

Berkshire Family Historian

for family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

Contents September 2007

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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.

Annual general meeting

The society's AGM was held on 18 June at Long Furlong Community Centre in Abingdon, attended by about 50 members. The following were elected to the executive committee for 2007-08:

<i>president</i>	Sir William Benyon DL
<i>vice-presidents</i>	Peter Durrant (BRO), Chad Hanna
<i>chairman</i>	Jocie McBride
<i>secretary</i>	Valerie Storie
<i>treasurer</i>	Sue Clifford
<i>branch representatives</i>	Derek Trinder (Bracknell and Wokingham) Gillian Stevens (Computer Branch) Jane Burrell (Newbury) John Price (Reading) Sue Matthews (Vale of White Horse)
<i>other members</i>	Valerie Storie (Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead) Arthur Beech, Carolyn Boulton, Cliff Debney, Jean Herbert

The chairman Jocie McBride reported a successful year, with the acquisition of seven new computers for the Research Centre, and a record number of volunteers coming forward to help run the society. She thanked them all, but particularly Cliff Debney, who is to stand down as manager of the Research Centre after five years. Cliff will hand over to Arthur Beech during the next three months. Sue Cummings, the projects co-ordinator, is similarly handing over her responsibilities to Beverley Charlton. The editor of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, Penny Stokes, was congratulated for producing an excellent magazine.

A £4,000 contribution is being made by the society to the Berkshire Record Office's Probate Index which, when published on CD, will cover wills from 1508 to 1853. This follows the recently launched Wiltshire Record Office Wills

Index, published online with help from Berks FHS.

The lease of Yeomanry House falls due for renewal in April 2008, and the BerksFHS Bookshop still lacks a volunteer manager. These two factors may force a rise in subscriptions next year.

Following the chairman's address a majority vote was passed to adopt the new constitution, drawn up to comply with changes in charity law, and circulated with the June issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. Further votes passed the accounts, and empowered the Executive Committee to appoint an independent inspector of accounts, in accordance with charity law.

The 2008 AGM will be held at Bracknell on Friday 20 June.

income and expenditure for year ending 30 April 2007

	2007	2006
total income	£38,380	£36,980
total expenditure	(£42,164)	(£34,951)
surplus/(deficit) for the period	(£3,784)	£2,029
surplus brought forward	£55,289	£53,260
surplus carried forward	£51,505	£55,289

Chairman's report

As I reported at our AGM in Abingdon, we now have more volunteers than ever before helping to spread the joy of belonging to Berks FHS. However we are still looking for volunteers with computer skills and those who can manage a few hours in the Berkshire Record Office (BRO) in Reading to transcribe some of the many records that are available there on fiche and film, so that we can make these available to those unable to visit the BRO themselves.

In this quarter's magazine you will find the new Members' Handbook which Penny Stokes has kindly put together for us, and which replaces the old information booklet. Why not

take the opportunity to resubmit, or submit for the first time, your family history interests and to complete a Birth Brief form? To complete these forms your family does not have to come from Berkshire. Via the Berks FHS Members' Interests page on our website I heard from someone in Australia who links into my family from Dorset.

My first year as your chairman has been a steep learning curve – thank you for your support! I look forward to another successful year in which our society continues to help everyone to enjoy this great hobby of ours.

Jocie McBride
Chairman

Members' Handbook

With this issue of the magazine you should receive a copy of the new Members' Handbook to remind you of the benefits of society membership, and the services and resources to which it gives you access.

The handbook mentions four loose-leaf forms which will normally be inserted with the handbook when it is sent to newly-joined members. Please note that these forms are not being enclosed with copies sent to existing members. If however you would like to update your Members' Interests or Birth Brief please go to the website to download the relevant form, or write to the membership secretary, whose address is on the inside cover of this magazine.



This recent view of Yeomanry House was taken by Ivan Dickason for the cover of the new Members' Handbook.

Have you renewed your society membership?

If you did not renew your membership as requested in June, this will be your last copy of the Berkshire Family Historian.

If you would like to renew, but no longer have the renewal form sent out with the last issue of the magazine, please go to the website and renew, or contact the membership secretary whose details are on the inside cover.



Family history day at West Berks Museum

The West Berkshire Museum in Newbury ran an exhibition throughout May to promote the research of local and family history. The exhibition, entitled *History on Your Doorstep* was assembled with the help of local history groups from Purley and Pangbourne. Along with the exhibition the museum held a series of talks and two drop-in days on photographs and family history. The Newbury Branch of Berks FHS was invited to join in on the family history day to run an advice shop for would-be researchers and those more experienced but stuck in their research. The opportunity to see and use the Ancestry Library website was most popular, and helped several visitors move a little further with their research.

The day before the event the local radio station, BBC Radio Berkshire, contacted the museum to ask if they could send a reporter along to join in the fun, thus raising the profile of the event and getting the society a few mentions on the air.

Phil Wood

Evening courses on family history are held periodically by the society for beginners to intermediate level

*explanation by demonstration and examples
guidance on accessing archive material
using various media equipment
informal groups hands-on experience
advice on the options of sourcing material on many topics
direction on further research, suggesting books and websites*

**NEXT COURSE STARTS Monday 15 October 2007
continuing 22, 29 October, 5, 12 November, 19.00 - 21.30**

at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading

£25 per person

book early

places are limited

<www.berksfhs.org.uk>

Recent additions to online databases

<www.1901censusonline.com>

1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1891 censuses

<ancestry.co.uk>

Release 3 of British telephone books

Updated 1861 census

Scottish Quakers and early America

1650 - 1700

267 World War II newsreels produced

by the US Office of War Information to promote patriotism. Targeted primarily at allied and neutral countries, they depict such events as

D-Day

Japanese surrender

Invasion of Sicily

Marines raising the flag over Iwo Jima

Gen MacArthur returning to the

Philippines

and can be viewed online.

<www.origins.net>

Tithe defaulters in Ireland 1831

City of London burials index to over 36,000

burials in 76 parishes 1813 - 1853,

covering men, women and children, and

nearly always giving ages

Transatlantic migration: 42,000 passengers

on ships returning from North America

to Britain and Ireland 1858 - 1870

Children's Employment Commission Part II

detailing early nineteenth-century social

conditions. Previously only available to

subscribers, now free

Boyd's Family Units – Boyd's London

Inhabitants extended by additional family

information.

<findmypast.com>

UK Passenger Lists now up to 1929

Berkshire Record Office *new registers in the archives*

- Slough Methodists:

partial transcripts (names only) of the registers of Herschel Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Slough Central Hall and St Andrew's Methodist Church, Slough:

baptisms 1850 - 2000

marriages 1934 - 2001 (D/MS69)

- Hatford parish records (D/P65)

- Wallingford St Leonard vestry minutes 1819 - 1853 (D/EZ153)

- East Garston

baptisms 1942 - 2006

marriages 1986 - 1999

burials 1877 - 2005

banns 1886 - 2001 (D/P59)

- Reading St Agnes

baptisms 1939 - 1983

marriages 1939 - 1997

banns 1939 - 1992 (D/P167)

- Stanford in the Vale

baptisms 1885 - 1984

marriages 1950 - 1971

banns 1983 - 2001

burials 1894 - 1946 (D/P118)

- Wantage

baptisms 1942 - 1994

marriages 1944 - 198

burials 1936 - 1964

banns 1947 - 1991 (D/P143).

In brief

The Federation of Family History Societies' "ezine" was launched earlier this year, carrying family and local history news, reviews and competitions to individual researchers and the federation's member societies around the world. It is published each February, April, June, August, October and December.

You can view the ezine on <www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.ph> or sign up online to receive your own copy.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has just launched the online index of wills proved in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham between 1483 and 1858. Currently only the index is available free online. Copies of the wills can be ordered by post from the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, County Hall, Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UU. <www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives/introhowto.stm>

Those members who keep long runs of back copies of the *Berkshire Family Historian* may like to know that the society's website now carries a subject, title and author index to feature articles published between March 2002 and March 2007 (inclusive).

From the editor to contributors

I would like to thank all those of you who responded so heartily to my call for more editorial contributions last June. Several are in the pages of this issue, and more are banked away for future issues. Without wishing to discourage anyone, I would like to reiterate a couple of points which will increase your chances of speedy publication.

- Please remember the upper word limit of 1,200 (easily checked in MS Word using Tools). I respect and applaud that each of you is an enthusiast for your subject, but I have to allocate space fairly, and this demands consistent policing of article length. I can and do cut over-long articles, but it is time-consuming, so such contributions are likely to be put to one side pending available editorial time. Many subjects are indeed more suited to fewer than 1,200 words, so please feel free to submit shorter pieces too.

- Pictures enhance the text, but please be sure that you have the necessary permission to use them for publication. Images from the internet are (unless otherwise stated) subject to copyright like those in hard copy. Furthermore, they are rarely of printable quality. I can scan hard-copy pictures (which will then be safely returned to you), and edit most normal digital picture files. Please, however, do not insert them into MS Word documents; they are better sent separately from the text.

Lastly, I must remind you that I do not have broadband, and so cannot receive files of more than around 2Mb. If you don't have the software to reduce file size without compromising picture quality, I regret I must ask you to put the picture file onto a CD and post it to me.

I hesitate to place these burdens on potential contributors, but the easier it is to get your article onto the page, the more likely it is to appear. Please keep your contributions coming.

Penny Stokes

Newspapers on the move

The British Library has announced long-term plans to move its historic newspaper collection from Colindale in North London to Boston Spa in Yorkshire.

By 2011 readers will access microfilm or digital copies (referred to as surrogates) at the British Library at St Pancras. Access to the original documents will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

Berkshire Burial Index

update

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the June 2007 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These, together with all other additions made since the publication of the most recent CD-ROM of the Berkshire Burial Index in late 2006, will be included in the next update, which we aim to issue towards the end of this year. The index now contains more than 510,000 entries.

