

HEBDEN BRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk

Autumn 2021



**Published by the Hebden Bridge
Local History Society
The Birchcliffe Centre
Birchcliffe Road
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The society has sections for those with a particular interest in local prehistory, family history and folklore.

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Subscriptions due – see back cover

Cover picture: Joseph and Emily Spencer, Thomas and Lilian c 1882

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. Here you'll find details of the society activities for 2021-2022. The next newsletter will be in Spring 2022.

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New Publication

The Medieval Park of Erringden. By Nigel Smith. Published 2021. Hebden Bridge Local History Society Occasional Publications No.10. Paperback. 150 pages, 49 images. ISBN: 9780993392054, £11.99

Erringden Park was a feature of the Upper Calder Valley landscape that was created in the fourteenth century, certain aspects of which still survive today. This book uncovers the detail about the park that can be retrieved from the surviving documentation and reconstructs the history and use of the park with the help of evidence from both the landscape itself and other northern parks.

The evidence suggests that the original area of the park encompassed an area similar to that occupied by the modern civil parish, an area already used by the Manor of Wakefield for cattle farming. It was expanded eastwards in the 1380s into Cragg Vale.

The book discusses how the boundaries of the park were built, the possible infrastructure, how it may have been stocked, the various forms of deer hunting and management and other uses to which the park may have been put. Finally, the way in which the park was abolished in 1451 is discussed, together with the way the land was allocated to tenants and the later disputes over tenancy that were eventually resolved in 1606 after two tenant rebellions.

THE MEDIEVAL PARK OF ERRINGDEN

NIGEL SMITH



Hebden Bridge Local History Society

Occasional Publication N° 10

Local History AGM 2021

Items for the agenda

Any items/proposals for discussion at the AGM and any nominations for officers or committee members should reach the secretary by 8th October 2021. Contact details are:

Hon Secretary, Hebden Bridge Local History Society,
Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG
Email: secretary@hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk

Nominations for the Committee

If you wish to nominate someone for the committee and they are willing to stand, then please complete and send the following information:

I wish to nominate

For the position of:

President/Secretary/Treasurer/Librarian/committee member
in the Hebden Bridge Local History Society or the Hebden
Bridge Literary and Scientific Society (delete as required)

Proposer

Membership number _____

Secunder

Membership number _____

You can copy this page if you prefer

AGM Reports

President's Report for the AGM on 10th November 2021

As last year, we are publishing the committee's report for the AGM in the Autumn Newsletter so that you can look through it before the meeting, currently scheduled for November 10th. Please contact the secretary, Barbara Hall, as early as possible if you would like to raise any particular issues before the agenda is finalised. We will of course get back to you about any necessary changes to the format or date of the meeting nearer the time.

This year has been a very successful one for the History Society in that we continued to present a full programme despite the restrictions imposed on us during the pandemic and through this, we have increased our membership considerably. Some of our activities were curtailed, particularly the access to the archives, but we have continued to reply to online queries. We do recognise the fact that by using Zoom for our meetings, not all our members have been able to join us but we hope to resume our talks to a live audience in September. We particularly thank Rachel Smith for all the administrative and technical support she has given to facilitate this programme.

The committee have been meeting regularly, in fact more often than usual, in order to make the arrangements for these on-line sessions and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their hard work over the year. I would also like to thank Barbara Hall for joining us as minutes secretary. We have also co-opted her as a committee member. As well, she has offered to step into Murray Seccombe's shoes as Secretary, whilst he takes a sabbatical in

order to concentrate on his doctoral research. We thank Murray for all his hard work, especially in negotiating our constitutional changes.

However, this is not the only reason for more frequent meetings. It has come to our notice that we had an annual income that legally requires us to become a registered charity. For this we needed to be independent of the Literary and Scientific Society and we also need to have control over our archives and possessions. Under the Lit and Sci constitution, should the History Soc flounder, all our assets reverted to that group. The two groups have come to an amicable agreement about this and we have drawn up a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect.

