

More about the Halifax Guardian Birth, Marriage and Death index, 1832-1921

What was the Halifax Guardian?

It was a weekly local newspaper which was published from 1st December 1832 until 30th April 1921. Although it has Halifax in the title, the news within covered a much wider area, akin to the area we now know as Calderdale.

Halifax Guardian or Halifax Courier?

Births, marriages and deaths during the years of World War One (1914-18) were indexed for another Libraries' project, using the Halifax Courier. This was an alternative local newspaper, covering a similar area but of a different political persuasion. We have re-used that indexing for this project – so dates and page numbers for the War years relate to the Halifax Courier.

Who created the BMD Index?

The index, completed in 2015, is the outcome of six years' hard work by a dedicated group of Calderdale Libraries' volunteers. We owe them a very big thank you for all the hours they put in to the project!

Who is it for?

It's for anyone who is interested – but we expect most interest to be from family historians.

How do I use the Index?

The index is formed of 58 pdf files, each named with the first and last surnames included within, for example *Aaron to Anyon*. It is ordered by surname, in alphabetical order. Simply find the file which will include the surname you are looking for, open it up and use the bookmarks at the left to help you navigate to the right place. The index gives basic information, along with a date and page number for the entry in the newspaper.

How to access the full newspaper record

You can either visit the Central Reference Library in Halifax and look at the entry on a microfilmed copy of the newspaper or you can contact us by e-mail and request that we look up and pass on to you the information recorded in the relevant entries. Our e-mail address is:

reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk

What is and isn't included?

The Halifax Guardian includes notices of marriages and deaths, along with a smaller number of births, throughout Yorkshire and sometimes beyond. Our index, however, only includes events involving at least one party from the 'Calderdale MBC' area. We have worked on the following principles:

1. If anyone in an entry came from the 'Calderdale' area, we included all the people mentioned in relation to that event (even if some or all the others were from elsewhere), apart from officiating ministers - vicars etc – unless they were also relations.

2. If the entry didn't state anything about where anyone came from, we assumed they were local and included everybody mentioned.
3. If the entry mentioned one or more people from outside 'Calderdale', along with one or more people with no place-name attached, we assumed none of them were from 'Calderdale' and therefore didn't include any.
4. The convention seems to have been that, if a person had previously lived locally and then moved away and died somewhere else, the entry would say something like 'late of Halifax' – in which case we included all the people mentioned in that entry.

Are any dates missing?

The following chart shows what is missing:

Year	Editions
1877	13 Jan
1886	27 Feb; all Dec after 4th
1887	30 July
1888	21 July; 10 th Nov
1889	23 Feb; 6 Apr; 1 Jun; 17 Aug; 26 Oct; 2 Nov
1890	15 Nov; 6 Dec; 20 Dec
1891	10 Oct; 24 Oct; 31 Oct
1892	30 Apr; 4 Jun
1893	14 Jan; 3 Jun
1897	26 Jun
1909	20 Feb
1911	14 Nov
1912	13 April; 13 July; 28 Dec (deaths)
1915	6 Feb; 27 Mar
1916	5 Feb; 29 Jul

The main reasons for missing dates in the index are that they were missing from the original bound volume or are illegible on the microfilm.

Date & page number issues

24 July 1897

The page which follows July 24th page 7 is numbered page 5 and is dated 17th July. As the BMD on the page do not duplicate those of the 17th July paper, we assume the date and page number are errors and the entries have been indexed as 24th July p8.

Aug 31st and Sept 7th 1901

The edition which is really Sept 7th 1901 is shown on the newspaper itself as August 31st (as is the real August 31st). It has been **indexed** as Sept 7th.

Other points to note

Mac or Mc - Surnames beginning with Mac or Mc have been left as they are and not standardised as one or the other. This means they are separated in the Index (by many names, such as Mann, Marshall etc). If you are looking for such a name, remember to look in both places – even if *you* are sure of the spelling, the newspaper could have got it wrong.

Mrs - Where a woman getting married was described as *Mrs*, we have included this in brackets after her first name, as it may be useful to know that she had been married before.