

Research articles 1.

The following short articles are posted in case anyone needs the information.

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My thanks go to the staff at WYA especially Jenny Wood & Steve Crabtree.

Ann Walker's furniture at Shibden Hall bought by John Lister.

June 1855.

[SH:1/SH/1854 Inventory and valuation of various articles of household furniture at Shibden Hall the property of Ann Walker to be taken by Mr Lister.]

SH:1/SH/1854

Inventory & valuation of various articles of household furniture at Shibden Hall the property of Miss Walker to be taken by Mr Lister

8 Oak Chairs	2	5	-		
1 Small do	-	4	-		
Oak Table near Window	2	-	-		
Mahogany do	2	-	-		
Oak Chest	1	-	-		
Oak Cheffonniere	6	-	-		
Sender	-	10	-		
Old Mahogany Card Table	-	15	-		
				14	14
Drawing Room					
Oak Writing Table	3	-	-		
Sender & Fire Irons	1	1	-		
				4	1
Dining Room					
Oak Arm Chair	1	-	-		
4 Old Mahogany Chairs	1	-	-		
Dining Table	3	-	-		
Sender & Fire Irons	1	-	-		
Carpet and Rug	2	10	-		
Curtains	1	-	-		
				9	10
North Room					
8 Chairs	2	-	-		
2 Tables, Curtains, Sender, & Fire Irons	2	18	-		
				4	18
Waiting Room					
8 Old Oak Chairs	1	12	-		
Oak Dining Table	-	15	-		
Oak Bench	-	6	-		
Old Oak Table	1	-	-		
Count for £	3	13	-	33	3

	Bro ^t . for ^d £	3 13 ..	33 3 ..
Oak Corner Cupboard		.. 15 ..	
Old Clock		1 10 ..	
			5 18 ..
Passage			
Seat Stand		" 15 ..	
2 Tables		2	
2 Candlesticks		" 4 ..	
			2 19 ..
Office			
Cupboard, Fender & Fire Irons		.1	
			1
Store Room			
1 painted Deal Table		" 10 ..	
			10 ..
Housekeepers Room			
6 Birch Chairs		1 13 ..	
			1 13 ..
Kitchen			
2 Cupboards		2 15 ..	
Dresser		1	
Table		" 10 ..	
Clock		1 15 ..	
27 Lins. 2 Brass & Copper Bed pans		2 10 ..	
			8 10 ..
Servants Hall			
Table		1	
Oak Chest		" 5 ..	
Fender		" 3 6 ..	
			1 8 6
North Bed Room			
Bedstead & Drapery Mattress		7 10 ..	
Bed Bolster pillow &c		" 10 6 ..	
Round Table		" 17 ..	
Lovel Rail and Curtains		"	
Carried for ^d £		8 17 6	55 1 6

	B ^e forward	£ 8 17 6	55 1 6.
Chest Drawers		4 . .	12 17 6
Lower Larder		3 6	3 6
Passage up Stairs Chest Drawers		2 15 .	2 15 .
Miss Walker's Room Chest Drawers " " " " " "		2 15 . 6 . . 3 . .	6 1 .
Bed room over Kitchen Chest of Mahogany Drawers Glass		2 15 . 6 . .	3 1 .
Room over Servants Hall 1 Press		1 5 .	1 5 .
Butlers Pantry Bedstead 1 Press		1 10 . 1 10 .	3 . .
Laundry 1 Triangle Centre Table		2 10 .	2 10 .
Washing House Washing Machine & Table		1 10 .	1 10 .
			£ 88 4 6
Thomas Davis Christ Appraiser		10 . .	98 - 4 6

This valuation was done soon after Ann's death as Mr Lister was taking possession of Shibden Hall.
West Yorkshire Archives, Calderdale.

Ian Philp

September, 2023

- CN:103/2/115 – Letter from William Gray to Robert Parker, 11th March, 1854

My dear sir,

I quite agree. My view is that all Miss Walker's furniture so called should be removed but that any of the Antiquities which belonged to Shibden Hall of former days should remain if Dr. Lister wishes to have them as they will be more in place there than at Cliff Hill.

Yours truly,

Wm. Gray

Share holdings for the Walker family, 1825 to 1860.