Those of you who have visited us at the Birchcliffe Centre will know that our archives are extensive and should this eventuality happen, we would want them to go to an established archive. Also, we have now agreed a joint archive partnership with Pennine Heritage and their Pennine Horizons Digital Archive, known as the South Pennine Archives, and this puts that relationship on a sounder footing.

The downside of the split with the Lit and Sci is that History Society members will no longer have automatic membership of the Lit and Sci. They, in their turn, will initiate a new membership scheme. However, both groups will continue to support and advertise the activities of the other.

In August we held a Special General Meeting and members had a chance to see the documentation about these changes and I am glad to say the vote was unanimous in support of the committee's recommendations. We also voted for an

increase in subscription, the first for 14 years, to £15.00. Visitor fees for talks will also be raised.

Archive

South Pennine Archives

This new partnership with Pennine Heritage has resulted in a closer working relationship with formalisation of procedures for donations and agreement on principles for archive holdings. Discussions on archive storage and IT issues are ongoing.

Donations to the collection

As usual the Society has received several donations of items for the Archive during the year and the Society is deeply grateful to all the donors. These include the following:

- A collection of documents relating to the Sutcliffe family of Stoneshaygate donated by John Gray
- Calder Valley Flower Club documentation 1979-2006 donated by Sandra Lomas
- Mytholmroyd Gala documentation 1960-2019 donated by George Sumner
- Friends of Nutclough Woods documentation donated by Gavin Roberts
- Wallace Farrar paintings and drawings, notebooks and certificates from Fielden School of Art donated by Pam Jordan

Collection maintenance

- Work has continued on transferring the catalogue to the Endnote bibliographic database which now holds

nearly 8000 records. There are only 3 sections of the catalogue now waiting to be transferred. Subcollections of Local History Collections are currently being added.

- The Society is very grateful to all those who regularly help with the cataloguing, in particular Anne Mealia, John Crampton and Sarah Keates.

Volunteer Librarians

The Society would like to thank David Cant, Sarah Keates and Diana Monahan for their time and effort in manning the archive on opening days.

Publications

The Society has published *The Medieval Park of Erringden* by Nigel Smith this year.

Probate Group

Some work has continued during the pandemic on the final checking and indexing of the eighteenth-century probate documents for Stansfield. The final volume for the period 1688-1700 for Midgley and Wadsworth is now in the final stages of preparation for publication.

Latin Group

During the pandemic this group embarked on a major project to translate from the Latin the Heptonstall Court Rolls for 1597-1626. At this time Heptonstall was joined with the manor of Halifax. The translation has now been completed except for a further tranche of material discovered at Leeds Archive covering 1575-1579 and 1588-1591. Neville Ingrey, the tutor, is now translating these. The Society paid for the

professional translation of other rolls for 1570-1596 with the help of a grant from the Alan Petford Memorial Fund. When finally completed the Society intends to produce the work as a publication.

South Pennine History Group

The Society is a member of the South Pennine History Group, together with Saddleworth and Marsden History Groups. The group continues to meet a couple of times a year in order to exchange news and discuss matters of common interest. The group has now established a fund in memory of Alan Petford to encourage research and other activities in the history of the South Pennines. This is derived from the profits of *History in the South Pennines*. Two grants have been awarded so far, one for the Heptonstall Court Rolls project and one for a history of the Heptonstall housing estate in South Field.

Exhibitions

We have not staged an exhibition this year. We are hoping to stage the 'Who built Hebden Bridge' Exhibition next spring.

Social Media

We are in the process of updating the website.

Family History Group

There has been very little activity except answering some online queries.

A similar situation for the **Folklore Group** and **Prehistoric Group**.

Lecture Programme 2021 – 2022

Meetings will be held at Hebden Bridge Methodist Church, which members will be pleased to learn has been equipped with chairs to replace the pews.

Many members enjoyed being able to follow the talks on-line. We therefore hope to make recordings of the live talks available **to members only** via Zoom for two weeks following the event. Further information on how to access these will be sent out later in September.

If Covid restrictions are re-imposed, lectures will be delivered via Zoom.

22 September 2021

WHO PUT THE HALL IN OLD TOWN HALL?

David Cant



A handsome building with a courtyard, it has been home to many families. But which family added the 'hall' to its name? And when?

