternal lineage including the Whitley Beaumonts.

As a result of Edward's participation, the project combines the results of a Y-DNA surname study and the historic paper trail. A powerful story emerges from this combination that describes the travel through time and place of the Beaumont family of West Yorkshire – from roaming the North Sea, settling in Normandy, finding their place in Norman England, and finally establishing themselves in West Yorkshire. Furthermore, it suggests that William *de Bellomonte*/Beaumont (c.1170 - c.1230) is the likely progenitor of a specific group of Beaumonts with roots centred around Huddersfield.

Again, the surname project is based on Y-DNA. Chromosomes come in pairs. One chromosome comes from the mother and the other from the father. In the sex chromosome pair, women have two X chromosomes. Men have an Y and a X chromosome. The biological father contributes the Y chromosome to his son. This Y chromosome can only come from a male, so it becomes a powerful way to study paternal lines.

To date, nearly 70 individuals have joined the project, and nearly 30 are matches with the Y-DNA profile of the West Yorkshire Beaumonts. So, what defines the paternal lineage of the West Yorkshire Beaumonts then?

FTDNA analyses Y-DNA by identifying **STRs** and **SNPs**. The science of STRs and SNPs is extremely complicated, but really it does not matter. We simply have to trust that FTDNA understands the science and accurately conducts their tests.

In any case, the Big-Y test identifies shared SNPs, which are more permanent mutations that occur once in all of human history and start a new branch on a Haplotree. In visual form, a Haplotree looks like a standard family tree, but instead of names of individuals, the tree is made up of SNPs.

The West Yorkshire Beaumonts Haplotree is: R1b > R-M269 > R-L23 > R-L151 > R-P312 > R-Z290 > R-L21 > R-DF13 > R-Z39589 > R-BY9003 > R-A18420. So, anyone sharing a SNP downstream from R-A18420 would be a West Yorkshire Beaumont.

For shared STRs, the most accurate test is Y-111. Anyone matching at 9 steps different or less at Y-111 is a West Yorkshire Beaumont. Less precise, anyone matching at 6 steps or less at Y-67 and 4 steps or less at Y-37 is a West Yorkshire Beaumont.

More distant matches are still related, but they point to a time and place before the Beaumont presence in Yorkshire. These matches have not been fully explored, but they could lead to clues about the whereabouts of the Beaumont family before Yorkshire.

People being people, there is evidence of various assignments in the surname project, which is not surprising given the fact that we are talking about a period of 800 years or more. So, individuals in the project have the surname Beaumont but do not match the shared Y-DNA profile. And individuals in the surname project who do not share the surname, do share the Y-DNA profile. These “natural” events are a favorite topic of novels, many of which are set in Yorkshire.

For example, in 1635, during the Great Puritan Migration, two men and a boy arrived in Salem, Massachusetts: William Beamond, 27-years old, and John Beamond, 23-years old, both on the *Elizabeth*, sailing from England 15 April 1635, and Gamaliel Bement, 12-years old, on the *Elizabeth and Ann*, sailing 7 May 1635.

Direct male descendants William Beamond (1608-1699) and John Beamond (1612-1647) tested as Haplogroup R-M269, but they did not match West Yorkshire Beaumonts. For John, there seems to have been a break in the male line indicated by close matches with men with the surname Horn. For William, a related Big-Y test identified SNP R-Z205 in this paternal line. Archaeological evidence suggests that this SNP is related to Danish Vikings. The history of Yorkshire suggests that Danish Vikings, or the Angles, were the ruling class before 1066 CE. These Vikings were known to use marriage as a way to assimilate, so it is assumed that the progenitor of this line married into the Beaumont family and assumed the surname. One notable descendant from this paternal line was Dr. William Beaumont (1785-1853) a noted U.S. Civil War physician who performed the first fistulation of the human stomach.

A direct male descendant Gamaliel Beaman (1623-1707) suggests that he was related to West Yorkshire Beaumonts. There does not seem to be a baptismal record in all of England for Gamaliel. There is also no explanation for why a lone 12-year-old travelled from England to America. Although, children of this era were often apprenticed by the age of 10, especially if they were poor. In any case, he was the first of the West Yorkshire Beaumonts to immigrate to America. Many more would follow later.

My family were coal miners who were recruited to the coal fields of Illinois after the U.S. Civil War. Huge death tolls from this conflict caused a labour shortage. At the same time, demand for coal was on the rise due to the burgeoning Industrial Revolution and the rapidly expanding railroad businesses.

Prior to the FTDNA surname project, one might have speculated that the Beaumonts of West Yorkshire had Norse Viking roots in Normandy, France, and that they were somehow involved in the Norman Conquest of England. As a reward, they were given control of a fiefdom in England. This may be true, but with a twist. You are invited to read the full report in the Members' area of the HDFHS website – <https://hdfhs.org.uk/beaumont-dna/>

In conclusion, Y-DNA is like a time capsule. It has even more to offer about the various paternal lines of West Yorkshire Beaumonts. If you are a male with the surname Beaumont, you are invited to join the project. The reliability of the Y-DNA matches actually increases with more testing – more men who test and more, higher-level testing. Also, one learns the most about their DNA by comparing their results to others, too.

So, the **Beaumont, West Yorkshire**, surname project at *Family Tree DNA* is definitely the place to do this: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/beaumont/activity-feed>

Gary Beaumont
beaumont@illinois.edu

Many of us will have a Beaumont in our family tree if we are researching in the Huddersfield area. Gary welcomes contact by email and as mentioned in his article, if you have an interest in Beaumont ancestry do go the link on our website to see more about his research. Finally, if you are a male Beaumont, why not take a Y-DNA test? We have six members on our database named Beaumont, so we know you are out there! – Ed.

Zoom talk – Tuesday 13 May 2024

‘Looking for your Irish Ancestors - it is easier than you think!’

Linda Hammond gave an excellent presentation on this often perplexing subject, making the point that many more records are available online now and are continuing to be added to.

Ireland is now among world leaders in its availability of public records, this being a government led initiative. Many records were destroyed by fire in 1922, some were pulped for the WW1 war effort, but scraps/incomplete records can in found in some counties.

Linda advised that a DNA test be taken, as it can assist searches, and matches may arise because of the test.

Linda illustrated her talk with records from her own family searches and very kindly made an extremely comprehensive, informative handout available to all participants.

70+ people registered for the talk, we had 66 participants on the evening, and the feedback has been extremely positive, many saying how rewarding they found the presentation.

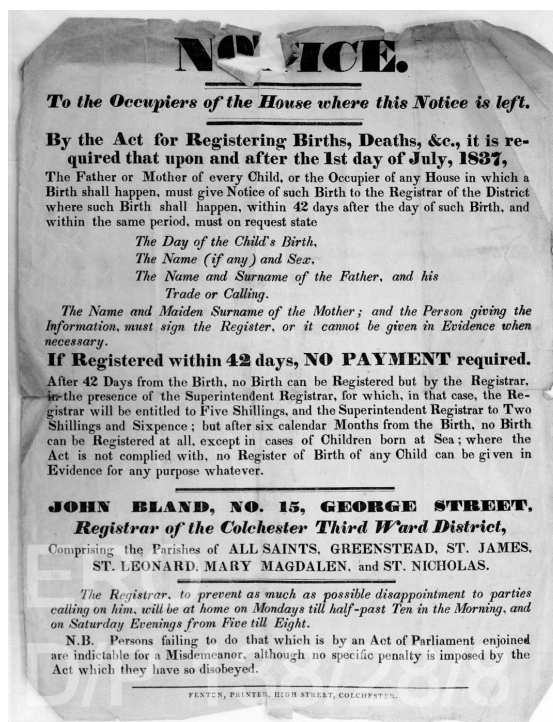
Margaret Woodcock
Publicity Officer

Still not signed up to one of interesting online Zoom talks? It is never too late to start, just let us know if you would like advice on setting up your device beforehand – Ed.

The start of Civil Registration

Unless we are new to family history research we know that civil registration commenced in 1837. The service was the creation of the Registration Act 1836, which had established the post of a Registrar General. The first holder of this post, Thomas Lister, was appointed in September that year and worked to establish the system which came into effect the following July, some eleven days after the new monarch, Queen Victoria, came to the throne.

It was based at Somerset House in Central London, where the General Register Office (GRO) was from 1837 to 1974, when it moved to St Catherine's House, also in London. Many of the administrative functions have been carried out in Southport, Merseyside, since the Second World War, and certificate production moved there too in the early 1990s. Southport remains its main location today.



