

# Berkshire Family Historian

*for family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire*

## Contents      December 2007

### News

**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.**

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## Chairman's note

I do hope you have all enjoyed your summer break, despite the weather, and that you are now ready to enjoy all the family history events we have planned for you. This year's Bracknell Fair on 27 January 2008 will be bigger and better than ever, with six half-hour talks organised by Berks FHS in the Forest Suite at Bracknell Sports Centre.

We still need someone to help with the data entry side of BerksFHS Bookshop, and someone to order the books from the publishers. This would be an ideal job for two

friends to share. If you can help, or would like to know more, please do contact me.

I am sure you will all want to join me in sending our condolences to Ivan Dickason on the loss of his wife June, who passed away in mid October. She was always willing to help out around the Research Centre, and took on the job of sending out the bookshop mail orders at short notice. We will all miss her cheery smile.

**Jocie McBride**  
Chairman

### ***Berks FHS talks programme at Bracknell Family History Fair Sun 27 January 2008 at Bracknell Sports Centre***

**10.30 Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna**  
***Start your family history using the internet***

**11.30 Jean Debney**  
***Dating old photographs***  
Jean will be on the Berks FHS stall throughout the day to date your photographs.

**12.30 Jeanne Bunting**  
***Searching the census***

**13.30 Peter Durrant (from the Berkshire Record Office)**  
***Poor law (pre-1834 records)***

**14.30 David Chilton**  
***Tracing Victorian soldiers at TNA***  
David will be on the Berks FHS stall throughout the day to help with army research.

**15.30 Peter Christian**  
***The future of the internet for family historians***

**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*

**Spring Course 2008**  
**11th, 18th Feb, 3rd, 10th and 17th March 19.00 - 21.30**

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

£25 per person

book early  
<[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>

places are limited

## Berks FHS donations release old registers for archives

Berkshire Family History Society has donated new baptism and burial registers to Chaddleworth, East Challow, Denchworth, Farnborough, Leckhampstead and Peasemore parish churches, who in return have deposited their old registers in the Berkshire Record Office. The idea is to help small rural churches

with registers over 100 years old to release these old records for family history research.

If your church would like to take advantage of this offer please contact Peter Durrant at Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6AF.



*The Rev Anthony Hogg receiving new registers for East Challow and Denchworth churches from Jocie McBride, chairman of Berkshire Family History Society, having deposited the old registers with Peter Durrant, archivist of Berkshire Record Office.*

### **Do you pay your sub by standing order?**

If the answer is yes, you should by now have received a letter from the membership secretary advising you of the society's change of bank account.

If you have not received this letter please contact the membership secretary on <memsec@berksfhs.org.uk>, or by writing to the address on the inside front cover.

## ***In memory of June Dickason***

June died on 9 October 2007 in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. She had been ill for some time, and had recently suffered a stroke.

June had known her husband Ivan since they were 12, and they had been married for almost half a century. She joined the Berkshire Family History Society with Ivan in 1992, and she was an active member for many years. Between 1997 and 2002 she was the Library Assistants' Co-ordinator in our first Research Centre in Prospect Park School, Tilehurst, until it closed in July 1999, and she took up the reins again when we re-opened in our present premises at Yeomanry House, Reading. For many years she assisted Ivan doing look-ups in the census indexes, and more recently in dealing with various research enquiries from society members and others. For several years she and Ivan organised and took the Library Loans Service to the Reading Branch meetings, and later she dealt with the mail order service. Last summer she was busy in the Research Centre helping Ivan with stock checks in our bookshop.

In 2006 she registered her world-wide study of her maiden name Marden with the Guild of One-Name Studies.

Always cheerful and always smiling, June will be sadly missed by us all, and our thoughts and sympathies are with Ivan, their three sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

***Jean Debney***

## **Members' Handbook**

One member has reported a pagination fault in his copy of the Members' Handbook: pages 12 - 17 and 20 - 25 are out of sequence. It is hoped that this was a one-off, rogue copy, but please check yours. If it is faulty please return it to the society, and you will be sent a replacement.

## **TNA closures**

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew will be operating a number of service limitations in the coming months due to building work associated with the integration of material from Myddelton Street. There will be disruptions from autumn 2007 to spring 2008, including closure 1 - 16 December 2007 and 21 - 28 January 2008. Online services will not be affected. Confirmation of this and other details can be seen on [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). Visitors are advised to check in advance.

## **FamilyHistoryOnline links up with Findmypast**

FamilyHistoryOnline (FHO), the pay-per-view service of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS), is to join Findmypast to create a new search service combining both datasets.

The FHO database consists of submissions from local family history societies. These genealogical records will be transferred to [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com), making them

searchable in the context of a much wider range of records. The existing findmypast database holds more than 500 million records. The expansion is expected to raise the profile of currently under-used datasets such as the National Burial Index, and to generate more recognition and revenue for FFHS member societies, who will continue to receive royalties.

## Berkshire Record Office news

New deposits in the Berkshire Record Office include:

- 20th-century baptism, marriage and burial registers for Tilehurst St Michael (D/P132)
- marriage register 2000 - 2006 for Wargrave (D/P145)
- an almost complete set of parish magazines from 1953 for Ascot Heath (D/P185)
- other records for Moulsoford (D/P88).

Property deeds and papers for:

- Kennington manor and farm 1681 - 1999 (D/EX2020)
- Maiden Erleigh, Sonning 1631 - 1896 (D/EZ136)
- Caversham 1906 - 1923 (D/EX2022)
- Hampstead Norreys and Chieveley 1784 - 1854 (D/EX2016)
- Reading 1716 - 1989 (D/EX1902)
- Twyford 1886 - 1960 (D/EX2024).