David Cant is a local historian interested particularly in the traditional buildings of our area. He has delivered many memorable talks to the Society.

13 October 2021

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHIBDEN HALL

David Glover

The Grade II* listed historic house at Shibden dates from 1420 and has been extensively remodeled from its original design by generations of residents. From the disputes between the Oates and Savile families in the late fifteenth century, through the thriving Waterhouse years, and on to the fascinating diversity of the Listers, including diarist Anne and antiquarian John, David traces a story of absorbing interest.



David Glover has had a lifelong fascination for local history and has gained a reputation as a speaker about a range of historical subjects in the Halifax area, as well as for his contributions to the Halifax Evening Courier. He is President of the Halifax Antiquarian Society.

27 October 2021

SYLVIA PLATH IN YORKSHIRE

Heather Clark

Sylvia Plath's poetry is acclaimed world-wide, and academic Heather Clark will discuss the poet's West Yorkshire links, and how these places feature in her poetry.



Heather is Professor of Contemporary Poetry at the University of Huddersfield and author of several books about Sylvia Plath, including *Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* (Knopf, 2020); *Her Kind: The Boston Years of Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Adrienne Rich and Maxine Kumin* (Knopf, under contract); *The Grief of Influence: Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes* (Oxford

University Press, 2011).

Short AGM precedes the lecture

SPINNING THROUGH THE WEST RIDING John Cruickshank



SPINNING BY HAND WITH A SINGLE SPINDLE.

Hand-spinning was a crucial process in cloth-making before the introduction of powered industrial processes in mills, but it and other wool processes are in many ways now poorly understood. Fresh insights into yarn-supply

are now emerging from current work on the pre-industrial textile industries of the West Riding. Spinning may have been women's work, and the skills require to produce the different yarns needed must not be underestimated!

John Cruickshank is a retired orthopaedic surgeon whose Leeds University PhD examined the early modern development of Headingley-cum-Burley, a township just outside the clothing district. He is now studying the industrial development of the adjacent clothing townships between 1540 and 1800.

24 November 2021

THE MEDIEVAL PARK OF ERRINGDEN

Nigel Smith

The history of Erringden Park is obscure. This talk presents what can be discovered about the park's past in both a local and regional context. Documentary and landscape evidence uncovers the changing boundaries of the park and how those



boundaries were constructed. Comparative evidence suggests how the park was stocked and managed, together with the hunting methods that are likely to have been used. However, analysis points to a multifunctional park whose principal function may not be what you think. The park was abolished in the mid-fifteenth century and the way in which it was divided up and settled will be discussed, together with the controversies that surrounded its later existence.

Nigel is the Archivist and Publications Officer of the Hebden Bridge Local History Society. His research interests focus on the landscape and agricultural history of the Upper Calder Valley and the wider South Pennines. He is a regular contributor to the Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society and has edited and authored a number of books, the latest of which is on Erringden Park.

8 December 2021

The Alan Petford Memorial Lecture

THE DAM THAT ISN'T AND THE GREAT
FLOATING PLUG OF THE COLDEN

Dave Smalley



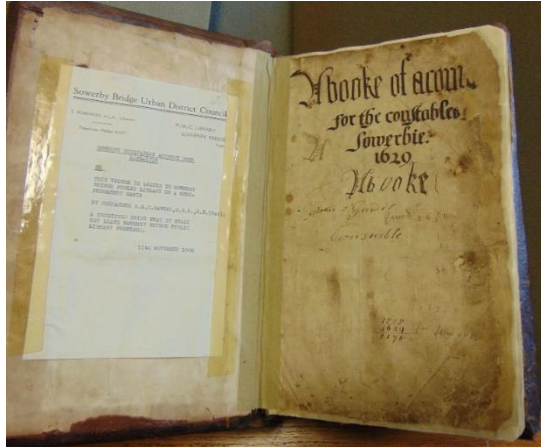
Dave has agreed to revisit his lecture that was originally part of the research that contributed to the compilation of the late Alan Petford's festschrift *History in the South Pennines*. Initially it was about investigating

another "fax fallacy", a giant floating plug of dam wall! But like much research, as it developed it revealed unexpected insights into the early construction history of dams built for the textile industry.