We can wonder exactly how this was greeted by the population at large. The poster shown here, although one from Colchester in Essex, it may well have been duplicated across the country and delivered to every household. Estimates vary, but in 1837 it is possible that only around 50% of men could read, and many less women.

Did people realise how important this notice was? Records from the 1841 census suggested that many births and deaths were still not being recorded by then as the census figures showed a much larger population than that suggested by birth and death registration figures.

Many commentators thought that the Church of England had played the role of registrar for so long that in many people's minds the religious rite of baptism was inextricably linked with the legal

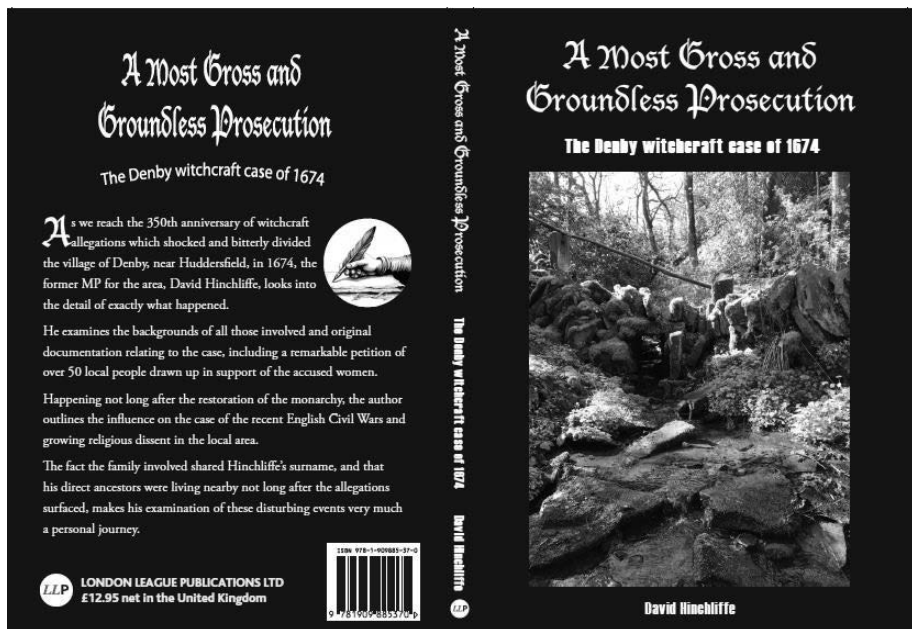
function of registration. To ensure your child was baptised was often the most important thing in parents' minds in the nineteenth century.

We must, therefore, when researching our ancestors in that period not always believe that we have to be able to find their birth registration, it may well just not be there.

Susan Hutson
Editor

A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution

I make no bones about the fact that it was genealogical research that first drew me to the witchcraft case which occurred in Denby, near Huddersfield, some 350 years ago this summer. The couple involved were Joseph and Susanna Hinchliffe, along with their married daughter, Ann Shillitoe. My direct Hinchliffe ancestors seem to have been living on the other side of the Dearne Valley, in Cumberworth, just over a century later.



Others have written about this case, but I think my book, *A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution*, is the first detailed account as to exactly what happened and who were involved.

My research has entailed the detailed examination of original documents concerning the case held by the National Archives. Depositions sworn before magistrates outlined allegations being made concerning the supposed evil powers and actions of the accused.

They mostly related to conversations between the Hinchliffes and Shillitoe, which were allegedly overheard by Mary Moor, a 16-year-old girl. She swore to have witnessed the consequences of malefic acts and the local magistrates were sufficiently convinced of the merits of the case to refer it to the County Assizes held, at that time, in York.

Moor lived in Clayton West and may have been familiar with the accused through working – possibly in service – in the Denby area. While what is now known as Denby Dale dominates the local community in modern times, in the 17th century what was then called Denby Dyke, by the side of the River Dearne, was a much less populated settlement, expanding hugely during the later industrial revolution. The Hinchliffes and Shillitoes seem to have lived close together - perhaps next-door to each other - in what we now know as the Lower Denby area.

Looking at the information available from the period, my feeling is that their homes may have been close to what is now known as the Dunkirk Inn, so Moor could have come into contact with them as she walked from Clayton West to Denby.

The Denby allegations surfaced at a time when what had been termed this country's "witchcraft craze" had largely passed, but the political and religious turbulence of the period undoubtedly had a bearing on what transpired. The English Civil Wars were a recent memory, with the monarchy restored in 1660. The influence of Puritanism within the Protestant faith was growing and non-conformity of particular significance in the large Penistone parish, of which Denby was part.

Most unusually in this case, a petition with the signatures of over fifty local people was drawn up in support of the accused, testifying to their good character and describing the prosecution as "most gross and groundless (if not malicious)." It also clearly implied that the petitioners did not believe the word of Moor and raised questions as to the calibre of the key witness.

The petition is a wonderful collection of often very localised surnames from the time, of immense interest to those researching their family histories. We have several of the Denby area Burdetts, a Shirt and Rich from the Penistone area as well as Wordsworths and a Saunderson. There are Blackburns, Walshaws, Mortons, Firths, Hawksworths, Shaws, Mosleys, Micklethwaites, Marshalls, Gaunts, Jessops, Greaves, Swifts, Greens, Coldwells, Wards, Cottons, Bayleys and Butroyds (Boothroyds) all on it and I have been able to identify some background detail on most of these signatories.

Looking at the histories of several of these supporters leads me to question whether their backing of the Hinchliffes and Shillitoe might actually have been counterproductive. While the three magistrates involved were clearly from families supporting Charles I during the Civil Wars, and seem to have had possible Catholic sympathies, the petition's signatories were led by a prominent supporter of Cromwell who had served in the Parliamentary Army.

Others had clear connections to the Parliamentary cause and a significant proportion were active non-conformists, including early Quakers, some of whom seem to have been involved in the establishment of the meeting house at High Flatts, not far from Upper Denby.

The tragic outcome of the case is detailed in my book, together with consideration of what might have motivated Mary Moor's allegations in the first place. But, to a large extent, the focus of my examination of what happened is not on the merits or otherwise of her claims, but on what the case can tell us about the inhabitants of a West Riding Pennine community at a fascinating time in our history.

A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution: The Denby Witchcraft Case of 1674 is on sale at the Utterly Yorkshire shop, 347 Wakefield Road, Denby Dale.

It is also available from Amazon, AbeBooks, Ebay, via the publisher's website www.llpshop.co.uk and can be ordered from other local bookshops at £12.99. All royalties from the book will be donated to charity.

David Hinchliffe (H487)
dmhinchliffe@hotmail.co.uk

Reminders and Renewals

For most members, the time of reminders and renewals is upon us. While our new membership runs for twelve months from whatever date a person joins the Society, subscriptions for the majority, over 600 people (75% of our total number) will become due around 1 August 2024. When we updated the system last year there were some difficulties caused by people having inadequate notice, so we are trying to improve this year.

Reminders

Regular mail letters have been sent to those members who do not have an email address. For those with email, reminders will be sent 1-2 weeks before the new subscription is due. A further reminder will be sent two weeks after the subscription is due. If you have paid before the second reminder arrives, please ignore it - our automatic system is not always that intelligent.

New Categories and Prices

An important point to note is that we have changed our membership categories and regrettably, due to rising costs, our prices. This was agreed and approved at our Annual General Meeting on 14 November 2023. The new categories and annual prices are: -

- Student £6 – one named person aged 16-25 and in full-time education, receipt of the quarterly Journal via email
- Electronic £12 - one named person, receipt of the quarterly Journal via email
- Standard £15 (a blend of the previous Individual and Family) - up to two people residing at the same address in the UK, receipt of a mailed, printed copy of the quarterly Journal
- Overseas £25 - non-UK address receipt of an airmailed printed Journal

New Bank account, saving us costs

We are now banking with Lloyds as this is financially better for the Society. The new bank details are printed on the back of the Membership Form available at/from the Root Cellar or the Membership Secretary (membership@hdfhs.org.uk). *It is important to use the new bank details if you are paying by BACS or Standing Order.*

Methods of Payment

Our preference is for online payment because that frees up the most time of our volunteer Officers. However, the main point to emphasise here is that the Society will work with whatever way works best for you. All we ask is that we can easily link your payment with your membership and that you have selected the correct category price. If we get Standard membership but with an overseas address or a payment based on our old prices, it takes us additional time to sort it out and our volunteers' time may be free, but it still has a cost.