I've looked into the land and properties owned by the Walker family. In this article, I'm summarising what I've been able to find out about their ownership of shares in the turnpikes and canals. The biggest investments had been in the Calder & Hebble Navigation. It might have been possible to follow purchases and sales by reference to the company's share register. Unfortunately, though there are two books, one of these refers to the period 1825 to 1847 but only for the top half of the alphabet. So, the Walker family ownerships are not covered. The second book, which covers the period from around 1848, includes the lower half of the alphabet hence details of the Walkers and Sutherlands are available. The families had few holdings left by then.

In John Walker's will, he bequeaths £1,000 of shares in the Calder & Hebble Navigation to each of his daughters. Other shares, of similar value, were allocated to Henry Lees Edwards and William Priestley as executors of his will. All other shares would be inherited by his son, John.

There is a reference in Anne Lister's diary that she had been offered £500 per share in 1826. Even using an inflation figure of x100 rather than a more accurate higher figure, these are sizeable sums of money.

When John died in Naples and there was no heir, his widow, Fanny, was entitled to a financial settlement – the widow's share. The Walker family needed to release cash and material goods. It would have been against custom and practice to sell off part of the property empire. Hence a decision was to sell a number of shares in different turnpike and canal companies.

The estate sold shares in the Huddersfield & Halifax turnpike (£100), the Halifax & Wakefield road (£700), Huddersfield & Woodhead (£230), New Hey & Huddersfield (£152) and £5 units in the Leeds & Whitehall and Salterhebble & Stainland turnpikes.

Similarly in the Huddersfield Canal (£169), Barnsley Canal (£1,000) and £15,387 in the Calder & Hebble Navigation. The family also sold a library ticket (£5) and 5 shares in the Halifax public rooms worth £20. In total, Fanny received over £16,600. In today's terms, around £2 million.

No 4.

Account of Purchase Monies arising
from Sales of Canal Shares &c.

Five Shares in the Barnsley Canal	1100	0	0
Thirty nine shares and a fraction in the Calder and Hebble Navigation	1297	18	0
Thirteen shares in the Huddersfield Canal	169	0	0
Twenty Shares in the Calder & Hebble Navigation (chargeable with and sold subject to the Widows jointure of £300 per annum)	3110	0	0
Five Shares in the Halifax Public Rooms	20	0	0
Library ticket	5	0	0
	£ 16,612	0	0

There's an excellent article by Caroline Maillard on the settlement details and aftermath.

<https://insearchofannwalker.com/frances-penfold-walker/>

Nonetheless, the family retained shares in the Calder & Hebble Navigation. Dividends in the canals were yielding £180 per 6 months. Although the established turnpikes were proving good investments, it appears that only shares were those retained in the Calder & Hebble Navigation; other canal and turnpikes shares in John's name had now been sold.

There was still an interest in a local turnpike as Ann had invested in the Leeds & Whitehall venture. She made an initial investment of £10 in April 1825. Subsequent holdings had increased to £100 by January 1829 and the interest gained by then totalled nearly £37 which suggests a good return. Her brother John had made some smaller investment. This turnpike started at the Whitehall pub in Hipperholme and ran to the rapidly developing town of Leeds. It joined the earlier Halifax & Wakefield road to connect Halifax to Leeds.

In March 1838, Anne Lister writes that she advises Ann to sell her 40 shares in the Calder & Hebble Navigation. This is the only evidence that I've found of the number of shares that Ann had. At the same time, Parker & Adam suggest that shares could be sold for £430. Possibly £450. Thomas Adams writes to Ann in July 1839 advising her to consider selling her shares in the C&H Navigation as prevalent opinion suggests that the advent of the Manchester & Leeds Railway will impact negatively on their value. Only a couple of years before some local opinion was that the railways would never impact on the canals. Presumably there was mounting national evidence that the railways would prove very effective at transporting freight. He looks to sell £2415 15s 4d on her behalf.

In a series of invoices, (see article Parker invoices to Ann Walker, CN/99/2) covering the period 1838 to 1842, we can see Ann's intention to sell most of her shares in the Calder & Hebble Navigation. We can also see the decline in the price that was being offered.

Parker was initially using Messrs Ridsdale of Leeds (operating, I think, as J.H. & G. Ridsdale of Albion Street, Leeds). In May, 1839 Ann was looking to sell between 12 and 16 shares. An offer price of around £430 looked possible. How many were sold at this price is not indicated. There may be copies of the receipts but I've not yet seen these.