Miscellaneous papers for:

- Bagley Wood Nursing Association 1923 - 1948 (D/QNA/BW)
- Wantage District Nursing Association 1928 - 1942 (D/QNA/WT)
- Sonning Deanery Moral Welfare Association 1934 - 1938 (D/RDS)
- Abingdon rate books 1896 - 1956 (A/FR)
- Chaddleworth Parish Council 1894 - 1991 (CPC32)
- Finchampstead Parish Council 1960 - 2002 (CPC56)
- Wallingford Cottage Homes 1937 - 1948 (D/EX1881)
- Aldermaston Cricket Club 1894 - 1931 (D/EX2000)
- Hurst Horticultural and Cottage Garden Society 1906 - 2006 (D/EX2002)
- Berkshire Shakespeare Players 1965 - 2003 (D/EX1998)

### ***Family history day at Reading Library***

More than 100 people were able to meet the experts on Saturday 29 September, when both the Berks FHS and Berkshire Record Office (BRO) were at Reading Central Library to offer help and assistance to family historians. The visitors ranged from those who had been researching for some time to those just beginning on the first steps of tracing their family tree. The BRO provided an advice and information stall, and Berks FHS offered access to Ancestry.com from a laptop.

The event, which was reported in the *Reading Evening Post*, generated a large amount of interest and raised awareness of the many resources available within Berkshire. It may be repeated next year.

### **New index to Berkshire wills**

Berkshire Record Office has been raising money for a project to create a new index to the archdeaconry wills of 1508 - 1652. The intention is that this index will replace the old and deficient Phillimore index for this period. Berks FHS has already agreed to find £4,000 towards this project and, together with grants from the Marc Fitch Fund, the Berkshire Record Society, and Oxfordshire FHS, virtually all the funds are now in place, and it is hoped that the project will begin early next year.

The plan is to produce a new index for sale on CD sometime during 2009, and then to revise the existing indexes for the later archdeaconry wills until 1858, so that a complete and accurate index to all the wills and other probate documents is available for the first time.

**Mark Stevens**

# Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods to be included in the 6th edition (5th update) of the Berkshire Burial Index on CD-ROM, planned for publication in December 2007, are shown below, totalling more than 532,000 entries. New entries added since the publication in December 2006 of the 5th edition (updating the original 2002 CD-ROM) are shown in bold italics. For further details of access to the Berkshire Burial Index, please see page 32.

