

HAUNTS OF THE Halifax Slasher

A walk through hysteria and violence
in a Pennine milltown



**“All Halifax history
depends on Halifax
geography”**


Phyllis Bentley

*“There is a Proverbe, and prayer withall,
That we may not to three strange places fall,
From Hull, from Halifax, from Hell, ‘tis thus,
From all these three, Good Lord, deliver us.
This praying proverbe’s meaning to set down,*

**“Black Halifax
boiled in phosphorus”**

Ted Hughes

*Men doe not wish deliverance from this Towne,
The Towne’s named Kingston, Hull’s the famous river,
And from Hull’s dangers I say, Lord deliver.
At Halifax the Law so sharpe doth deale,
That whoso more than thirteen pence doth steale,
They have a Tyn that wonderous, quick and well
Send thieves all headless into Heav’n or Hell.*

from  A Very
Merrie Wherrie, John
Taylor (1580-
1654)

*From Hell each man says Lord deliver me,
Because from Hell can no redemption be.
Men may escape from Hull and Halifax,
But sure in Hell there is a heavier Taxe,
Let each one for themselves, in this agree,
And pray, from Hell, good Lord, deliver me.”*



By **Tim Chapman**