Online Payment

Details are given in the renewal reminder email and you can pay by credit/debit card or via a PayPal account. Note that because of the changes in categories and prices, the process is actually to 'join' the Society, rather than renew. That should change in 2025.

Card, Cash or Cheque at the Root Cellar

All forms accepted at the Root Cellar in Meltham. Membership renewal forms are available from the volunteers. For opening times, see <https://hdfhs.org.uk/root-cellar/>

BACS Transfer or send a cheque by mail

You are welcome to pay by BACS bank transfer or by cheque. If using either of these methods please use your membership number as a reference so that our Membership Secretary can track your payment and renew the correct membership in our system. Our mailing address is The Root Cellar, 33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5NW.

If you pay by Standing Order – IMPORTANT

Please note that we do not have the power to increase the Standing Order value to cover the new subscription rates. Only you can make such changes to your Standing Order, so please ensure that it is updated in time for your renewal date. Your Standing Order should reflect the new category and membership fee as detailed above, have your membership number as a reference and be directed to our new Lloyds Bank account, details as follows:

Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-96-26
Account No. 80494868

The more complete this is, the easier it will be for our Membership Secretary to keep our, and your, records up to date.

In conclusion, we look forward to receiving your continued and valued support, because without our members we wouldn't have such a great and active Society. Thank you.

Graham Farmer
Website Manager

Heritage Open Days

Supporting Heritage Open Days is an important part of our event calendar. This year we will be present at two new venues.

On the first weekend we will be in Newsome at the former St John's Church. The building is now run as a community benefit society and they have recently met a crowd funding target to make considerable improvements to facilities within the building.

On the second weekend we will be at Holmbridge Parish Church with an exhibition in support of their Heritage event 'People and Places'.

Please do come along and support one or other of these excellent events – more details on our events page on Page 5.

Almshouses and their importance to our ancestors through the centuries

Almshouses are a charitable form of self-sufficient, low cost community housing that is held in trust for local people in housing need. They are mostly managed by charities, usually made up of local volunteers. Today, 36,000 people live full and independent lives in almshouses.

The Almshouse Association works hard with these charities and local authorities through representation, fundraising etc., to make it possible for more to be built. I remember that when I worked for the local council, our Democratic Services department ensured that the wishes of some of their benefactors continued to be met.

A recent article in the Family History Federation newsletter prompted me to think more about their origins.

The earliest ones were around in early medieval England and were usually attached to monasteries. They provided lodgings for travellers, but also cared for sick monks. One of the oldest still in existence is possibly St Oswald's Hospital in Worcester.

At the end of the fourteenth century almshouses started to be financed by more wealthy benefactors. This was a form of charity giving and needed substantial investment for the construction of suitable buildings and the establishment of trusts. The founders of such trusts would then be remembered for many years to come.

Something akin to the modern almshouse became available in the fifteenth century with residences for the elderly poor. Local parishes, in providing relief for these people, started to establish almshouses, particularly in market towns. These, however, tended at this time to be in the Midlands and the South.

By the 1600s almshouses were more common. The Bishop Duppa Almshouses in Richmond, founded in 1661 required that particular criteria were met. They were for unmarried women over the age of 50 and it was insisted that the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed were all recited in English by the prospective resident before admission.

The founders always determined the rules and commonly almspeople must 'behave in a respectable and morally upright' manner. Almshouses tended to confer status on their residents in their local communities at this time.

Over the centuries the design of almshouses has moved from a single building (similar to a care home today) where shared meals would be taken in dining hall, to what we see today.

So what of our local almshouses? The Cottage Homes in Waterloo; the Roebuck Homes in Dalton; Parkin's, Nettleton's and Houghton's Homes in Almondbury, are all fine examples. There are others around Huddersfield, and more information can be found on the Huddersfield Exposed website: <https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Welcome>

Has an ancestor of yours lived in an almshouse? My maternal grandmother spent a number of years in her later life living in the Cottage Homes on Wakefield Road, Waterloo, Huddersfield. These are classed as almshouses, although they were provided by Huddersfield Corporation on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee and completed in 1930. They were built originally for 'old couples' in difficult circumstances.



Cottage Homes, Waterloo, Huddersfield
Photo: Susan Hutson 2024

The Times of 24 April 1856 reported on the laying of the foundation stone for a row of Monumental Almshouses in Holmfirth to commemorate the Great Flood there in 1852. These can be found on Station Road between Holmfirth centre and New Mill.

The Fletcher Homes in Dewsbury are another example of a local family making a bequest to provide for six homes for the elderly, these are located on Boothroyd Lane. Robert Fletcher a Quaker businessman owned a wholesale/retail grocery business in the old market place and became extremely wealthy. The family left £8,000 in 1900 to provide for these.

Enid and Gordon Minter in their book '*Discovering Old Huddersfield*' inform us that in 1830, Thomas Holroyd of Birkby set up a charity trust fund of £800 to support four cottage almshouses at Upper Birkby. Under the terms of the trust the trustees were to use part of the income to maintain the property and from half of the surplus, purchase warm clothing in December and January for twelve poor and aged persons belonging to the township of Fartown whether living in the cottages or not. The other half of the surplus was to be used to support the education of five poor children at the school at Fartown Green.

In 1874, under a legacy in the will of John Taylor Armitage, a former trustee, the endowment of the charity was increased by £200. From the increased income the trustees were required to provide coal at Christmas for the occupants of the almshouses. The surplus income was divided into two equal shares and used, as before, to provide a clothing dole and scholarships to Fartown School. The clothing was distributed annually on the first of January at the school, the headmaster assisting in the distribution. Although the Trust still specified only twelve recipients, in practice, after 1874, some forty persons received clothing to the value of five shillings each.

After the school was reorganised in 1882, fees were increased and the number of poor children supported by the Holroyd's Charity was reduced from five to three.

The scholarships were awarded to local children, generally boys, on the result of examinations to standard four of the elementary education code and they were usually held for two to three years. By the 1890s the awards were worth five guineas a year, which barely covered tuition fees.

Another excellent example of almshouses provided for the benefit of a particularly small community are those in Wilshaw.



Eleanor Hirst Almshouses, Wilshaw
Photo: Richard Hutson 2014

The six Eleanor Hirst Almshouses, built in 1879, are fascinating examples in the village between Holmfirth and Meltham. They are Grade II listed and the Eleanor Hirst Trust aims to maintain and preserve them for the benefit of low income tenants. There is a relatively new and interesting website about Eleanor Hirst and her wish to provide a memorial to her daughter Mary here: <https://www.teht.co.uk>

Perhaps you have more information about specific almshouses which were important to one or more of your ancestors. If so please do tell us about them.

Susan Hutson
Editor

Sources:

'Discovering Old Huddersfield' by Gordon and Enid Minter
Kirklees Council – Dewsbury Heritage Walks leaflet – Fletcher Homes

Family History Federation newsletter – sign up here: [Really Useful Bulletin - The Federation's Newsletter | Federation Resources | Family History Federation](https://www.almshouses.org)<https://www.almshouses.org>

<https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Welcome>

Eleanor Hirst Almshouses - <https://www.teht.co.uk>

New Members

Once again we are very grateful that so many new members have recently joined our Society or rejoined after a short gap in membership. We welcome you all and trust that benefit from your membership. This list covers those new members who joined up to mid-May.

A202	Scott Agnew	Moncton	Canada
B593	Paul Battye	St Annes	Lancashire
B625	Christina Blewett	Hook	Hampshire
B716	Gary Beaumont	Illinois	USA
B717	David Burgess	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
B718	Kevin Bissett	Dublin	Ireland
C414	Kim Chandler	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
D103	Margaret Overend	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
D199	Julie Dempster	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
D306	Lynn Duguid	Victoria	Australia
D307	Mike Davies	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
G203	Amanda Gray	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
H617	Maria Hepworth	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
H618	Alison Hartley	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
H619	Stephanie Helliwell	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
H620	David Hurst	Mold	Flintshire
L163	Simon Law	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
M406	Timothy Murphy	Victoria	Australia
N202	Jennifer Newburn	Wakefield	West Yorkshire
P170	Jeff Pearce	Middlesbrough	North Yorkshire
P206	Janet Poulain	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
R207	Angela Royle	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
S481	Barbara Smith	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
S484	Michael Storry	Holmfirth	West Yorkshire
S512	Alex Seddon	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
S513	Roger Stubbings	Chorley	Lancashire
S514	Edwina Swinger	South Canterbury	New Zealand
W446	Christine Wilson	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire
W482	Carole Wright	Huddersfield	West Yorkshire

All our new members should have received a 'Welcome Pack' which will have arrived electronically to your email address, soon after you joined. If you have not received this please contact Jane Harris, our Membership Secretary, membership@hdfhs.org.uk



Focus on Honley Village

For anyone with ancestors in the Honley area of Huddersfield, several documents have recently been added to the library collection that may enhance your research.

