

About...The Local Newspapers & Events Index, 1830s to 1950s

The Project

This index is the outcome of a volunteer project in Calderdale Libraries between 2016 and 2017.

The project focused on a set of alphabetically organised hand-written notebooks originating with the Halifax Courier, in which two contributors had indexed a) articles from local newspapers or b) local events, covering the period between the 1830s and 1950s.

The volunteers transcribed the index references to an Excel spreadsheet, making certain organisational changes along the way to maximise the usefulness of the finished product to researchers. The Excel spreadsheet was divided into sections and converted to the pdfs available to you here.

Which newspapers are indexed?

There are references in the index to the following publications:

HDCG: Halifax Daily Courier & Guardian

HDG: Halifax Daily Guardian

HEC: Halifax Evening Courier

HG: Halifax Guardian

HGA: Halifax Guardian Almanack

HWC: Halifax Weekly Courier

HWCG: Halifax Weekly Courier & Guardian

WHJ: Wakefield and Halifax Journal

It should be noted that the index to newspapers is by no means comprehensive and selectivity was exercised by the original compilers. If something doesn't appear in the index, it doesn't necessarily mean it wasn't covered in one of the newspapers. Where there is a date without a newspaper reference, it should be straightforward to look at a newspaper or newspapers shortly after the event to see if it was reported.

All the newspapers except the Wakefield and Halifax Journal are available to view on microfilm in the Local Studies department of the Central Library, in Halifax. (Note that the Wakefield and Halifax Journal is available in Wakefield Central Library.) The Halifax Guardian Almanack is available in hard copy for the years 1892 to 1921.

Searching tips

When searching on a particular topic, consider the different ways it may have been indexed. The following are examples of this:

Schools - may appear under name of school, street name, district name, church name, “board” schools etc.

Churches - are shown under both their name and/or their denomination, as well as their village/district locations. Primitive and United Methodists are indexed as Methodists.

Pubs - are shown under both their name and their village/district locations.

People – are usually indexed by surname first.

Using the search box – if you have a magnifying glass icon in the pdf, clicking it will bring up a box in which you can enter a search term. Alternatively, click Ctrl + f to retrieve the same box. When you enter your search term, occurrences in the index will be highlighted in blue and you can work your way through them.

Adverts, commentaries and leader articles

Where it is known that an index reference refers to an advert, commentary or leader article, this is indicated.