**David Wright**

- Abingdon Baptist (Lower Meeting House, Ock St) 1764 - 1789 and 1786 - 1837  
 Abingdon Congregational (Upper Meeting House) 1730 - 1740 and 1787 - 1836  
 Abingdon St Helen **January to March 1762 (BTs)**, March to December 1762 (BTs), **1772 (BTs)** and **1809 - 1813 (BTs)**  
 Abingdon St Nicholas **1704 - 1880**  
 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) and 1739 - 1925  
 Ardington Holy Trinity **1813 - 1929**  
 Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1958  
 Ashampstead St Clement 1607 - 1686 (BTs), 1686 - 1837 and **1838 - 1956**  
 Ashbury St Mary 1612 - 1638 (BTs), **1653 - 1683, 1687 - 1734, 1734 - 1869** and **1967 - 1993**  
 Aston Tirrold Independent 1763 - 1837  
 Aston Tirrold St Michael 1813 - 1960  
 Avington 1700 - 1725 (BTs) and 1727 - 1994  
 Barkham St James 1539 - 1733, 1733 - 1740 (BTs) and 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) and 1709 - 1849  
 Blewbury St Michael 1588 - 1674, 1675 - 1720 (BTs) and 1720 - 1855  
 Boxford St Andrew 1558 - 1876  
 Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851 - 1945  
 Bracknell Independent (Congregational) 1822 - 1859  
 Bradfield St Andrew 1540 - 1685, 1691 - 1693 (BTs) and 1695 - 1952  
 Bradfield Workhouse 1845 - 1932  
 Bray St Michael **1654 - 1669** and 1813 - 1929  
 Brightwalton All Saints 1562 - 1922  
 Brightwell St Agatha 1813 - 1867 and **1867 - 1902**  
 Brimpton St Peter 1607 - 1674 (BTs), 1678 - 1734, 1735 - 1755 (BTs) and 1756 - 1901  
 Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1930  
 Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539 - 1910  
 Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 2005  
 Buscot St Mary **1799 - 1812** and 1813 - 1950  
 Catmore St Margaret 1728 - 1810 and 1814 - 1985  
 Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1924 - 1993  
 Caversham St Peter 1597 - 1955  
 Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538 - 1676, 1677 (BTs) and 1678 - 1919  
 Charney Bassett St Peter 1813 - 1979  
 Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1647 - 2003  
 Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1883  
 Chilton All Saints **1677 - 1812** and **1813 - 1835 (BTs)**  
 Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1894 - 1917  
 Cholsey St Mary 1813 - 1953 and **1953 - 1980**  
 Clewer St Andrew 1607 - 1869  
 Cold Ash St Mark 1865 - 1947  
 Coleshill All Saints 1813 - 1986  
 Combe St Swithin 1729 - 1812  
 Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553 - 1901 and **1901 - 2005**  
 Compton Beauchamp St Swithin **1790 - 1812** and 1813 - 1994  
 Cookham Holy Trinity 1656 - 1935  
 Cookham Dean St John the Baptist 1845 - 1973  
 Cranbourne St Peter 1850 - 1915 and **1915 - 1997**  
 Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1900 - 1968  
 Cumnor St Michael 1813 - 1970  
 Denchworth St James 1538 - 1812 and **1814 - 1835 (BTs)**  
 Didcot All Saints **1813 - 1942**  
 Drayton St Peter 1919 - 1967  
 Earley St Peter 1854 - 1916  
 East Challow St Nicholas 1813 - 1829  
 East Garston All Saints 1607 - 1668 (BTs) and 1813 - 1876  
 East Hendred St Augustine 1813 - 1863  
 Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558 - 1915  
 East Ilsley St Mary 1649 - 2005  
 East Lockinge All Saints 1546 - 1812 and 1862 - 1866  
 East Shefford 1604 to 1734, 1734 - 1773 (BTs) and 1774 to 1917  
 Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1813 - 1998  
 Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and 1726 - 1929  
 Englefield St Mark 1813 - 1935  
 Faringdon All Saints 1644 - 1842, **1842 - 1896** and 1896 - 1948  
 Farnborough All Saints 1607 - 1738 (BTs) and 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) and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Fyfield St Nicholas **1605 - 1812 (BTs)** and **1813 - 1906**  
 Grazeley Holy Trinity 1851 - 1964  
 Great Coxwell St Giles 1813 - 1868, **1868 - 1941** and 1941 - 2002  
 Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1914  
 Grove St James 1832 - 1926  
 Hagbourne St Andrew 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1661 - 1751, 1745 - 1756 (BTs) and 1757 - 1905  
 Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543 - 1593, 1598 - 1626, 1628 - 1638 (BTs) and 1666 - 1919  
 Hamstead Marshall St Mary **1605 - 1675 (BTs)**, 1675 - 1812 and **1813 - 1836 (BTs)**  
 Harwell St Matthew 1688 - 1943  
 Hatford St George/ Holy Trinity 1539 - 1969  
 Hermitage Holy Trinity 1840 - 1978  
 Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1813 - 1977  
 Hungerford Independent 1819 - 1830  
 Hungerford St Lawrence 1559 - 1969  
 Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1864  
 Hurst St Nicholas 1579 - 1582 (BTs), 1585 - 1605, 1605 - 1621 (BTs), 1621 - 1623, 1623 - 1633 (BTs) and 1633 - 2004  
 Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1623 (BTs) and 1813 - 1986  
 Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist **1663 - 1812**  
 Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist **1559 - 1713**  
 Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1925  
 Knowl Hill St Peter 1842 - 2002  
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560 - 1837, **1838 - 1894** and 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 **1543 - 1679**, 1680 - 1811 and 1813 - 1992  
 Longcot St Mary the Virgin 1884 - 1993  
 Longworth St Mary **1563 - 1648** and **1654 - 1701**  
 Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin **1737 - 1779, 1813 - 1884** and 1884 - 1979  
 Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857 - 1948  
 Maidenhead Congregational 1791 - 1837 and 1845 - 1908  
 Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858 - 1903  
 Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843 - 1858  
 Maidenhead St Luke 1866 - 1890  
 Marcham All Saints **1805 - 1812**  
 Marlston St Mary **1925 - 1998**  
 Midgham St Matthew 1638 - 1733 and 1753 - 1980  
 Milton St Blaise 1662 - 1938  
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869 - 1982  
 Moultsford St John the Baptist **1773 - 1812** and 1813 - 1992  
 Newbury Baptist 1773 - 1823  
 Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818 - 1837  
 Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent 1784 - 1837  
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery **1868 - 1884, 1898 - 1905** and **1917 - 1928**  
 Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860 - 1900  
 Newbury St Nicolas 1746 - 1779, **1779 - 1783** and 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, **1587 - 1609** and 1609 - 1988  
 North Moreton All Saints 1813 - 1996  
 Oare St Bartholomew **1854 - 1975**  
 Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew 1634 - 1771 (BTs) and 1772 - 1940  
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607 - 1723 (BTs) and 1724 - 1981  
 Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only  
 Pangbourne St James the Less 1559 - 1926  
 Peasmore St Barnabas 1538 - 1879  
 Purley St Mary the Virgin 1663 - 1900 and **1901 - 1985**  
 Pusey All Saints 1607 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Radley St James the Great 1813 - 1981  
 Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869 and 1875 - 1881  
 Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857 - 1862  
 Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium **1932 - 1951**  
 Reading Holy Trinity 1834 - 1855  
 Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1843 - 1863, 1865 - 1872, **1872 - 1894** and **1895 - 1896**  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground) 1843 - 1863  
 Reading Prison **1862 - 1913**  
 Reading St Giles 1564 - 1598, **1599 - 1636**, 1636 - 1644, 1648 - 1895 and 1955 - 1990  
 Reading St Laurence 1603 - 1901  
 Reading St Mary **1710 - 1718** and 1718 - 1812  
 Reading St Stephen 1929 - 1956  
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605 - 1696 (BTs), 1697 - 1762, 1762 - 1764 (BTs) and 1764 - 1909  
 Ruscombe St James the Great **1569 - 1704** and 1705 - 1812  
 Sandhurst St Michael 1580 - 1593 (BTs), 1603 - 1696, 1610 - 1812 (BTs) and 1869 - 1959  
 Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1647 - 1932  
 Shellingford St Faith **1581 - 1812** and **1813 - 1836 (BTs)**  
 Shinfield Cemetery **1928 - 1991**  
 Shinfield St Mary 1653 - 1844  
 Shippon St Mary Magdalene **1856 - 1974**  
 Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567 - 1811 and **1813 - 1836 (BTs)**  
 Shrivenham St Andrew 1813 - 1867  
 Sonning St Andrew **1728 - 1788** and 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) and 1629 - 1904  
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1881 and 1953 - 1971  
 Stanford Dingley St Denys 1538 - 1979  
 Stanford in the Vale St Denys **1813 - 1894**  
 Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1813 - 1922  
 Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1681 - 1977  
 Streatley St Mary 1679 - 1812 and **1813 - 1907**  
 Stubbings St James the Less 1852 - 1949  
 Sulham St Nicholas 1612 - 1724 (BTs) and 1724 - 1850  
 Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1602 - 1995  
 Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1608 - 1637 (BTs), 1654 - 1811 and 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, **1888 - 1919** and 1919 - 1956  
 Swallowfield All Saints 1539 - 1552, 1587 - 1597 and 1638 - 1931  
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel 1819 - 1871  
 Thatcham St Mary **1710 - 1739**, 1740 - 1766, 1767 only (BTs) and 1768 - 1914  
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932  
 Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1608 - 1729 (BTs), **1730 - 1812** and 1813 - 1999  
 Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1954  
 Tilehurst St Michael 1614 - 1629 (BTs) and 1630 - 1941  
 Twyford St Mary 1847 - 1925 and **1925 - 1967**  
 Uffington St Mary **1654 - 1744, 1748 - 1749, 1760 - 1812** and 1813 - 1946  
 Upton Noret St Peter 1607 - 1635 (BTs) and 1636 - 1990  
 Upton St Mary **1862 - 1990**  
 Wallingford Baptist 1796 - 1837  
 Wallingford Independent 1814 - 1836  
 Wallingford St Leonard 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1813 - 1869, 1873 - 1899, **1899-1929** and 1929 - 1975  
 Wallingford St Mary the More 1671 - 1678, 1711 - 1712, 1796 - 1939 and 1961 - 1976  
 Wallingford St Peter 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1711 - 1862, 1865 - 1930 and **1930 - 1969**  
 Waltham St Lawrence **1813 - 1931** and 1931 - 1995  
 Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1877, **1877 - 1892**, 1892 - 1918 and **1918 - 1935**  
 Warfield St Michael 1779 - 1922  
 Wargrave St Mary **1813 - 1871**, 1872 - 1940 and **1940 - 1978**  
 Wasing St Nicholas 1608 - 1736 (BTs) and 1763 - 1990  
 Welford St Gregory 1749 - 1900  
 West Hanney St James the Great 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) and 1813 - 1985  
 White Waltham St Mary **1813 - 1860** and 1860 - 1937  
 Winkfield St Mary 1813 - 1961  
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1567 - 1850 and **1851 - 1979**  
 Wokingham All Saints 1813 - 1854 and **1854 - 1920**  
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906  
 Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921 - 2004  
 Wokingham St Paul 1864 - 1895, **1895 - 1924** and 1924 - 1961  
 Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858 - 1905  
 Woolhampton St Peter 1607 - 1636 (BTs), 1636 - 1746, 1749 - 1759 (BTs) and 1761 - 1926  
 Wootton St Peter **1813 - 1947**  
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1982