In February 1842, Ann had given Parker instructions to sell £3,000 of shares (at the same time that she was buying Green House from Joseph Armytage.) Mr Hervey, Share Broker of Halifax, was offering to buy six shares at £235 and then seven at £227. Parker also indicates an involvement of a Mr Firth with a price still round £230.

It looks as though the value of the navigation shares had dropped substantially, coinciding with the arrival of the railway through the Calder Valley. Samuel Washington records in his accounts to Ann's Committee on the death of George Mackay Sutherland that Calder & Hebble shares had been sold in 1844 valued at £3149 17s 6d.

By 1845 Ann had only a few shares left. In Samuel Washington's accounts to her Committee in 1847, the Calder & Hebble dividend was only 1s 3d. This indicates that her holdings are minimal as the company was still paying dividends at its usual rate. There was no reference in the C&H dividend register – post 1847 – of Ann owning shares. Washington's accounts also indicate 12 shares in the Huddersfield Canal yielding £1 11s.

Her investment in Halifax Theatre produced a dividend of £21. There are no signs that she still owned shares in the Leeds Whitehall Turnpike Company.

Other family investments.

Mary Walker left £278 13s 5d shares in Calder & Hebble. At the death of **Ann Walker (senior)**, the value of her canal shares was £640.

George Mackay Sutherland and Evan Charles Sutherland Walker.

The Calder & Hebble dividend register shows that George Mackay Sutherland had stock valued at £1,616 13s 5d and this was transferred, in due course, to Evan Charles Sutherland Walker who received dividends of £139 6s 9d twice a year. By 1864, Evan Charles was selling his shares.

George Mackay Sutherland had holdings 22 shares, worth £77 at the time of his death, in the West Riding Union Railway. There were at the time several railway companies including the West Yorkshire Railway and the Manchester & Leeds Railway. They all came together in 1847 as the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway.

Acknowledgements:

Most of the information is to be found in WYAS, CN:99

Jill Liddington, 'As good as a marriage.'

Caroline Maillard, In Search of Ann Walker

Dorothy Barker, Friends of St Matthew's Churchyard.

Steve Crabtree & Jenny Wood, West Yorkshire Archives.

Ian Philp, October, 2023

Further jottings on the projects.

Information on the **turnpike development** in the area can be found in Alan Greenwood's book 'Drawn on the landscape.'

Calder & Hebble Navigation was designed to link the Aire & Calder canal (and through to the Humber and the North Sea) at Wakefield to the Calder Valley at Sowerby Bridge. John Smeaton was the original engineer and the canal reached Brighouse by 1764. James Brindley took over and the canal was extended to Sowerby Bridge. Halifax was connected by 1828 terminating near Bailey Hall. Incidentally the Walker family had extensive holdings in this part of Halifax.

The company paid a dividend of 5% in 1771 rising to 13% the following year. It was then limited, by law, to 10%, still a good return.

By 1842, with the Manchester and Leeds Railway operating along the valley, the canal shares declined by two thirds.

The **Barnsley Canal** was the creation of the Aire & Calder company. The prize was the rich coalfield developing around Barnsley and particularly north-west of the town, around Silkstone. If cheap transport by canal could be provided, there was a ready market available for this high-quality coal.