'Inscription Recording of Tombstones and Monuments St Mary the Virgin Honley' (03.091C).

The document records inscriptions from the church graveyard, listing one hundred and three graves. This graveyard closed in 1856 and an additional cemetery, situated nearby, opened in 1857.

These records are available in the library, *'Honley Cemetery'* (03.091)

Mary A Jaggar in her *'History of Honley and its Hamlets from the Earliest Time to the Present'* (1914) dedicates whole chapters to the history of St Mary's, and non-conformist churches in Honley. This book can be read online by visiting 'Huddersfield Exposed' and is also available to download. The book is available at the Root Cellar but is for reference only.

The Burial Index for St Mary, Honley (1813-1900) is available to purchase via our website.

We have some new non-conformist additions:

Honley Independent Moor Bottom Baptisms 1795-1854, Burials 1811-1859, Memorial Inscriptions from the burial ground. (03.099, 03.097A)

This is a printed copy that may be copied, but it is not indexed.

Honley Southgate Primitive Chapel Burials, 1847-1862 (03.099)

All items can be viewed in person at the Root Cellar or a search can be made by contacting the librarian.

Honley - People, Places & Place Names written by George Redmonds is available to loan from the library (11.245C), or can be purchased via the website, along with a number of other general books about Honley.

Further books about St Mary's, Honley and non-conformist churches can be found in Section 10 in the library catalogue and general books about Honley in Section 11.

The library catalogue can be viewed via the website or at the Root Cellar.

If you would like a particular locality featured in the library report in the next journal, please contact the Librarian - librarian@hdfhs.org.uk

Maureen Wheeler
Librarian

Fulstone Hall aka Morehoushaull

In 'The History and Topography of the parish of Kirkburton' (1861) Dr James Henry Morehouse wrote:

"About half a mile to the east of Newmill is Fulstone Hall. The modern aspect of this place affords no indications of an ancient "Hall." It is, however, certain that in the fifteenth century it was so designated; but the "old hall" was taken down about seventy years ago ."

Without doubt numerous 15th – 16th century references to 'de haull' can be found in Kirkburton Parish Registers (KBR), Wills and Wakefield Manor Court Rolls (WCR). However, when compiling a spreadsheet of Morehouse baptisms, marriages and deaths from the parish registers, three 'Morehouse Hall' entries were found in the years 1661-1663. Initially these entries were thought to be in error or referred to another location lost in time. Then on obtaining a copy of the 1533 citation for 'William Morehous of Fulston' from the Borthwick Institute, it was found that "*Johe Morehous de Morehoushaull*" was one of the witnesses.

This surprise prompted a review as to when the name 'Fulstone Hall' was first recorded. George Redmonds had also noted the 1663 parish record for 'Morehouse Hall' but possibly decided it was an anomaly like Frances Anne Collins did when transcribing the 1662 baptism of Hanna Morehouse. Other than the 1533 citation, all other references found in the parish registers, Wills and WCRs between 1509 and 1585 were to 'de Hall'. It was not until 1629 that 'Fulstone Hall' was first mentioned in the Will of "*Jennett Morehouse of Fulstone Hall late wyfe of William Morehouse*" and the parish registers first recorded 'Fulstone Hall' in 1674. The last record found for 'Morehouse Hall' was 1663.

By 1700, the name Fulstone Hall was well established but all the early 'de hall' references prior to 1630 are possibly for Morehouse Hall. However, it is also possible that the original name was simply 'the Hall' which over time acquired the Morehouse connection due to the family's residency of 'the Hall' for over 200 years.

Year	Reference	Source
1435	<u>of</u> Morehouse	William <u>of</u> Morehous jnr WCR15/90,92,95,96,99,101,110 (five William 'of' M_ vs two William M_)
1509	del Hall	Red(H)21 - John Morehouse del Hall Fulstone MD225/1/235
1533	Morehoushaull	Borthwick - William Morehous Citation YAS11/229
1551	the Hall	WCR07/152 – to the use of 'John Morehous of the Hall junior'
1556	the Haull	Borthwick – John Morehouse Will vol.15 pt.1 fol.199
1557	de Hall	KBR1 1359 John Morhous burial
1558	of Hall	Borthwick – Thomas Fournes Will vol.15 pt.3 fol.156 'Willm Morehouse of hall'
1574	de Haull	KBR1 3122 Thomas Morhous baptism
1574	de Haull	KBR1 3206 Thomas Morhous burial
1579	of hall	Borthwick - William Mowrhowse Will v.21 f.427
1584	le Hall	WCR04/139 - surrender by 'William Morehous of le Hall and Joan his wife'
1584	de Hall	KBR1 4046 Jennett wife William Morehowse burial

1585	de Hall	KBR1 4073 Dorothy Morehowse baptism
1629	Fulstone Hall	Borthwick - Jennett Morehouse Will vol.41 fol.307
1652	Hall	WCR08/72 - surrender by Mathew Morehouse
1661	Morehouse Hall	KBR2 915 Sarah Hurst baptism
1662	Morehouse Hall	FindMyPast - original image Hanna Morehouse baptism
1662	Ffulston Hall*	KBR2 1074 Hanna Morehouse baptism (*transcription error)
1663	Morehouse Hall	KBR2 1238 William Morehouse burial
1673	de Hall	KBR2 3012 Anne Morehouse burial
1674	Ffulstone Hall	KBR2 3142 Anne Frith baptism
1674	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 3105 Sarah Morehouse burial
1685	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 5135 Elizabeth Morehouse burial
1687	de Hall	KBR2 - appendix Bond to Matthew Morehouse
1694	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 6688 John Morehouse baptism
1697	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 7245 Rosamund Morehouse baptism
1699	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 7680 Hanna Morehouse baptism
1699	Ffulstone Hall	KBR2 7784 Mathew Morehouse jur burial
1705	Ffulstone Hall	KBR2 8816 Elizabeth Beever baptism
1706	Fulstone Hall	KBR2 9065 Mathew Morehouse burial
1709	Hall	Wakefield Manor Rents (YAS101/128) - Mathew Morehouse tenant
1710	Ffulstone Hall	KBR2 10018 Mary Morehouse burial
1762	Hall	W. Mudge Ordnance Survey - 88 Huddersfield
1771	Foulstone Hall	Jefferys' Map of Yorkshire - Sheet 7
1854	Foolstone Hall	Ordnance Survey - Yorkshire 272

Further evidence for Fulstone Hall and Morehouse Hall being one and the same is in the 1663 Will of William Morehouse alias Cowldwell where he mentions his brother Matthew and Matthew's son Matthew Morehouse the younger. William died at Morehouse Hall according to the parish burial register but both Matthews resided at Fulstone Hall with the son predeceasing this father in 1699 and Mathew Morehouse Snr buried in 1706. Mathew Morehouse Snr was the son of Jennett Morehouse of Fulstone Hall who mentioned him in her 1629 Will.

Fulstone Hall is also mentioned by George Redmonds in "Holmfirth Place-names and Settlement" (1994):

"There were Moorhouses in Fulstone from at least 1331 and different branches of the family lived for generations at Deershaw, Ebson House and Snowgate Head. Other Moorhouses were simply said to be "of Fulstone" and there is nothing to tell us exactly where they lived. Clearly therefore the settlement site at Fulstone Hall may go back much earlier than the place-name evidence suggests and it may even be that this was the family's original home. As it is the various forms of the name take the history of the settlement back to c.1500.

There is no obvious evidence in either the buildings or the documents that Fulstone Hall was ever a gentry house, so the use of the term 'hall' may just have been an indication of the local status of this Moorhouse family."

In 1352 William del Morehous 'the grave' for Holme was resident in the 'vill of Foughelston'.