## Branch lines



***Valerie Storie, who chairs the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch, describes its origins and extends a welcome to all-comers.***

In the autumn of 1977 a group of enthusiasts researching their family history joined together to form the Windsor, Slough and District Family History Society (WS&D FHS). Much of their enthusiasm stemmed from a course organised by the Workers' Educational Association, the tutor being Betty St George Brown. It was fitting, therefore, that she became the society's first president.

Due to county boundary changes, many of Slough's records are to be found at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury. Berkshire Record Office (BRO) also has some. Windsor's records are also at the BRO in Reading, and you take your chance for the "and District" bits.

In 1975 the Berkshire FHS was formed, but for nine years or so the WS&D FHS remained a separate entity, affiliated in its own right to the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). A constitution was drawn up, and adults paid £2.50 per year. In 1978 some of the members attended their first FFHS annual conference, and the children went too. A whole programme of events was organised for the youngsters including a visit to a zoo and barbecues – all rather more relaxed than the one held in 2007.

Membership grew, and included people from overseas who had local interests. Gradually a small library was built up, and members were encouraged to borrow the books. From the start a quarterly magazine called *Heritage* was produced, containing articles of local interest and a wealth of transcribed records including parish registers, churchwardens' accounts, school records, census returns, land tax records, monumental inscriptions, wills, inventories and even listings of original local telephone numbers. Meetings were held monthly on the last Tuesday of the month, speakers and outings were arranged and many projects of local interest were undertaken. Such valuable work in those early years before computers involved a lot of hard work. Even producing the *Heritage* was a labour of love, involving typing in the hope that not too many mistakes would need correcting fluid! In 1981 the *Heritage* changed to A5 format, and there were rumblings of discontent, but the valuable work continued. Many articles on the history of Slough are unique, and it would be a worthwhile exercise to digitise them; perhaps some current members could undertake this project.



Finally the decision was made to become part of the expanding Berkshire FHS in 1986. Little changed, but for financial reasons it was necessary eventually to move the Slough meeting place to our present location in Windsor. Since the Royal Borough of Windsor was one with Maidenhead, the branch name was changed to define the wider catchment area, but on informal occasions we tend to shorten the name to just Windsor. Yet family history knows no boundaries, and everyone is welcome to our monthly meetings. The library has grown to some 240 books, together with many exchange magazines from other societies. The monthly raffles enable new books to be added as they are published, and members continue to borrow them.

We still meet on the last Tuesday each month, and we have a full programme of speakers covering many facets of family

history research. What was once a gentle hobby has become big business with the advent of computer technology. Television programmes show us how to go about our research with ease, but the old rules still apply, and everything must be carefully checked. We welcome those who are just setting out on their big adventure, we encourage everyone to share their successes, and we try to help with problems. It is a hobby which can never really end, and even those who have been researching for many years still find excitement in tracking down an elusive relative.