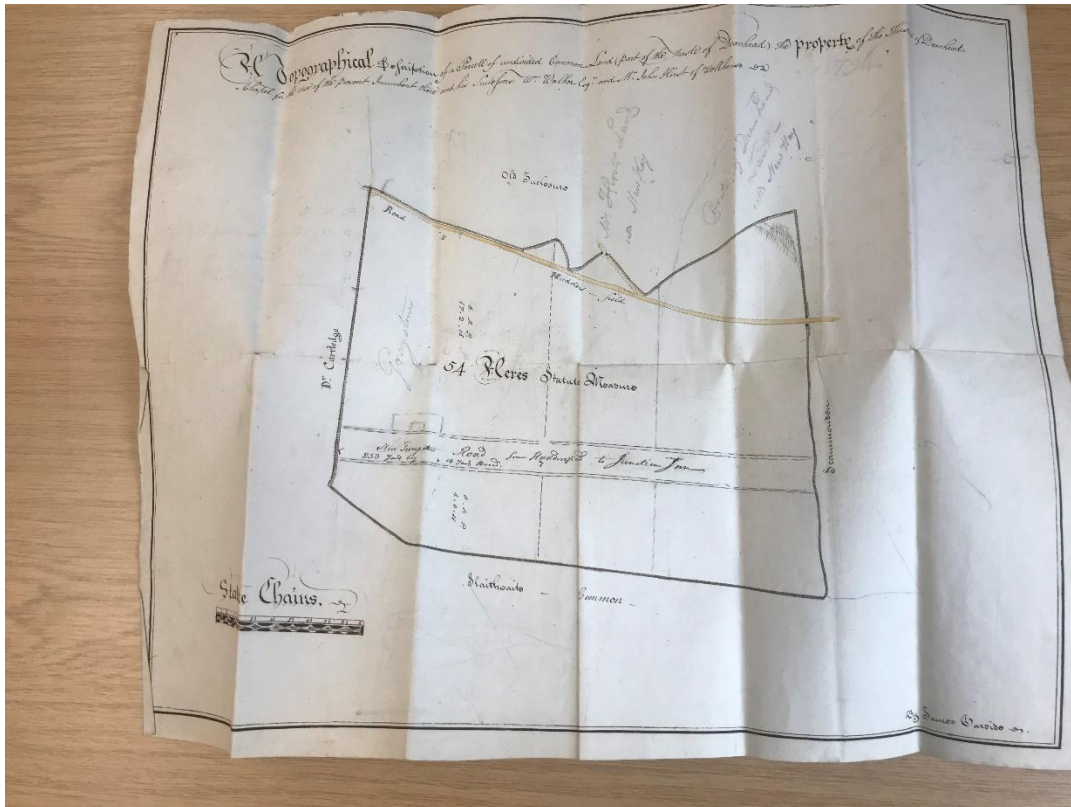
Huddersfield Broad Canal opened in 1776 to join the Calder & Hebble with the Huddersfield Narrow Canal at Aspley Basin. This gave a route through to Lancashire before the Rochdale Canal was connected to the Calder & Hebble at Sowerby Bridge.

Stone Stiles, Deanhead & Scammonden.

Ann Walker inherited three properties in Scammonden. This article gives some details.

The properties were in the small community of Dean Head. Little remains today as the valley was flooded in the late 1960s to form the Scammonden Dam which is a prominent feature where the M62 crosses the dam wall.

