

Researching Heptonstall

Where to start

WHERE TO START



If you haven't already, join a library for free access to selected family and newspaper databases:

[Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk)

[Familysearch](https://www.familysearch.org)

[Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk)

[British Newspaper Archive](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

Manchester Library gives registered readers remote access to other newspaper resources such as The Times Digital, The Guardian/Observer and the Oxford Reference Collection (including Oxford National Biography, Oxford English Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary of Family Names).

Libraries

Halifax Central Library

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/council-locations/central-library-and-archives>

Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Libraries also have local history collections / resources.

Further afield:

Leeds Central Library

<https://libraries.leeds.gov.uk/libraries/central-library>

Manchester Central Library

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history

British Library @ Boston Spa

<https://www.bl.uk/visit/>

Some online resources are still out of action due to a cyber-attack, check the website and catalogue before visiting.

Archives

The National Archive's Discovery database will let you search across multiple archives across the country.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

West Yorkshire Archive Service

<https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/>

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Wakefield holds the registry of deeds



<https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/registry-of-deeds-and-family-and-local-history/>

Nottinghamshire archives for Savile family and estate

<http://nawcat.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Lancashire archives

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archives-and-record-office/our-collections/>

Pennine Heritage based at the Birchcliffe Centre

The HBLs also holds the National Farm Survey and associated maps.

Hebden Bridge Local History Society Archive

<https://www.pennineheritage.org.uk/south-pennine-archives/hebden-bridge-local-history-society/>

Pennine Horizons – digital images and historic photographs

<https://www.pennineheritage.org.uk/south-pennine-archives/pennine-horizons/>

St Thomas's graveyard inscriptions

<https://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk/pages/monumental-inscriptions>

Calderdale Family History Society – transcription index

<https://www.cfhsweb.com/>

Historic England Archive and Library (Swindon)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/about/contact-us/historic-england-archive/>

Borthwick Institute, University of York

Ecclesiastical records including the Bawdy Courts (York Cause Papers)

<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/causepapers/>

From Weaver to Web

Online archive of photographs, postcards, maps, trade directories, handbills and many other types of historical sources.

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/index.html>

Maps

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Calderdale historic maps online

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/maps/historic-maps>

National Library of Scotland

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

Warrington Digital Archives

<https://digitalarchives.co.uk/>

1848 OS Map [note there were 16 revisions of this map so check the date and remember that there may be additions in a later revision]

<https://maps.nls.uk/view/102344947>

Online books and journals

Archive.org

<https://archive.org/>

Full text of books online, mostly out of copyright but worth checking.

Hathi Trust

<https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Slightly random but good for journals, reports, books.

JSTOR

<https://www.jstor.org/>

Free to login – monthly limit of 100 articles.

Don't forget specialist collections eg

Wellcome Collection

<https://wellcomecollection.org/pages/YA64vRMAACAAGRjZ>

Blogs

A history of farming in the Upper Calder Valley

<https://landscapestory.co.uk/2025/01/28/a-history-of-farming-in-the-upper-calder-valley/>

In search of my Yorkshire roots

<https://blog.hmcreativelady.com/about/>

Malcolm Bull's Calderdale companion

<http://www.calderdalecompanion.co.uk/>