If you have often wondered whether or not you would gain anything from attending any of the meetings detailed in the *Historian*, we would be especially delighted to see you in Windsor, where you will be made welcome.

***Berkshire Record Office will be opening its doors for Berks FHS members only on Tuesday 18 January from 18.00 to 20.00. Berks FHS Research Centre (just across the car park) will be open as usual from 19.00 to 21.30.***

***The next introductory tour of Berkshire Record Office will be held on Monday 4 February. Details and booking on 0118 901 5132.***

<b>Dates for your diary</b>		<i>*Berks FHS will be present at these events</i>	
<b>date</b>	<b>event</b>	<b>venue</b>	<b>more details</b>
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 27 Jan	Bracknell Family History Fair *	Bracknell Sports Centre	<www.familyhistoryfairs.com>
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 11 Feb	Sussex & South London Family History Fair	K2 Crawley Sports Centre Pease Pottage Hill Crawley RH11 9BQ	
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 24 Feb	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Family History Fair	Exeter Hall Oxford Rd Kidlington	
10.00 - 16.00 Sun 9 Mar	Dorset FHS open day	Poole Grammar Sch Gravel Hill Poole BH17 9JU	openday@dorsetfhs.org.uk 01202 785623

# A wealth of Scottish information

*Peter Francis (2024) celebrates the superior detail to be found on BMD certificates from north of the border*

Those of us researching Scottish ancestors are very thankful that, when planning a scheme for the central registration of births, marriages and deaths, the Scots decided to include more personal data than were recorded south of the border. This was influenced by the experience gathered in the 18 years between the start dates of the two systems, Scottish registration not starting until 1855. In that year very comprehensive certificates were introduced, but they proved difficult to maintain. Subsequently, in 1856, some of the contents were dropped, but a small amount was reinstated later. The exact details are in many textbooks, and at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).

A look at some examples taken from a family in my wife's ancestry reveals the depth of additional genealogical information that can be extracted from these certificates.

The following marriage certificate of 1857 reveals the names of all four parents of the newly-weds, rather than only the fathers, as is the English practice. The additional data is emboldened.

*26th June 1857, at Dreghorn, Ayrshire, the marriage between*

*Richard Cathie, age 45, of High Street, Paisley, a journeyman slater, widower, son of James Cathie, slater, deceased, and Janet Cathie, maiden name Alexander, deceased*

*and*

*Ritchie Miller, age 49, of Dreghorn, Ayrshire, sewer, widow, daughter of James Miller, miner, deceased, and Helen Miller, maiden name Baillie, deceased.*

*The witnesses were Matthew Brown and Andrew Cathie.*

If this couple had been married two years earlier, the more detailed certificate of 1855 would also have shown the birthplace of each spouse, and that this was Richard's third marriage, the first having resulted in three children, the second in one. Andrew Cathie, one of the witnesses, was Richard's son from the first marriage. Birthplaces and previous marriage details were dropped after 1855, but the former were restored from 1972.

The following details from a birth certificate of a related Cathie family illustrate the many differences between the English and Scottish registration practice, which are again highlighted in bold.

*22nd June 1855, at Arroqhar Inn, Dunbartonshire, the birth of*

*Peter Cathie, present, male, **born 8 am;***

*son of Andrew Cathie, innkeeper, **age 35, born Tranent, Haddingtonshire;** and*

*Ann Cathie **previously MacFarlane,** maiden name Borthwick, **married 1850 in Tranent.***

***This was his 3rd child, one boy and one girl living, this was her 5th child.***

Note that even if the details of previous children were omitted, we would still know that Ann had been married before, and the surname of her first husband. Such detail proved difficult to obtain (even on this certificate the age and birthplace of the mother were omitted) and entries were simplified from 1856, when information on siblings was removed, as were ages and birthplaces of parents, and the date and place of their marriage. In birth certificates since 1861 however, the date and place of the parents'

marriage have been reinstated, very useful extra information that is missing from English certificates. On the same page of the register we can also find details of the birth of Andrew Cathie, the twin of Peter, born at 8.05 am. Time of birth however is not restricted to certificates for multiple births, as in England and Wales, but is common to all birth certificates in Scotland to this day.

The father, Andrew Cathie, was a first cousin once removed of Richard Cathie, the husband shown in the marriage certificate above. This Cathie family can be traced back to Haddington, in what is now called East Lothian, into the mid-eighteenth century. Ann Borthwick's sister Isabella married Andrew's brother, Peter Cathie. Both brothers named their first son James after their father, and their first daughter Isabella after the mother of their wife. Similarly Peter's second son, Walter, was named after his wife's father, and his second daughter, Jean, after his own mother. This was a fairly common practice

among Scottish families at the time, and examples can be found to the present day.

The example of information gained from a death certificate (see centre panel) is again from the Cathie family, and fortunately again from 1855 when the amount of genealogical information was very significant. Differences between the information in this certificate and one in the English system are again highlighted in bold.

This Andrew Cathie was uncle to the one mentioned in the birth certificate above, and first cousin of Richard. As with births and

marriages, this amount of detail proved difficult to obtain. Hence the deceased's birthplace was removed from 1856, as were details of any children. The spouse's name was also removed from 1856, but reinstated in 1861. The place of burial, the name of the undertaker and when the doctor last saw the deceased alive, were included up to 1860, but then removed. The remaining information additional to that found in England and Wales is however still significant for genealogists, ie the parentage of the deceased and the name of the spouse (if married). On an English certificate only the maiden name of a deceased

married woman is included.

