

Halifax CC

Began as **Halifax Trinity** in 1856, playing on Skircoat Moor, before moving to Pellon Lane around 1860. They opened a new, prestigious ground in King Cross Lane in 1862, where they could levy admission charges, have a professional bowler in daily attendance, and arrange matches against All England XIs. This ground was lost to building in 1876 and a move made to the top of Hanson Lane. Two years later they amalgamated with the Halifax rugby club to become simply Halifax, the pair moving across the road to Thrum Hall in 1886. Halifax were founder-members of the West Riding League in 1893, then founder-members of the Yorkshire Council in 1889. They joined a West Yorkshire League within the Yorkshire Council in the late 1920s, these teams all resigning in 1936 to join with two clubs from South Yorkshire in forming the Yorkshire League. In 1994 they moved to the Huddersfield League, but closed down after the 1998 season pending the sale of Thrum Hall to Asda.

Extract from *Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale* by Andrew Hardcastle (Cricket Heritage Project Publications, 2006, £5)

Halifax Cricket Club: Early Days

The first dominant cricket club in Halifax was Halifax Clarence, probably named after King William VI, formerly Duke of Clarence before his coronation in 1830.

They are the first local team to appear in the pages of the Halifax Guardian, the first local paper which was established in 1832. The match in question was against Fairweather Green from Bradford in June 1834, although there is no suggestion that this is the club's first game. Playing most of their matches in midweek, Halifax Clarence probably followed the pattern elsewhere as a domain of better-off members of society – gentlemen of means, employers of labour or the self-employed.

Halifax Clarence played at Skircoat Moor and used the Crown and Anchor at Bull Green for hospitality. By 1839 they had established a new ground in a field on Hopwood Lane now occupied by Park Road and People's Park. They played their first match there against Bradford.

Also in 1839, the 'second rate members of the club' played home and away matches against the first eleven of the fledgling Todmorden club but were soundly beaten in both games.

In 1843 Clarence moved to a new field at King Cross Lane but they were back at Hopwood Lane for 1844.

The club folded in 1850 and revived in July 1852, playing at West Hill Park in Gibbet Street, a site now occupied by a row of houses known as West Hill.

The club moved again in 1855, playing in a field adjoining Halifax Jail in Hanson Lane, but they folded for a final time at the end of the season.

Although no direct link has been established, in some respects this club can be regarded as a forerunner to Halifax CC. Halifax Trinity, which evolved into Halifax Cricket Club, first emerged in 1856, the year after Halifax Clarence folded, and by 1862 had succeeded Clarence as the town's dominant cricket club.

Like Clarence, Trinity began with a few inauspicious encounters on Skircoat Moor. They moved to Pellon Lane in 1861 and then to the former Clarence ground on King Cross Lane in 1862.

They employed a professional and, like clubs of similar standing such as Rochdale, Bradford, Huddersfield, Dewsbury Savile, Todmorden and Burnley, organised matches against the travelling All England Eleven to raise the profile of the club.

On 1, 2 and 3 June 1863, XXII of Halifax and District, including guests from Bradford, Sheffield and Todmorden, beat the All England XI by 54 runs, Halifax 188 and 95, All England 152 and 77. A crowd of over 5000 attended the second day of the biggest sporting event Halifax had ever seen. The fixture was repeated in July 1864 when All England had the better of things, hitting 58 to Halifax's 22 and 69 for 8.

Further matches were arranged against the rival United England XI and in 1868 Halifax played against the touring Aboriginals.

The club moved to another former Clarence ground at Hanson Lane in 1876 before settling at Thrum Hall in 1886, by when 'Trinity' had been dropped and the name changed to Halifax Cricket Club.

Adapted from the following sources:

Cricket in Halifax by Andrew Hardcastle

Cloth Caps and Cricket Crazy: Todmorden and Cricket 1835-1896 by Freda, Malcolm and Brian Heywood. Upper Calder Valley Publications.

Early Letters:



August 31st 1886

Dear Sir,

Yours to hand. I am sorry I cannot accept the dates you offer. as I have only the two dates open I sent you, having filled up my list at the meeting held at Leeds last Wednesday.

Yours truly
Edinburgh

The Honry Secy.
Cricket Club
Todmorden



April 25/79

Dear Sir,

Many thanks
for your Match Card
& please accept ours in
return.

Yours truly
J. Barracough

M. J. L. Thorpe



□ Pictured above are the Halifax Cricket Club first team in 1930. Maurice W. Garside is the captain and is seated in the centre of the front row. The other members are; back row left to right C. Wood (scorer) R. Broadbent, H. Naylor, F. H. Taylor, C. Crowther, J. Sutcliffe and P. Morfee. On the front row are T. Darwin, H. Geldard, M. W. Garside (capt), E. J. Durkin and R. B. Westwood.

MAURICE W GARSIDEThis was your life

On page three of last week's "Calderdale News and Shopper", under the heading lost and found, we asked reader if they could identify the owner of a medal that was reproduced.

You were quick to respond and we now have a complete history of the M. W. Garside who won the medal for his efforts in the 440 yards while still a member of Frank House at The Halifax Council Secondary School.