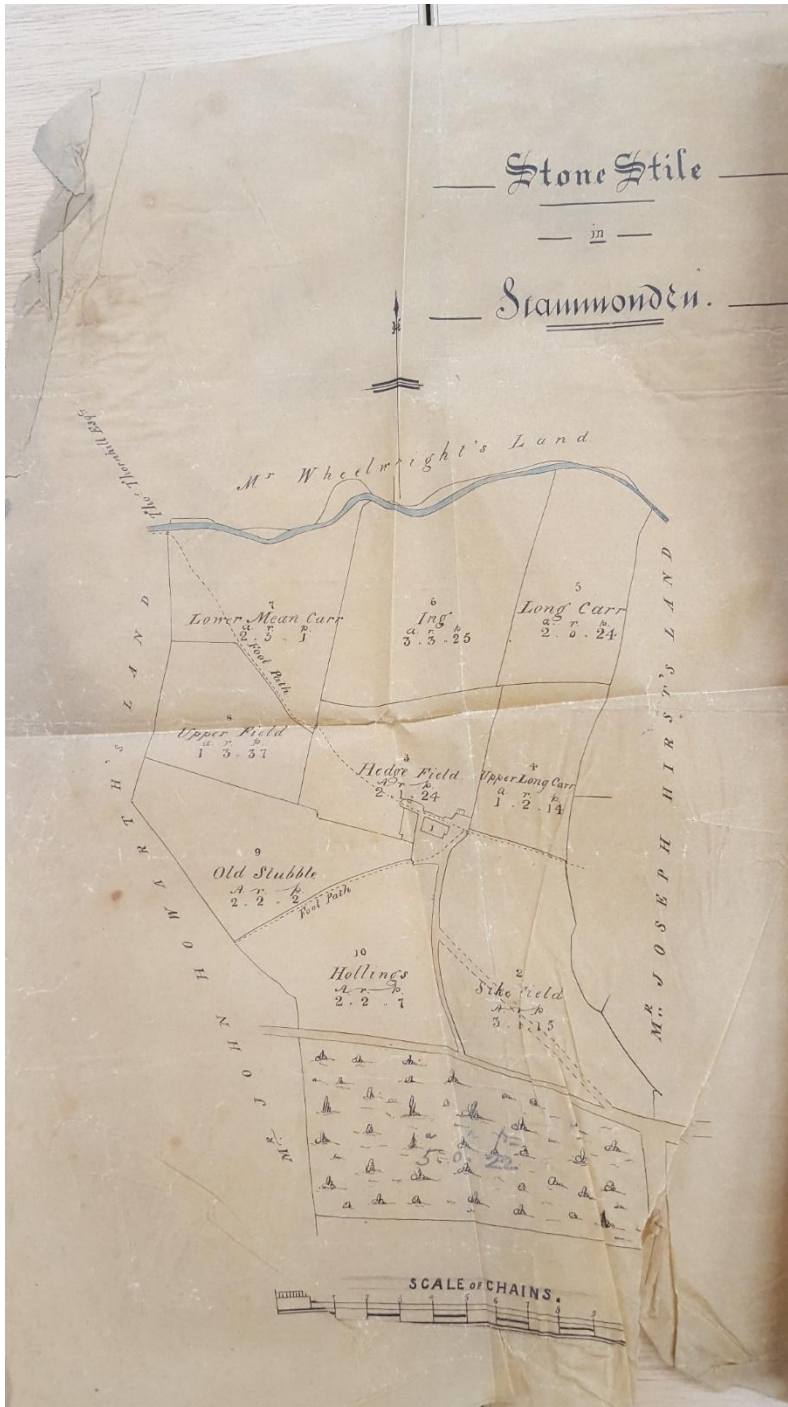
A parcel of land for the benefit of the incumbent of the chapel (St Bartholomew's?) was granted by William Walker & a neighbour, Mr John Hirst.



James Washington (land agent) is setting out fencing, walls and a gate to enclose land at Deanhead, 1809 (CN:46/15) and the Commissioners approved the enclosure of 9 acres of Deanhead Common for John Walker, 1815.

John Walker's will, proved in 1824, quotes ownership of land in Scammonden 'all that my Messuage Dwellinghouse or Tenement with the waste Land and all the Lands Grounds and Appurtenances thereto belonging Situate in or at Scammonden in the said County of York and now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Scholefield or his Assigns.'

The legal agreement between George Mackay Sutherland, his wife Elizabeth and her sister Ann Walker assigning certain properties to Ann (there is a parallel version allocating to Elizabeth) dated October 1835. The lawyers named are Henry Wickham Hird and Robert Parker. Part of the agreement names Stone Style in 3 parts. The principal part is a farmhouse, 2 cottages, Upper Long Close, Long Close, Carr, Upper Field (and a name I can't read) totalling just over 23 acres. At the time of the agreement, the principal tenant is named as William Scholefield. In addition, there was a plantation of 5 acres and a small allotment.



In Samuel Washington's accounts of Ann Walker's estate, for 1845 & 1846, John Wilkinson is named as the tenant of Stone Sty Dean Yard at a rental of £26 16s per annum.

In the same accounts, there is payment of poor rates for plantations at Stone Stiles and in 1846, John Wilkinson is paid expenses of £11 12s for repairing the road and a new gate.

Around 1868, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker was selling part of the estate inherited from his parents, George Mackay and Elizabeth Sutherland, and his aunt, Ann Walker. Solicitors Gray has figures for 3 lots of £69, £74 and £900 being sold. The latter presumably being the farm house at Stone Stile.

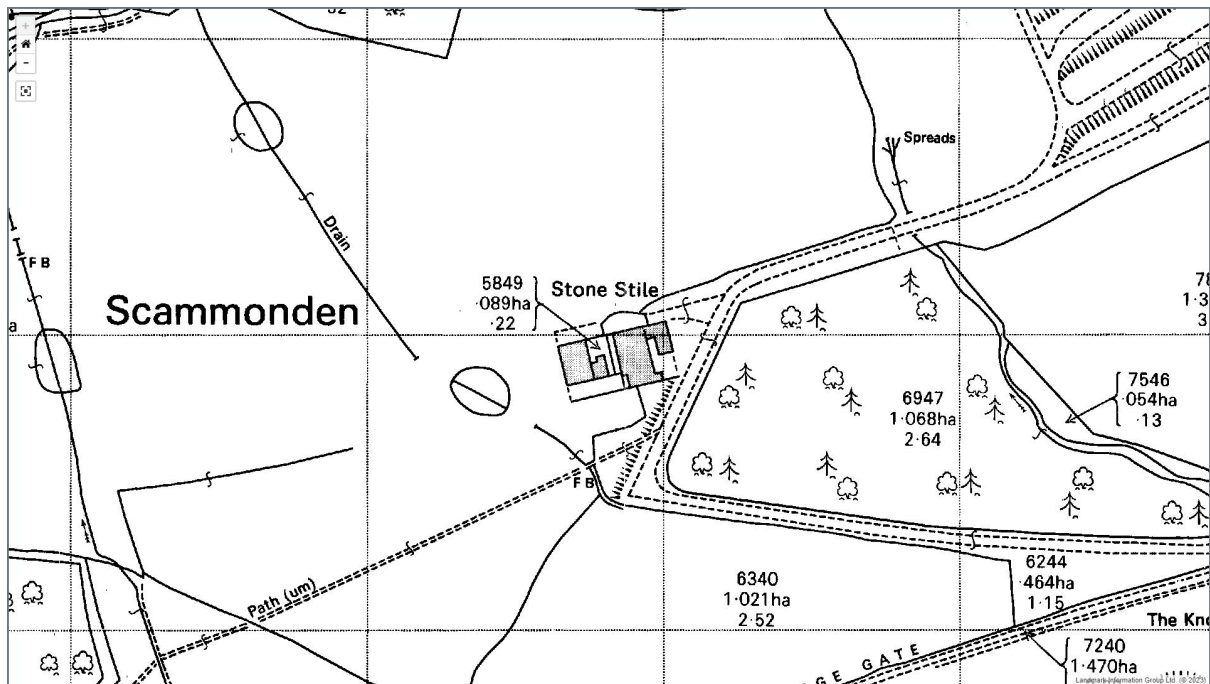


From the O.S. 1894 map.

This shows the site of the farm relative to New Hey Farm and the vicarage.

There is still a roofed structure at Stone Stile, although it's difficult to tell from Google Maps whether it's still in use. The eastern part seems to be ruins now, although it appears to have still been intact at the time of the 1984 OS map.

https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Stone_Stile,_Redgate_Lane,_Scammonden



The Huddersfield Examiner (11 February 1969) has the attached article regarding the theft of lead from the farmhouse roof which implies that the building was uninhabited and had been compulsory purchased by Huddersfield Corporation. The article states that the farmhouse was due for demolition.

Youths stole lead: each fined £25

AN EMPTY farmhouse in the Deanhead Valley awaiting demolition to make way for the new Scammonden Reservoir was raided by two youths who stole nearly £15 worth of lead flashing, Huddersfield West Riding Magistrates heard today.

Michael Wainwright, a seventeen-year-old serviceman, of North Royd, Barkisland, and Laurence Whitton, a nineteen-year-old driver, of Quebec Farm, Rishworth, were each fined £25 and ordered to pay £7 7s. compensation each after pleading guilty to stealing the lead from Stone Stile Farm.

Chief Insp. W. Stainthorpe, prosecuting, said that Huddersfield Corporation had bought a number of farmhouses in the area to make way for the new reservoir. They were unoccupied waiting for demolition and after the theft of lead from Stone Stile Farm, the police started inquiries.

They saw the youths who admitted the offence. In a statement Wainwright said that Whitton wanted some money as he had been off work. They toured round some tips in a van but found only a small quantity of scrap to weigh in. They then went to the empty farm, took lead flashing from the roof and then sold it in Halifax.

In court Wainwright had nothing to say. Whitton apologised for the offence.



Current view across the reservoir. The barn can just be seen to the right of the foreground. Beyond the reservoir is the church of St Bartholomew's, Dean Head.

Thanks to

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Dave Pattern, Huddersfield Local History Society

Staff of West Yorkshire Archives

Ian Philp November 2023