A major difference that is immediately apparent in these and many other Scottish records is the right of Scottish women to retain their maiden name after marriage, so that they may be legally known by either surname. This influenced the inclusion of a woman's maiden name on all the statutory certificates, and in many other

documents and records,

including census returns, and on monumental inscriptions. For instance, Ritchie Miller, the bride in the marriage certificate above, was identified by that name in the census of 1861, given as wife to Richard Cathie, with whom she was living.

These differences in statutory records give those interested in Scottish families a distinct advantage when researching in the mid to late nineteenth century, and later. This advantage is reinforced by the availability online of all the records discussed above, and the excellent search indexes at <scotlandspeople.gov.uk>.

**5 am**, 7th July 1855, at Cockenzie, Tranent, Haddingtonshire, the death of

Mary Cathie, age 63, born Cockenzie, **living 63 years in Tranent, daughter of Robert Kelly, seaman, and Mary Kelly, maiden name Grey.**

**Married to Andrew Cathie, mason. Children: Andrew died age 40 in 1852; Mary died age 24 in 1840; Peter age 39; Elizabeth age 36; Euphemia died age 28 in 1849; William age 31; Margaret age 29; Isabella age 26; Ann died age 13 in 1847.**

Mary died from liver disease, **suffered for several months. The doctor last attended Mary on the 30th June. She was buried in Tranent churchyard, as attested by the Church Officer.** The informant was Andrew Cathie, widower.

## Jean's research tip

### Obtaining a copy will (post-1858) by post

The printed calendars (annual indexes) to wills proved in England and Wales from 1 Jan 1858 to date are in the Principal Probate Registry. They can be seen on the ground floor at First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6NP.

If you make your own search and order copies at the counter the charge is £5 (this includes a copy of the will, if any). Additional copies of the same document cost £1 per copy.

For those unable to get to London, the indexes (on microfiche) can be seen at Berkshire Record Office (covering 1858 - 1943) and at local probate registry offices. The nearest of these to Berkshire is the Oxford District Probate Registry, St. Aldates, Oxford OX1 1LY, but there is a full national list at <[www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk)> plus a great deal of other information about probate records.

Copies of a will, regardless of size, plus the grant, can be obtained for £5 (cheque payable to HM Courts Service) either in person at First Avenue House or by post from:

Postal Searches and Copies Department,  
The Probate Registry, Castle Chambers,  
Clifford Street, York YO1 9RG.

*a helpful hint from  
Jean Debney, one of the  
society's most experienced  
researchers*

For postal applications you need a special application form, which can be downloaded from <[www.hmcourtsservice.gov.uk/courtfinder/forms/pa1s\\_0405.pdf](http://www.hmcourtsservice.gov.uk/courtfinder/forms/pa1s_0405.pdf)>. This brings up a two-page document with the application form on the first page and explanatory notes and conditions of service on the second. This cannot be completed online, but it can be printed by clicking on *Print form* or *Save a copy* and then print offline.

Alternatively, if you do not have the details, write to York and ask for a search. This also costs £5 for a four-year period from the date of death. There is a further search fee of £3 for each subsequent four-year period searched. If a grant is traced, the fee includes a copy of the will (if any), regardless of the number of pages, plus the grant. There are no refunds for a negative search. If you are applying from outside the UK, payment should be made by international money order in pounds sterling. If you attend an office in person, you may of course pay cash.

Either way, for postal applications do not forget to enclose your cheque for £5 payable to HM Courts Service or simply HMCS.

## Hunting for Henry

*Jean Wilson (3219)  
finds the answer to an intractable question  
– and more – in the Berkshire Overseers' Papers*

As an only child I was fortunate in that I inherited certificates from both sides of the family. In the case of my dad, William Stewart Bolton, they took me back to the marriage of Henry Bolton and Mary Bradfield at St Giles on 23 October 1858. The certificate is not the original, but an 1875 copy. They had moved to London by then, and perhaps Henry needed it for his employment; he was down as a retired council worker when he died in Chelsea in 1904.

Their first child Alfred was born at Whitley in 1864. Subsequent children were born in Chelsea: Ruth Caroline in 1870, Charles James in 1873, Albert H in 1875 and my grandfather Frederick William in 1880.

Frederick married Margaret Maud Cecilia Stewart Ward on 20 April 1908, and I have their marriage certificate, larger than the usual ones, and showing a picture of the church. They had four children, but both parents died in May 1921 from the flu epidemic. Dad had

said that they died within hours of each other, and so I have found: Frederick on 11 May and Margaret on the following day. The children were split up, going to different families. I have never found where they went except for my dad. He went to live with Alfred and his wife Rhoda née Reeves (born in Chute, Wiltshire). They had no children of their own, but they treated him as their own.

Henry's father was James Bolton, baptised 1808 at Shinfield, who married Deborah Clark in 1831, his brother William marrying her sister Elizabeth. James' father was Henry, who married Hannah Butlar (baptised 1 April 1779 at Bradfield) at Shinfield in 1798, and this was the Henry whose birth I could not find.

I searched for births around the 1770s, when I would have expected Henry to have been born and, not having any luck, then started to search neighbouring parishes. There was a William Bolton married to an Elizabeth ? in 1730/40 in Shinfield, and I felt there could be a connection to them, their children being William 1738, John 1739, Henry 1745 and Sarah 1752.