As to the origin and meaning of Morehouse, in 'Place Names and Surnames: Their Origin and Meaning' (1944) by Taylor Dyson it is mentioned that the *"house on the more being very common in Yorkshire."* In West Yorkshire, moorlands are typically high and remote as evidenced by the several references found in Dr Morehouse's book: *"high moorlands"; "wild moorlands"; "high moorland"; "high and bleak moorland"; "high and barren moorland"; "high moorlands".*

In the disambiguation for the surname 'Morley' F.W Moorman wrote *"O.E. mōr is used somewhat loosely to indicate 'a swamp,' 'a piece of uncultivated land,' 'a moor'; and the idea of a moor as a swampy place is preserved in the modern English ..."* – The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire (1910). However, in the WCR for 1307 can be found a field named 'moreker' in Fulstone. A.H Smith shows 'moreker' as being a compound of *"mōr, kjarr"* – 'The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire - Part 2' (1986) and throughout his book, A.H Smith shows kjarr to mean 'marsh'. This was confirmed by George Redmonds when he wrote *"... kjarr an Old Norse word ... referred to marshy land"*. Therefore mōr and kjarr are not one and the same but two distinct topographical features, with one giving rise to the Morehouse surname and the other to the Kerr surname. Moreker could therefore be interpreted as 'the marsh on the moor'.

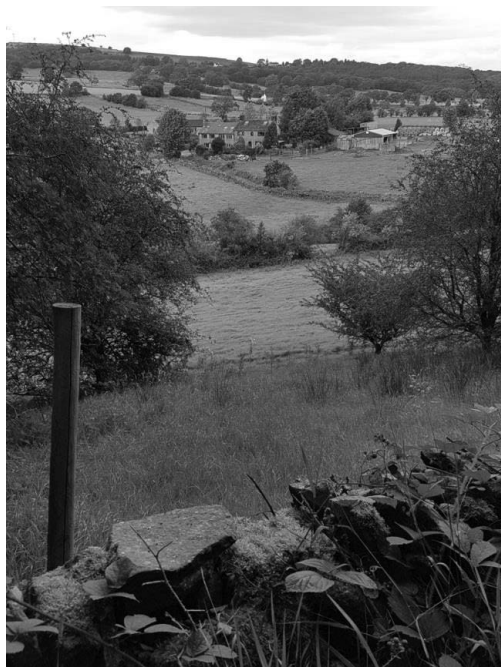
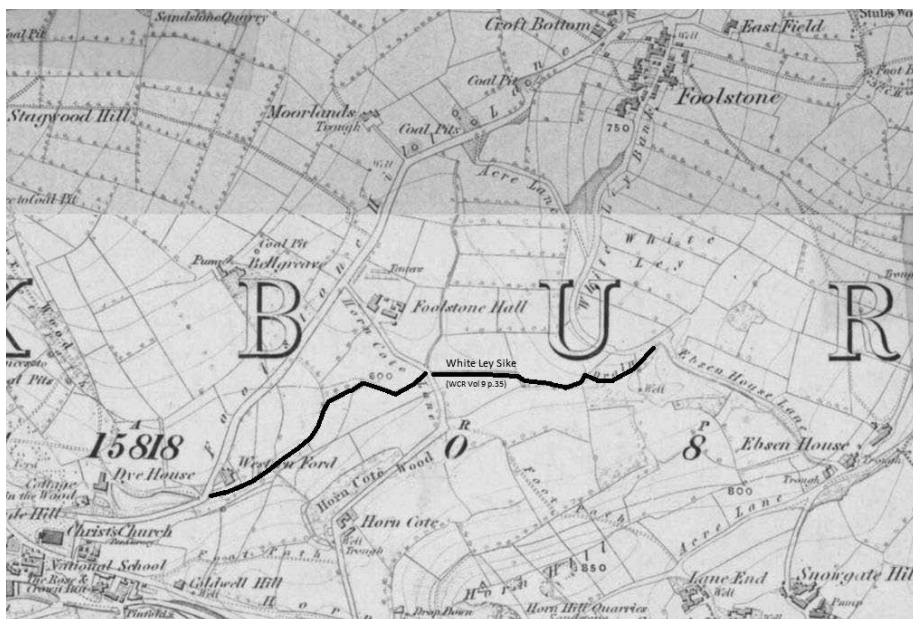
The earliest Morehouse references in the WCRs that have been transcribed between 1331 and 1352 are for 'del Morehous'; 'de Morehous' is mentioned in the 1379 Poll Tax record for Holmfirth; Dr Morehouse referred to Roger 'del Morehouse' living in 1398 and the 'The Northern Genealogist' Vol VI (1903) edited by Alfred Gibbons transcribed 'Roger de Morehous' for a 1404 surrender to his sons William and Thomas.

By 1433 being the next Roll to be transcribed, the 'del' had been dropped and the surname Morehouse (or its variations) has subsequently been written in the Wakefield Court Manor Rolls without a prefix.

The prefix 'del' is contraction of the old French 'de + le' meaning 'of the' compared to the more common prefix 'de' meaning 'of' or 'from'. This apparent small difference is considered important as the 'del' means they were 'of the Morehous'; that is, of or from the house on the moor compared to say 'de Foughelston' meaning, of or from Fulstone.

Therefore, what evidence (if any) can be found in the topography of the land or place names today for a house located adjacent to high boggy moorland in Fulstone back in the 14th century?

See over the page.



On the 1854 Ordnance Survey Map, Moorlands Farm can be found 300 metres north of Fulstone Hall. Fulstone Hall itself is located on the opposite side of the dale below Horn Hill.

Falling from Ebson House Lane to the east and running down through the dale towards New Mill is the Whitley Sike (see 1538 entry for John Nethegaite in WCR Vol 9 p.35).

PHOTO 1 – Looking towards Fulstone Hall from Horn Cote Lane



PHOTO 2 - Low point and boggy section on Horn Cote Lane where Whitley Sike crosses

Goldthorp. The 'of' could be a scribing or translation error, however if correct, the 'of' certainly implies a place called Morehous.

Fulstone Hall would certainly fit the description of 'the house on the moor' in medieval times. The fact that Fulstone Hall was first known as 'Morehouse Hall' only supports the possibility that this was the place for 'the house on the moor' which first gave rise to the Morehouse name in Fulstone around 1331. There are also the 1435 entries in the Court Rolls where "William of Morehous junior" is mentioned five times versus twice for "William Morehous junior" in regard to a debt to John

Alan Kane, New Zealand (K204)
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Certificate Donated

Just one certificate has been donated this quarter. If you would like to receive it we ask for a £2.00 donation plus postage.

Name	Type	Date	District
Mary Hirst	Death	1866	Slaithwaite

Please contact Margaret Woodcock – publicity@hdfhs.org.uk

You may remember that last quarter we published a long list of certificates which had been donated to the Society. We are very pleased that we had someone interested in the whole collection, thank you to both our volunteer, David Milsom who donated them, and to the person who made a donation to the society for those no longer wanted certificates.

WWII Prisoners of War

Recently Ancestry released a new set of records, the questionnaires that were given to British/American ex-prisoners of war after World War II. I typed in my Huddersfield surname, Donkersley, and two results came up – George Ivor Donkersley and Ben Donkersley. Ben was born in Milnsbridge and George Ivor was born in Liverpool, but his roots lay in the Huddersfield area, or, more precisely, in Honley. The men were not closely related. I thought that their stories might be of interest to other members of the Society.

GEORGE IVOR DONKERSLEY: 1910-1990

George Ivor Donkersley was born in Liverpool on Christmas Eve 1910 to George Henry and Annie (nee Evans). George Henry had also been born in Liverpool, and he was the son of Henry Donkersley who had been born in Honley. Henry's father was George Donkersley who, from 1835 until 1859, was the schoolmaster at the National School in Honley.

George Ivor lived with his parents at 30 Alcester Road, Liverpool, and the house was named "*Honley*" in honour of the family's origins. When the 1939 Register was taken he was working as an audit clerk and was also a special constable. He enlisted in the RAF in May 1940.

On 13 May 1943 George Ivor took part in a raid on Bochum in Germany, one of many raids that took place in that year as part of the "*Battle of the Ruhr*," a strategic bombing campaign against the "*armoury of the Reich*." This area was the main centre of German heavy industry with steelworks, armament factories, coke plants etc. Flight Lieutenant Donkersley was aboard Halifax II DT526 as its Wireless Operator, part of 51 Squadron. Twelve Halifax Bombers took off close to midnight on 13 May from RAF Snaith in the East Riding of Yorkshire for a night raid on Bochum, with 65% moon. It was a large raid and including the men from Snaith 442 aircraft took part. There were 24 losses in total, two of these from Snaith.