Dave Smalley has been a resident of the upper Colden valley since 2000. With a background of Earth Sciences and the building industry followed somewhat eclectically by Cultural Diplomacy, he now continues a lifelong interest in the evolution of the landscape and the history of man's impact on it. Since the first presentation in 2015 he had been researching aspects of the Stansfield road network from the late eighteenth century to the early 1920's. He is currently studying the art history and manufacture of Victorian stained glass.

12 January 2022

**MANAGING SPACE, MANAGING PEOPLE: Murray Seccombe
Constables and highways in
seventeenth century Sowerby**



The chance survival of Sowerby’s book of constables’ accounts for this period – the best from any part of Yorkshire – opens a window onto a formative stage in the way townships managed social welfare, access and mobility. The crisis years from the 1630s to the 1660s saw social and governance changes, including a precocious use of taxation for highways. The legacy was a network of tracks and causeys connecting the parish to a wider world.

Murray has lived in the area for 36 years, and is on the home stretch (he hopes) of a PhD at Lancaster University, researching manorial and township governance of highways in the parish of Halifax, c.1550-1700. Before retirement, he worked in the community-based transport sector. Given half a chance, he’d rather be out walking or reading very long books.

26 January 2022

THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF THORNER

Ann Kilbey



Starting with a few broody hens in orange boxes, the Thorner family went on to become world leaders in the hybridisation of poultry. Ann's talk explores the quest for the perfect egg laying machine!

Ann Kilbey has been active in local history for many years, doing valuable work with Hebden Bridge Local History Society and the Pennine Horizons Digital Archive. She is also well-known for her fascinating talks on aspects of our local history.

9 February 2022

CINEMA IN HEBDEN BRIDGE: A HISTORY

Kate Higham

The history of cinema in Hebden Bridge spans over 120 years, and takes us from silent flickering images projected onto the walls of travelling theatre tents to the sharp digital images we enjoy today in the Picture House. Kate will discuss the old Royal Electric Theatre, and the local people who have played their part in the story too.



Kate lives locally, loves going to the cinema, and has enjoyed being on the committee of the Friends of the Picture House for the last 10 years. Along with her father, she has also written a book about the history of cinema in Hebden Bridge - *Hebden Bridge Picture House, the Life and Times of a Local Treasure*.

23 February 2022

**WILLIAM MORRISONS
A YORKSHIRE SUCCESS STORY**

Janet Senior

From humble beginnings to a national enterprise, the story of Morrisons is an example of the successful merging of Scottish canny with Yorkshire determination.

Janet is a former special educational needs teacher in Bradford who took early retirement and began working as assistant librarian at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds. Now fully retired, she continues to work as a volunteer at Markenfield Hall, North Yorkshire, cataloguing and transcribing the Grantley Archives held there.



9 March 2022

A NOTABLE EPIDEMIC: THE 1880-81
SCARLET FEVER OUTBREAK IN HALIFAX

John Brooke



More than five hundred people were affected by this outbreak of scarlet fever and over a hundred people died. This was no ordinary epidemic and John will explore how a farmer, a hired man and a local milk round were all involved.

John Brooke was a headteacher for 25 years and a part-time school inspector for a further seven. Most recently he has lectured for the WEA and has a number of publications to his name, including *Cruel Lives: a history of some West Yorkshire epidemics*. He lives in Lightcliffe where he is secretary of the local history society, president of the cricket club and leader of a litter-picking group!

23 March 2022

REMEMBERING CRAGG HALL 1820-1921

Shirley Daniel
and Roy Collinge



The story of Cragg Hall begins with the large and industrious Hinchliffe family, arguably the biggest influence on Cragg during and after the Industrial Revolution. Intended to be the most magnificent house built in the area, Cragg Hall was acclaimed as one of the finest buildings in Yorkshire, but survived for less than 20 years as the valley's most impressive mansion, falling victim to a disastrous fire on 11th August 1921.