Then the Berkshire Overseers' Papers came out on CD, and I thought this was a worthwhile investment, as Hannah was down as a pauper, formerly nurse, on the 1851 census, and I thought I might find out more about her. I keyed in Hannah Bolton and this is what I found in vol 18.84 Reading Union:

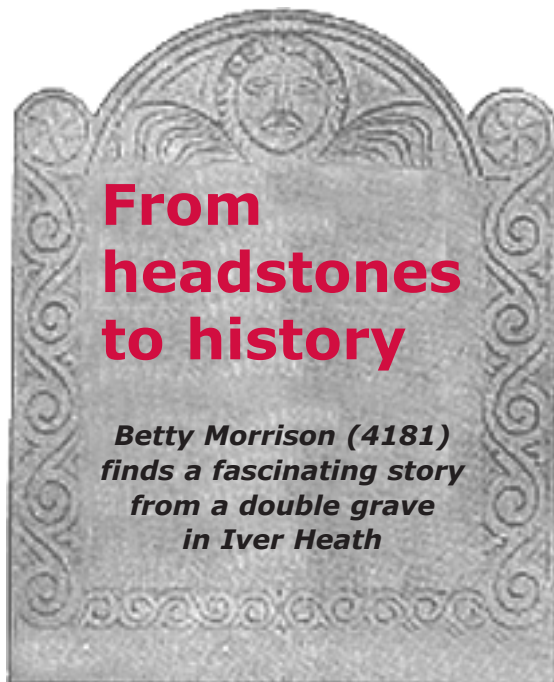
*Date 3 April 1805. Examination of Henry Bolton of the Hamlet of Whitley in the Parish of St Giles, Reading, Berks, before JPs Charles Marsh and Wm Marsh, he is the son of William Bolton deceased who, at the time of his death was a parishioner of Shinfield, Berks, where Henry Bolton was born. About 35 years ago Henry Bolton was hired for a year by Mr Ward of Bray, Berks, a yeoman, at wages of 9 guineas. He served the whole time and lodged and boarded at his Master's house. He received his full wages. After this he worked at day work for about 7 years when his father, who was ill and being at Shinfield, sent for him and said if he would live with him he would give him £9 a year, board and lodging, to do what he required of him. When his father had nothing for Henry Bolton to do he might earn what he could for himself. He agreed and continued under this arrangement for about 2 years, during which he lived at his father's house. For the first year he received £5 but Henry Bolton forgave his father for his wages for the second year and continued with his father until his death some time in 1792. He then rented a piece of land at Shinfield at a rent of £1.16.0d for which he was rated and paid the Poor Rates. He rented the same land and lived in Shinfield for about 11 years when he went to day work and about half a year after his mother's death he purchased a small piece of land at the Hamlet of Whitley for which he paid £5.15.6d, erected a cottage at his own expense (amounting to about £31). He resided in this cottage about 3 years but paid no rates for the same. About 7 years ago he was married at Shinfield to Hannah his present wife, by whom three children – Henry aged 6 years, Mary 2½ years and John aged 10 weeks.*

So I had found my answer. Henry was born around 1745, making him 53 years old when he married his 19-year-old Hannah!

This now of course raises more questions. Was he married before? Had he had another family?.....

***The Berkshire Overseers' Papers CD is available from Berks Bookshop at £18 including UK p&p.***





## From headstones to history

*Betty Morrison (4181)  
finds a fascinating story  
from a double grave  
in Iver Heath*

As the secretary of St Margaret's parochial church council in Iver Heath I received a letter from a historian in Vancouver asking for assistance with his research in connection with Alexander Dallas, who is buried in our churchyard. From there on, with the help of the Vancouver historian, I uncovered a fascinating story about the Gold Rush, the Overlanders, the massacre of the Sioux Indians, a claim for British ownership of land just off Vancouver Island and the pig which almost led to war between the USA and Great Britain in June 1859.

The story uncovered was that of Alexander Grant Dallas (known as Alick), who was brought up in Scotland, but lived in Iver Heath for several years after his return from Canada, where he had worked for the Hudson Bay Company.

His career started in Liverpool in 1837 working for W E Gladstone, whose father owned many plantations and slaves in the West Indies. In 1842 Alexander left this job to join Jardine, Matheson and Company in China, where he prospered until a fever attack forced him to return home.

His health restored, Alick became active in London financial circles, and in 1856 he was elected to the committee of the Hudson Bay Company, which despatched him to the Pacific Coast. In January 1857 Alick left England for Vancouver Island, but was not welcomed on his arrival by James Douglas, the governor of the colony, and many conflicts ensued. However, in due course James Douglas allowed Alick to marry his second daughter, Jane, in 1858.

In 1859 Alick Dallas and his father-in-law were called to investigate a problem on the San Juan Islands, which are south of Vancouver. The islands had been of no importance until the Gold Rush, when both Britain and the USA realised their strategic significance. All was well between the two countries, with the British garrison at the north end of the islands and the Americans at the south, until one day a pig, no respecter of boundaries, wandered on to land owned by an American settler. The pig trampled and ate everything in its path until the outraged settler shot (and presumably ate) it. Alick Dallas, representing the Hudson Bay Company who owned the pig, was sent to investigate, and subsequently he asked for \$100 compensation from the settler, but to no avail.

The affair escalated to involve ownership of the land, bringing Britain and the USA to the brink of war. The matter was debated in Congress, and warships were sent by the British. Amazingly, relationships between the two armies in the field remained very cordial. However, the matter dragged on, and in 1872 the question of ownership of the islands was referred to the Kaiser for arbitration. He ruled in favour of the USA, thus ending the Pig War. The Kaiser also ruled on the boundary between Washington State and the new Canadian province of British Columbia, which had been debated since 1847. The 49th Parallel was settled for all time. The settler eventually appeared before an American court, and was given a small fine for shooting the pig in the first place.



*Alexander and Jane Dallas*

In 1860 Alick Dallas was recalled to London and appointed president of the Hudson Bay Company (Overseas), governor of Rupert's Land and a Justice of the Peace. His brief was to try to sell Rupert's Land to the British as a colony, or to merge it with Canada as an extension of its territories. Rupert's Land was included in the dominion of Canada in 1869 largely due to negotiations under Alick's guidance.