Abingdon St Nicholas 1813 - 1880
 Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist 1663 - 1812
 Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist 1559 - 1713
 Longworth St Mary 1563 - 1648
 Marcham All Saints 1805 - 1812
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery 1868 - 1878
 Reading Henley Rd (Caversham) Crematorium 1947 - 1951
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1885 - 1888
 Shellingford St Faith 1581 - 1781
 Stanford in the Vale St Denys 1852 - 1868
 Uffington St Mary 1654 - 1744, 1748 - 1749 and 1760 - 1783
 Upton St Mary 1862 - 1990
 Wargrave St Mary 1940 - 1978
 Wokingham All Saints 1854 - 1889

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 33.

David Wright

Who in the world ... belongs to the Berkshire Family History Society?

A glance at the membership roll for 2006-07 shows Berkshire Family History Society membership in many shapes and forms across the world. The total figure of 2,081 members (family, individual and institutional) breaks down as 94 per cent resident in the UK, 6 per cent resident overseas.

The overseas membership splits between Australia (46 per cent), Canada (26 per cent), USA (16 per cent), New Zealand (9 per cent), Europe (6 per cent), the remaining 1 per cent being South Africa and the West Indies. Just seven of these are institutional*: the remainder are individual and family members.

Of the UK-resident members (excluding a small number of institutions*) 45 per cent live in modern Berkshire, 21 per cent in the adjoining counties of Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Surrey, and 34 per cent elsewhere in the UK.

Perhaps most surprising: 603 of you (29 per cent) have not supplied us with an email address. Can such a high proportion of family historians be computer-phobic? If we have your email address it is much easier for us to facilitate the exchange of information between members.

*In addition to mailing our institutional members, we send the *Berkshire Family Historian* to around 60 family history societies around the world under the FFHS Exchange Magazine scheme.

Dates for your diary

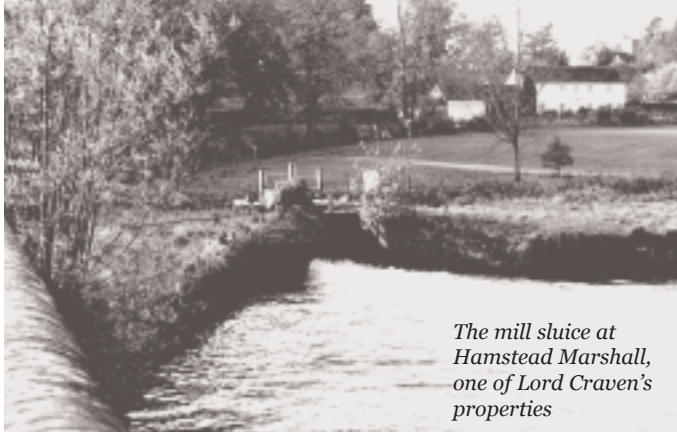
**Berks FHS will be present at these events*

date	event	venue	more details
09.00 - 16.00 Sat 8 Sept 2007	Heritage Open Day	Surrey History Centre 130 Goldsworth Rd Woking GU21 6ND	01483 518737
19.15 - 21 .30 Tue 11 Sept 2007	Bucks FHS Introduction to one- name studies	Bourne End Community Centre	<www.bucksfhs.org. uk>
10.30 - 12.00 Thu 13 Sept 2007	Family history using the internet	Camberley Library Knoll Rd Camberley Surrey GU15 3SY	08456 009 009
09.00 - 16.30 Sat 22 Sept 2007	Somerset & Dorset FHS Open Day	Sherborne School	01935 389611 <www.sdfhs.org>
10.00 - 16.00 Sat 22 Sept 2007	Oxfordshire Family History Open Day*	Exeter Hall Kidlington	<ofhs.org.uk/ OpenDay.html>
10.00 - 16.00 Sat 29 Sept 2007	West Middlesex FHS Conference	St Mary's Church Hall Twickenham	<www.west-middlesex- fhs.org.uk>
Sun 30 Sept 2007	Hampshire Family History Fair*	Horndean Technology College	<www. hgs-online.org.uk/ hgs-events.asp
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 21 Oct 2007	Eastleigh Family History Fair	Fleming Park Leisure Centre Passfield Ave Eastleigh SO50 9NL	<www. familyhistoryfairs. com>
10.00 - 16.00 Sun 28 Oct 2007	Cheltenham Family History Fair	Pitville Pump Room East Approach Drive Cheltenham GL52 3JE	<www. familyhistoryfairs. com>
Sat 3 Nov 2007	West Surrey FHS Open Day*	tba	<www.wsfhs. org.uk>

***from the minutes of the workhouse of St George the Martyr, Southwark
vol SLHL698 p128***

James Martin, a blind man, to have a fiddle he having been robbed of his old one at Ascot
Races - 10/6d Tuesday 13th June 1809

sent in by Peter Shilham (835)



The mill sluice at Hamstead Marshall, one of Lord Craven's properties

Craven tenancies surveyed

Penny Stokes

The 1873 Return of Land found the Craven family in possession of nearly 20,000 acres in Berkshire. These vast estates

were concentrated in the west of the county, predominantly in Hamstead Marshall, Enborne, Lambourn, Ashbury and the Vale of the White Horse. If your eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ancestors farmed in these areas there is a good chance that they were Craven tenants, in which case the Berkshire Record Office has a number of estate surveys which might interest you.

1702 Craven estate survey D/EC E2

Commissioned for the second Lord Craven, this survey lists tenants' full names and defines the nature of each holding (messuage, land, cottage, mill), type of lease (most were still copyhold for three lives), and rent value.

1727 Account of all the tree pollards growing in the manor of Hamstead Marshall D/EC E14

The detail is more arboreal than personal, but a few names are mentioned.

1775 Craven estate survey MF 1002.2/D

Compiled on the orders of the sixth Lord Craven, this is the most comprehensive and interesting of all the surveys. It covers all the West Berkshire Craven manors, and for good measure also details some adjoining property belonging to other landlords, described as "Freelands". Detail includes the landowner (Craven or otherwise), occupant, area (in acres, roods and perches), and rent. Entries are grouped by tenant (for the Craven lands), and the schedule is accompanied by large-scale maps. Patient cross-reference shows that plots of a single holding were frequently scattered over a large area; the consolidation of farms which followed enclosure had yet to affect Craven country.

1785 A survey of Lord Craven's estates in Berkshire D/EC E13

Ten years later the sixth Lord Craven commissioned another survey, perhaps to record the changeover from copyhold to rackrent. It is less detailed, and no map has survived. However it contains many names, and some opinionated annotations, probably by the estate steward. "This tenant has done more damage to this farm than can be made good in some years." "Cottage almost fallen down. An action should be commenced against Knock in order to make him repair it and then let it be granted out again."

The BRO has of course many other Craven and property-based papers relating to these areas, including tithe maps and schedules, enclosure maps and awards, through which landholdings can be traced and related back to the records in these surveys.

Hovis books a slice of history

Mick Henry
peruses a memento of old Mortimer

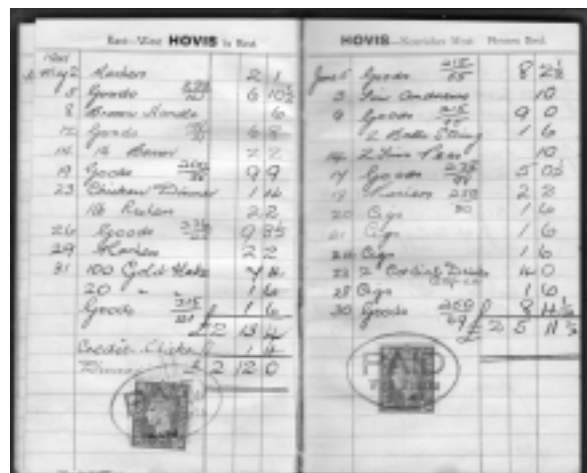
In 1958 my parents moved to Shurlock Row near Twyford. We first went to live in Sunny Brow, on the Straight Mile, but after a few years there my parents decided to run the village newsagent, called the Candy Store. Right opposite the Candy Store was the village grocery called Mortimer's Stores. As a youngster, I had no idea what or how groceries were bought and sold, but recently I managed to buy a Hovis Book that belonged to a Miss McBain, who lived in the Little House in Shurlock Row.

A Hovis Book, as some may know, was a log of purchases from the grocery store, rather like an account, most likely settled monthly. It was also a shrewd piece of marketing by Hovis, who printed them, including at the top of every page a slogan like "HOVIS sets the seal on every meal" or "East-West, HOVIS is best".

The book I have looks rather like an old passport, and has *Mortimer's Stores, Grocery, Bakery and Provision Stores* boldly embossed on the front. Underneath is *Shurlock Row, Phone Shurlock Row 40* and *Woodly Phone Reading 1839*, all nicely embossed. At the top is a cut-out window, rather like the old passports, in which the owner's name and address is written.

The one I have records the purchases of Miss McBain from 27 November 1939 until 27 October 1943, a four-year period. I have no idea who Miss McBain was or where the Little House was in Shurlock Row. Can anyone help here, please? I have detailed below some entries from the book. Question marks signify that I am unsure if I have the correct product name – maybe some readers can enlighten me here too.