Memories of Cragg Hall and its splendid ornamental gardens have faded into scant awareness with no living person left to tell the tale, though in its hey-day it was a huge part of local life and a legacy of the growth and decline of the Cragg Vale cotton mill industry. The centenary of that tragic fire seemed a fitting opportunity for Cragg Vale Local History Group to look back, lay to rest the myths and

misconceptions, and re-discover the real story of Cragg Hall – Cragg Vale’s “stately home”!

Both Shirley and Roy are enthusiastic founder members of Cragg Vale Local History Group. Roy is originally from Colden but has been a “Cragger” for much of his life, and Shirley has lived in Cragg almost long enough to no longer be an “off-cumden”!



After the fire

Family History Group

The Farrar family of Midgley

One of my favourite pastimes is the chance of a few hours on the computer delving into family history archives in the search for information pertaining to a specific family. It is often my reward to myself after battling with everyday hurdles.

Sad isn't it!

However, it is a useful hobby when the Society receives on-line queries and this has been the only outlet for members of the Family History group during lockdown. We have missed our bi-monthly meetings at Birchcliffe.

Early last year we received a request for information about the Farrar family of Midgley. We were given a brief outline of the direct line of descent of one branch of the family, so could we find out more?

Now we knew that the Farrar family had been one of great influence in the 16th & 17th century in the district; they lived at Ewood Hall having bought it from the Lacey family. So did these names and dates that I had been sent match that of the family at Ewood? Where do we start?

I had been sent a direct family descent-line, which the family had from another source, beginning with vague dates in the late 1300s and more direct references in the 1600s.

My usual starting point is the parish registers. We are so lucky in the West Riding that transcriptions of these are available online. However, there were so many Henrys,

Johns and Williams at those times and the names appear many times in the registers.

With the Farrar family I was lucky. There were other records for them but, as they were an influential family, others before me had done the hard work of research. The Halifax Antiquarian Society Transactions came up trumps, especially one entitled *A recorded pedigree of the Farrers of Ewood*. Luckily I had a copy of this document at home and it included a pedigree tree of the family of Henry Ferrer of Ewood, who died in 1548, and six subsequent generations dating about 1500 to 1760. Records show that the family was then far flung, one branch in Massachusetts, a few in the Calder valley, and others elsewhere, having acquired property through marriage to women from other areas of England.

However, it was fairly certain that this was not the family I had been asked to discover. This is where the work of our dedicated group of Probate transcribers came to the fore. There were two wills in the *'The Midgley Probate Records 1531 to 1731'* The first of Hennrie Ferrer of Ewood dated 1549 and another of John Ferrer of Midgley dated 1580. Unfortunately the latter does not give a place name within Midgley but from the content it is fairly clear that these are not the same families. We do have some early records that this family came from Oats Royd, but it seems fairly well established in later parish registers, when the clerics began to identify families by their dwellings. Other records from this time, specifically the levy raised for the Armada in 1588, show that Henry Ferrer was living at Old Royd, probably later becoming Oats Royd. He was mentioned in the John Ferrer

will of 1580. From this I could trace many of the family events from the Luddenden parish records which first occur in 1624.

More is known of the Ewood family, Henry and his son William. They accumulated wealth through the cloth trade and had a stall at the great fair of St. Bartholomew in London. They acquired the lordship of the manor of Midgley in the early seventeenth century from the Lacey family and the manor court was transferred to Ewood. However, the life of Henry Farrer, son of William, came to a sad end when he was murdered in 1610 while attending a lawsuit at the Star Chamber. His assailant, Thomas Oldfield, was hanged and Henry was buried in St. Margaret's Westminster.

Another member of the family also came to a very different sad end. Robert Ferror of Ewood, possibly the brother of the first Henrie mentioned here, was the Bishop of St. David's. He was martyred by burning in 1555 for 'rejecting Doctrines not taught by the Apostles' soon after Mary Tudor came to the throne in 1553. There is a memorial stone dedicated to him in Halifax Parish Church.

For this research I used many references, nearly all of it from the work of local historians who had spent long hours searching through the available records of that age and recording their work. This is ongoing. Old records continue to be found. Our history society is currently in the process of translating from Latin the Heptonstall Court Rolls of the 16th century, which were discovered recently in Leeds Archive. Our Latin group has had a hand. The Society also has a Probate Group, which has been meeting regularly for several years now, transcribing local probate records and wills.