Donkersley's plane was carrying a mix of heavy explosives and incendiaries. Halifax bombers usually had a crew of 7; pilot, navigator, bomb aimer, wireless operator, flight engineer and two gunners (mid upper and rear). The crews of the other aircraft are all named on the records, but the crew list for Donkersley's Halifax is incomplete. The pilot appears to have been F/Lt. Robert Dickson Johnstone DFC, with the other crew being Matthew Gibb, Arthur George Wingrave, Percy Parnham DFC, F. Tipton and Basil Raymond Fyfield (the latter's name being omitted from the list).

Of the twelve Halifax bombers that took part in the raid out of Snaith, ten returned safely, although some had some flak damage and one had to abandon its mission because it developed faults. One of the planes was coned(1) by searchlights and hotly engaged by heavy flak; the pilot had to take evasive action with the result that its bombs were dropped short of the target. One burst of flak almost turned the aircraft over on its back, but it managed to return safely to base. Donkersley's plane was one of the two which did not return, and the Record of Events book simply noted that they were "*not heard of again after taking off*."

Decoy markers drew much of the bombing away from the target and there was little information available about the extent of the damage caused by the raid. Donkersley's plane was hit by flak at 14000 feet over the target and then "*finished off*" by a Fw190 [Focke-Wolf]. It crashed at Grevel 6km SSE of Lünen.

Two men were killed in the crash: Sergeant Basil Raymond Fyfield, air gunner, and Flight Lieutenant Percy Parnham DFC, also an air gunner. They were buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, which is about 85 miles from Lünen. The remaining men had bailed out and were captured and taken to Stalag Luft III which was located near the town of Sagan in Lower Silesia, in what was then Nazi Germany and is now Żagań in Poland.

George Ivor Donkersley and Robert Dickson Johnson were both captured near Dortmund, about fourteen miles from Lünen, Donkersley on 14 May and Johnstone on 15 May. Matthew Gibb made it all the way to Borkum on the Dutch border before being captured by police on 16 May. He had ridden a bicycle by night, covering a distance of almost 200 miles. His main problem was lack of food, but he was fit and well. Arthur George Wingrave was captured at Grevel near Dortmund, about 6 or 7 miles south of Lünen, on 14 May. He survived the war, remaining in the RAFVR until 20 September 1956. I cannot find out what happened to Sergeant F. Tipton, the Flight Engineer. Ancestry has a Sgt. F. Tipton 975105 listed as a POW, but there is no questionnaire for him on Ancestry (although it may be available at the National Archives) and there is no other record for him. Findmypast has a record of a Sgt. F. Tipton being a POW at Stalag Luft 6 at Heydekrug. I am not sure if this is the same person as the man on the Halifax DT525 and can find no further information.(2)

Stalag Luft III POW camp was a Luftwaffe-run POW camp which held captured Western Allied air force personnel and is famous for two mass escape attempts. The site was selected as a camp because its sandy soil made it difficult for POWs to escape by tunnelling – which is exactly what they did. One escape in 1943 became the basis of the 1950 fictionalised film *"The Wooden Horse"*, which was based on a book by escapee Eric Williams. A second breakout in 1944 was also made into a (highly fictionalised) film called *"The Great Escape"* in 1963 (starring some big names including Steve McQueen), which was based on a book by former prisoner Paul Brickhill.

Flight Lieutenant George Ivor Donkersley 107458 of RAF Squadron 51, Bomber Division, filled in his questionnaire on 3 May 1945. He said that he was captured at Dortmund on 14 May 1943 and was not wounded. He was a prisoner at Stalag Luft III from 18 May 1943 until 28 January 1945 when he was transferred to Marlag Milag Nord at Tarmstedt (between Bremen and Hamburg), where he stayed until 11 April 1945. He said that he had not suffered any serious illnesses whilst a POW. When asked whether he had received any advice about how to behave in the event of capture, he said he had, at Kinloss, where he was also lectured on escape and evasion. In answer to the question, *"Were you specially interrogated by the enemy? State where, when, and methods employed by the enemy,"* he replied, *"yes, Dulag Luft, normal methods,"* but he didn't state what those *"normal methods"* were. Dulag Luft were German Prisoner of War transit camps for captured airmen from any of the allied air forces. Their main purpose was to act as collection and interrogation centres for newly captured aircrew, before they were transferred in batches to the permanent camps. George Ivor declared that he did not make any attempt at escape, nor did he undertake any sabotage or destruction of German property.

Robert Dickson Johnstone on the other hand took part in the digging of a tunnel. *"[I] worked on the successful Sagan tunnel which resulted in death of several officers, but since my name did not appear on the lottery list, was not permitted to go out,"* he wrote. The plan had been to break out some 200 POWs, chosen by who had the best language and escape skills to succeed, who had worked most in the preparation, and then by lottery. Johnstone too had received a lecture on escape and evasion, at Snaith, Yorkshire, given by a sergeant-pilot who was an escaped POW. Johnstone had been interrogated by *"a person dressed as a civilian Red Cross representative at Dulag Luft, Frankfurt-am-Maine, 18 May 1943."*

George Ivor wrote on his questionnaire that he was held at Stalag Luft III from 18 May 1943 until 28 January 1945. It was just before midnight on 27 January, with Soviet troops only 16 miles away, that the POWs were marched out of camp, heading for Spremberg, in snow and freezing temperatures. The prisoners were split up, and George was among those who were sent to Marlag und Milag, which he records was on the 4 February. He was there until 11 April.

After the War, George Ivor remained in the RAF Volunteer Reserve and relinquished his commission of Squadron Leader on 24 December 1975. There was an interesting piece in the Cheshire Observer of 2 June 1951 which mentioned him. Flight Lieutenant W. S. Martin, aged 44, an equipment officer at R.A.F. Station Handforth, was passing W. H. Smith, the booksellers, when he saw a notice stating that Eric Williams, the author of "*The Wooden Horse*" and "*The Tunnel*," was visiting the building. He knew that his friend Flight Lieutenant George Donkersley, who was also an equipment officer on the same station, had spent some time as a prisoner of war with Mr. Williams, so he went inside and purchased an autographed copy of "*The Tunnel*" for his friend.

George Ivor Donkersley died 1990 in Dumfries, Scotland, at the age of 79. Scottish death registrations very helpfully give the mother's maiden name to help confirm that this was indeed the right man. In this case, Evans. There was an obituary published in the Daily Telegraph 17 February 1990, but it does not mention his war time experiences.

BEN DONKERSLEY: 1908-1992

Ben Donkersley was born in Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, in 1908, the son of William Henry Donkersley and his second wife Lily Augusta Jackson. William Henry had been born in Linthwaite and his father Benjamin at Milnsbridge, and Benjamin's father George was born in Almondbury. Ben's father William Henry was brought up in Longwood and after his marriage to his first wife Martha Beaumont he moved to Bingley and then to Keighley. After Martha's death in 1900 he married Lily in 1901. Sometime after that they moved back to Huddersfield, living at Primrose Hill. They had three children, all born in Huddersfield: Ethel (1904-1904), Enid (1906) and Ben (1908). William Henry died in March 1916 and on 4 December that year Lily took Enid and Ben and emigrated to South Africa. Britain was at war with Germany at this time. Lily was accompanied by two Jackson relations, one of whom was possibly her brother. They set sail out of Plymouth on the SS Corinthic, which was eventually bound for New Zealand. Ben was 8 years old.

Ben enlisted in the South African Army Union Defence Force on 17 June 1940. His POW questionnaire tells us that Ben Donkersley 109160 lived at Green Point, Cape and that he had worked as a clerk before enlisting. He was a gunner in the 2nd anti-aircraft regiment of the SAA UDF, and was captured at Tobruk, Libya, on 21 June 1942.

Ben was first held as a POW at "*Bengazi Prison Cage*" [Benghazi, Libya] which was a transit camp under Italian control situated just outside Benghazi, described by many as a "*hell hole*." He was held here from being captured on 21 June 1942 until 11 November when he was transferred to Tripoli where he stayed for just over a month. After Tripoli Ben was taken to "*Italian Camp no. 75*" at Bari on the south-western coast of Italy and after about three months he was moved to "*Italian Camp no. 85*" at Brindisi, also on the coast, about 70 miles further south.

He was here for two months and was then "*free in Italy*" from 11 September 1943 until 18 October. On 8 September 1943 General Dwight Eisenhower announced the surrender of Italy to the Allies. On the same day Hitler launched Operation Axis, the occupation of Italy.

German troops entered Rome and Italian troops began surrendering to their former German allies. Ben Donkersley left camp, but many POWs did not, after the Ministry of Defence ordered British POWs in Italy to remain in their camps after Italy surrendered. The German army was then able to enter the camps and round up the POWs, who were then transported to camps in Germany, usually by cattle train, to far worse conditions. Ben was free for 5 weeks and attempted to evade the Germans but was unsuccessful and was sent to Stalag IVA Mühldorf in Germany from 1 November 1943 until 10 January 1944.