1 Gallon of Paraffin	1s 2d	2 Blue Sky	4s	100 Cigarettes	7s 4d
Copstanis	4d	Esan [?]	6d	Tin Andrews	10d
Tube Mcleans	6d	Rinso	6d	Eve Soap	2.5d
2g Bovril	1s 2d	Sylvan Flakes	1s 0d	D.R. Minot Cigs	1s 1d
1oz Africanda Mct [?]	1s 3.5d	Chemico	6d	Force	6d
1lb D.M. Coffee	2s 8d	40 Players	2s 11d	Park Drive	10.5d
1 Brown loaf	4d	6 Torox Cubes	4.5d	Wellington Knife Polish	1s 6d
Gloss Tongue [?]	2s 4d	1lb Suet	1s 3d	Vim	6d



Straying from Chester and Wrexham

*Carol Coles (6007),
who lives in Chester, found an
assortment of strays from her home
town living in Berkshire in 1851*

During the last two years I have been tracing my family, most of whom hail from Berkshire, Oxfordshire and East Anglia, so much of this is done on the computer. Using the CD of the 1851 census for Berkshire, I thought it might be interesting to see if there were any Berkshire residents who came from the area where I live. It seemed unlikely at a time of less mobility than nowadays, and also considering that there are no obvious reasons for people to migrate from rural Cheshire to rural Berkshire.

A quick search found 15 people who were born in Chester and 7 in Wrexham. Of these 22 people, two had connections with the military, two were clergymen and one worked in domestic service – a microcosm of Victorian society.

The military connections were perhaps not surprising, considering that Chester was a garrison town and the military training college at Sandhurst is in Berkshire. The youngest of the Chester-born people was John Daly aged 11, son of a Sandhurst captain, Robert Daly. Presumably one of his earlier postings was to Chester, and during that time John was born. John's brothers were: 19-year-old Robert, an ensign with the 61st Regiment, who had been born in Stamford; James, aged 13, who had been born in Brecon; younger brother Denis, who had been born since his father had been stationed at Sandhurst. The birthplaces of the family could well mirror Robert Daly's career path. The family had a German governess, Ottelia Rahles, evidence of the strong influence of all things German in England since the marriage of Queen Victoria to her cousin Albert.

Also at Sandhurst was Thomas Johnson, a

43-year-old sergeant of the 16th Lancers. At the Windsor Infantry Barracks was stationed a soldier/potter called Thomas Roberts, who had been born in Wrexham. Indeed, of the seven Wrexham-born residents of Berkshire, four lived in New Windsor, which may indicate the draw of the royal residence on employment.

One of the Chester-born women was Miriam Fruin, an 18-year-old dressmaker in Hungerford, whose father William was aged 47, and a Chelsea pensioner – another military connection.

At Remenham Rectory (just outside Henley-on-Thames) lived the rector Owen Brisco. On the night of the census a visitor to the rectory was Thomas Briscoe [sic] from Wrexham, described as a "clergyman with no cure of souls" – perhaps between jobs. The other clerical representative was the Chester-born John F Wilkinson, a Catholic priest at Clewer, just outside Windsor. Although pockets of Catholics had remained in England since the Reformation, only since 1791 had they been able to build their own churches. John Wilkinson lived at Chapel House, and appears to have had links with Spain. Perhaps that was where he had studied for the priesthood? His household contained three Spanish students from Malaga, a husband and wife, George and Catherine Driscoll who worked as schoolmaster and housekeeper, and a housemaid.

The occupations of the others listed in the census include two tailors, a National schoolmistress, a hemp spinner, a printer and a lady's maid. Domestic service was one of the largest providers of employment throughout the Victorian period. The lady's maid was Emma Palmer, aged 35, who worked and lived

at Winkfield Park. This household was headed up by Honoria Blane, a 75-year-old widow. Also in residence were her son, George, a captain in the Royal Navy on half-pay, and two spinster daughters, Honoria aged 48 and Sophia aged 35. It was obviously a reasonably substantial household, as to serve the family there were nine servants in the house as well as Emma. These were a butler, footman, two grooms, a cook, another lady's maid, an under-housemaid and a kitchen maid. The majority of the servants were Berkshire people but the butler, George Hewit was from Northampton,

and the cook, Harriet Cox from Dorking in Surrey, probably reflecting that the jobs of butler and cook were in the higher ranks of domestic service, and would not be solely recruited from the immediate neighbourhood.

Rare as the links between Berkshire and the Chester area were in mid-1851, they provide a cameo of mid-Victorian society. It would be interesting to see whether many Berkshire residents could be found in Chester – perhaps there is someone reading this who could fill in that part of the story ?

Gathering Maidenhead's news

Sixty years ago, a few weeks before his sixteenth birthday, Dennis Tomlinson (5243) started as a trainee reporter on the Maidenhead Advertiser.

On Monday morning in May 1946 I cycled to the *Maidenhead Advertiser* offices at 80-82 Queen Street, to start my career. I had left school in July with a university-entrance standard pass in the School Certificate, which earned a grudging compliment from the editor, Louis Baylis.

I was shown to the reporters' room, where the only other occupant was Joy Ager, who had started six weeks earlier. Joy had two big advantages over me: shorthand and typing. Lack of typing skills was not too much of a handicap, as we only had one typewriter between the three of us. I attended evening classes in both subjects, but did not pass the 100 words per minute shorthand test until called up for National Service.

The editorial staff consisted of the editor, news editor, Joy and myself. This did not worry the editor; he would tell us frequently that during the war he ran the paper with a boy. The news editor, Tommy Middleton, had recently been poached from the *Windsor and Eton Express*.

My first two weeks were spent helping the

printer's reader, Archibald Cooper, a man in his fifties who had taken early retirement from the law publishers Sweet and Maxwell. He instilled in me the need for accuracy, but we had our lighter moments. He always hoped that we should find the advertisement which read "Piano wanted for lady with carved legs".

Soon I was sent out to surrounding villages to call on parish clerks, vicars, secretaries of organisations and anyone else likely to give me news. Sometimes I was given small advertisements. A motorcycle acquired on my sixteenth birthday speeded up these journeys.

I attended the meetings of Cookham parish council. On one occasion the council was debating whether or not to instal extra street lights in the village. One member, Mrs Turk, wife of the Keeper of the King's Swans, was very much against this, and said: "When I first came to Cookham there were no street lights." I headlined the report "As it was in the beginning..." Mrs Turk was not amused.

On another occasion the parish council had a problem with the cemetery keeper's cottage. After some discussion the vicar became



Reporters' names never appeared in the Maidenhead Advertiser in the 1940s, but when Dennis was writing a story about this De Dion Bouton quadricycle, the photographer asked him to pose on the machine, and so his name was published with the picture.

somewhat exasperated and said: "The trouble is this was a modern house badly built." I reported this, but the builder complained to the editor, who read back my shorthand and decided the story was accurate. The upshot was that the vicar had to pay for a public apology to appear the following week. I was not welcome at the vicarage for quite some time after that.

One major difference between reporting then and now was that we were discouraged from using the telephone. The news editor told us: "Go out and meet people. You'll make much better contacts that way." And this was true. Like other people of my generation I had only used a telephone a few times before starting work, and this mainly to speak to a girl I knew who worked on the Shurlock Row exchange. Imagine my surprise when I picked up the phone one day and found Nancy, Lady Astor on the line. Fortunately she wanted not me, but the news editor.

My starting wage was £1 per week, less four old pence National Insurance. I used to give my mother ten shillings each Friday night, and she returned half-a-crown to me each morning to pay for my lunch at the Copper Kettle in Cookham. After six months I discovered that Joy had been given a rise, so I asked for a rise too. The editor said: "What do you think you are worth?" I asked for another £1 a week, hoping for ten shillings. He must have been

feeling generous, because he gave me the £1 – the only time I have ever had my salary doubled.

The editor was not noted for generosity. In winter he would come into the reporters' room and turn off one bar of the electric fire – our only means of heating – if he thought we were being extravagant.

If you worked late you received a tea allowance of 1/6d. We could also earn an extra half-crown for writing diary notes (short, light-hearted pieces). In the football season five shillings could be earned by phoning Maidenhead United's result to the *Sunday Express*. I once received 17/6d from the *Northampton Evening Telegraph* for my telephoned report.

After first copies of the paper were printed, the reporters wrapped those that were to be posted. After I left, the National Union of Journalists put a stop to this. The union might also not have approved of my regular delivery of 22 copies to a Wooburn Green newsagent.

The paper was printed on the premises using the hot metal system. The very old press could print only four pages at a time – the first four on Wednesday, the last four on Thursday. Breakdowns could usually be repaired by Dick Cutler, the resident engineer, but once the editor had to find an alternative printer. The *Bucks Free Press* at High Wycombe agreed to print it, but their page was 50 per cent bigger

than ours. The ad space was already allocated, so the reporters had to fill the rest. Stories which would have made two or three paragraphs suddenly became worth half a column. I covered a school open day and, had you been at that school and made a coffee table that would at least stand up, your name would have been in the paper.

We grumbled from time to time, but our attitude was best summed up by Joy, who once told the news editor: "This isn't work. I enjoy it."

The editor was also MD of the family company which owned the paper and, with no son or daughter to succeed him, he was determined that the paper should not fall into the hands of one of the big regional newspaper chains. Well before his death, he transferred ownership to a charitable trust.

The paper today regularly contains more than 100 pages.

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On the home front

**John Gurnett,
former editor of this journal,
continues his account of home
defence forces with a look at the
corps raised during
the Second World War**

After the First World War military experts believed that any future European conflict would involve large-scale bombing of the British mainland, resulting in catastrophic casualties. This fear of aerial bombing gripped 1930s thinking, and was largely caused by effects of Zeppelin bombing during the First World War and the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. Royal Air Force staff told the government to expect 20,000 casualties a day if Germany attacked. As a result of these predictions by 1939 the government planned to provide 750,000 hospital beds for the expected casualties. In fact in the worst days of the blitz no more than 6,000 were required. As Harold Macmillan later remarked, "We thought of air warfare in 1938 as people think of nuclear war today."