Maurice Garside, we now know, went on to teach history at the school (now Clare Hall) until the early 1930s and developed into an enthusiastic and skilful all-round sportsman.

In the 20s he played for Yorkshire's Second team and was only pipped for a County Cap by the legendary Maurice Leyland. As our picture shows he captained Halifax CC in the 30s and later captained Rotherham, Colchester and Blackpool as his career as a head teacher took him to those towns.

In fact, one of our informants, Tom Hyland of Brighouse, came across him by accident when Tom turned out for Lancaster CC in a match against Blackpool CC, he was amazed to find that Maurice, although well into his 50s, was still captain of the Blackpool side.

In addition to his teaching and sporting links, Maurice was for many years Chairman of Rotary International and travelled the world on their behalf.

However, despite his travels, Maurice W Garside never lost touch with Halifax and his many friends in this area. He returned at least once a year until his death in 1977 to attend the Armistice memorial services and to visit old service colleagues in the teaching profession.

This popular sporting personality was also a fine golfer winning many competitions as a member of West End Golf Club and, along with his brother Reginald who still lives in Halifax, represented Halifax RLFC.

Unfortunately his life was tainted by a great tragedy when his son, Peter, who had been a brilliant scholar, wasted away with one of the earliest examples of anorexia. His other son, Rolf, now lives in Cheltenham and works for the Diplomatic corps.

Tom Hyland, an ex-pupil and later a teaching colleague described, Maurice as; "An outstanding teacher, a fine sportsman and well loved by a great number of boys from the Halifax Council Secondary School and other colleges.

Thanks to Don Elliot, Jim Swale and all the others who gave us details of the life and times of Maurice W Garside we have now been able to return the medal to his niece, Jill Craggs who lives at Skircoat Green, Halifax and feel we delighted to have been associated with this man, even though that association has been posthumous.

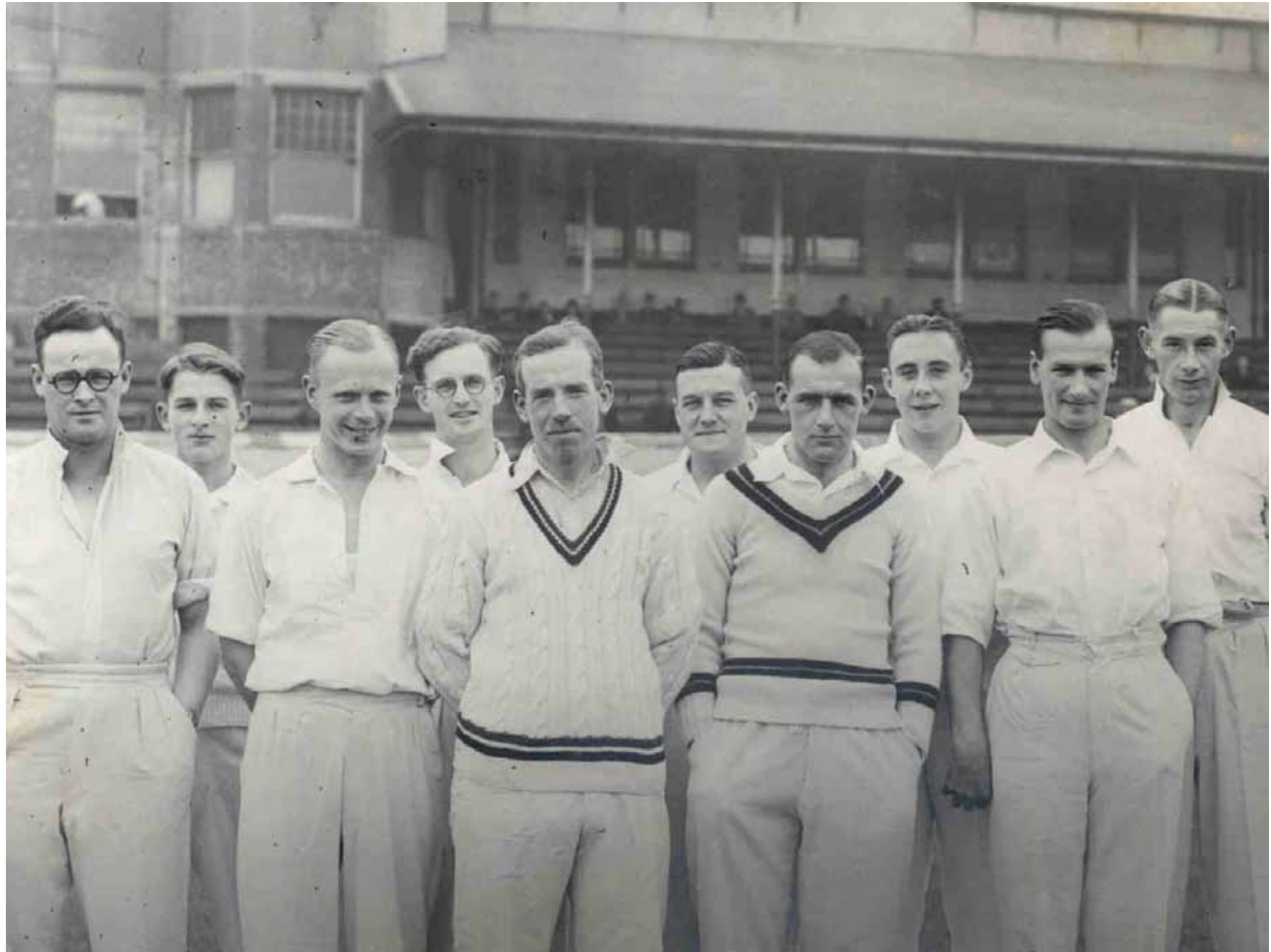
1931 Team Photo:



1932 Team Photo:



1942 Team Photo:



1944 Team Photo:



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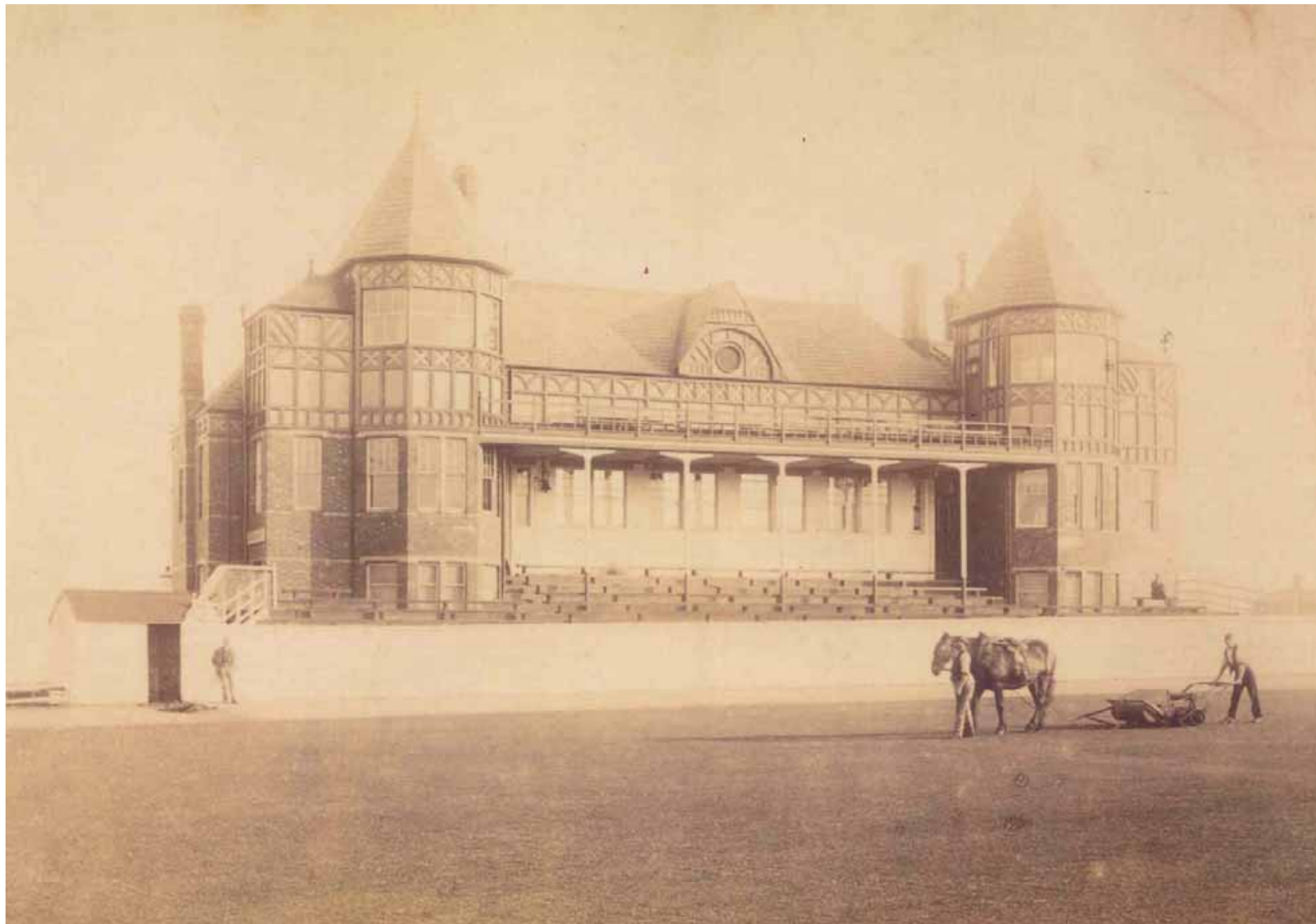
For Terms : Mr. P. KNOTT,

3 Green Mount Terrace, Horne Street,
Hanson Lane, Halifax.

Tel. 54559 (Home).

Tel. 611231 (Club).

Thrum Hall – Undated



Thrum Hall – Undated



Site of Thrum Hall Today:











