

**Please note that for reasons of privacy private email and postal addresses have been redacted from this online archive. If you wish to contact someone named in this issue please contact the society.**

## **Berkshire Family Historian**

*for family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire*

December 2006

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## Society thanks volunteers



On Sunday 20 August Jocie McBride, chairman of the society, hosted a garden party in the grounds of Yeomanry House to say thank you to the volunteers who help the society in a wide variety of ways. More than 100 members and friends were invited, and over 75 attended for all or part of the afternoon. Carolyn and Barry Boulton, Jean and Cliff Debney, Chad Hanna, Jean Herbert, Tom James, Mary and John Price and Gillian Stevens helped to arrange the event.

A number of the guests enjoyed a tour of the Research Centre, where they were able to use the newly installed computers. Some were able to take away redundant books and equipment

from the Research Centre in return for a small donation.

Peter Durrant, the county archivist, was among the specially invited guests, and he took the opportunity to talk to many society members who regularly use the Berkshire Record Office.

The weather was not too kind. There were a few light showers and a cool breeze, but this did not stop all those who attended from having a good time. Towards the end of the afternoon, Jocie thanked everybody for all the work they undertake for the society.

*Ivan Dickason*

In response to popular request the society is discontinuing the plastic membership card, and will return to the practice of issuing a coloured card each year on renewal (one for individuals and two for families). You should have found your 2006-07 card stuck on the front cover of this magazine. The card colour will be changed each year and, as from 2007, the cards will be sent out with the September magazine to those that have paid their subscription before then. The membership secretary Bob Plumridge will post cards to any new members joining later on in the year.

Please note the Research Centre will close for Christmas at 16.00 on Thursday 14 December and reopen at 10.00 on Tuesday 2 January 2007. The centre will also be closed on the second Sunday in April (the 8th, which is Easter Day).

## A word from the chair

As your new chairman I would like to thank Nigel Saltmarsh for all the work he did in his year in the chair. At the AGM I had the pleasure of announcing that Ed Pearce has been made an honorary member for his many years of service to our society.

In October Tom James decided to resign as our society secretary. We all appreciated his help and advice over the past year. I have asked Valerie Storie to take over the duties of Secretary for the rest of the year.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers, who help in so many different ways to enable us to offer genealogical help to all our members whether they live in Berkshire or Timbuktu. In August we held a garden party for these volunteers, and those who braved the unseasonable weather enjoyed the opportunity

to reminisce about family history.

A new computer suite is being installed in our Research Centre, with Ancestry and many other computer programs to help with our fascinating hobby. We continue to work closely with the Berkshire Record Office, and since September 2006 we have published four new Berkshire CDs. Over the summer new books have been added to the bookshop and the library.

Many of you have asked that we issue new membership cards each year, and this has been reinstated with this magazine.

I look forward to seeing many of you at branch meetings, in the Research Centre and at local family history fairs.

*Jocie McBride  
Chairman 2006-07*

## Senior member honoured

Ed Pearce has been presented with honorary membership in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the society.

Ed joined in 1987, and in 1994 he was part of the team that set up the first Research Centre in Prospect School. He set about shelving and equipping the two classrooms, and he took over all the administration involved with running the centre.

When the society had to move out of Prospect School, Ed organised the packing up and storing of all the books and equipment, and he helped restore the rooms for use as classrooms. When the society eventually moved into Yeomanry House Ed was there again with his screwdriver, putting up the library shelving and helping wherever he could. He is still the administrator of the Research Centre, coming in each Friday to bank the takings, check the figures and carry out any running repairs. His meticulous book-keeping and wonderful charts are legendary.

Ed was not able to be at the annual branch meeting as he was away on holiday, but with John Price's permission the society's president Jocie McBride presented him with his award at the following Reading branch meeting, as pictured below.



# Meet the new Executive Committee for 2006-2007

**Jocie McBride** took the chair of the society at the AGM, having previously served as publications manager.



**Val Batt-Rawden** represents the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch.



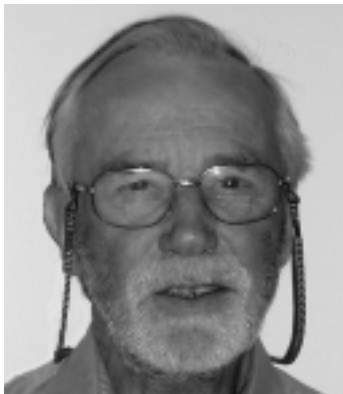
**Carolyn Boulton** runs the society's courses.



**Sue Clifford** is the society's treasurer.



**Cliff Debney** manages the Research Centre.



**Peter Francis** chairs the computer branch.



The executive committee consists of the chairman, secretary, treasurer, minutes secretary and the chairs (or other representative) of the six branches, as well as any other members whom the committee may decide to co-opt. The society's constitution stipulates that after serving on the committee for five years members must stand down for a year, after which they may stand again for election. Executive members are also ex-officio the trustees of the registered charity.

The executive committee meets every two months to discuss and decide society policy and management.

The post of secretary has been vacant since the resignation of Tom James. The work is currently being handled by Valerie Storie.

**Jean Herbert** is deputy chairman, and runs the society's library.



**Sue Matthews** chairs the Vale of White Horse branch.



**John Price** chairs the Reading branch.



**Valerie Storie** is minutes secretary.



**Derek Trinder** chairs the Bracknell and Wokingham branch.



**Phil Wood** chairs the Newbury branch.



## New homes sought for old magazines

Over many years the society has exchanged magazines with other societies, and these are made available for members to borrow from their branch meetings. Later they are stored at the Research Centre, where they get little or no use. At the last Research Centre committee meeting it was decided to limit these files to five to seven years, and to dispose of the rest. (Some societies have produced fiche and CD of their back numbers, which we will keep.)

Would anyone like to have these surplus magazines? They are listed below (by Chapman codes) showing the number of years covered, but please note that very few are complete runs. You must either collect or pay postage, which can be worked out for you. Please contact the librarian at the Research Centre if you are interested.

*Jean Herbert*

Avon & Bristol 24	LON	Sheffield 20
BDF 19	Cockney Ancestor 21	Banyan Tree 23
CAM 23	Woolwich 14	ISLANDS
CHE 25	MDX	Channel Isles 15
North 25	Central 21	Guernsey 12
CON 22	North 22	Isle of Man 10
DBY 23	NBL & DUR 24	WALES
DEV 22	NFK 24yr	Glamorgan 17
DOR 12	NTH 24	Dyfed 15
ESS 3	Peterboro' 19	Gwynedd 13
Waltham Forest 20	NTT 24	Clwyd 7
GLS 21	SAL 20	SCOTLAND
HER 20	SOM & DOR 24	Aberdeen 4
HRT 23	SFK 25	Glasgow 4
HUN 4	SFK	AUSTRALIA
KEN 23	Felixstowe 24	Aust SOG 21
Kent connection 14	SSX 24	Richmond, Tweed,
North West 21	Eastbourne 13	Canberra 21
LAN 24	Hasting & Rother 13	Queensland 16
Liverpool 23	WAR	CANADA
Manchester 23	Midland Ancestor 24	Brit. Columbia 6
LEI 25	YRK 15	Ontario 23
LIN 19	Doncaster 20	NEW ZEALAND 24
Isle of Axholme 14	York 14	TASMANIA 9

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## BRO celebrates Fair Mile project

Berkshire Record Office recently celebrated the completion of the Fair Mile Hospital archives project. Funded by a Wellcome Foundation grant, the cataloguing and conservation of these records, spanning 1870-2003, opens a new area of research to family historians. The catalogue may be browsed at the BRO or visited online at [www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk). Specific personal research may be commissioned from

the BRO under the usual conditions.

The project archivist Kate Tyte is now beginning a similar, two-year operation, also funded by the Wellcome Foundation, on the records of Broadmoor Hospital.

Kate Tyte wrote about the Fair Mile archive in the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. This issue features part two of her article, dealing with the interpretation of mental health records.

## If you have millers in your family...

...You may be interested to learn of the Mills Archive in Reading. This resource, a registered charity supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is entirely run by volunteers, and maintains a library and online database of information on wind- and watermills and millers. Enquirers are encouraged to use the website on <[www.millsarchive.com](http://www.millsarchive.com)>, but the archive also welcomes visitors (by appointment) to its library in Watlington Street.

The archive's organisers are currently seeking volunteers from the ranks of family historians for help in processing the people aspects of their collections. Training will be given, but volunteers need to be comfortable using a computer, and be happy handling fragile material. Anyone interested in sparing a few hours a week should contact Ron Cookson on 01189 478284 or email <[info@millsarchive.com](mailto:info@millsarchive.com)>.

## Make time to take the tour

The library of the Berks FHS Research Centre contains over 7,500 items covering family history from Ascot to Australia (including many other family history society journals), and the catalogue can be browsed online. The computer suite (with broadband) has seven networked computers, three specialising in Ancestry Library Edition, and all offering much information on Berkshire and most other UK counties. Other facilities include microfiche and microfilm readers, printers and a photocopier.

To make the best use of these splendid facilities you are strongly advised to come on one of our library tours, which will show you how and where the information is to be found. After the tour there will be a short time to browse through the stock, try the computers and to visit the bookshop, where a vast array of titles in book, fiche and electronic formats covers Berkshire and surrounding counties.

The first two library tours of 2007 are to be held on Saturday 17 February 14.30 to 16.30 and Monday 14 May 19.30 to 21.30. For further details please ring Cliff Debney on 0118 941 3223 or email <[researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk)>.

*Cliff Debney*

## Looking forward to 2012

The 1911 census is a huge document – more than 12 times the size of the 1901 census, with over eight million schedules covering 35 million people. In addition, there are 38,000 volumes of enumerators' summary books containing valuable supporting information. Almost all this material is in excellent condition for scanning, with less than five per cent requiring prior conservation work.

In 1966 the Lord Chancellor determined that all decennial census returns should be closed for a period of 100 years, and this restriction continues in force. The National Archives is however already working to make the 1911 census available online in just under six years' time, on the first working day of 2012.

## Wallingfordians listed

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society has been compiling an index of inhabitants for 1500-1850 based on parish, borough and probate records, and title deeds. The index is not yet online, but it can be consulted by contacting David Pedgley on 01491 837298.

# Projects need people

The society has published no fewer than four CDs within the last quarter, details of which may be found in Bookends on page 30. It should be remembered however that these, and the many other parish records published by the society, are the result of extensive and dedicated voluntary effort by society members. There is a wealth of unpublished material still to be transcribed from registers, and material previously published in fiche or hard copy is being converted to CD-ROM.

Many hands make light work, and Sue Cummings, the society's projects co-ordinator, is seeking new recruits. The commitment need be no more than an hour or two a week. Computer literacy is important for much of the work, but proof-readers and checkers are also needed.

If you have at some time furthered your family history research because other members made this effort, you might perhaps like to consider returning the favour.

<u>Would you be willing to do all or any of the following?</u>		<u>Please tick where you are willing to work.</u>
check transcripts	yes/no	Berkshire Record Office
word-process transcripts	yes/no	Oxford Record Office
transcribe from computer images of original documents	yes/no	Wiltshire Record Office
convert Word documents to Excel	yes/no	Public Record Office
convert Word documents to a database	yes/no	Reading Local Studies Library
		at home on your computer
<u>Do you have any of the following?</u>		name
typewriter	yes/no	.....
computer	yes/no	.....
microfiche reader	yes/no	BFHS membership
microfilm reader	yes/no	no.....
scanner	yes/no	email.....
digital camera	yes/no	.....
		tel.....



## *Their Past, Your Future goes digital*

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is creating a digital archive for more than 500 gigabytes of historic material generated last year by *Their Past, Your Future*.

*Their Past, Your Future* was a venture by the Imperial War Museum to inspire people of all ages to discover the Second World War, its shaping of the world's course, and its relevance now and in the future. Young people and veterans worked together to explore issues such as remembrance, conflict, reconciliation and commemoration.

The digitisation project is funded by the MLA with a £40,000 lottery grant, and forms part of the Archive Awareness Campaign. The aim is to gather this material, archive it, and make it accessible to all via the internet by the end of 2006.

## New Berkshire records

Recent additions to stock at the Berkshire Record Office include:

- additional parish records from Chilton D/P36; Cox Green D/P183; Farnborough D/P54; Grazeley D/P124B; Milton D/P85; Reading All Saints D/P168; Reading Greyfriars D/P163; Reading St Mary D/P98; Reading St John D/P172 including the text of an anti-Catholic sermon preached at the church in 1865; Sonning D/P113; Windsor Holy Trinity D/P166
- civil parish records from Winnersh parish council CPC73C
- Church Commissioners' deeds of property in Ashbury 1798-1875, and plans for parsonage houses 1840-1949 D/QC
- a photograph album compiled by Charley Kemp of Wiltshire in 1897 showing places in the Lambourn, Great Shefford and Hungerford areas.

## Dates for your diary

date	event	venue	more details
Tue/Fri 10.00-16.30 Sat/Sun 14.00-16.30 now until 21 Dec	Exhibition celebrating bicentenary of Suttons Seeds	Museum of English Rural Life, Reading	< <a href="http://www.ruralhistory.org">www.ruralhistory.org</a> > admis- sion free
28 Jan 10.00-17.00	Bracknell FH Fair	Sport & Leisure Centre, Bagshot Rd, Bracknell RG12 9SE	< <a href="http://www.familyhistoryfairs.com">www.familyhistoryfairs.com</a> >
5 Feb	Introductory tour of Berkshire Record Office	BRO, Coley Rd, Reading	book on 0118 901 5132
13 Feb 20.00	Researching your "ancestree"	Hannen Room, Mill Green, Wargrave	Wargrave Local Hist Society < <a href="http://www.wargrave.net/history">www.wargrave.net/history</a> > visitors £2 entry

# Berkshire Burial Index

David Wright

The parishes and periods to be included in the fourth update (making the fifth edition) of the Berkshire Burial Index on CD-ROM, due out in early December 2006, are shown below. They total more than 460,000 entries. New entries (added since the November 05 publication of the third update to the original 2002 CD-ROM) are shown in italics. For availability of the CD please see the mail order booklist (centre pages).

Abingdon Baptist (Lower Meeting House, Ock St) 1764-1789, 1786-1837  
Abingdon Congreg (Upper Meeting House) 1730-1740, 1787-1836  
Abingdon St Helen March to December 1762 (BTs)  
Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1813-1992  
Aldworth St Mary 1813-1978  
Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1564-1988  
Appleton St Laurence 1813-1891  
Arborfield St Bartholomew 1580-1707 (BTs), 1707-1736, 1736-1739 (BTs), 1739-1925  
Ascot Heath All Saints 1865-1958  
Ashampstead St Clement 1607-1686 (BTs), 1686-1837  
Ashbury St Mary 1612-1638 (BTs), 1734-1869  
Aston Tirrold Ind 1763-1837  
Aston Tirrold St Michael 1813-1960  
Avington 1700-1725 (BTs), 1727-1994  
Barkham St James 1539-1733, 1733-1740 (BTs), 1741-1985  
Basildon St Bartholomew 1667-1982  
Bearwood St Catherine 1846-1929  
Beech Hill St Mary the Virgin 1868-1996  
Beedon St Nicholas 1681-1969  
Beenham St Mary 1561-1907  
Besselsleigh St Lawrence 1689-1994  
Binfield All Saints 1813-1957  
Bisham All Saints 1560-1707, 1707-1708 (BTs), 1709-1849  
Blewbury St Michael 1588-1627, 1627-1674, 1675-1720 (BTs), 1720-1754, 1754-1812, 1813-1855  
Boxford St Andrew 1558-1876  
Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851-1945  
Bracknell Ind (Congreg) 1822-1859  
Bradfield St Andrew 1540-1685, 1691-1693 (BTs), 1695-1952  
Bradfield Workhouse 1845-1932  
Bray St Michael 1813-1929  
Brightwalton All Saints 1562-1922  
Brightwell St Agatha 1813-1867  
Brimpton St Peter 1607-1674 (BTs), 1678-1734, 1735-1755 (BTs), 1756-1901  
Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1813-1930  
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539-1910  
Burghfield St Mary 1559-2005  
Buscot St Mary 1813-1950  
Catmore St Margaret 1728-1810, 1814-1985  
Caversham Hemdean Rd Cemetery 1924-1993  
Caversham St Peter 1597-1955  
Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538-1676, 1677 (BTs), 1678-1919  
Charney Bassett St Peter 1813-1979  
Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1647-2003  
Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1813-1883  
Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1894-1917  
Cholsey St Mary 1813-1874, 1874-1929, 1929-1953  
Clewer St Andrew 1607-1856, 1856-1869  
Cold Ash St Mark 1865-1947  
Coleshill All Saints 1813-1986  
Combe St Swithin 1729-1812  
Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553-1901  
Compton Beauchamp St Swithin 1813-1994  
Cookham Holy Trinity 1656-1935  
Cookham Dean St John the Baptist 1845-1973  
Cranbourne St Peter 1850-1915  
Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1900-1968  
Cumnor St Michael 1813-1970  
Denchworth St James 1538-1635, 1636-1812  
Drayton St Peter 1919-1967  
Earley St Peter 1854-1916  
East Challow St Nicholas 1813-1829  
East Garston All Saints 1607-1668 (BTs), 1813-1876  
East Hendred St Augustine 1813-1863  
Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558-1915  
East Ilsley St Mary 1649-2000, 2000-2005  
East Lockinge All Saints 1546-1812, 1862-1866  
East Shefford 1604 to 1734, 1734-1773 (BTs), 1774-1917  
Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1813-1998  
Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607-1638 (BTs), 1726-1929  
Englefield St Mark 1813-1935  
Faringdon All Saints 1644-1842, 1896-1948  
Farnborough All Saints 1607-1738 (BTs), 1813-1835 (BTs)  
Fawley St Mary 1550-1987  
Fernham St John 1860-1994  
Finchampstead St James 1724-1812  
Frilsham St Frideswide 1607-1710 (BTs), 1711-1768, 1769-1804 (BTs), 1813-1835 (BTs)  
Grazeley Holy Trinity 1851-1964  
Great Coxwell St Giles 1813-1868, 1941-2002  
Greenham St Mary 1799-1914  
Grove St James 1832-1926  
Hagbourne St Andrew 1612-1638 (BTs), 1661-1751, 1745-1756 (BTs), 1757-1905  
Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543-1593, 1598-1626, 1628-1638 (BTs), 1666-1919  
Hamstead Marshall St Mary 1675-1812  
Harwell St Matthew 1688-1943  
Hatford St George/Holy Trinity 1539-1969  
Hermitage Holy Trinity 1840-1978  
Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1813-1961, 1961-1977  
Hungerford Ind 1819-1830  
Hungerford St Lawrence 1559-1700, 1700-1813, 1813-1914, 1914-1969  
Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563-1864  
Hurst St Nicholas 1579-1582 (BTs), 1585-1605, 1605-1621 (BTs), 1621-1623, 1623-1633 (BTs), 1633-2004  
Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1607-1623 (BTs), 1813-1878, 1878-1986

Kintbury St Mary 1558-1925  
 Knowl Hill St Peter 1842-2002  
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560-1837, 1895-1933  
 Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels 1776-1989  
 Letcombe Regis St Andrew 1813-1863  
 Littleworth Holy Ascension 1839-1909  
 Little Wittenham St Peter 1680-1811, 1813-1992  
 Longcot St Mary the Virgin 1884-1993  
 Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin 1884-1979  
 Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857-1948  
 Maidenhead Congreg 1791-1837, 1845-1908  
 Maidenhead High St Wesleyan Methodist 1858-1903  
 Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843-1858  
 Maidenhead St Luke 1866-1890  
 Midgham St Matthew 1638-1733, 1753-1980  
 Milton St Blaise 1662-1938  
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869-1982  
 Moulsham St John the Baptist 1813-1992  
 Newbury Baptist 1773-1823  
 Newbury Baptist (Northcroft La) 1818-1837  
 Newbury Lower Meeting House Ind 1784-1837  
 Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860-1900  
 Newbury St Nicolas 1746-1773, 1773-1779, 1783-1890  
 Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783-1836  
 New Windsor All Saints (recorded in register of New Windsor St John the Baptist) 1974-1988  
 New Windsor St George's Chapel 1625-1737  
 New Windsor St John the Baptist 1559-1586, 1609-1988  
 North Moreton All Saints 1813-1880, 1880-1996  
 Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew 1634-1771 (BTs), 1772-1812, 1813-1940  
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607-1723 (BTs), 1724-1981  
 Pangbourne Ind Chapel 1836 only  
 Pangbourne St James the Less 1559-1678, 1678-1926  
 Peasemore St Barnabas 1538-1879  
 Purley St Mary the Virgin 1663-1900  
 Pusey All Saints 1607-1760 (BTs), 1761-1835 (BTs)  
 Radley St James the Gt 1813-1981  
 Reading Broad Street Ind 1787-1869, 1875-1881  
 Reading Castle Street Congreg 1857-1862  
 Reading Holy Trinity 1834-1855  
 Reading King's Rd Baptist 1785-1835  
 Reading London Rd Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1843-1858, 1859-1863, 1865-1872  
 Reading London Rd Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground) 1843-1863  
 Reading St Giles 1564-1598, 1636-1644, 1648-1836, 1836-1840, 1840-1895, 1955-1990  
 Reading St Laurence 1603-1901  
 Reading St Mary 1718-1812  
 Reading St Stephen 1929-1956  
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605-1696 (BTs), 1697-1762, 1762-1764 (BTs), 1764-1909  
 Ruscombe St James the Gt 1705-1812  
 Sandhurst St Michael 1580-1593 (BTs), 1603-1696, 1610-1812 (BTs), 1869-1959  
 Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1647-1932  
 Shinfield St Mary 1653-1844  
 Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567-1811  
 Shrivenham St Andrew 1813-1867  
 Sonning St Andrew 1813-1906  
 Sotwell St James 1693-1812  
 South Moreton St John the Baptist 1813-1994  
 Sparsholt Holy Cross 1558-1865  
 Speen St Mary the Virgin 1614-1628 (BTs), 1629-1904  
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831-1881, 1953-1971  
 Stanford Dingley St Denys 1538-1979  
 Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1813-1922  
 Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1681-1977  
 Streatley St Mary 1679-1812  
 Stubbings St James the Less 1852-1949  
 Sulham St Nicholas 1612-1724 (BTs), 1724-1850  
 Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1602-1995  
 Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1608-1637 (BTs), 1654-1811, 1813-1994  
 Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842-1938  
 Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561-1641, 1653-1947  
 Sunningwell St Leonard 1812-1960  
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1813-1888, 1919-1956  
 Swallowfield All Saints 1539-1552, 1587-1597, 1638-1931  
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congreg/Ind Chapel 1819-1871  
 Thatcham St Mary 1740-1766, 1767 only (BTs), 1768-1770, 1771-1914  
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832-1932  
 Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1608-1729 (BTs), 1813-1999  
 Tilehurst St George 1886-1954  
 Tilehurst St Michael 1614-1629 (BTs), 1630-1716, 1716-1941  
 Twyford St Mary 1847-1925  
 Uffington St Mary 1813-1836, 1836-1856, 1856-1946  
 Ufton Nervet St Peter 1607-1635 (BTs), 1636-1834, 1835-1990  
 Wallingford Baptist 1796-1837  
 Wallingford Ind 1814-1836  
 Wallingford St Leonard 1671-1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1813-1869, 1873-1899, 1929-1975  
 Wallingford St Mary the More 1671-1678, 1711-1712, 1796-1854, 1854-1871, 1871-1939, 1961-1976  
 Wallingford St Peter 1671-1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1711-1812, 1813-1862, 1865-1930  
 Waltham St Lawrence 1931-1995  
 Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1813-1870, 1870-1877, 1892-1902, 1902-1918  
 Warfield St Michael 1779-1922  
 Wargrave St Mary 1872-1940  
 Wasing St Nicholas 1608-1736 (BTs), 1763-1990  
 Welford St Gregory 1749-1900  
 West Hanney St James the Gt 1783-1964  
 West Hendred Holy Trinity 1727-1972  
 West Ilsley All Saints 1558-1967  
 West Shefford St Mary 1599-1897  
 West Woodhay St Laurence 1656-1724, 1744-1768 (BTs), 1813-1985  
 White Waltham St Mary 1860-1937  
 Winkfield St Mary 1813-1961  
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1567-1850  
 Wokingham All Saints 1813-1854  
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841-1906  
 Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921-2004  
 Wokingham St Paul 1864-1895, 1924-1961  
 Woodley Congreg (Woodley Chapel) 1858-1905  
 Woolhampton St Peter 1607-1636 (BTs), 1636-1746, 1749-1759 (BTs), 1761-1926  
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813-1982

# Interpreting old mental health records

*In Part Two of her article based on the archives of Fair Mile Hospital, Kate Tyte of Berkshire Record Office guides family researchers through the Victorian terminology of mental health.*

Researchers with a Victorian ancestor who was a mental hospital patient may have difficulty understanding the terminology on their records. Diagnoses were often imprecise due to a lack of medical knowledge, and conditions were often given different names from those we now use. It is not always possible to equate exactly the mental health problems, as recorded then, to illnesses that we recognise today.

## Early categories of mental health problems

When Fair Mile opened in 1870 its admission registers divided mental health problems into four simple categories: mania, dementia, melancholia, or amentia.

**Mania** is characterised by elation, mental and physical restlessness, sleeplessness, lack of inhibition, excitement and grandiose delusions. **Melancholia** is now known as depression. **Dementia** means a sudden loss of mind in someone who previously had normal brain function. This is usually associated with old age, as in senile dementia, but it could be from other kinds of neurological problems or mental illness. **Amentia** means absence of mind, which is to say a mind that never developed, or learning disability. All of these conditions could potentially be fatal if they led to self-neglect or neglect by carers.

These categories would now usually be seen as symptoms rather than diseases in themselves. A person suffering from mania could, for example, be going through the manic phase of manic depression, whilst either mania, dementia or both could be a feature of psychotic illness such as schizophrenia.

## Supposed causes of insanity

The registers also give a separate supposed cause of insanity, divided into “moral” or

“physical” causes, largely corresponding to what we might today call psychological or organic causes. These were usually quite vague, and often unique to an individual. Under the moral category assigned causes were as diverse as love affairs, family affairs or troubles at chapel, and the physical category included accident, brain fever, epilepsy, heredity, puerperal state, climacteric, general paralysis and some things we would not now consider to be a possible cause of mental illness, such as masturbation and thunderstorm.

**Brain fever** will usually mean meningitis. Epilepsy is the symptom of a brain disorder or malformation. It is not actually a cause of mental illness, but may be a symptom, and occur alongside other problems. Epileptic fits can appear as *petit mal* (mild, episodic loss of attention or sleepiness) or *grand mal* (severe convulsions with loss of consciousness).

The phrase “**general paralysis [or paresis] of the insane**” or abbreviated forms of this such as “general paralysis,” or “GPI” may appear as a cause of mental illness or in case notes. It is a progressive neurological disease caused by syphilis, formerly a very common cause of mental illness. Paralysis, however, probably refers to paralysis as the result of a stroke rather than general paralysis. GPI causes difficulty in speech and movement, delusions, hallucinations and dementia, gradually leading to complete loss of movement and usually death. Paresis means a partial type of paralysis affecting motion but not sensation.

Acquired syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease of three stages: primary, lasting a few weeks, in which infectious ulcers appear on the body; secondary, lasting several months, in which the victim suffers from general malaise, infectious warts and ulcers; a dormant period lasting up to 30 years, during

which the sufferer is not infectious; and the tertiary stage in which the disease can affect almost any part of the body. If it affects the nervous system it is called neurosyphilis, and can cause general paralysis or other symptoms. Sufferers often have unequal pupils and a loss of the patellar reflex (knee-jerk), and they may have locomotor ataxia or *tabes dorsalis*, a lack of muscular co-ordination and characteristic high-stepping walk known as “stepping on cotton” caused by damage to the spinal cord.

Researchers who find that their ancestors were afflicted with this condition should remember that it was quite common, untreatable, and that the general public and doctors were often unaware of the connection between syphilis and general paralysis. Symptoms of the disease could also have been easily missed in an age of poor hygiene and general health. It usually affected more men than women and, because it lies dormant and is not infectious for such a long period, it could well have affected a man without being passed on to his wife or children. Syphilis can now be treated with antibiotics, but it was not until the mass production of penicillin in 1945 that effective treatment became widely available and general paralysis became rare.

**Puerperal state** means childbirth, and could indicate a number of problems, for instance post-natal depression or psychosis, eclampsia, or puerperal fever (an infection caused by poor hygiene) which was one of the major causes of death for women in Victorian Britain.

### Case notes

Case notes may then go into greater detail, giving examples of delusions or hallucinations suffered, description of the patient’s behaviour and any treatment received. They may also note whether a patient suffered from **ataxia** (meaning a lack of physical coordination) or **chorea** (a movement disorder seen in several diseases of the nervous system, characterised by involuntary jerky movements of the face,

arms and legs, and by a loss of coordination, sometimes called St Vitus’s Dance after the patron saint of dancing).

### Categories of mental health problems from 1906

In 1906 new rules on mental health record keeping were drawn up, and new terminology introduced. Mental disorders were divided into either congenital or occurring later in life. Delirium, stupor, confusional insanity, alternating insanity, delusional insanity, and volitional insanity were added as possible types of the latter.

**Delirium** usually means wandering speech and confusion. **Stupor** means an unresponsive state from which a person can be roused only briefly after vigorous attempts. It could be caused by a number of brain disorders or severe shock. **Confusional insanity** is unclear, but may relate to the manic phase of manic-depressive type disorders, affecting mood, possibly with some aspect of delusions or dementia. **Delusional insanity** means suffering from delusions, often of grandeur or of persecution, with or without hallucinations. These can form part of what we would now recognise to be many different mental illnesses including depression, manic-depression or schizophrenia. **“Systematised” delusions**, a further sub-category, meant that the patient had one fixed erroneous idea, which may have been quite logically built up and applied to all areas of their life, and they may have appeared quite sane apart from this one idea.

**Volitional insanity** could refer to several disorders including obsession, or “doubt” (probably what we would now think of as anxiety) but most often referred to irresistible impulses, for instance to engage in criminal acts, even though the person understood their own actions. **Alternating or dual insanity** indicates what is now called manic depression, bipolar disorder or affective disorder.

### **Aetiological factors**

In 1906 the supposed causes became “aetiological factors”, meaning the principal or contributory causes of disease. These were more clearly defined, and divided into different categories and sub-categories: heredity, mental instability, deprivation of special sense (sight, hearing, smell, taste), critical periods, child-bearing, mental stress, physiological defects and errors (malnutrition, over-exertion, masturbation or sexual excess), toxic (alcohol, drugs, poison, syphilis, sepsis, TB, flu), traumatic (operations, injuries, sunstroke), diseases of the nervous system or other bodily affections.

**Neuroses** also became an aetiological factor, under the heading “diseases of the nervous system”, or as a hereditary factor if a member of their family had suffered from them. These were “to include only hysteria, neurasthenia, spasmodic (idiopathic) asthma and chorea”. Neurosis means a condition in which the sufferer is aware of being unwell, but these definitions would probably not be recognised today, and are all very vague.

**Hysteria** literally meant “wandering womb”, and women’s illnesses, particularly mental illnesses, were often ascribed to this cause in the Middle Ages. It continued to be a diagnosis given to women, and was defined in various different ways, notably by Freud and the French psychiatrist Charcot, who asserted that only hysterics could be hypnotised, and gave public demonstrations of this phenomenon.

**Neurasthenia** means “weak nerves” and is a vague term no longer used. Both neuroses and neurasthenia could potentially relate to a wide range of conditions, but were probably more often applied to psychological problems such as mild depression, phobias, anxiety, personality disorders, panic attacks, or simply a tendency to hypochondria, than to more serious mental health problems. Idiopathic means no cause can be found, meaning that symptoms are psychosomatic. The middle classes could be given diagnoses of

neurasthenia or hysteria as a euphemism for more serious mental illness, and choose to be treated at spas rather than at mental hospitals or asylums. Neurasthenia actually became rather fashionable in the late-nineteenth century, in the same way that Freudian psychoanalysis became fashionable, as a mark of refined sensibilities. However, the majority of patients at Fair Mile were “pauper lunatics” rather than private patients, and so were unlikely to have been given these diagnoses.

### **Learning disabilities**

The Mental Defectives Act 1913 classified people with what were then called mental defects into the following categories: idiots, imbeciles, the feeble-minded and moral defectives. Prior to that time the terms were often used interchangeably. In modern terms **idiot** equated with severe learning disability, and **imbecile** with moderate learning disability and the **feeble minded/moron** with mild learning disability. People in the first two categories usually require care throughout their lives.

**Moral defectives** on the other hand displayed “some permanent mental defect coupled with strong vicious or criminal propensities on which punishment had had little or no effect”.

It was not until much later that different conditions began to be distinguished from one another, and not until after 1913 were those with learning disabilities cared for separately from those with mental illnesses. In Berkshire the Borocourt Institution for Mental Defectives opened in the 1930s, and people with learning disabilities may have been cared for there or in one of a number of smaller institutions across Berkshire, most of them former workhouses. Previously they would usually have been cared for at Fair Mile.

### **Other useful terms**

**Cerebral softening** was often cited as a cause of death, and could have referred to any brain disease, most commonly a stroke or

syphilis.

**Climacteric** means the menopause, or post-menopause, and was sometimes cited as a cause of women's mental health problems.

**Dementia praecox**, meaning premature dementia is a former name for schizophrenia.

**Phthisis/phthisis** (pronounced *tysis*) refers to any wasting disease, usually tuberculosis or consumption as it was sometimes called.

**Enteric fever** is another name for typhoid fever. Fair Mile was plagued by outbreaks of typhoid caused by contaminated sewage entering the drinking water supply, until the 1920s. The disease usually causes a fever and diarrhoea, and sometimes a rash of flat pink spots.

**Apoplexy** usually means a stroke, but if an organ is specified it will mean a haemorrhage or failure of blood supply in that organ. It could also mean any sudden rapidly fatal disease.

**Congestion of the brain** is a vague term that could describe almost all brain problems. For young people it probably means meningitis, and for old people it probably indicates a stroke.

**Encephalitis** means inflammation of the brain.

**Progressive muscular atrophy** probably refers to motor neurone disease.

**Shaking palsy** is Parkinson's disease.

**Softening of the brain** is a vague term that could refer to a number of conditions

including general senility, dementia, a stroke, or general paralysis of the insane.

A patient who died of **syncope** suddenly dropped down dead from an unspecified cause.

A patient who died from **exhaustion** had a slow and lingering death from an unspecified cause.

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TABLE X.

Showing the probable Causes, Apparent or Assigned, of the Disorder, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of the Year 1882.

CAUSES.	The Admissions.			The Discharges.			The Deaths.												
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.												
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.							
<b>MORAL:</b>																			
Anxiety for Family	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Death of Husband	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Domestic Trouble...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Excitement after Imprisonment ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fight ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fright from Assault	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over-Study ...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over-Worked Brain	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over-Work...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Religious Excitement ...	4	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reversal of Circumstances ...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Worry ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>PHYSICAL:</b>																			
Ascrobis ...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brain Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Change of Life ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Climate of India ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital ...	5	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epilepsy ...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hereditary ...	4	0	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyperaesthesia ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury to Head ...	5	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Intemperance ...	12	4	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Masturbation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Age ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paralysis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Predisposition ...	2	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Labour ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal State ...	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sun-stroke ...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown ...	29	28	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>281</b>

**More about mental health records**

Most of the information in this article has been taken from  
[http://www.paul\\_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm](http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm)

[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/collections/fairmile.htm](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/collections/fairmile.htm) has pictures and details of the  
 BRO Fair Mile archive.

# Shinfield Charity School

## *the early years*

*Barry Boulton's family lived in Shinfield for more than 250 years. Here he celebrates the 300th anniversary of the village school which played such a large part in the lives of his forebears.*

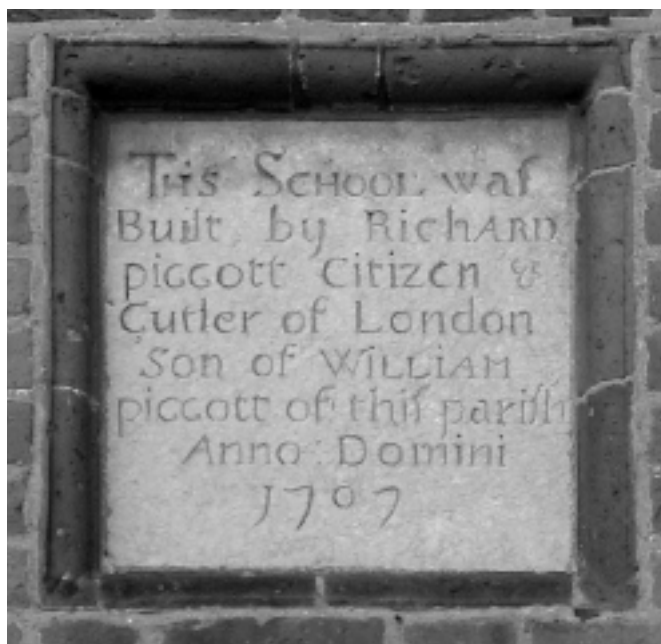
In May 2007 the charity school at Shinfield celebrates its tercentenary. According to the wall plaque the school was built by Richard Piggott, who in 1707 endowed the school. With help from two later benefactors, Rev W E F Feilde and Rev G B Hulme, the school has remained in the same buildings to the present day.

Richard Piggott used the revenue of a farm in Binfield to endow the school. Documents relating to this farm, called Buckhurst, date from 1599. An interesting deed "of bargayne in 1655 between Katherine Parker and Ffrauncis Laud of Norffolk in Virginia for the sum of £250" may show a relationship to Archbishop Laud, whose property in Reading Richard Piggott had purchased.

A will dated 1697 of one of the last owners of Buckhurst, Elizabeth Cotton, left money to her nephews, Edward and Richard Farnborough, and to her late servant now the wife of Richard Piggott. An indenture of 1707 between Edward and Elizabeth Farnborough and Richard Piggott gives the area of land as 52 acres.

Education in Shinfield had started 10 years before Richard Piggott built the school, thanks to a Mrs Mary Spicer of Diddenhams Manor, who in 1697 left in her will £6 a year for teaching 10 children to read the bible and learn the catechism. It was from these beginnings that Richard Piggott extended the education to 20 poor children of the parish, and resolved to build a school.

Samuel Higgs, the first schoolmaster, had been teaching 20 children from St John the Baptist Day (24 June) 1706 to Lady Day (25



March) 1707, for which he was paid £11 5s od. The school was at this time under construction, and the church was probably being used as the first classroom (mention was made in the records of the children's pews in the church being repaired). According to the trustees accounts book "A register for the postings the receavings and disbursements yearly to be observed upon 30th day of May", which in 2007 will be celebrated as Founder's Day .

The first five pages of the register (DP110/26/6) are taken up with the rules that Richard Piggott wrote for the supervisors and trustees to act by forever:

*1. The Bishop of Sarum and Vicar of Shinfield for the time being are appointed supervisors and that the children be educated according to the Canons of the Church of England and to no other church or sect whatever.*

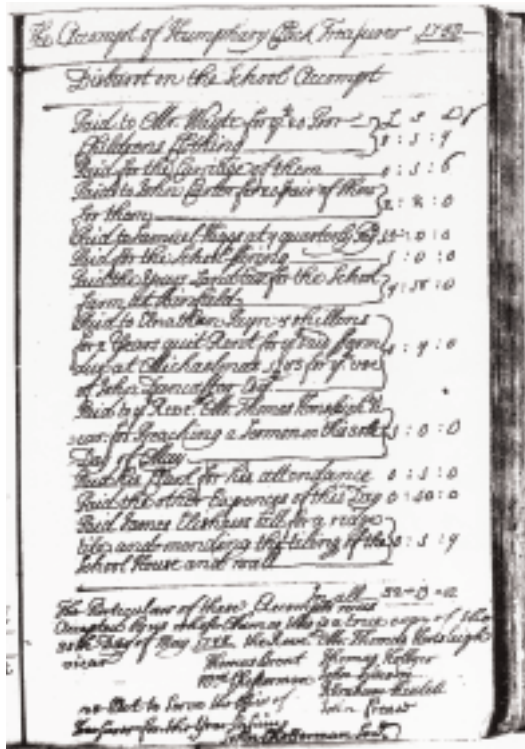


2. The trustees to meet upon the 30th May yearly to settle last years accounts and elect a treasurer. I have settled by will after my decease an estate of £30 a yeare at Binfield called Simon Earies alius Buckhurst and allso an annuities of £12 a yeare to be paid out of a further estate in Reading St Laurences Parish and other properties cituate and lieing in High Street alias Broad Street and Fryers Street [one of these properties was Lauds Place]. The Trustees may spend out of this estate up to 10/- on the 30th May at the annual meeting. [The records show that the trustees meetings were held at the Pie and Parrott aka Magpie & Parrot public house.]
3. The Vicar of Shinfield to be paid one pound and one shilling for preaching a sermon on founders day and for Catechising the children.
4. The Schoolmaster to be paid £15 a year for teaching 20 poor children of the parish. The children to be taught to read and write, learn accompts and sing psalms. Also the 20 poor children are to be clothed yearly. The boys to have one gray coat, one blue cap too bands one pair of stockings one pair of shoes and buckles and the girls to have one gound and petticoat of blue serge too quaiifs, too bands and one pair of stockings one pair of shoes one pair of buckles. The children to wear these same clothes to church on every Sunday.
5. If through illness or bad weather the number of children falls below twenty then the headmaster can make up the numbers from the children of the village. The older children are to be placed in trade at the age of 14.
6. The trustees shall have the power to chuse a schoolmaster and have the power to displace him having first been admonished giving one quarters warning.
7. Only the poorest children to be taught and those that can afford to pay can be taught by the schoolmaster for his own benefit. The remainder of the money from my estates shall be employed for placing into trade as

many of the children as the money will allow not exceeding £5 to each child.

The original school building had to serve three purposes: the school, the master's dwelling and use by the donor's widowed sister during her lifetime.

An insight into the lives of some Shinfield families can be gleaned from the pages of the trustees' account book at this time. The first 20 children were clothed for £10 1s 11d. The school was liable for land tax, and in 1709 paid 10s, but by 1712 this had risen to £7 4s od. This may have included the school holdings in Binfield and Reading. The first pupil to be apprenticed appeared in 1709; Susan Scott, daughter of Richard Scott, was apprenticed to a Mrs Young of Westminster, seamster, for seven years. William Mathews, son of Thomas, was bound to serve Mr Richard, carter, citizen and cutler of London for seven years. Others followed in 1712: Mary Pither to Mary Jersey, mantua maker of Isleworth and William Benham to John Cock,



Page from the trustees' account book showing the writer's 7xgt-grandfather, John Carter the shoemaker

barber. In 1714 Joseph Baily was sent to London as an apprentice pump maker, but Mary Wigg only went as far as Reading St Giles as a bodice maker. The following year Edward Porchmore was apprenticed as a cordwainer to Nicholas Gold in Mortimer. He later returned to the village, and in 1735 made and supplied the shoes for the charity school children. The occupations that the children were apprenticed into were very varied, and in 1716 one was apprenticed to a saddle tree maker in Odiham.

It was not until 1721 that the trustees are named listing those that had served from the opening of the school in 1707: Capt Floyer, Thomas Hollyer snr desc, William Baker, John Chesterman, John Creace, Thomas Hollyer jnr, Elisha Baker, Thomas Sharp, Edward Brown, Richard Howel desc and Thomas Brent.

The names of the tradesmen of the village were recorded from 1725, when the trustees laid out for straw and thatching, and paid a carpenter for work on repairing one of the school's houses in Pound Green that was in the occupation of John Appleton. The Appletons benefited greatly over several decades from the charity school. James Elisha, bricklayer, was paid in 1729 for 1,000 hart laths, 17 square and 10ft of plain tiling and tile pins. Joel Barber, carpenter, was paid, and Mr Wheatley received payment for bricks and

lime for farm repairs. In the same year Vernal Iremonger was paid for 5,000 nails, and Richard Marlow for fetching various materials. Henry Mearing jnr was paid for bushes and 30 apple trees (the Appletons paid annually for an orchard at Pound Green, so may have been the recipients), and workmen were paid 8d and 9d beer money in 1732. Each year the treasurer of the trustees recorded the money received from interest and rent, as well as disbursements to pupils and villagers.

Richard Piggott made his will in 1729 and repeated much of what he had laid down for the running of the school but added "the schoolmaster and his successors to have the use of the schoolroom in the front of the house, and the dining room, buttery and woodhouse and one chamber and one garret being the same as Samuel Higgs the present master hath use of". The death of Richard Piggott was recorded as 3 June 1731. Samuel Higgs continued as schoolmaster until 1758, by which time he had served the poor children of the parish 52 years, teaching six days a week 8.45-12.00 and 1.45-5.00, as well as 8.45 until end of church service and 2.15- 5.00 on Sundays. Holidays were one week at Christmas, two weeks at bean setting, two days at Easter, two days at Whitsun, two weeks at hay harvest and two weeks at corn harvest, showing that the school still revolved around the farming year.



*The central building is the original schoolhouse. To the left is an extension built by the children of Rev George Hulme, a trustee of the school, extending its capacity to 60 children, and to the right is a building constructed under the terms of Rev W E F Fielde's will, c 1860.*

The trustees were entrusted with another charity in 1721, when the Coats and Gowns charity was added. The first recipients were not recorded, but the cost was £3 6s 0d for two gowns, two petticoats and two grey coats. The following year John Ward, the widow Malltis, John Appleton and his wife benefited. Catherine Appleton benefited in 1730. My own family benefited from this particular charity, and for many years occupied one of the charity houses next to the school as well as making shoes for the schoolchildren.

Schoolmasters caused the trustees problems over the years. James Critcher was an ex-pupil, but fell foul of rule six. He was removed by the trustees for failing to march the children to church on Sunday. However he was allowed to stay for 18 extra months as his wife was expecting. He was liked by many villagers, was used by the trustees to survey the land at Binfield Farm, and became parish clerk and churchwarden.

However the trustees must have regretted his replacement, James Draper of Maidenhead, who after three years had spent £250 of his own money, as in his opinion his

predecessor had left the school in an outrageous state of dilapidation, but when called upon by the trustees to explain why he did not get permission to carry out these improvements he lost his temper. The trustees withheld his salary, but he sent a representative of the High Sheriff to collect it. Draper also attacked one of the parents with a hammer – the victim, John Hall, was the local mole catcher – and for this offence he was to spend several months in Reading Jail.

One trustee was attacked on his way home from Reading: Richard Chesterman was attacked by the Styles brothers, who were caught and transported. Two other trustees were struck by lightning whilst viewing cattle in a field.

Changes to education over the last 150 years have made little alteration to the school's exterior, but temporary buildings have been used, and the school is now for infants only, as a junior school has now been built in the village. With the rapid expansion of the village and hundreds of new homes being built, I hope that the coming years will not see the demise of this lovely village school.

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## The Victorian schoolroom at the Museum of Reading

*Matthew Williams, senior curator at the Museum of Reading, describes the Victorian schoolroom recently acquired from Katesgrove Sschool.*

Since 1988 thousands of children have visited the Victorian schoolroom at Katesgrove School to experience school as it was for their great-great grandparents. The schoolroom has now moved to a new home at the Museum of Reading, where it can be enjoyed by everyone with an interest in Reading's Victorian past during school holidays and most weekends.

The atmosphere of the schoolroom, with its wooden desks, gas lamps and slates, brings this important part of family history to life. It recreates a typical classroom in a Reading board school of the 1890s.

Before 1810 there was little education provision for Reading's poor children. A Blue Coats School for poor boys, who were provided with blue coats, was founded in 1646 and another charity school, the Green Girls school, in 1779.<sup>1</sup> The Green Girls wore a traditional uniform of a green dress and black bonnet. This can be seen in an early twentieth-century portrait of a pupil in the Museum of Reading.

In 1810, what is believed to be the earliest Lancasterian or British School building still in existence was opened in Southampton Street.



*The Victorian schoolroom at Reading Museum*

*Sam Frost/Reading Museum Service*

This school followed the system of education devised by the education reformer Joseph Lancaster. In 1812 nearly 300 boys were taught there by one master, with one book, assisted by monitors. In 1818 girls were allowed to attend.<sup>2</sup>

George Palmer, the founder of Huntley and Palmers biscuit factory, was the secretary and treasurer of the British School. He was also a great supporter of the Ragged School movement, which fed and taught the poor children of Victorian towns. George Palmer wrote a letter to the *Reading Mercury* in 1847 regarding the large number of poor and untaught children in the town, and within a year a Ragged School had been started in St Giles Parish.<sup>3</sup>

Nonconformist and Church of England Schools were also established in the first part of the nineteenth century, with an emphasis on religious and moral teaching. These included St Giles School in Crown Street, which opened in 1836.<sup>4</sup>

Following the 1870 Forster Education Act, requiring school places for all children between the ages of five and 10, the Reading School Board was set up. George Palmer and Alfred Sutton were both members. In 1902 control of the town's 12 board schools passed

to the new borough education committee.<sup>5</sup> Katesgrove Board School was one of the first to be built, and so was the ideal location to set up the Victorian schoolroom in 1988.

Children visiting the Victorian schoolroom experience a typical day at a board school, following the rules of the time including addressing the school mistress as "Ma'am" and master as "Sir" and not speaking unless spoken to.

The school day started at 9am, when the children gathered in the playground. The older boys and girls entered separately, as they were taught in different classes. At Katesgrove the girls were taught downstairs and the boys upstairs. The morning began with a prayer and a bible reading or a homily. The teachers were mostly women and, apart from the head teacher, they were often unqualified. The key lessons were reading, writing and arithmetic, and learning was usually by rote.

The morning break was outside whatever the weather, so many older Reading schools still have a covered area in the playground. Drill was also introduced to teach children obedience. It was only later that the health benefits were promoted. All children went home for lunch, usually for an hour and a half.

In the afternoon lessons might include geography and history, or technical drawing for boys and needlework for girls. Learning poetry by heart and singing were also important parts of the school day.

Many families still have the school prizes and attendance certificates that were awarded to children every year by the school board. Some fine examples of Victorian board schools are still in use today including Coley, Oxford Road, Katesgrove, New Town, Redlands and E P Collier.

We do hope you will come and see the schoolroom at the Museum of Reading. There is a comments book if you have any

information about Victorian schools in Reading or any remarks about the schoolroom.

For further information about the museum see our website at <[www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)> or call us on 0118 939 9800.

1. Blandy, W.E.M. *A history of Reading Municipal Charities including Allen's Charity and the Green Girls' Foundation.* Reading (1962)
2. K.I.N.D. *A brief history of Reading British School.* Reading (2000)
3. Corley, T.A.B. *Huntley & Palmers of Reading 1822-1972 Quaker Enterprise in Biscuits.* (1972) p112
4. Harman, Leslie. *The parish of S. Giles-in-Reading.* (1946) p82-83
5. Phillips, Daphne. *The story of Reading.* (1980) p137

## School records at the Berkshire Record Office

*Lisa Spurrier of the BRO completes this education feature with a review of school records for family historians.*

This article is a short introduction to using state school records in your family history. It does not deal with records of teachers, or with private schools (many of which retain their own records) and refers only in passing to charity schools.

The earliest schools for poor children were established by charities and churches, but

many were subsequently incorporated into the state sector. The Church of England probably set up the greatest number, and is still actively involved in education. Some, known as National Schools, received financial support from the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church (established 1811, and

commonly known as the National Society). The local clergyman was often actively involved, taking prayers and teaching religious education. Nonconformists often objected to their children being instructed in such a way, and some set up their own schools. Those supported by the British and Foreign School Society were known as British Schools. Both National and British Societies have their own archives, but these do not have any information relating to pupils.

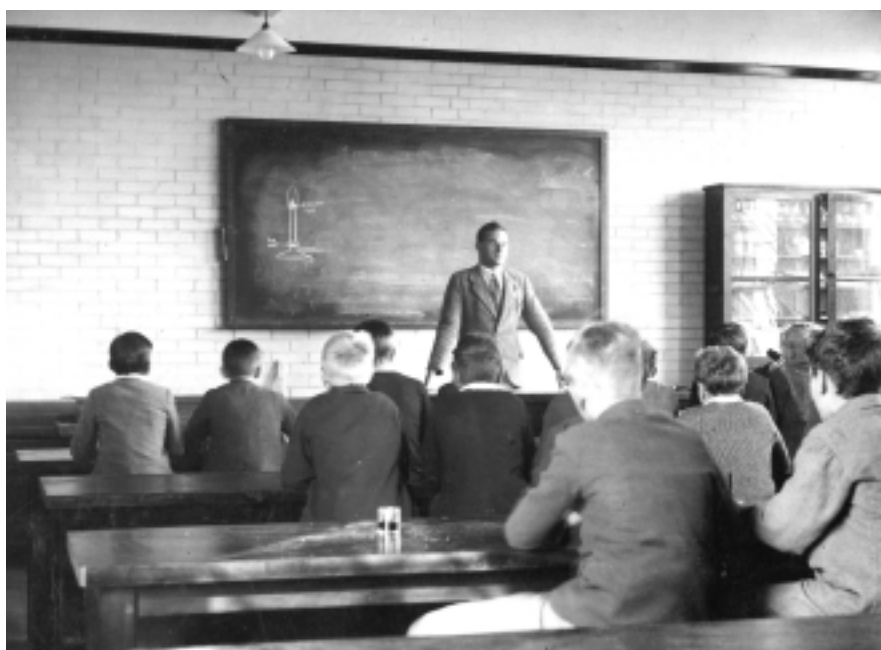


*Newbury Lancasterian School c1901 (BRO D/EX 1445/15)*

The Education Act of 1870 required school boards to be set up in areas where there were not enough places for all local children, although attendance was not compulsory, and education was not free until 1891. Their schools were known as board schools. The Education Act of 1902 abolished the school boards, and their responsibilities passed to local authorities. Under this act existing voluntary schools were also required to meet certain standards, and many nonconformist schools in particular closed or were handed over to the county council. For example, the British School in Southampton Street, Reading, was handed to Reading school board in 1902,<sup>1</sup> and the Girls' British (or Lancasterian) School, the Boys' British School and the Wesleyan Day School in Newbury all closed, to be succeeded by Newbury council schools in 1909.<sup>2</sup> The British School in Southampton Street Reading, was handed to Reading School Board in 1902.<sup>3</sup> Some charity schools, such as Windsor Royal Free Industrial School, were taken over by the state although others, like Reading Blue Coat School, became independent fee-paying schools.

The most useful records for family history are the admission registers, which usually record the child's full name and date of birth, the name (less often in full) of his or her parent or guardian, address (sometimes just the parish), the dates of admission to the school and the last day there, the last school previously attended, and the reason for leaving (e. g . moving to another area or reaching school leaving age). There were often separate admissions registers for boys, girls and infants.

Punishment books also name individual pupils, their misdemeanours and the punishment allocated. Offences at East Challow in 1918 included "removing board from broken Post Office Window & stealing sweets" and "Smoking during Playtime", both of which earned the perpetrators "a sound thrashing". Four boys received the same punishment for "puncturing teacher's bicycle". Another boy at about this time was caned for "stupidity". In 1923-4 several boys played truant "following hounds", only arriving at school well into the afternoon! Two boys in 1928 were found "using pens for darts". In 1907 one girl received "a good slapping" for being "rude and disobedient".<sup>4</sup>



*A science lesson at Didcot Council Senior School, 1934 (BRO D/EX 1828/2)*

Log books were a daily record maintained by the head teacher of each school to record events. They can give an insight into what life at school was like for our ancestors, for example outings, closure for epidemic sickness, celebrations and bad weather. They name individual pupils in exceptional cases, such as those who had won prizes or suffered accidents. The amount of detail depends on the assiduity of the head.

You may also find minutes of managers (later governors), who had an oversight role. These also occasionally mention individual pupils, sometimes as part of the head's report to the managers. They also tend to record major policy decisions and matters relating to the school premises. Charity schools' trustees had a similar function.

Inspection records provide an impression of the subjects children were learning, and how satisfactory the class as a whole appeared. Church schools underwent both diocesan inspections (which were interested in religious education) and visits from HM inspector. These reports may be found inserted into managers' minutes or log books.

It is often possible to find photographs or architect's plans for the schools your ancestors attended, which will give you an insight into their environment. Photographs of the children are less common, and where they exist they often fail to identify their subjects. An unusual photographic record of a school's working life is available for Didcot Senior

School in 1935. There are photographs and notes on school buildings and rooms, the staff, school dinners, clubs and societies, excursions, and sports teams.<sup>5</sup>

School records at Berkshire Record Office have been catalogued in various collections, depending on whether they came directly from the schools, from the county council education department, from a church, or another source. You can find records for a particular Berkshire school, or for all schools in your ancestral parish, by consulting the card index in the record office searchroom. Staff have produced a summary guide to records for schools in the current Bracknell Forest district, available free by post from the record office. It is planned to produce similar guides for the other areas of Berkshire. For schools in north Berkshire and the Slough area you may also need to check at Oxfordshire Record Office or the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Some schools may still hold their own records, while others have sadly not survived.

You should be aware that direct access to records may be restricted under data protection legislation for 30-50 years after the last entry in the book, although under the Freedom of Information Act it may be possible for staff to carry out research concerning a direct relative who is deceased.

1. BRO 90/SCH/4/1
2. BRO 90/SCH/1/2
3. BRO 90/SCH/4/1
4. BRO 2003/SCH/1/7
5. BRO D/EX 1828/1



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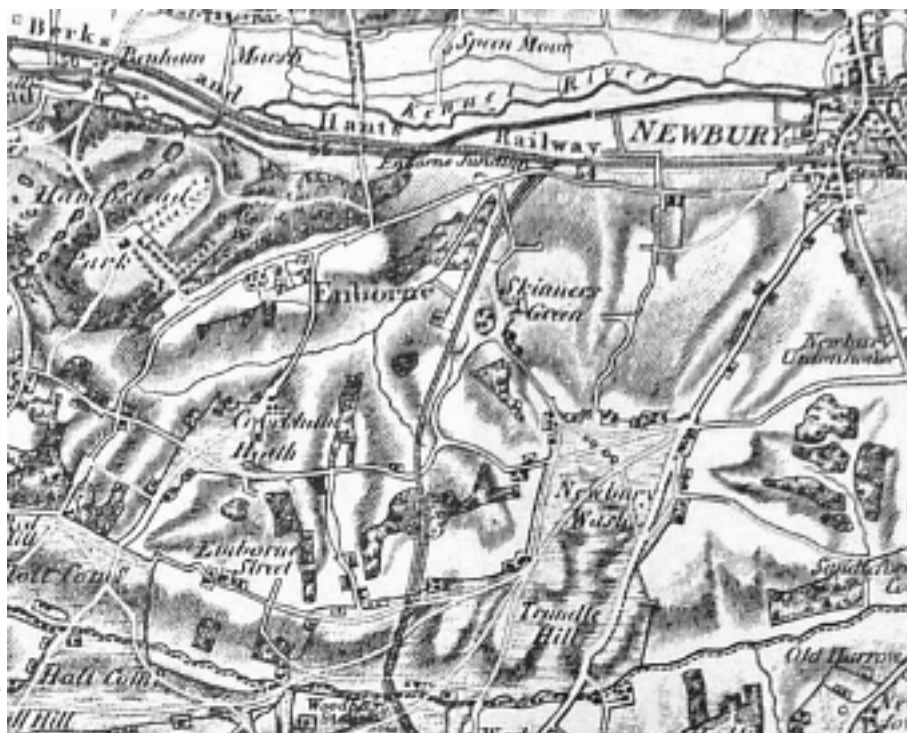
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# Enborne

## *a parish portrait*

Penny Stokes



*Enborne as mapped by Ordnance Survey in the first 1-inch to the mile series.*

The village of Enborne lies immediately west of Newbury, bounded to the north by the river Kennet and the railway, and to the south by the river Enborne. The western boundary runs through Hamstead Park, creating a roughly rectangular parish. The border with Newbury town followed a Bronze Age trackway across the heathland of Wash Common, but has since shifted slightly westwards .

Newbury bypass traffic now whistles through Enborne, but from the 1880s to the 1960s it would have been steam trains shattering the rural peace. The Didcot-to-Southampton railway branched off from the Newbury-to-Hungerford main line at Enborne Junction, and crossed the parish southwards to the station at East Woodhay. After the Beeching cuts of the 1960s and subsequent disuse, this route proved to be a convenient line for Newbury bypass in the 1990s but, just

as Enborne had had no station on the former railway, it now has no access to the bypass; to join the thundering stream motorists must go north to Speen or south to the Hampshire border.

At the turn of the twentieth century the *Victoria County History* found Enborne's 2,500 acres to be permanent grassland, arable and woodland in proportions of 44, 35 and 10 per cent respectively, the remainder being mainly parkland and water. To this day the village is predominantly rural; the heavy clay farmland has never been premium-quality, which probably accounts for the scattered settlement pattern. Like its neighbour Hamstead Marshall, Enborne has no defined centre. The church and the rectory form one hamlet, and others evolved on the fringes of former common land at Skinners' Green, Crockham Heath (where Newbury Races were



held 1805-11) and the L-shaped tract of several hundred acres running along the floodplain of the Enborne and thence northwards alongside the Newbury Wash.

The principal farm of the village has for many centuries been Church Farm (also called Enborne Farm, and briefly Manor Farm) next door to the church. This has variously encompassed between 300 and 400 acres, Craven-owned from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries; the tenant was one of Enborne's most prominent inhabitants, usually a vestry member and certainly the highest rent and ratepayer. Church Farm's barns no longer house cattle or pigs; they have undergone conversion to luxury private residences.

Enborne Gate Farm, on the border with Newbury, occupies the site of a Romano-British farmstead. Here was the start of the Grand Newbury Steeplechase of 1840; it was also the scene of a murder plus suicide in 1892, and the venue of the first Newbury Show in 1909. Today the modern farmhouse stands just aside from a light industrial development in the former farmyard.

Other farm names which have survived to the present day include Vanners, Boames, Hill, Enborne Street, Wheatlands and Crockham Heath.

Enborne's two largest landowners were the Craven family and the Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel at Windsor, neither of whom had need of a country seat in Enborne. The parson occupied a fine Georgian rectory (now of course in secular ownership) beside the church, and a few imposing houses were built by prosperous incomers. Enborne Lodge, built in the mid-nineteenth century on the site of a former house called Larcorns, had by 1875 become the centre of a 752-acre estate owned by Robert Valpy, who well into the twentieth century was remembered as "the squire of Enborne". In the mid-twentieth century Enborne Lodge housed a convent, where Mass was celebrated for the Catholics of southern Newbury prior to the building of St Francis de

Sales church in Wash Common. In the last quarter of the twentieth century Enborne Lodge became a boarding school for disadvantaged boys from Lambeth, before being converted into flats in the 1990s.

Cope Hall was another of Enborne's imposing Victorian residences, possibly dating back to medieval times in part, but the house fell into neglect after World War Two, and was demolished in the 1960s. Enborne House and Enborne Grange were also substantial private houses of the later nineteenth century. The latter became a hotel in the 1960s and is now the central feature of a 1990s housing development.

Amongst the older cottages, two are known to have dated from before the Battle of Newbury, which in September 1643 ranged over the entire parish. King Charles' army reached Newbury first and commandeered the urban billets, leaving the Parliamentary troops under the Earl of Essex camping in open fields. On the eve of battle Essex himself sheltered at Biggs Cottage in Enborne Street. Wheatlands Farmhouse, close by Wash Common, had the unhappy role of taking in many of the injured after the fighting. According to the historian Walter Money it was still dubbed The Hospital in the late nineteenth century.

Family history resources for Enborne divide mostly between the Berkshire Record Office (BRO) in Reading, the West Berkshire Library (WBL) and the West Berkshire Museum, both in Newbury.

In the BRO various estate papers survive, of which by far the most useful is the Craven estate survey of 1775.<sup>1</sup> Lord Craven's lands sprawled over the whole of Hamstead Marshall and a substantial part of Enborne, but in this survey he generously included all the non-Craven lands and tenants in Enborne as well, giving us a comprehensive picture of who farmed what at the time. Landholdings and families can be followed from this to the tithe map and schedule<sup>2</sup> two generations later (1841), again tabulating every landholding in



*Craven Arms, Enborne*

the parish.

Bridging this period is the 1815 Enclosure Award, which implemented Lord Craven's Enclosure Act of 1810, but this of course is not a comprehensive listing of landholders, being limited to those involved in the transactions (and in some cases their neighbours). The enclosure documents have been published online by BRO and can be found at [www.berkshireenclosures.org.uk](http://www.berkshireenclosures.org.uk).

The Craven Arms is Enborne's only public house today, although its name belies its ownership; it has not been a Craven property for 200 years or more. For much of the nineteenth century it was called the Three Horseshoes. A pub known as the Fox and

Hounds existed on a Craven-owned site in Enborne Street in the 1840s, but is long gone without trace. The property now called Peregrine House beside Wash Common was also once a pub called the Old Bell, before which, according to Newbury's former librarian Helen Purvis, it was known as the Phoenix Inn. By 1841 the name Old Bell had transferred to a beer house at the top of what was then called Wash Hill, but is now the Andover Road.

Enborne's church of St Michael and All Angels is early Norman, and contains a fourteenth-century fresco depicting the Annunciation. The treble bell is said to be the oldest in the county, dating from 1260. The



*St Michael and All Angels, Enborne*

parish registers begin in 1607, but seventeenth-century coverage is very patchy, and the eighteenth century has some missing years. WBL holds typed transcripts of the bishop's transcripts and BRO has them on microfilm. Other church records are split between BRO and the Wiltshire Record Office in Trowbridge, reflecting the transfer of the Berkshire archdeaconry from Salisbury to the Oxford diocese in 1836. A handwritten list of the churchyard's monumental inscriptions (made in 1929) is filed in WBL.

Two nonconformist chapels once co-existed in the parish. The Primitive Methodist chapel was relocated into Newbury with the post-war boundary change; the congregation then declined, until in the 1980s the chapel was demolished to make way for a house. An independent chapel at Wash Water flourished in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but the congregation was later riven with dispute, and a breakaway group built another chapel a little way to the west. Both were already defunct by the time the Newbury bypass blasted its path between them.

A log book for Enborne School from 1900-37 is filed in the BRO.<sup>4</sup> Enborne School was a Church of England foundation of the nineteenth century. The log describes inspections and infestations, excursions and

epidemics, among some 77 pupils, heroically managed by a headmaster, sometimes with another regular teacher and a teenage assistant. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the headmaster retired with a nervous breakdown in 1913. The school still flourishes today in its 1872 building.

The BRO holds a wealth of other parochial documentation for Enborne.<sup>5</sup> Much of it is taken up with the mundanities of parish administration, but intriguing fragments emerge, such as the vestry's allocation of £30 from parish funds to allow the wife and children of James Rose, a transported convict, to join him in New South Wales in 1836. Presumably they estimated that this would be less than she might otherwise cost them in parish relief over the years. The 1851 census, however, finds her still head of a fatherless Enborne household, described as the "wife of a transportee", but having apparently had three more children since her husband's departure. The vestry's decision was seemingly prudent, but something went amiss in its execution.

- 1 BRO E 11/1
- 2 BRO MR 97131 & 97066/D3
- 3 BRO D/ECM33-40
- 4 BRO C/EL 94
- 5 BRO MF 442

Mary d/o Sara Lay of West Lockinge

*Sara Lay had one bastard before and was big with this child when said to be married. Her husband never bedded her after this pretend marriage. West Lockinge Overseers bought a ring which the fellow refused to put on (nor would lay his hand upon) it (when) was put on by her father. They went first to Wantage to be married but behaved so impudently, Mr Birch tho their Minister refused to joine them. Then they went to Ardington and she being heavy and behinde asked some neighbours how far Old Whistling William (so she called him she was going to marrie) was before. He likewise behaved most impudently in Ardington Church, so I looking on this not as a True Matrimony but a prophanation of ye Holy Ordinance, Registered the child in her name only. When I promised the Grandfather, a very good, poor man to baptize the child, I told him I would not church his daughter.*

John Aldworth

Transcribed from East Lockinge register of 10 February 1722, by Margaret Foreman (2430)

# Gleanings from exchange magazines

## *Daphne Spurling trawls the magazines of other family history societies.*

Several dozen of these titles are received under the FFHS exchange scheme, and filed in the Exchange Magazine Archive at the Research Centre. They are also taken to branch meetings in Reading and Bracknell, from where they may be borrowed by members. If you cannot get to Reading or Bracknell, but would like to see one of the articles in full, please contact Daphne Spurling on <Dmspurling@aol.com>. It may be necessary to make a small charge to cover postage and photocopying.

*Guide to court and prison records.* Focuses on Manchester records but principles common to elsewhere. Manchester & Lancashire FHS, vol 42, no 2, 2006

*Census on the internet.* Manchester & Lancashire FHS, vol 42, no 2, 2006

*Errors in census returns.* Manchester & Lancashire FHS, vol 42, no 2, 2006

*Masham part II.* Names and occupations extracted from Bulmer's Directory of 1890. Cleveland FHS, vol 9, no 11, July 2006

*Write it down for posterity.* Suggestions on how to organise your family's story. East Yorkshire FHS, no 107, July 2006

*Spotlight on ... Brandsburton.* East Yorkshire FHS, no 107, July 2006

*Online IGI – and more food for thought.* Parish register transcripts are not all as they seem. East of London FHS, no 111, Summer 2006

*Somerset spotlight – Bishops Lydeard.* Somerset & Dorset FHS, vol 31, no 3, Aug 2006

*Spotlight on Steeple.* (on the Isle of Purbeck) Somerset & Dorset FHS, vol 31, no 3, Aug 2006

*Swedish family trees now easier to build.* British Columbia Genealogical Society, vol 35, no 2, June 2006

*Gas Industry Genealogical Index and the National Gas Archive.* Over eight million estimated descendants of gas employees. Woolwich and District FHS, no 102, June 2006

*Laws relevant to tracing female ancestors in England.* Details on property rights, inheritance and Poor Laws. Alberta FHS, vol 26, no 2, April 2006

*Irish ancestry – Irish records in LDS libraries.* Lancashire FHS, vol 28, no 3, Aug 2006

*The internet – boon and bane.* Hints on preventing others putting your research on the net. Essex FHS, no 121, Sept 2006

*Much more than just a family tree.* How to add some flesh to the story. Derbyshire FHS, no 118, Sept 2006

*My parish – Mangotsfield.* Bristol & Avon FHS, no 125, Sept 2006

*Bishops Stortford.* Articles on St Michael's Church and the town in the 1830s. Hertfordshire FHS, no 98, Sept 2006

# Write now

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Letters may have to be edited, and it will be assumed, unless you ask otherwise, that you are happy to have your postal and email address published for replies.

## A SCHOOL AT THE FORBURY IN READING

### Daphne King (4938)

When I was a child in the 1940/50s, my grandmother, Ethel Brooker, née Packer, would sometimes go with me to the library somewhere in the Abbey precincts. Each time she would tell me that it used to be a school, and she would point out where she used to sit. I would like to know more about this school, and if there are any records still in existence.

My grandmother was one of five daughters of George and Agnes Packer, who lived in King's Road and had a fruiterers. She was born in 1886, leaving school at 13 years old, so the period I am talking about would have been the 1890s.

I would be most grateful for any information.

**Please note that for reasons of privacy private email and postal addresses have been redacted from this online archive. If you wish to contact someone named in this issue please contact the society.**

## RANDALL

### Marjorie J. Randall (6197)

I have researched the family of my great-great-grandfather Edward Randall (2) born Appleford 1787, son of Edward Randall (1) and Mary Woodley, who married at Appleford 21/04/1772.

According to my research Edward and Mary Randall had seven children: Sarah, Richard, Elizabeth, Joseph, Edward, Jane and William, born 1773 - 1794 at Appleford.

Are there any descendants of Edward's siblings who can give me information on this family?

Edward Randall (2) enlisted in the 62nd Regiment of Foot at Reading in 1807. During the Napoleonic Wars he served with the regiment in Sicily and British North America (now Nova Scotia). From June 1812 to February 1814 he was stationed at Palermo, Sicily. He sailed with his battalion from Genoa, reaching Halifax, Nova Scotia in August 1814, and he died there 13/04/1817, aged 30 years.

Somewhere he married Rebecca Ann ..... (born Ireland), who was a nurse with the regiment. They had two children: Mary Ann, born in Sicily 1813 and Edward, born in Halifax c 1816-17. After Edward Randall (2) died Rebecca Ann married John Tiz(z)ard, another sergeant in the same regiment. He died in 1825 in Ireland whilst still a soldier. After his death Rebecca Ann came to Dorset with her children.

# Bookends

*Jean Debney reviews some new local and national family history titles.*

## Primary sources

### Berks FHS publications on CD

#### Parish registers

Each is fully indexed, and every page has the parish name, dates covered in that register and the Berkshire Record Office reference.

***Hurst, St Nicholas: C1585-2002; banns 1847-2005; M1585-2005; burials 1585-2003 and Winnersh, St Mary the Virgin: C1966-2001; M1867-1999.***

Berks FHS publications CD: BRK 0225 (2006) £ 9.50 (inc p&p £10.10 UK, £11.10 airmail)  
The parish of Hurst includes the liberties of Broad Hinton and Winnersh, Newland and a church at Whistley. A couple of sketch maps and part of the first edition OS map (1881) illustrate their locations. Illustrated history notes precede transcripts of the bishops' transcripts, parish registers, monumental inscriptions and other parish records in the Berkshire Record Office.

***Reading, Greyfriars: C1864-1957; M1866-1965; banns 1866-2002.***

Berks FHS publications CD: BRK 0232 (2006) £5.00 (inc p&p £5.55 UK, £7.10 airmail)  
This is a comparatively young church in a medieval friary church on the north-west corner of central Reading. The history notes are drawn mainly from the *Victoria County History of Berkshire*.

#### Monumental inscriptions

***Wokingham All Saints 1520-2006.***

Berks FHS publications CD: BRK 0231 (2006) £6.00 (inc p&p £6.55 UK, £8.10 airmail)  
An updated and improved presentation of an

earlier publication, and includes a good illustrated introduction on how to use Adobe Acrobat Reader (which all Berks FHS CDs use) to find your entry. Some inscriptions include a photograph of the stone and biographical notes.

#### Poll books

***Berkshire 1796.***

Berks FHS publications CD: BRK 0232 (2006) £3.00 (inc p&p £3.55 UK, £5.10 airmail)  
Only freeholders were allowed to vote for members of parliament. Their names and details are listed alphabetically with a separate index of their tenants (who were not allowed to vote). The good introduction outlines the franchise system, explores how elections were conducted, and gives historical notes of events in the 1790s and biographies of each candidate, plus an explanation of how the lists are arranged, and the abbreviations used.

#### Nonconformist registers

***Maidenhead Primitive Methodist Church: baptisms 1885-1930.***

The Eureka Partnership (2006) A5 grey flexiback. 16pp. indexed T/S  
£2.00 (inc p&p £2.55 UK, £3.00 overseas)  
This circuit included chapels at Bray, Cookham Dean and Maidenhead – all in Berkshire, plus Boveney, Eton Wick and Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire. This is another useful indexed source of information. Other nonconformist registers include Abingdon, Reading (Broad Street) and Reading and District Congregational churches.

## Local history

### ***Pride of place: the story of Abingdon's county hall.***

Peter Gale. Trafford Publications (2006) 8.3" x 10.8" (209mm x 373mm) flexiback. 79pp.  
ISBN 1-4120-8475-X  
£7.00 (inc p&p £7.80 UK, £8.70 overseas)  
This fascinating book traces the history of an important seventeenth-century building in the ancient county town of Berkshire. In the 1950s, when nearly 300 years old, it became necessary for major repairs and some rebuilding to be carried out, after which the building was re-opened by the Queen in 1956. Illustrated with prints, plans, b/w and colour photographs plus a bibliography and an all-important index, this book is a must-have item for anyone interested in Abingdon.

### ***Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill: remembering wartime 1939-1945.***

Christine Weightman. (2006) B5 6.72" x 9.8" (170mm x 247mm) flexiback. 127pp.  
ISBN 0-9537945-2-0  
£10.00 (inc p&p £10.80 UK, £12.45 overseas)  
A well written book by an experienced author, illustrated with photographs, facsimile documents and a sketch map to accompany the wartime memories of local people, together with information from documents in the Berkshire Record Office and other sources. The Home Guard, evacuees and bomb damage, plus of course the Victory bonfire with an image of Hitler on top, all go to make this an evocative book. My only comment is that the lists of names on the war memorials in Appendix 1 are, sadly, not included in the index.

### ***Finchampstead St James: nineteenth-century parish magazine extracts.***

Olive Butchart and Jim Bell. St James' Parish Church, Finchampstead (2006) A5, blue flexiback, 52pp.  
£3.50 (inc p&p £4.05 UK, £4.50 overseas)  
Covering the period between 1887 and 1898,

these are fascinating extracts about local activities such as the Cricket and Lads' Athletic Clubs, the village school which also had a bank, and the parish library, as well as special church services.

### ***Kintbury through the ages.***

Kintbury Volunteer Group (nd) 7.5" x 9.15" (190mm x 232mm) flexiback, 80pp.  
£7.50 (inc p&p £8.30 UK, £9.40 overseas)  
This is a well illustrated and interesting history. I was particularly taken with the cover photograph, dated circa 1900, showing a row of today's children superimposed on yesterday's children behind them in the village street.

## Research aids

### ***My ancestors ...***

#### ***... were Anglican clergymen.***

Peter Towey (2006) 86pp.  
ISBN 1-903462-90-8  
£6.50 (inc p&p £7.10 UK, £7.95 overseas)  
Indexed and illustrated with facsimile documents, this useful book deals with all you need to know to research your clergymen ancestors, including the database on the internet.

#### ***... were lawyers.***

Brian Brooms and Mark Herber (2006) 215pp.  
ISBN 1-903462-94-0  
£10.50 (inc p&p £11.25 UK, £12.90 overseas)  
Both authors are in the legal profession, and they write from knowledge and experience. They cover the law and all its various branches from earliest times with the sources to use to discover more. A detailed contents and a three-part index ensure you can easily find what you want.

#### ***... worked in the theatre.***

Alan Ruston (2005) 78pp.  
ISBN 1-903462-89-4

£5.95 (inc p&p £6.55 UK, £7.20 overseas)  
If your ancestor worked in the theatre, a fair or circus, the music hall or pantomimes in England, Ireland or Scotland, then this is the book for you, with plenty of interesting material here.

**... were watermen (and lightermen).**

James W. Legon (2006) 64pp.

ISBN 1-903462-95-9

£5.95 (inc p&p £6.55 UK, £7.20 overseas)

This gives a brief history, and explains how to trace a waterman on the River Thames. It includes eight appendices with useful lists of masters, wharves on the Thames, addresses, websites and lighterage companies.

All published by Society of Genealogists in A5 flexiback. Other recent titles in this useful series available from the Berks FHS Bookshop include:

***My ancestors (were)...***

***Policemen***

***Coalminers***

***Bastards***

***Baptists***

***Congregationalists***

***Methodists***

***English Presbyterians***

***Quakers***

***In the Salvation Army***

***Came with the Conqueror***

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# Members' interests

compiled by Bob Plumridge  
<bob@theplumridges.com>

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			NFK	pre 1850	6155	SLATER	Kirkwall	ORK	1750-1850
6157	BLACKALL	Basildon	BRK	1790-1900	6155	SMITH	Bewdley	WOR	1750-1900
6157	CLARKE	Basildon	BRK	all	6142	STREAK	Ashampstead	BRK	1839+
6155	COTTERELL	Reading	BRK	1800-1900	6142	STREAK	Ashampstead	BRK	1808-1860
6155	COTTRELL	Reading	BRK	1800-1900	6195	TURFREY	Islington	LDN	1600-1900
6155	COX	Manchester	GTM	1900-1930	6195	TYLER	Beaconsfield	BKM	1700+
6155	DRAGE	Warwick	WAR	1910-1950	6195	TYLER	Reading	BRK	all
6155	FISHER	Epping	ESS	1913-	6195	WATERSON	Malew	IOM	1600+
6157	GOATLEY	Basildon	BRK	all	6195	WATERSON	St Marylebone		
6157	GOATLEY	Bethnal Green	LDN	pre 1800				LDN	1900+
6195	GOLDSMITH				6195	WATTERSON			
		Malew	IOM	1600+			Windsor	BRK	1860
6157	HARRISS	Wallingford	BRK	1800-1900					
6157	HARWOOD	Basildon	BRK	1850-1900					
6155	HINMAN	USA	USA	1750-1850					
6155	HINMAN	South Shields	NBL	1850-1939					
6195	JENKINS	New Windsor	BRK	1860+					
6195	KNOCK	Windsor	BRK	1860-2006					
6195	KNOCK	Langley & Eton							
			BKM	1700-2006					
6173	LEWIS	all	BRK	1650-1665					
6195	LEWIS	St Pancras	LDN	1800+					
6195	MILLARD	Westbuty	WIL	all					
6157	MOODY	Wallingford	BRK	all					
6155	NAPHTHINE	Epping	ESS	1913-					
6195	PANTLING	Byfleet	SRY	1600+					
6195	PANTLING	Chertsey	SRY	1600+					
6195	PANTLING	Bermondsey	LDN	1800+					
6147	PARNCUTT	Shinfield	BRK	1800+					
6147	PARNCUTT	London	MDX	1900+					
6195	PITMAN	Battersea	LDN	1880+					
6195	PITMAN	Fulham	LDN	1600+					
6173	PRINCE	all	BRK	1620-1640					
6155	PRIOR	Chilton	BRK	1700-1900					

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# Members' services

**Berks FHS Research Centre  
Yeomanry House  
131 Castle Hill  
Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ  
<[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>**

The Research Centre comprises two floors, with books, films and microfiche on the first floor in the library, and the administration, signing-in desk and the computer suite on the ground floor. The centre is open to members and the general public as follows:

Tuesdays 10.00 - 16.00, 19.30 - 21.30  
Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.00 - 16.00  
2nd and 4th Sundays each month 11.00 - 16.00

Please note the Research Centre will close for Christmas at 16.00 on Thursday 14 December and reopen at 10.00 on Tuesday 2 January 2007. The centre will also be closed on the second Sunday in April (the 8th, which is Easter Day).

All staff on duty are volunteers who help researchers in the centre, but they do not carry out research for the visitors. Visitors can join the society when in the centre or through the website.

The computer suite includes three computers set up specifically for the Ancestry Library edition, for which a nominal charge of £1.00 per hour is made. This gives access to all the the census returns from 1841 to 1901 plus anything and everything else available through Ancestry. These are topped up by some other counties' census returns dated 1861, 1871 and 1891 and the 1881 census returns for the whole of the UK, including the Channel Isles and the Royal Navy, on all the computers. Also held electronically are the Vital Records Indexes for the UK and some other parts of Europe, the National Burial Index and the more up to date Berkshire Burial Index, and much other material by county, either in the memory or accessed by

inserting the relevant CD-ROMs. The Berkshire Name Index is available on all the computers.

In the reference library are held copies of almost every England and Wales 1851 census return transcribed and issued as indexes in booklet or on fiche, together with the Berkshire census returns for 1851 to 1881 on film. All other England and Wales county fiche holdings, such as parish register transcriptions, are in the reference library, together with books covering every county, plus much on Scotland, Ireland, the Commonwealth and north American countries. The library catalogue can be browsed online.

## Research Centre tours 2007

The next tours are to held be on:

Saturday 17 February 14.30 to 16.30  
Monday 14 May 19.30 to 21.30

## How to find us

We are close to the centre of Reading, next door to the Berkshire Record Office and in the same building as the Reading Register Office. The station is a 15-minute walk away, and we are on more than one bus route. There is good parking: follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office.

## Berks FHS Bookshop

The bookshop is on the ground floor, and is always open during centre opening hours. Purchases can be made and paid for by cash or cheque backed up by a cheque card. The bookshop is also available for purchases on our website, which lists the most commonly required publications. Publications for sale include those for beginners as well as for more established family historians. We hold publications on Berkshire family and local history, particularly those published by local societies, whether in print, fiche or electronic format.

## The Berkshire Name Search (BNS)

This is the master index for all the following indexes. To search this index you may:

- do your own search at the Research Centre
- visit a Berks FHS stand at a family history fair
- request a postal search.

The BNS consists of the following:

### *Berkshire censuses and indexes*

1851 census transcription, fully checked, of the 173,748 persons within Berkshire on the night of 30 March.

1861 census transcription and index includes most individuals (the town of Reading is the major exception).

1871 census transcription and index is completed and mainly checked.

1881 census transcription and index is fully checked.

Printouts can be made as required from all these transcriptions.

### *Berkshire Marriage Index*

Work is in progress transcribing and checking all pre-1837 parish registers, with over 95,000 entries now available. Note that the early register entries only give dates and names of the groom and bride. Later entries include their parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.

### *Berkshire Burial Index*

Work continues transcribing all Berkshire burial registers, with over 460,000 entries to date. Some 50 per cent of the entries show all the data available. The rest show (where available) name, age, relationship, occupation and title together with a note indicating if there is further information such as date, place or cause of death in the original record. The fifth edition of the index is available on CD-ROM from the bookshop.

### *Berkshire Strays Index*

This dataset includes 20,500 people recorded in events taking place outside Berkshire if the person has some reference to Berkshire. Strays records come from a variety of sources including the 1851 censuses of several neighbouring counties. No further additions are being made to this index.

### *Berkshire Miscellaneous Index*

This dataset is based on the former Berkshire Name Index and includes 100,279 records that were extracted and submitted by individuals. When possible, running sets (such as baptisms from a parish register) will be placed in specialist datasets, leaving the disparate individual records and small datasets in this miscellaneous index. The amount of information available depends upon the record.

## Postal search

Please address your envelope with the initials relating to your enquiry as underlined below:

Berkshire Name Search: BNS  
 other county census indexes searches: OCCI  
 Strays index: Strays  
 members' interests: WS/MemC  
 membership, change of address, etc: MC  
 to Berkshire FHS, Yeomanry House, etc with these initials preceding the society title. Please supply your email address, and enclose a bankers' draft or sterling cheque drawn on a London clearing bank to the value of £2.00, and an A5 (240x165mm) self-addressed envelope, stamped if a UK return address, or an envelope of any size and two IRCs if an overseas return address.

## Charges

To search the BNS send £2 per surname requested to obtain the number of entries in each census or index. This search will not provide any information from the records.

To obtain the full details from the records, printed on an A4 sheet (up to 25 entries or lines; we will advise the additional costs if more entries are found) send:

- £2 per surname per requested database
- £5 per surname to search all databases currently available (price will increase as more databases are included).

## Records wanted

If you have records of any names that would fit into the Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (event occurs within Berkshire pre- and post-1974), please send them by post to Berks FHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ or by email to <miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk>.

## Birth Briefs Index

Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts submitted by members of the society. Fully completed charts contain the names and vital records (birth or christening, marriage and death or burial) of the member and up to 30 ancestors.

You can search the index, currently 28,595 names, on the website or for £2 per surname by post. You can order a copy of a particular Birth Brief for £2. Quote the ID no. obtained from the website or from the postal search. The Birth Brief can be sent as a hard copy, in PAF Pedigree format or as a file in GEDCOM format.

Please post search requests and orders for copies to Berks FHS (BB), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. Mark your envelope BB and include the ID no. if known. Enclose a sterling cheque, drawn on a UK bank, your email address and an A4 self-addressed envelope either stamped or containing two IRCs.

You can contact the person submitting the Birth Brief if they are still a member. We will pass on a letter, or email if they have an email address. (See website.)

To contact the person submitting the Birth Brief you may either:

- send your letter with two unstamped envelopes, one self-addressed and one blank, with three IRCs (not stamps) to Berks FHS (BBxxxx) at Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TG
- email your message to [BBxxxx@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:BBxxxx@berksfhs.org.uk) (where xxxx is the BB ID no.)

## The No.1 Supplier to Genealogists for Microfiche Readers

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