Air Raid Wardens (ARP)



In 1935, local authorities were ordered by the prime minister Stanley Baldwin to prepare to protect their areas of responsibility in case of war. Two years later the Air Raid Precaution Warden's Service, the

ARP, was established and the Home Office distributed a pamphlet warning the public that German parachutists may land disguised as British policemen and air raid wardens. Wardens' posts were based on the areas of political voting wards, and they were responsible for registering everyone in their area and observing the blackout. During air raids they would help people to the nearest shelters and carry out rescue and first aid services. One in six of those who volunteered



were women, and many of the men were veterans of the First World War. In all, about one and a half million volunteers became wardens. In 1941 the ARP were issued with blue serge uniforms. No nationwide record of individuals exists, but there are many documents in local records and The National Archives. Typical of the surviving documents are logbooks, reports and minutes of meetings. One of these includes the resignation of a Mr Hunt, an air raid warden in Bedford, due in part to a disagreement over the employing of female wardens. Name indexes of service personnel can also be found in Access to Archives <www.a2a.org.uk>. Some battalions also wrote their wartime history, and these are often held in local collections and the Imperial War Museum.

Another useful source for histories and photographs is at the National Army Museum. Useful information can also be found in the Berkshire County Council minute books, printed copies of which can be found in major reference libraries.

There are many websites devoted to memories of all those who volunteered at home during the war, such as <www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/>. The Berkshire Record Office has a log for post no. A7 (Caversham) with a file of reports by William John Seager, Chief Air Raid Precautions Warden, of air raid damage in Reading and Caversham and photographs of damage in Reading. The wardens also completed logbooks of enemy activity, which may also be found in local record offices.

Home Guard

The Home Guard, originally called the Local Defence Volunteers, was set up to assist in repelling the expected invasion of England, Operation Sealion, by German forces. They were essentially the last line of defence in the event of enemy invasion. By 1943 almost 1.8 million men were serving in this new force. Their principal role was seen as patrolling key areas such as railway terminals and factories. The National Archives has many records devoted to the Home Guard. Typical of the surviving records are recommendations for awards for rescue operations and their role in anti-aircraft defence.

The Distinguished Service Order was extended in 1943 to Home Guard officers, and these are gazetted in the *London Gazette*, which is indexed by name, and should give some details why the award was made. Perhaps one of the most amazing and courageous feats of heroism amongst the ARP volunteers was carried out by an ARP despatch rider, Charity Anne Bick. She had suffered minor injuries early in the raid while helping her father, an ARP post warden, to put out an incendiary

bomb. Returning to the ARP post, Charity and her father were almost blown off their feet by high-explosive bombs, and discovered that two houses opposite and another one nearby had been destroyed. The wardens attached to the ARP post were all on duty, so she borrowed a bicycle and, facing shrapnel from guns and falling bombs, made repeated attempts to take a message just over a mile to the control room. Several times she had to dismount and fall flat on the ground for safety. Covered with dirt and grime, she eventually delivered the message. She made three such journeys during the height of the raid, and further journeys afterwards. For this heroism she was awarded the George Medal.

Although the newspapers reported Charity's age at the time as 16 (the minimum age), she was actually 14 when she applied to join the ARP Services Despatch Riders' Team.

The information held on those who served in the Home Guard is very limited. It normally consists of one double-sided A4 sheet of paper (Army Form W3066) containing personal details on enlistment and very little else. No details are held of the duties performed by an individual during his service. The records can be obtained by writing to: Army Personnel Centre (APC), Historical Disclosures, Mailpoint 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown St, Glasgow G2 8EX. A copy of a Home Guard service record can be released only to the next

Home Guard inspection at Crowthorne



of kin of former personnel or to anyone who has the written consent of the next of kin. For the widow of a former member of the Home Guard the APC will supply a copy of the record at no charge, but other members of the family or members of the public (subject to the consent of the next of kin) pay a fee (currently £30 but reviewed annually). The APC has a legal obligation regarding confidentiality under the Data Protection Act 1998, requiring proof of the death of the former service person. However, this requirement may be waived when the date of birth of the individual was more than 110 years ago.

The APC does not accept an enquiry unless there is a reasonable chance of locating the

record in the archive. They would require as much information as the enquirer could provide – at the very least full name, date of birth, and location of the individual at enlistment and discharge.

Women's Land Army

Original service records of the Women's Land Army have not survived, but index cards to them have, and are available at The National Archives on microfiche in MAF 421. The cards give some information on those who volunteered, but it is limited.

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Emma Thoys. *The Berkshire Militia*

The Knapps of Shrivenham

More than 80 years ago, as a little boy, I used to be taken to visit my maternal grandfather, Alfred Knapp at Plum Tree House, the family home on the Ashbury Road in Shrivenham, Berkshire. My uncle Will and aunt Ethel lived there too. Will was a partner in the building firm Alfred Knapp and Son, while Ethel was general housekeeper, gardener and book-keeper. They were an honest, dedicated, and well-respected firm, which did quite a lot of work for the Church Commissioners. In his early days grandfather used to walk seven miles to work in Swindon and back again at night. Grandfather was also a Faringdon magistrate from 1909, and was in some ways a hard man. I would not have liked to come before him in court. Sometimes he would cycle all the way to Reading to sit at the Quarter Sessions.

At Plum Tree Aladdin lamps were used for lighting in the living rooms downstairs. My aunt would take me to bed carrying a candle. I could see the Uffington White Horse from my window, and I loved to visit that ancient place. Often on dark mornings I was woken by the

John Davies (4482) remembers a boyhood in rural Shrivenham, and describes the Knapps, a local family of builders and stonemasons

lanterns on the milkman's cart. I used to go down to see the horse and watch the milk being poured into my aunt's jug from the dipper, which went back to hang inside the huge churn. I remember the large cool pantry which in summer would have stone jars of botanic beer and ginger beer made by my aunt. Victoria plums, apples, rhubarb and soft fruits were grown in the garden, as well as most vegetables in the field beyond. There were chickens, too, and I loved to gather the brown eggs from the nest boxes.

When I was 10 or so they built a new house on the high street, called Northam after my maternal grandmother's Devon family.

My great-uncle Leonard Knapp farmed at Cowleaze Farm down the Ashbury Road, between the derelict Wilts and Berks canal and the railway. Uncle Leonard had some rather narrow Calvinist views, but he was a good man, and in some ways ahead of his time. He had a generator and large bank of batteries which supplied all their needs for power. The dairy, run by my aunt Millie, was a model of cleanliness, and I was enthralled by the huge



Becket Manor House

metal bowls of milk waiting to have the cream skimmed off. I confess that I did a bit of skimming with my finger. The hand-operated butter churn was hard work, but Millie managed it alone, as well as keeping chickens and running the house.

I used to watch the trains at the level crossing one field down from the farmhouse. It was a fast stretch of line, and the GWR steam trains sometimes exceeded 100 mph.

Viscount Barrington was Lord of the Manor at Becket House in those days. All is changed now. The Becket estate was sold to the MoD, and is now the site of the Military College of Science, whose large buildings can be easily seen from White Horse Hill. The college has brought considerable benefits to the village in employment and trade.

There were many related Knapps living in and around Shrivenham, Watchfield and Bourton when I was a boy, but they are all gone now. The last was probably my uncle Will, who died in 1992. He had built himself a house along the Highworth Road and let Northam to the army.

I last saw my aunt Ethel in 1980, when she lay dying in St Margaret's Hospital, Swindon. She had been a power in the village, feared by some, but she was a good, kind person, who remained single; my mother said that she had been somehow prevented by her father from marrying a local farmer. She served her father and brother most of her life, but her father's will left nearly all to her brother, although she did inherit the cottage next door.

During the war I flew a Spitfire to Watchfield, borrowed a bicycle and went to see uncle Leonard. Afterwards I flew over the farm, and he was standing in Home Field waving his handkerchief. That was the last time I saw him. Cowleaze Farm is now a private house. The road is closed where the level crossing used to be and has been re-named Stainswick Lane. Plum Tree House is now named The Old House. Perhaps the plum trees died. Shrivenham Station was closed long ago, and Shrivenham is now in Oxfordshire. However, even with all these changes, without the vehicles in the high street it would appear largely unchanged in 80 years. The plan to restore the old canal is good news.

On my return from South Africa in 1959 I re-established contact with Ethel and Will Knapp, but I did not develop an interest in family history until after they and my mother had passed on. All that family knowledge is lost for ever. My mother was Hilda May Knapp born in Shrivenham in 1894. Her father, Alfred, was born in 1864 and came from a long line of Knapps in Shrivenham. I have traced the family back to John, born about 1710. Oswald Greenway Knapp MA wrote *A history of the chief English families bearing the name Knapp* published in 1911. He also was unable to find John Knapp's forbears, but said that "he was probably an otherwise unrecorded son of George Knapp of Shrivenham" without giving reasons for this opinion.

There is one family tradition that two Knapp brothers who were stonemasons came

from Oxfordshire to Shrivenham in the late seventeenth century, being granted a piece of land at Becket manor on which to build a cottage. The manor house had burnt down about that time, and maybe their skills were needed. My uncle Will's version had the family fleeing from Abingdon to Shrivenham during the Civil War. He also said that there are portraits of early Knapps hanging in the council chamber in Abingdon, but neither of these ideas can be substantiated. There is a history of Knapps in nearby Kingston Lisle going back to the sixteenth century, and more recently in Fernham and Longcot.

The truth of John's forbears may never be known. I have not come across anyone else who is researching the family. A book called

Shrivenham: portrait of a typically English village contains several references to Knapps who were related and known to me. I have 309 Knapps in my skeleton chart, but I have not yet attempted to trace any but the main line, and many siblings in each generation have not been followed up.