Ewood Hall on Myers map of the Parish of Halifax 1835

To date we have published three books from the local townships covering the years 1688 to 1700. To both these groups we give our grateful thanks. In addition, the Midgley History Group transcribed the probate records for Midgley between 1531 and 1731. Not only are these documents a useful tool for family history, providing an intriguing insight into the links between the families through personal bequests, but also transfers of property, support for those surviving and the appointment of executors. The inventories not only describe personal possessions and household goods, but also trade tools and farming implements. The different versions of the Farrer name come from these records.

It is always good to increase the society's knowledge of the influential families of the Calder valley and this exercise allowed me to do just that.

Barbara Attack

References

Ian Bailey and Alan Petford, *Midgley Probate Records 1531-1731*, Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 2012

Ian Bailey et al, *Pennine Perspectives*, Midgley Books, 2007

R. Bretton, 'A recorded pedigree of the Farrers of Ewood', *Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society*, 1939



Farrar family coat of arms

Investigating a tailor of Hebden Bridge: Joseph Spencer and family

It began with a gravestone, my mother's, in Woodford, Cheshire, which she shared with her mother and father. She was Phyllis Mary Spencer. She died young, aged 41. Her father, Thomas Walton Spencer, also died in his forties, in 1922.

Thomas was the son of Joseph and Emily Spencer, and his grandfathers were Thomas Spencer, a fustian cutter, and Thomas Walton, 'manager and manufacturer' at Foster Mill [1871 census]. Joseph had a successful business as an 'outfitter and tailor' of Market Street, which, from 1889, he based around a shop he had had built for himself, at no. 25 [now Element Jewellery]. Ten years later he moved the family from Heath House, Mytholm, which he was renting, to a smart new house on Birchcliffe Road called Brentwood which he had commissioned.



But – and this much we had always known – the family moved away abruptly in 1901, to Bramhall in Cheshire, where I grew up. Why move when his business appeared to be prospering?

In the 1871 census, Joseph [born 1855] was listed as a tailor, working I believe as an apprentice for John Kershaw and Sons, a long-established firm of tailors. His father had remarried, to Sarah Kershaw, after his wife's death. This may have been the Sarah Kershaw who was the youngest daughter of the original John Kershaw, born in 1796.

Another useful family contact would have been Bannister Halstead, who married Thomas Walton's mother, Sarah, in 1843. The Halsteads were well-known in the town as shuttle-makers. Likewise Eli Fielding, married to Joseph's much older sister, and listed in the 1881 census as a 'cotton spinner master employing 96 workpeople'. Eli acted as guarantor of Joseph's early mortgage applications.

The Spencers worshipped at Salem Chapel [Market Street], as they were strong Wesleyans, as were the Waltons and the Kershaws. Thomas Walton has a fine grave adjacent to the Methodist chapel in Heptonstall, and he is on record as a preacher.

Joseph's sister, Mary Ellen, married Virgil Greenwood, eldest son of Joseph Greenwood of Nutclough [a co-operative pioneer]. In the 1890s Virgil managed Joseph's Burnley shop.

After 1870, in the heyday of fustian, Hebden Bridge was a town, not only of manufacturers and millworkers, but also of wholesale clothiers. These were the businesses that sold the fustian, either as cloth or 'ready-mades' to the world.

Manchester was a primary focus, as it was for Joseph. However, he was not selling goods to traders in Manchester, but buying. His focus was retail, Market Street in Hebden Bridge, and Yorkshire Street in Burnley. His advertisements in the local press promoted fashion items alongside everyday clothing. He had his own workrooms above the shop. The roof windows, which let in light for the seamstresses, are still visible. He also produced fustian clothing for local workers; there is a record of him supplying coats for the local lamplighters.

It was just over an hour by train to Manchester Victoria from Hebden Bridge. I have been exploring how Joseph may have experienced Manchester, the most extraordinary city in the world at that time. What was it like to walk through the 'old' city, the new warehouses, and civic buildings? To meet people from all over Britain and the world? Who did he buy from? How did the items he purchased get packed and shipped? My main source is a splendid publication from 1896 called 'Mercantile Manchester' but if members know of other sources, I would love to hear about them.