After this he was sent to a working camp. From January until July 1944 he was in a timber factory before being admitted to Stalag Hospital from July to November, a period of 4 months. This seems to have been because of severe eczema on both hands, which Ben had contracted in Benghazi because of malnutrition. He did not receive any treatment for this whilst in Africa, although he did receive some treatment in Italy which he described as "*fair*." He stated the treatment he received in Germany was "*very good*," and mentioned being in hospital for several months. Following his release he was sent to Stalag Hoyerswerda and then Stalag South Dresden. He was there until 7 May 1945, the day before VE Day. Ben died in Cape Town 18 September 1992 at the age of 84.

Claire Pearson (P015)

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NOTES AND SOURCES

- (1) When one searchlight, often radar controlled, picked up an aircraft, all of the others in the target area would swing onto that aircraft, thus 'coning' it, then the flak would be poured into the cone
- (2) Tipton is mentioned on this website as being one of the crew of the Halifax DT526: <https://aircrewremembered.com/AlliedLossesIncidents/alliedlossesincidents-alpha-list-s-z.html>

UK and Allied Countries, World War II Liberated Prisoner of War Questionnaires, 1945-1946. There are from records at the National Archives classified as WO 344 and are available on Ancestry, but not all of the questionnaires are available on Ancestry (as of April 2024); some are only available as originals for consultation at the National Archives in Kew.

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62114/>

RAF Commands database (drawn from a variety of sources), Prisoners of War page

<https://www.rafcommands.com/database/pows/index.php?qdate=1943-05-13%2000:00:00>

AIR 27/492/27: Summary of Events (Operational Record Book). Notes date, weather conditions and whether any operations were carried out that day and if so, how many aircraft and their mission. Available as a free download from The National Archives.

AIR 27/492/28: Record of Events (Operational Record Book). Lists the plane number, crew members and their role, type and number of bombs carried, and a summary of how the operation went for that plane and crew. Available as a free download from The National Archives

Commonwealth War Graves Commission - <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Information on Stalag Luft III from various website inc. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_Luft_III

Findmypast for newspaper reports (also available at the British Newspaper Archive)

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Outward passenger lists at Ancestry

Obituary at newspapers.com

A Family Affair

22 June 1891 was a special day for some Livesey siblings at Kirkheaton Church. Edwin, Betsy and Jesse baptised five of their children on the same day. Whilst I have noticed several children from the same family unit baptised together, it must be quite unusual for several cousins to be baptised alongside each other ... or do you know something different?

Albert is my grandfather and Jesse and Miriam my great grandparents. The Rector of Kirkheaton, the Reverend Maddox, has also helpfully added their birth dates. The moral of this story is to always look at the adjacent records on the page or on surrounding pages, you can often find a fascinating nugget of information to add to your family history.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of KIRKHEATON ,						
in the County of York, in the Year 1891						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1891 June 22 July 25 1890 No. 45	Harry	Edwin + Elizabeth	Livesey	Mold piece Dalton	Dyer	R. Maddox Rector
1891 June 22 10 Dec 1890 No. 46	Herbert	Edwin + Elizabeth	Livesey	Mold piece Dalton	Dyer	R. Maddox Rector
1891 June 22 27 Nov 1890 No. 47	Mary	Sam + Betsy	Wilson	Mold piece Dalton	Dyer	R. Maddox Rector
1891 June 22 7/Nov 1890 No. 48	Tom	Sam + Betsy	Wilson	Mold piece Dalton	Dyer	R. Maddox Rector
1891 June 22 8 July 1890 No. 49	Albert	Jesse + Miriam	Livesey	Stanniford Building Dalton	Delver	R. Maddox Rector

Susan Hutson
Editor

Our hardworking members

In collaboration with Sandra Stocks of the Kirkheaton History Group, I have recently added burial data for Hopton Chapel to my website and baptism data is due to follow shortly. Sandra also has copies of other data files which she is happy to consult upon request and I thought this information may be of interest via the journal.

I set out below information sent to me by Sandra which includes the relevant information.

On Saturday 7 September, Kirkheaton St. John's is holding a Church Heritage Open Day between 10 am and 4 pm and I will be present to demonstrate the website and answer questions.

Best wishes

Richard Horton (H366)

mail@kirkheaton.info

The following transcriptions are available to view on www.kirkheaton.info

Grange Moor Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1877 - 2001

Houses Hill Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1899 – 1976

Huddersfield Hillhouse United Methodist Free Chapel baptisms 1917 - 1961

Hopton Chapel Burials 1736 – 2022 (Baptisms coming soon)

The following is a list of church registers for which I have copies but which have not yet been transcribed. I can look up details for you but I am not able to provide copies of the registers.

Grange Moor Wesleyan Methodist marriages 1889 – 2002

Rowley Hill Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1887 -1984

Knowl Rd, Mirfield Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1801 – 1972

Knowl Rd, Mirfield Wesleyan Methodist burials 1839 – 1908

Briestfield Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1843 – 1991

Hartshead Wesleyan Methodist baptisms 1884 - 1964

Houses Hill Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Class Lists 1832 – 1842

Liversedge Christ Church burials 1816 – 1974

Dewsbury Ebenezer/ United Reformed Church burials 1843 - 1879

Clifton St John burials 1860 – 1919

If you are interested in a look-up for any of these registers, please email sandrastocks54@hotmail.com

Milton (Jim) Hoyle, his Military Career

Milton Hoyle, known colloquially as Jim (1), my maternal grandfather was born on 29 September 1881 in Huddersfield (2). He was baptised in December (3).

In 1891 he was living with parents Dyson and Clara and siblings Evelyn and Norman at 37 Willow Lane East in Hillhouse, Huddersfield (4). In 1899 Milton was 18 in September and in the following month the second Anglo Boer War started on the 11 October. Quite soon the call went out for volunteers from the Red Cross and St John's ambulance brigade to join the Cape Medical Staff Corps to serve in the base hospitals in South Africa. Over 300 were recruited from Huddersfield alone.

I have found no record of Milton in the UK in the 1901 census which leads me to believe he might have been one of the volunteers. Amongst my collection of family photographs I have a professional mounted photograph (5) signed by SE Caney which depicts a military hospital, probably in South Africa. A note by Caney on the mount reads Southern ??? Bldgs. A search on a Victorian photographer's website turned up a Sidney Edward Caney (6). On another site I located a William Henry Caney, born in Durban, who was a special photographer with Juliers column in the Anglo Boer War (7).

I have searched several web sites for a Milton Hoyle, without success so far. I have found a JM Hoyle with roll number 127 (8) who served in 1900 from 2 February to 21 April.

Sometime later, Milton (Jim) met my grandmother Mabel Edith Matilda Percival in Tottenham. They married in November 1902 (10) and my mother Dorothy Mabel was born on 11 December 1902 (9), (their only child). He was known to his new family in London as Uncle Jim (10).



Milton (Jim) Hoyle

Milton went on to serve in World War 1 in the RAMC (11). After a gas attack he eventually lost a lung (12) and on the 10 May 1918 Private Milton Hoyle, 69944, was discharged (13), and living in Berry .Brow (14).

Whilst living in Huddersfield Dorothy's education included attendance at Hillhouse Higher Elementary school. At that time a mixed school where she appears on a class photograph. Sometime later the family were living by the sea in Meliden, Wales (15). In 1928 their daughter Dorothy Mabel Hoyle was recorded as still living in Meliden when she married my father, Harry Swan, on 14 July at the Hillhouse Congregational church in Huddersfield (16).

Around this time, Milton and his wife moved to 52 Arnold Street, Birkby, Huddersfield, living with his father Dyson Hoyle (17).

Whilst attending the nearby Hillhouse Central School, (formally my mother's old school) from 1942 to 1946, I used to call for a game of chess with my grandfather.

I recall him talking about playing chess against FD Yates, a famous local player.

He never spoke about his experiences in the war. My grandfather died aged 65 on 3 June 1947 (18), about a year after I had started work. The estate was valued at £438 0s 6d (19).