For 300 years most of the Knapp men of this branch were bricklayers, stonemasons and builders. Grandfather's brother, uncle Joe, also had a builders' business in the high street. There was a rift between Alfred and Joe, possibly because they were business rivals. There are many houses, some churches and other buildings around West Berkshire which are lasting monuments to their skill.



Smallpox vaccination registers

**Jean Debney
examines an under-used
genealogical resource:
the smallpox vaccination registers
of nineteenth-century Britain**

Until 1977 smallpox was a worldwide and untreatable infectious disease which killed about 30 per cent of its victims, leaving survivors scarred or maimed for life. Caused by a virus, *variola major*, it is spread by droplet infection, developing about 10-12 days after contact, and it is still untreatable today. *Variola minor* is a mild form of the disease.

The origin of smallpox is uncertain, but it may have started in Africa and spread into India and China over 1,000 years ago. It reached mainland Europe in the eighteenth century, causing numerous epidemics in towns and cities, where it killed about a fifth of both rich and poor.

In China and ancient Greece it was recognised that survivors did not become re-infected. By the early 1700s the Chinese practice of variolation – inoculation against smallpox by blowing powdered scabs into the nostrils – had reached Turkey. Although variolation caused a mild illness, it gave immunity to smallpox on recovery.

In 1717 variolation was noticed by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, wife of the British ambassador in Turkey. She was scarred from smallpox in 1715, and also lost a brother to the disease. Her son was successfully inoculated and, when she returned home to England, she introduced the practice to the nobility.

In 1720 some children and prisoners were successfully inoculated by inserting the

smallpox under the skin. The practice spread, and newspapers carried advertisements for private establishments offering vaccination and nursing to the wealthy.

Edward Jenner (1749 - 1823), an English physician from Gloucester, noted in 1770 that dairymaids who had had cowpox were immune to smallpox. In 1796 he innoculated eight-year-old James Phipps with cowpox, and six weeks later the boy was immune to smallpox. Jenner published his findings in 1798, calling his method vaccination, from the

Latin, *vacca*, a cow.

A Parliamentary grant in 1802 set up the Royal Jennerian Society (1803 - 1805), which offered free vaccination to the London poor. Smallpox deaths fell by a third.

In Hungerford a resolution was made in 1811 “that vaccination by cowpox is less violent and more effective than by natural smallpox, and all parishioners are strongly recommended to use it ...”

Between 1837 and 1840 there was a severe smallpox epidemic in Britain, leading to an Act in 1840 to provide vaccination on demand from the Poor Law medical officer. The following year Parliament confirmed that this should not pauperise anyone. An Act of 1853 made vaccination compulsory for all infants under six months; another in 1871 appointed vaccination officers, and required registrars to give them monthly returns of all infant births and deaths. Parents who refused to have their children vaccinated

Innoculation

*John Monckton, surgeon and apothecary in Pangbourne acquaints his friends and the public in general that his houses will again be opened for the reception of patients under innoculation on Monday 17th October when those persons who chuse to put themselves under his care may depend on being duly attended.
Any family will be waited on at their house.*

NB. Poor people within three miles of Pangbourne will be innoculated gratis.

Advertisement in Reading Mercury, 7 October 1776

were to be fined 25s, with prison for non-payment. But despite this, another epidemic in 1870-72 killed about 40,000, a tenth of whom had not been vaccinated. The reasons for non-vaccination were many; they included opposition on the grounds that it was an invasion of privacy or against religion, and of course apathy and ignorance about preventative medicine.

A conscience clause was included in the 1898 Vaccination Act and, although a valid vaccination certificate was vital to obtain life insurance, rent property or get a job, over 200,000 exemptions were issued in the first year.

Measures to prevent the spread of smallpox included setting up isolation hospitals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The powers regarding vaccination (which had devolved on the Poor Law unions) were

The relevant records are:

- Vaccination committee minute books
- Vaccination registers recording name, date and place of birth; sex; father's name and occupation (or mother if illegitimate); when registered; date and recipient of vaccination notice; date of successful vaccination, or insusceptibility, or had smallpox; date of death (if under 12 months old)
- Vaccination officer's report book
- Returns to central authority
- Contracts with public vaccinators
- Prosecution papers (from 1867)
- Assessment committee books
- Miscellaneous papers in parish or poor law union records, eg printed notices, newspaper notices about availability of vaccination
- Duplicate vaccination (birth), normally without the mother's name, may be among medical officer of health records in CROs
- Local newspaper advertisements re availability of vaccination
- Printed notices and posters
- Correspondence between the clerk of the poor law unions and others with the poor law commissioners, later board, in London (The National Archives MH 12, 1834 - 1909, indexed by subject in MH 15 1836 - 1920)

eventually transferred to the medical officers of county and county borough councils under the Local Government Act 1929. Surviving records may be found in county record offices (CROs), and references to isolation hospitals also occur in census returns. In 1977 some vaccination papers and other records were destroyed after compliance with the rules of the British Record Association (BRO Poor Law Guide, p5).

A global campaign by the World Health Organisation between 1956 and 1977 eradicated smallpox, and in 1980 it declared that vaccination was no longer required. Two remaining samples of virus are stored in laboratories in America and Russia for future research. There is thought to be a slight risk that some might get into terrorist hands.

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Poor law union records pts 1-3. Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers. (Fed FHS, 1993 - 2004)
Population tables: series compiled from enumerators' reports in census returns 1801 - 2001 (Parliamentary papers, various dates) Dewey no. 312.0942F
Encyclopaedia Britannica: entries for smallpox, vaccination, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Edward Jenner
Dictionary of genealogical sources in the Public Record Office. Stella Colwell. (Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd 1992)

Surviving vaccination papers in Berkshire are:

Abingdon	vac regs	1883 - 1910	G/A 11/1-7
Bradfield	vac regs	1871 - 1881	G/B 45/1-2
Stratfield Mortimer and Tilehurst			
	vac regs	1871 - 1872	G/B 45/1
		1879 - 1891	G/B 45/2
Cookham (Maidenhead)			
	vac regs	1892 - 1899	G/M 11/1-4
Wallingford	vac regs		
Cholsey		1889 - 1917	G/W 17/1-6
Dorchester OXF		1888 - 1906	G/W 18/1-3
Wantage	vac regs and reports		
		1902 - 1923	
		1872 - 1925	G/Wt
Wokingham	vac regs	1902 - 1923	G/Wo
None for Easthampstead, Faringdon, Hungerford, Newbury, Reading or Windsor			

Cold Ash a parish portrait

**Tony Higgott,
former curator of West Berkshire
Museum, paints a picture of his home
village of Cold Ash**

Cold Ash appears as a modern development strung out along the road from Thattham to Hermitage, but people have been living here for many centuries. The earliest reference to the name is in 1594, and several buildings survive from before 1800, but as an independent administrative area Cold Ash is quite young. The ecclesiastical parish was carved from that of Thattham in 1868. (St Mark's church dates from 1865.) The civil parish was formed in 1894, containing 1,928 acres. This incorporated the settlements of Ashmore Green and parts of Henwick, Long Lane and Shaw Fields. Later boundary adjustments removed Shaw Fields and added Bucklebury Alley.

The gravel plateau of Cold Ash produces a poor soil, unsuitable for arable farming. The land would have been heath, similar to Snelsmore Common today. It was part of the common land of the manor of Thattham, and commoners' rights would have included grazing for livestock, acorns for pigs, sand and gravel-digging, gathering of gorse and small wood (for fuel), bracken (for bedding livestock

and humans) and heather (for thatching).

Ashmore Green was another area of common land, and its name may indicate that there was once a large pond or mere there. It seems likely to have been good grazing, giving rise to the appellation.

In addition to cottages built on the common there were several farms in the lower areas of the parish. Reading Abbey built a house at Henwick around 1141, and it is believed that there was a village there in medieval times. In 1540, subsequent to the dissolution of the monasteries, the manor of Thattham was granted to John Winchcombe. When his son Henry inherited Henwick in 1557 it was treated as a manor in its own right, distinct from Thattham.

By the early nineteenth century there was an established population, mostly employed in agriculture or forestry. The tithe award (1840)¹ and enclosure (1852)² maps indicate that there had been several encroachments on Cold Ash Common and Ashmore Green, where squatters had formed enclosures and built homes. No doubt their buildings had later been



regularised by payment of fines to the manorial court. The 1852 Act enclosed both commons, and distributed ownership of the land amongst those who held commoners' rights. Boundaries and roadways were legally delineated, creating the layout we recognise today. The tithe award is of particular interest to the family historian, as every building and plot of land is shown, naming both owner and occupier, and thus connecting people to specific property. The enclosure map also provides names.

During the nineteenth century there was a great move from the countryside into towns by people seeking a better standard of life. As towns grew more crowded, and the smoke and fumes of industry developed, wealthier members of society wanted to move out to areas like Cold Ash, whose elevation gave it a reputation for health. From the mid-nineteenth century a number of large private houses were built on the high ground, and amongst the first to move here was the Rev John Bacon with his wife and daughter in 1876. Rev J Bacon never practised as a parish priest, although he helped at Shaw church. The benefits he brought to the inhabitants of the parish and his scientific experiments have been well documented.³

In 1886 Miss Agnes Bowditch set up a convalescent home in her house in Hermitage Road, and later built a children's hospital⁴ in the grounds. Many of the patients (from London and elsewhere) suffered from respiratory illness, and the fresh air helped their recovery. There were beds on open balconies. The hospital closed in 1964. Hill House School was built around 1870, but in 1886 the Church of England bought it for use as St Mary's girls' home. During the twentieth century its role changed to training nursery nurses, and it closed in 1980. Apart from providing local employment, these two institutions had an unexpected effect on the village; they attracted young nurses to work in Cold Ash, and several stayed, having married local men.