I have also investigated how the Spencer family may have been educated, with the focus before 1870 on the Wesleyan Sunday School and, probably, the school at Foster Mill. The Sunday school was an integral part of the highly successful Salem Chapel, where the Spencers remained closely involved, with overseas missions a particular focus of Joseph, Thomas and Lilian.

I have also explored how they lived their lives. Emily's brother, Robert Spence Walton, was a doctor so they probably received good medical treatment. Where did they

shop? Take holidays? Which newspapers and books did they read? Besides the hymns of Charles Wesley, what might they have sung? I do have one book – Thomas's form prize from 1892, a book on astronomy, from when he was a boarder at Woodhouse Grove School.



Spencer family in their garden

The wind was set fair. So why did the family decide to move to Cheshire? Thomas had a younger sister, Lilian, born in 1880. She had an illegitimate child in a Salvation Army hostel in London in 1901. A family diary entry points to the father being a Hebden Bridge family (Pickles) but that Lilian did not want to marry him. How much, if anything, was known of this locally? The Manchester and Wesleyan connections were invaluable. They moved to Bramhall, a village with a strong Wesleyan community, after 1901. Thomas, Joseph's son, stayed on in Hebden Bridge to manage the shop, but spent

enough time in Bramhall to first court and then marry my grandmother, Lily, in 1906.

Lilian's child was brought up by Joseph and Emily, as their youngest child. Lilian married a week after her brother, also in Bramhall, and prospered. But Joseph's business contracted in quite radical fashion. Latterly, his business had branches in Accrington and Oldham as well as those in Hebden Bridge and Burnley, and premises on Deansgate in Manchester. Perhaps he had expanded too far, and too fast, relying on large mortgages to finance his business and his house purchases. He sold off his shops and faced a creditors' meeting in 1907. His debts were assigned to a trustee and I assume repayment terms were agreed. That was the final severing of the link with Hebden Bridge. Joseph continued to work, it would seem successfully, as a tailor based in Manchester, although there is no evidence that he had his own shop. The family – there were four younger children – all lived comfortably.

Joseph's ambitions and Hebden Bridge's late 19th century heyday were a good match. A newly prosperous community and a new middle class needed clothes that met their aspirations, and that was the opportunity Joseph seized.

Christopher Collier July 2021

Archive Opening and Family History Meeting Times 2021-22

Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge

The Archive will be open to members on the afternoon of the second Wednesday of the month and on the morning of the fourth Saturday of the month. In December there will be no Saturday opening.

Family History meetings are the first Saturday and third Thursday of the month from 2pm – 5pm

Numbers at each session are limited and **pre-booking is required** by emailing librarian@hebdenbridgehistory.org for archive sessions and info@evergreenancestry.com for family history. Masks and hand sanitisation will also be required.

	Archive Wednesday 2 – 5 pm	Archive Saturday 10 am – 1 pm	Family History Saturday 2 – 5 pm	Family History Thursday 2 – 5 pm
September	Closed	25 th	Closed	Closed
October	13 th	23 rd	2 nd	21 st
November	10 th	27 th	6 th	18 th
December	8 th	Closed	4 th	16 th
January	12 th	22 nd	Closed	20 th
February	9 th	26 th	5 th	17 th
March	9 th	26 th	5 th	17 th
April	13 th	23 rd	2 nd	21 st
May	11 th	28 th	7 th	19 th
June	8 th	25 th	4 th	16 th

Membership

The subscription for 2021/22 has increased to £15 and is due at the beginning of September.

You can now pay your subscription:

- **By bank transfer or standing order to our account:**

Sort code 30-93-76 Account no: 03644765

Please use your membership number as the reference

- **By cheque payable to:**

Hebden Bridge Local History Society

Send to: Treasurer, HBLHS, Bramble

Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge,

HX7 7DS

- **By cheque or cash at a meeting**

Please check the enclosed renewal sheet for details of the information we hold on you and notify us of any changes or corrections.