Robert H Swan (\$295)

References

- (1) A letter from his niece Rosemary Hill
- (2) Birth certificate and Ancestry print out
- (3) non-conformist baptisms records and Milton Hoyle commemorative mug
- (4) 1884 census
- (5) Military hospital photograph
- (6) victorianphotographers.co.uk
- (7) Book of Natalians, Who's Who
- (8) Anglo Boer War website
- (9) Birth certificate and Ancestry print out
- (10) Birthday book belonging to my grandmother
- (11) Photograph in uniform
- (12) Conversation with his brother George
- (13) Certificate
- (14) Marriage certificate and Ancestry printout
- (15) Parents' marriage certificate
- (16) Parents' marriage certificate
- (17) 1939 Register
- (18) National Probate Registry
- (19) National Probate Registry

Note: Robert Swan's members' interests have recently been loaded onto the Members' area of our website and he is keen to make connections with anyone who knows anything about his family – Ed.

Members' Interests

Please remember that you can add your members' interests to our website whenever you wish. We no longer publish them in the journal, but in the 'Members' only' area, please do take a look from time to time.

You never know when you may be able to make that connection or even break down a long standing brick wall. The list is now much longer than when we first added this area of the website. – Ed.

Obituary

It was recently brought to our attention that one of our earliest members, **Rita Walker**, of Honley has passed away. She was responsible for transcribing the records for Green Cliff Cemetery in Honley. She loved researching other people's family histories and was generally very interested in the history of the village of Honley.

We are grateful that some of her work has now been donated to our Society – Ed.

It won't be long before we can welcome you all to our annual Family and Local History Fair at a lovely new venue – full details below. If you know of anyone who we may not have on our mailing list who may like to exhibit at the Fair, please contact: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk



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Greenhead Masonic Hall

26 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4EN



Saturday 26 October 2024 - 10 am to 4 pm

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Research Corner

'Family History and AI'

So what exactly is 'AI'? We hear it mentioned so often now but maybe we've not taken time out to understand what exactly is meant by the term. Most of us will know that it stands for 'artificial intelligence', and even as I typed those words when preparing this article Microsoft Word knew what I was going to type by the time I had got to the 'f' in artificial. That is one of the many uses for artificial intelligence. Predictive text - I don't know about you but although it has its uses, I find it a little annoying when sending simple messages to friends via my smartphone when I have unintentionally sent something with a word I did not mean to type. You then feel the need to send another message correcting what you typed.

In the dictionary 'artificial' has the meaning '*of a thing: made or constructed by human skill esp. in imitation of, or as a substitute for something which is made or occurs naturally; man-made*'. 'Intelligence' is described as '*the faculty of understanding, intellect*'.

Microsoft uses a form of AI called 'Copilot', Facebook uses 'MetaAI'. Smaller companies are starting to build products but as yet, we have not seen anything from Apple which is quite surprising. I am sure it will not be long before they launch something.

How often do you now receive suggestions about what you may find interesting to read on your Kindle, or what you might like to watch on your Smart TV? All these suggestions are made by using a form of artificial intelligence. One use of some concern has been the ability of students now to write essays and theses using AI – how easily can this be recognised by teachers and tutors I wonder? I am of an age to remember when calculators were not even allowed in maths exams, technology has moved on so quickly in the last 50 years. I wonder how our descendants will view this period in our history.

It was announced at RootsTech this year that Ancestry are currently testing an 'AI assistant'; it will be interesting to find out how exactly that can help us in our searches. MyHeritage already have available an AI Record Finder and an AI Biography Writer. I am sure all these things will be helpful, but I still just worry that people will no longer have to use their own intelligence to research and write, surely this will take so much of the joy out of our hobby.

Last year it was quite the thing in the genealogy world on Twitter (X) to show another aspect of MyHeritage which allowed you to upload a photo of yourself and then AI would produce photographs of you in the costume of different eras. I can think of at least two of our members, mentioning no names, who had a go at this and some of the images produced were quite amazing.

My Heritage also have some useful tips on their website and I particularly noted this one regarding timelines and mapping "For those genealogists who want to fill in the 'dash' between an ancestor's birth date and death date, artificial intelligence can help build complex timelines as well as 'map' event dates to locations for a better understanding of how our ancestors lived". Ancestry have of course been willing to come up with each ancestor's 'LifeStory' for quite a few years now.

If you would like to have a go at using AI, consider signing up for the free version 3.5 of ChatGPT which is a computer program where you can have a conversation or answer questions using a form of AI called 'Deep Learning'. In other words it is a virtual writing assistant or a smart chat bot.

Please do write and let us know if you have started using AI in your family history research or biographical writing, it would be amazing if we could publish a piece of your research

which has been aided by AI, with explanations of the pros and cons and how you found it to work with.

There are a number of useful videos on YouTube to aid your understanding of this new technology.

Susan Hutson
Editor

Sources:

Oxford English Dictionary online

RootsTech 2024 presentation by Matt Armstrong on 'YouTube'

May 2024 edition of Family Tree magazine

www.myheritage.com

www.youtube.co.uk

West Yorkshire Archive Service

Sources for House History

You may know that the Archive Service produce a number of User Guides about their collections. No 10 in this series discusses sources for House History. Here are some of them:

Architectural features may give a clue to the age of a property, for advice go to: www.house-detectives.co.uk or www.buildinghistory.org/

You may already have deeds to the property but more information can be obtained from the Land Registry: www.land.reg.gov.uk

Electoral registers will tell you more about the people who lived there. More are being added now to Ancestry and FindmyPast but local registers are held by WY Archives Wakefield office. Contact them to find out if they have the ones you want.

Valuation Office maps and field books are another useful source and some of these for parts of the West Riding are also held at WYAS Wakefield. Of course the 1910 Valuation survey information is available on Ancestry.

The West Riding of Yorkshire Registry of Deeds is a unique collection which records the ownership of property and land from 1704 to 1970. Over 13 million memorials were registered up to September 1970 when the Registry closed. After 1970 you should go the Land Registry website.

The records of the Wakefield Probate Registry are held at WYAS Wakefield and you can search the Calendars of Probate on the Ancestry website.

The Enclosure Acts took land out of common use and sold it into private hands. Most transactions took place in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

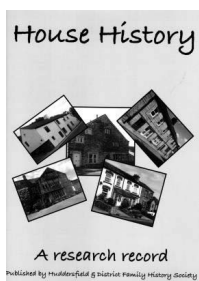
Plots of land were given a number on the maps and the details of ownership were recorded in the award books. They rarely provide details of named properties but do show who owned the land.

Tithe Maps - produced in 1835 to calculate the money payment alternative for tithes in kind these maps show each parish and the properties liable for the tithe. There is also an apportionment or award listing landowner, occupier, plot number and name and description of premises.

More information can be found in Collection Guide 9: Tithe Maps.

Other records held by WYAS include:

Ordnance Survey Maps
Land Tax Returns
Estate Manorial records
Building Plans
School Log Books
Parish Registers and records
Local Authority records



Finally, don't forget that the Society has produced an excellent House History Record book which is available through our website, priced at £7.50. We also sell a very informative book by Gill Blanchard on Tracing Your House History. These can be bought as a package at a reduced cost.

<https://hdfhs.org.uk/?s=house+history>

Back Cover Photograph

I have this family photo and I've often wondered whether to put it in the journal to see if anyone else either has the same photo or at least recognises someone from it.

The couple in the centre of the picture are my great grandparents, Samuel Wilson and Lucy Hirst, from Elland. I know all their names but I'm not exactly sure which ones they are on the photo. The man second from the right at the top is my grandfather (my mum's dad) and from him I think I've managed to put names to eight of them with some degree of certainty, it's the two middle boys and the two middle girls that I've had to guess at - it would have helped if they'd just put them in the order they were born.

Being such a big family, I can't believe that this is the only photo out there or that my mum was the only one who had it. I don't know if there was ever more than one copy or if this is even the original.

It would be nice if one of our members out there knew anyone on the photo and could perhaps help me sort out their order. I have no idea when the photo was taken but looking at my grandfather, who could be in his late teens/early 20s it's difficult to tell, it could have been taken in the late 1890s or early 1900s.

Anne Daly (D223)

anne.daly1@ntlworld.com

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Thursday 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Saturday 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Carry out your research independently, or with help
Speak to people with similar interests
Work on our computers including using Ancestry Worldwide and
Findmypast (including British Newspapers)
Seek advice from our team of volunteers and explore our resources
Purchase our publications and other local interest books
Use our library to further your research

Ring 01484 859229 for further information

The 'Root Cellar' is staffed entirely by volunteers

Huddersfield & District Family History Society

(A member of the Family History Federation)

Registered Charity No. 702199

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Samuel and Lucy Hirst with their children c. 1900
Submitted by Anne Daly (D223)