*Cold Ash Children's Hospital c 1930.
Courtesy West Berkshire Museum 2004.50.19*



Lady Alice Fitzwilliam moved to the village in 1906, and by 1912 had built a new house, St Finian's, on The Ridge. Two years later she used it as a school for poor Roman Catholic girls, and later gave it to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The name of the convent was changed to St Gabriel's in 1929, although the school continues under the name of St Finian's. Another religious group, the Order of Silence, built extensive premises off Hermitage Road in 1913, but moved to Burton Bradstock, Dorset in 1921. The buildings were then purchased for Downe House School for girls.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw a continuation of the building of substantial houses in the parish, and several senior military and titled people came to live at Cold Ash. In addition to employing domestic staff, these large houses and institutions provided a range of service opportunities. By 1904 there were four grocers' shops (two were also bakers), builders, carriers collecting goods from Newbury, and in 1910 three people are listed



Downe House School, senior girls with the principal, Miss Olive Willis, 1922/3. (Cloister in background was built for the Order of Silence.) Courtesy West Berkshire Museum 1998.65.27

as providing laundry services. In 50 years the village had changed from a poor rural community of farms and cottages to something much more prosperous and sophisticated, and in the later twentieth century yet more house-building took place. The population was 792 in 1891, 1,160 in 1921 and 3,623 in 2001.

Apart from obvious sources for the family historian, there are a number of helpful publications. *A Cold Ash diary* is primarily extracts from the *Newbury Weekly News*, researched and collated by Reg Piper. In five volumes (484 pages) this covers 1865 - 1945, but unfortunately it has no index. Reference copies are in West Berkshire Museum and West Berkshire Library. Another is *Cold Ash and Ashmore Green road by road* by Roy Brian Tubb, 1994 (second edition 2004).

These two contain many references to specific people as well as events and buildings. Thatcham Historical Society members have transcribed the gravestone inscriptions in Cold Ash churchyard, the monuments inside the church, and the gravestone inscriptions in Thatcham Cemetery, which includes Cold Ash parishioners. Both of these are on CD. Berks FHS Library has a photocopy of the register of burials in Cold Ash churchyard 1865 - 1944 (giving addresses of the deceased); a grave plan is displayed in the church.

1 BRO. Thatcham tithe award (1840): map MF 97066 IR 30/2/130.

2 BRO. Thatcham enclosure (1852): map Q/RDc 95B: award Q/RDc 95A.

3 West Berkshire Library holds Gertrude Bacon's biography of her father.

4 BRO. Cold Ash Hospital : admissions register 1934-63 C/ER 62/1,2: sanatorium log books 1917-64 C/EL 106/1,2

Names, ranks and numbers

***John Chapman,
who recently joined the society, has served
Purley on parish and district councils for many
years, and is a trustee of The Wardrobe. Here
he clears a path through the thicket of military
archives for family historians, with particular
reference to the museum's database on the
Royal Berkshire Regiment.***

There are probably more records for soldiers than for all other occupations put together. The problem is knowing where to look; military history is more concerned with groups than individuals, so if you can associate your relative with a group you can find out more by inference.

In 1992 at the University of Reading we began looking at three battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment in the First World War, gathering information from a variety of sources and indexing names. Now we have a database of 82,000 men and over 115,000 references, covering the Royal Berkshire Regiment and its predecessors, the 49th and 66th of Foot. These records run from 1795 to 1921, when army numbers were introduced. Also included are men from Berkshire who fought in the First World War with no obvious

connection with the Royal Berks, but who appeared in sources we were indexing anyway.

Where to start? Three handbooks are an excellent place to begin. Michael and Christopher Watts published their *My Ancestor was in the British Army* in 1992, and Norman Holding published his two books on First World War ancestry in 1982 and 1986. All are readily available and have been updated. The crucial question is, which regiment? The National Archives have provided an excellent finding aid in their online medal roll index, but it gives only basic information, and if your relative has a common name you will have great difficulty in picking out the right man.

If you know the number and regiment you can start on regimental records. However, it is a common misconception that once given a

number and allocated to a regiment, a soldier sticks with these until he leaves the army. Even in peacetime this was a fallacy; men regularly changed regiments and got renumbered. Many men signed on for 12 years, serving seven with the Colours and then five in the reserve, often acquiring a new number. In some regiments men changed numbers when moving from one battalion to another, but usually in these cases the battalion number was prefixed, eg 14/3765 (in this case the London Scottish which was the 14th Battalion, London Regiment). In wartime men were moved from one regiment to another, often in very large batches as one regiment was used to replenish the losses of another. After the carnage of 1916 the War Office ensured that units were as mixed as possible to avoid the dreadful situation where the menfolk of a complete village died together.

When the First World War started most regiments had three different number series running in parallel, the regulars, the Territorials and the reservists. This got very confusing, and in 1917 all the Territorials were renumbered into a 200,000 series. It was not uncommon for a man to have held as many as seven different numbers during the war, and to have served in three or four different regiments.

Often the best place to start is the regimental museum; pretty well every regiment has one somewhere. That of the Royal Berkshires is at Salisbury, serving also its predecessors and its successors, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and now the 1st Rifles.

Regimental museums are likely to hold copies of war diaries, personal diaries and papers and books on their regiments but, more important, there will be someone there who can help you. Many museums are now digitising their records, making research a lot easier. However, spelling was not a soldier's strong point, and names were often written down as heard, bearing little relation to the

spelling on the birth certificate.

If your relative was an officer there is usually a lot of information available, and The National Archives will likely have a complete file on him. The records for the other ranks are usually to be found in lists, and you can usually find out where and when he enlisted and when and why he was discharged. Occasionally day-to-day records survive, which give embarkation dates, pay rises and punishments.

Our database is particularly valuable, for not only have we indexed virtually all the Royal Berks records in the national and regimental archives, we have also included many contemporary newspaper references and material from many other sources. A great deal of effort has been expended to link these references together, despite a plethora of numbers and spelling differences, with about 95 per cent accuracy in identification.

Go to the museum website at <www.thewardrobe.org.uk>, where there is a guest book with hundreds of entries of comment, questions and answers. There are also transcripts of all the war diaries of the several battalions from both world wars. These are published, along with medal rolls, and copies have been provided to Reading Central Library and a few other libraries.

We get queries in from all over the world, and often get quite generous donations in return for information. Many of our enquirers have diaries, letters and photographs, which we scan to add to the collection. What we are attempting is like doing a ten-million piece jigsaw, for which we have only a thousand or so pieces to start. As time goes by we glean information from almost every enquirer, and thus new jigsaw pieces which we can slot into place.

The picture that emerges is quite different from official military accounts. These were usually written by senior officers, miles from the scene, whereas the family material is written by someone who was there; no big picture perhaps, but a sharp eye for detail.

I think it is fair to claim that our museum is way ahead of all the other military museums in digitising and analysing its information, and it is just waiting to hear from you.

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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.

From **Vicky Heaviside**

I wonder if anyone is related to, or has researched, the **Marks family, bakers and publicans of Bray** during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There seem to have been a considerable number of them and, having run out of the more direct routes to finding a birth certificate for my paternal grandmother, Daisy Matilda Lamb, I am trying to trace her through her relationship to the Marks family.

She was with them as a visitor for the 1891 census when she was recorded as nine years old and born in Salisbury, which I have been unable to confirm. She was a servant in Holyport for the 1901 census, and married Harry Quinton, a Lancer from Ipswich, in York 1906 (her father is given as Charles Lamb, teacher, deceased), and had a somewhat precipitate child, before returning to Thames House for the birth of her second. Her story then is rather tragic. Her third child died young, and by the time my father was born (1913), Harry had left the family. In fact, only last year, I discovered that he went to Australia, remarried and had another four children.

In the early 1920s, my father cycled down to the Albion Pub at Bray, presumably because he thought he would be welcomed, or perhaps

my grandmother sent him. But he was given a glass of water and sent back home to Paddington! Was Daisy an “indiscretion” of one of the Marks? I wonder if anyone has come across her. Thank you.

from **Connie Wood** (2187)

Can anyone help with my search for Robert Hugh Wood, born Paddington, March 1885? On the 1901 census he is with father and siblings at Bedford Road, Reading, listed as 16 and a stable lad, groom. My husband remembers visiting a Wood family in Derby Street in the late 1920s and early 1930s, where there was a son Robert who worked in the Post Office. Many thanks.

In a separate message Connie Wood also wrote:

Mention was made in the *Historian* (June 2007) of the need to transcribe cemetery headstones while they are still in existence. Here in New Zealand we do the same, and the Waimakariri Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists has just completed a six-year task of transcribing all 26 cemeteries in a widespread country area. Some of these were quite small, in out-of-the way places, resulting from difficulty of travel among scattered communities in the earlier days, and others were large, taking many hours and many

hands to record.

These records were made by about 45 members and friends walking up and down the rows, and the results were then combined with the local council's plot plans, the registers of some of the churches of all faiths, museums and archive records and also records of the local funeral director. Checking and double checking took quite a time.

With a setting-up grant from the society and the huge amount of work from a few clever members, a CD was produced covering 17,200 names. At a function to launch the CD the original run of supplies sold out – a very good effort from a branch of about 60 members. The CD can still be bought from the Treasurer, Waimakariri Branch, NZSG, 14 Golding Avenue, Rangiora, North Canterbury, New Zealand for £10, which includes postage.

from **Peter Spooner**

I am writing to enquire if the following certificates would be of interest to members of the society. I obtained them partly because I was looking for the wedding of a William J Chaplin, and also because my parents moved from Guildford to Wokingham in the late

1960s, and I thought that it would be a coincidence if I had had ancestors in Wokingham. Unfortunately neither appears to relate to my family members.

1) Mary Ann Chaplin, died 10/09/1867 Wokingham aged 8 weeks. Daughter of Thomas Chaplin, Sarah Chaplin present at death and maybe mother.

