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
Familysearch
Findmypast.co.uk
British Newspaper Archive

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.penninheritage.org.uk/south-pennine-archives/hebden-bridge-local-history-society/

Pennine Horizons – digital images and historic photographs
https://www.penninheritage.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/