2) Marriage of William John Chaplin and Ellen (?) on the 18 October 1879 at St John's Church Reading.

My great uncle William Benjamin Chaplin moved from Guildford to Berkshire, but this was about 1900. In 1901 he was living in High Street, Windsor. It is my understanding that he worked for Russell's Photographers in Windsor, and became a manager. He married Emily Langton Cooper in Windsor in 1902 and they had at least one child, Phoebe, born in 1907. I have been told that Phoebe went on to run a school of dance, I assume in Windsor.

A helpful hint from Jean Debney ***from the Online Discussion Group***

Anyone struggling with American census returns which are very difficult to decipher because there are so many columns of information may like to go to <www.familysearch.org> and click on Search
select Research Helps
select C
select census
scroll to US Census Worksheets
select a year between 1790-1920
click on printable (PDF) version
print out a blank form on which the various

column headings (questions asked) can be easily read. Bingo.

Follow the same method to find blank census forms for Canada 1851 - 1901.

There's lots more to discover on these pages and they're worth exploring for English records too.

Gleanings

from exchange magazines

These articles are available in either hard copy or electronic file for up to two years. For hard copies, send your request with a SAE (min 11 x 22 cm) and two loose stamps to Exchange Magazines, Berks FHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. For electronic copies, apply to <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>. In both cases please supply both the issue number of the Historian and full details of the title and source of the Gleaning.

Daphne Spurling

Playford Church. Suffolk FHS, vol 32, no 4, March 2007

Photo editing. Details of a good online tutorial. Dorset FHS, vol 20, no 2, March 2007

City of Westminster Archives Centre. London Westminster & Middlesex FHS, vol 29, no 3, April 2007

Village communities. Contrasts “open” and “closed” villages, the latter being one in which all land is owned by one individual. East Yorks FHS, no 110, April 2007

Spotlight on Rillington & Scampstony – resources in the Beverley Treasure House. East Yorks FHS, no 110, April 2007

Spotlight on Paull. East Yorks FHS, no 110, April 2007

Somerset snapshot – Isle Abbots. Somerset & Dorset FHS, vol 32, no 2, May 2007

The poor of Rotherfield Greys in the eighteenth century, Pt 2: Bastardy bonds. Oxfordshire FHS, vol 21, no 1, April 2007

Some notes on the origins of the Druces; a family concentrated in Oxon, Bucks and Berks. Oxfordshire FHS, vol 21, no 1, April 2007

Feature parish – St Nicholas, Aberdeen. Aberdeen and NW Scotland FHS, no 103, May 2007

Pre-1800 poor law records in Lancashire Record Office. Society of Genealogists Journal, vol 29, no 1, March 2007

The young and tender transplanted to strengthen: Mormon immigrants from the British Isles. Society of Genealogists Journal, vol 29, no 1, Dec 2006

The Guild of One-Name Studies. Society of Genealogists Journal, vol 29, no 1, Dec 2006

My reminiscences of [the village of] Baldwin 1887-1957. Isle of Man FHS, May, Sept and Nov 2006 and Feb 2007

Spotlight on Foxhall. Isle of Man, vol XXXIX, no 1, Feb 2007

St Mary the Virgin, Otley. Very detailed including photographs and several lists of residents from 1638. Suffolk FHS, vol 33, no 1, June 2007

Wills of Hertfordshire labourers in the PCC 1383-1858. Hertfordshire FHS, no 101, June 2007

Dr Williams's library and family history.
Hertfordshire FHS, no 101, June 2007

Cover talk – Calstock parish. Cornwall FHS,
no 124, June 2007



Sources for labourers in an agricultural
community. Some Hertfordshire sources, most
general. Hertfordshire FHS, no 101, June 2007

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Bookends

Prices include p&p within UK.
Please contact bookshop for
overseas p&p.

Jean Debney

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Researching military history on the internet – the British army and the armies of the Commonwealth, Empire and Dominions. Dr Stuart C Blank (Alwyn Enterprises Ltd, 2007) A5 flexiback. 135pp. Index. ISBN 0-9554136-0-5. £14.50

The author, a freelance professional military researcher for many years, covers in 14 chapters the British and Commonwealth armies, wars, history, associations, medals, museums, etc, plus six useful appendices and an index. The numerous subsections are itemised in the contents, enabling you to

identify which will be of most interest. Each subsection includes a website and a brief description of its contents. Because most family historians have someone who served in the military – often the First World War – this book will be very useful.

LOCAL HISTORY

Chieveley (remembered). Bill Martin. (Trafford Publishing, 2006) 152mm x 229mm flexiback. 211pp. ISBN 142510246-8. £11.02

Chieveley is a large parish four miles north of Newbury in west Berkshire. What started as

a book about the author's memories of the village over 70 years has, with the help of his wife and a local friend, escalated into 79 short chapters of anecdotes, facts and memories. Illustrated with eight pages of photographs in the middle of the book, this is a good read for anyone interested in the (relatively) recent history of the village.

The history of Maidenhead. Bob Crew. (Breedon Books Publishing Co Ltd, 2007) A5 hardback. 120pp. ISBN 978-1-85983-562-3. £10.51

The dust-jacket on this book is a pretty blue with coloured photographs of Maidenhead, but inside there are no illustrations at all, nor is there an index. The last page has a bibliography of publications used by the author when writing what he describes as a "generalised broad-brush approach" to local history aimed at families rather than academics. No doubt there is plenty of information to be found inside the covers in the various chapters chronicling events, but it is peppered with the author's opinionated asides, and the text would be much improved by the insertion of maps and illustrations.

Exploring Winnersh now and then. Winnersh & District Local History Society Research Group (Winnersh and District Historical Society, 2006) A5 flexiback. 64pp. ISBN 0-9549905-1-X. £4.35

This is the second publication by this society, and it takes the form of four walks round the village of Winnersh, which lies between Reading and Wokingham. Formerly a chapelry of Hurst, Winnersh includes Sindlesham and Bear Wood, extending south from Loddon Bridge to beyond the M4. It became a civil parish in 1896. Each walk has a readable hand-drawn map, and the historical notes are illustrated on every page with a clear black and white photograph. Five researchers are named in the acknowledgements and sources on the back page, and they are to be congratulated on this well-written and produced publication.

RESEARCH AIDS

Tracing your family history: easy steps to discovering your roots. Anthony Adolph. (HarperCollins, 2007) A5 flexiback. 191pp. ISBN 978-0-00-723545-2 £11.83

Ten colour-coded chapters guide the beginner gently through the stages so necessary to follow to ensure your research is accurate. The text is supplemented by numerous illustrations, information text boxes and websites as well as case histories. This is an attractive, easy and interesting "how-to-do-it" publication written by a professional researcher with plenty of hands-on experience.

MAPS

Cassini historical maps. Popular edition (blue cover). ISBN 978-1-84736- ... £7.59
Cassini has now produced a third set of historical maps to the usual high standard. This series contains colour reproductions of the Ordnance Survey One-Inch Popular edition maps first published 1919 - 1926. As previously, they have been digitally scanned, enlarged and re-projected in the same format to match the Ordnance Survey Landranger series. The series total 123 maps, covering England and Wales.

Cassini Old Series 1805-1874 (red cover). First edition Old Series Ordnance Survey maps, covering England and Wales (123 altogether). ISBN 1905568 ... £7.09

Cassini Past and Present 1822 to present day. Four maps (green cover)). 16 titles available. Urban areas only: see list in *Berkshire Family Historian*, March 2007, p31. ISBN 1847361 ... £8.59

The BerksFHS Bookshop holds copies of maps relating to Berkshire, but all other Cassini maps can be ordered by type and Landranger number, allowing time for delivery.

BerksFHS Bookshop

The bookshop is on the ground floor of the Research Centre and has the same opening hours. The stock (in print, fiche and electronic formats) includes all Berks FHS publications, as well as many other publications on Berkshire family and local history. The most popular titles are listed in the centre pages of this journal, with details of purchasing and payment options.

SPECIAL OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST

Dating nineteenth-century photographs. ISBN 1-86006-188-5

Dating twentieth-century photographs. ISBN 1-86006-1915

A5 flexibacks published by Federation of Family History Society (Publications) Ltd, 2005. The titles (both by Robert Pols) are self-explanatory, covering Victorian family portraits and modern amateur snapshots. The images are arranged between the text and useful appendices, not chronologically, but thematically.

Originally priced at £5.95 and £6.50
Buy both for £10.42 inc UK p&p

Members' Services

The membership year runs from 1 July - 30 June. Please see the website for rates. Please advise any changes of address, phone number etc to the membership secretary, Berkshire FHS at the Reading address below.

Research Centre

Berks FHS Research Centre
Yeomanry House
131 Castle Hill
Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ

The Research Centre is 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading, next door to the Berkshire Record Office and in the same building as the Reading Register Office. Follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office. There is ample free parking.

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, 19.00 - 21.30

Wednesdays and Thursdays

10.00 - 16.00

2nd and 4th Sundays each month

11.00 - 16.00

All staff on duty are volunteers who help researchers in the centre, but they do not carry out research for the visitors.

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. The Ancestry Library edition is the .com version (much larger than .co.uk) which includes data from north American and other countries, making it much more useful to researchers.

Berkshire Name Suite (BNS)

This is the master index on the computers, comprising the following databases:

- **Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871** (both complete but mainly unchecked) and **1881**
- **Berkshire Marriage Index**
Over 95,000 entries from pre-1837 Berkshire parish registers. Note that the early entries only give dates and names of groom and bride. Later entries include parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.
- **Berkshire Burial Index (BBI)**
Over 510,000 entries to date. About half show all the data available. The rest show (as available) name, age, relationship, occupation and title plus 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 BBI is available on CD-ROM from the bookshop.
- **Berkshire Strays Index**
20,500 Berkshire people recorded in events outside the county. No further additions are being made to this index.
- **Berkshire Miscellaneous Index**
100,279 disparate records extracted and submitted by individuals.

Other electronic databases

- **LDS Vital Records Indexes** for the UK and some other parts of Europe
- **Census returns of 1861, 1871, 1891** for some counties including London 1891 census

- **Census return for 1881 for all UK** including the Channel Isles, and the Royal Navy
- **National Burial Index** second edition
- **Local trade directories** from 1830 onwards

Library

The library's holdings total about 7,000 items. Most are on Berkshire, but there is a miscellany of material on most other English counties, plus Wales, Scotland, Ireland, north America and the Antipodes.

Major items and series include:

International Genealogical Index on fiche (1988) for Great Britain

1851 census return indexes for most English and Welsh counties

CD-ROMS of **Berkshire MIs, overseers' papers, militia lists, directories**

Local history and genealogy books for other UK counties, Scotland, Ireland and some other countries

General reference section of how-to-do-it books including Poor Law, surnames, photographs, local history, education, poll books, National Index of Parish Registers, military

Directories: biographical, trade, professional, military, clerical and school
Published family histories/pedigrees and a large number of donated hand-written documents

Berkshire Family Historian from 1975 to the present day

Berkshire census returns for 1851 to 1881 on film

Exchange Magazine Archive

five to seven year files of other family history societies' journals

Published Berkshire parish register transcripts are listed on the website. These are mainly for pre-1974 Berkshire and include north Berkshire (now Oxfordshire).

Research Centre tours 2007

The next tour is to held be on Saturday 15 September 2007, 14.30 to 16.30. The last tour of the year will be held on Monday 19 November, 19.30 to 21.30.

Search options

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

Postal searches and charges

The cost for searching one surname in the **Berkshire Name Suite** is currently £5. For searching one surname in one database (from those listed on page 33) only the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a printout of up to 25 lines of results.

A search of **indexes to the 1851 census for other counties**, with printout of results, may range from £3 to £10 according to media. Please check in the online library catalogue first to ensure that the county you want is stocked.

Please send your search request to the address on page 32 giving:

- your membership number
 - email/telephone details
 - a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough for several A4 sheets (2 x IRCs if writing from overseas)
 - a bank draft or sterling cheque drawn on a London clearing bank
- and mark your envelope BNS or OCCI, depending upon the database you wish to search.

Records wanted

If you have records of any names that would fit into the Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (event occurs within pre- and post-1974 Berkshire), please send them by post to the address on page 32 or by email to <miscscindex@berksfhs.org.uk>.

Members' Interests

New members are invited to list the surnames/places/dates of their current family history research for inclusion in the Members' Interests Directory, which may be searched online. Existing members may update their interests at any time by writing to the membership secretary at <members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk> or at the address on the inside front cover.

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.

5895 ABSOLOM Wallingford BRK 1825+	3443 EDWARDS
6297 ALDRIDGE	Bungay SFK 1700-1850
all HAM 1780+	6358 FIRTH Pentney pre1870
6297 ALDRIDGE	3443 FREEBORN
Wokingham BRK 1870+	Maplestead ESS 1700-1850
5895 ATKINS Benson OXF 1840+	6358 FRENCH Hadstock ESS pre1860
5895 ATKINS Wallingford BRK 1830+	6349 GAU(C)KRO(D)GER
6358 AUCOTT Hinkley LEI All	Halifax WRY pre1800
6349 BALDWIN Halifax WRY pre1800	6343 GERRING Gt Coxwell BKM 1800-1900
6349 BARKSHIRE	6343 GERRING Coleshill BKM 1750-1900
all HAM pre1800	6358 GITTINS Montglohery pre1870
6343 BELCHER Goosey BKM 1700-1900	6349 GLADDEN All DEV pre1800
6343 BELCHER Stanford in the Vale	6349 GLIDDEN All DEV pre1800
BKM 1615-1900	4141 GODFREY Long Wittenham
6343 BELCHER Denchworth BKM 1570-1800	BRK 1860-1900
6358 BENDING Bristol 1845+	4141 GODFREY Milton BRK 1700-1900
6349 BERKSHIRE	4141 GODFREY Steventon BRK 1800-1920
All HAM pre1800	4141 GREENAWAY
6349 BINTCLIFFE	Steventon BRK 1700-1850
Halifax WRY pre1800	4141 GROVE Steventon BRK 1700-1850
4141 BLIZZARD	3443 HARRIS Beedon BRK 1500-1750
Appleton with Eaton	4141 HARVEY Sutton Courtenay
BRK 1700-1850	BRK 1600-1750
5164 BOUCHER Preshute WIL 1700+	5895 HAWES Reading BRK 1850+
5164 BOUCHER Fyfield WIL 1700+	3443 HILLIER Bath SOM 1800-1850
5164 BOWSHER Fyfield WIL 1700+	6349 HOPTON All GLS pre1800
5164 BOWSHER Preshute WIL 1700+	6375 JEFFERY All LIN 1800-1880
6358 BRONSON	6343 KENT Bourton BKM 1600-1850
Trowbridge WIL pre1850	6343 KENT Bishopstone
3443 BROTHERS	WIL 1600-1850
Beedon BRK 1500-1750	6371 LAWRENCE
3443 BROUGHTON	All BRK 1850-1950
Mile End Old Town	5895 LIPSCOMB(E)
MDX 1800-1850	Hurley BRK 1730+
3443 BROUGHTON	5895 LIPSCOMB(E)
Norwich City	Harmondsworth
NFK 1700-1800	MDX 1795+
6358 BRUNSEN Trowbridge WIL pre1850	4141 LYFORD Steventon BRK 1650-1875
5164 BUCKINGHAM	6349 MICKLE All OXF pre1800
Tetbury GLO 1600+	6343 MORSE Gt Coxwell BKM 1700-1800
5164 BUCKINGHAM	3443 NEALE Reading BRK 1500-1800
Comton Dando	6375 NELSON All LDN 1800-1920
SOM 1800+	6349 NEWMAN Purton WIL pre 1800
3443 BUTLER East Ilsley BRK 1500-1750	5164 PALMER Newbury/Speen
5164 CARTER Finchampstead	BRK 1700+
BRK 1870+	3443 PEACOCK Queen Hythe
3443 CHARTERS	LDN 1500-1830
Westminster MDX 1700-1850	5895 PEARCE Henley on Thames
3443 COX Bermondsey SRY 1750-1870	OXF 1824+
5895 CROOK Eton BRK 1826+	6343 PINNELL Shellingford BKM 1750-1850
6375 CROUCHER	6199 RANDALL Appleford BRK 1787-1817
All IOW 1750-1900	6343 RICKARDS
5895 CULLAM Wallingford BRK 1795+	Longcot BKM 1560-1850
5895 CULLAM Reading BRK 1830+	3443 SAMAIN Shoreditch MDX 1700-1825
5895 CULLUM Wallingford BRK 1795+	5164 SAUNDERS
5895 CULLUM Reading BRK 1830+	Tadley HAM all
6371 DAY all BRK 1850-1950	

6343 SOUTHBIE	Longworth BKM 1600-1700	6358 VEZEY/VESEY	Ingatestone
6349 SPRINGALL	all BKM pre1800		ESS all
6358 STARR	Westminster	6358 VEZEY/VESEY	Cranham ESS all
	LDN 1860+	5895 WALKER	Sunningdale
6358 STARR	Linton CAM pre1880		BRK 1810+
6349 SUMMERSCALES	Halifax WRY pre1800	6349 WALKER	Swindon WIL pre1800
6375 TAYLOR	all LIN 1800-1880	5895 WALKER	Eton BRK 1810+
6349 TEGG	Pangbourne	3443 WEBB	Reading BRK 1500-1700
	BRK pre1800	3443 WEBB	Aldersgate LDN 1840-1900
6349 TEMPEST	Halifax WRY pre1800	5164 WESTALL	Boxford BRK 1800+
3443 TOOMBS	Cripplegate	5164 WESTALL	Stockcross
	LDN 1700-1800		BRK 1800+
6375 URRY	all IOW 1750-1900	6343 WILSON	Longcot BKM 1800-1900
6358 VEZEY/VESEY	Upminster ESS all	6349 WRIGHT	Caversham
			OXF pre 1800
		6371 YOUNG	all BRK 1850-1950

Birth Briefs

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 Birth Briefs Index, currently standing at 34,100 names, on www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs/index.htm or you can order a search by post for £2.

If you have an interest in a name on a Birth Brief you can order a copy (on paper, or as a digital file in either PAF Pedigree or GEDCOM) for £2.

Please post search requests and orders for copies to Berks FHS (BB), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. Enclose a sterling cheque, drawn on a UK bank, your email address and a self-addressed envelope, either stamped or containing 2 x IRCs.

Alternatively you may wish to contact the submitter. If, on the Birth Briefs Index pages, the BB ID is immediately followed by *post* the submitter can be contacted by mail. Write to the society marking your envelope BB. Please supply the BB name and ID number (from the website or postal search) that you are interested in, and your email address. You should also enclose

- a short introductory letter to the member
- a blank envelope for your message to be posted to the member concerned
- a self-addressed (unstamped) envelope for a reply from the member
- 3 stamps or 3 x IRCs (one for the letter to the member, one for a reply from the member and one as a donation to the society for this service).

Your letter will be forwarded. If the submitter is no longer a member, or cannot be contacted, one stamp/IRC will be returned to you. The only option then is to order a copy of the Birth Brief as above. If you do not receive a reply to your request within four weeks (eight weeks if the submitter does not live in the UK) please advise membercontact@berksfhs.org.uk.