Alick Dallas and James Douglas (who became governor of British Columbia) had a stormy relationship due to the fact that Douglas did not want to give up all his command to his son-in-law. Between them, two members of the same family simultaneously governed territory larger than Europe or the United States, and there was conflict over several issues.

On his appointment as governor of Rupert's Land, Alick, with his wife Jane and their daughter Mary Jane, sailed to New York, and then travelled overland to Red River to await the arrival of the steamer *International* to Fort Garry (Winnipeg). Waiting for the steamer, Alick met a group of men known as Overlanders, who were heading for the Caribou goldfields on the far side of the mountains. Alick told them of the best route and advised that it would take 65 or more days to complete the journey.

The Red River steamer was delayed, so Alick decided to continue his journey on horseback to Fort Garry, leaving his family to follow. All this was taking place soon after the Sioux massacre south of the border, which had driven the Sioux survivors to seek sanctuary at Red River. Alick had no military force to help him, and therefore he was faced with difficult decisions on his overland journey.

After two years in Canada, the strain on Alick's health prompted him to write to the Hudson Bay Company asking to return to England. Unfortunately his letter was misinterpreted and accepted as a letter of resignation. However, in due course he was invited to become a consultant for the company.

Alick and Jane Dallas returned to Inverness, where they owned a house, but they decided to move to a property in Brompton Road, London, to undertake the consultancy work more easily. After a while Alick found the house in London too small, so he looked further afield to house his self-styled "caravan" of by then eight children. In 1877 he moved to Iver Heath, firstly renting a house called Round Coppice on the Denham Road. Sadly, the original house had to be demolished in 1954, and so a replacement has been built on the same site.

Shortly afterwards he purchased Warren House in Iver Heath, but decided to build a bigger and better house within the grounds.

Sadly Alick Dallas died in 1882, just before its completion. Jane, his widow, continued to live in the new Warren House until her death in 1909. She was a well-known and respected person in the parish, and she is buried beside her husband and several of her children, one of whom became churchwarden of St Margaret's Church in 1895.

The house Alick Dallas built in Iver Heath still exists in Church Road (the A412) between Slough and Denham.



## Constabulary capers



**Matt Finch (5456) finds a less-than-model policeman in his family tree.**

After bemoaning the fact that my family tree was an endless stream of fairly unglamorous occupations, I obtained my Finch great-grandfather's marriage certificate, on which I found his father recorded as a policeman. Trying to obtain information about the police service can be very hit-and-miss, but I did gain a wonderful insight into the life and service of my great-great-grandfather – and a good laugh.

Knowing that George Finch was listed in the 1851 census in Hambleden in Buckinghamshire, and in the 1881 census in Maidenhead, Berkshire, I first contacted the Thames Valley Police Museum to ask if they had a record of service for him in any of the constituent forces that were swallowed up by the Thames Valley Police. Unfortunately the museum could find no record, but they told me that Maidenhead had a borough police force between 1836 and 1889, and that there could be a slim chance that George served with them.

At the Berkshire Record Office I struck gold, as they had a book of Watch Committee Minutes of the Maidenhead Borough Police and Fire Brigade. In it were several references to my great-great-grandfather, some of which are detailed below.

**page 96, dated 31.01.1861**

*Moved by Mr Colman, sec'd by Mr Spratley that Geo Finch who has been on duty as P.C. by order of the Mayor for a short time, be recommended to the council to fill up the vacancy.*

The following year there was a meeting to hear a complaint of the superintendent against PC Finch, and from his statement it appears that he has been drunk on two occasions when on duty.

**page 100, dated 30.12.1862**

*Your Committee beg to state that they gave the matter their consideration it being a very grave offence, but finding him duly penitent and promising that such a thing should never occur again came to the conclusion which would not be unsafe to give him another trial it being the first time a complaint has been reported against him and previously he had conducted himself well, your Committee resolved:*

*Firstly that he be severely reprimanded and informed that if a similar offence be reported against him, he will be immediately dismissed.*

*Secondly that his new clothing be withheld from him one month after the others receive theirs as a mark of our displeasure.*

**page 106, dated 28.07.1864**

*We beg to report that Police Constable Finch has made an application for a increase of salary and your committee having considered the matter and time he has been in service namely 4 years, I beg to recommend that his wages be increased to 20/- a week by the amount the other police constables received.*

**page 159, dated 12.08.1872**

*With reference to P.C. Finch, your committee find that on two occasions that officer has been suspended*

*for drunkenness, that he was unlawfully drinking in a Public House in King Street on the 7th Instant, and staying there for half an hour when he ought to have been on duty; that he was very abusive to his superintendent on the evening of the 9th instant which abuse he repeated in the presence of this committee.*

*In view of these facts your committee did not feel justified in accepting the resignation tendered by P.C. Finch, but were unanimously agreed to dismiss him from the police force of the borough on account of drunkenness, neglect of duty and bad conduct.*

*Ordered that the Town Clerk send P.C. Holdaway and P.C. Finch an official letter informing them that they are dismissed from the Police Force of this Borough and direct them to send their clothing belonging to the Borough to the Town Clerks Office.*

(For the record, Holdaway was dismissed for having left his beat at 3.30 am, and a burglary took place whilst he was absent.)

Had George been a more sober policeman, I would not have these gems, nor know his character so well.

I also learned that policemen of this era were required to wear their uniforms at all times unless they were abed, that they were issued with two pairs of trousers, one coat, one greatcoat and one hat (they had to wear it day in day out, on or off duty, so not allowing George his new uniform for a month would be a stiff punishment).

When on duty they had a duty armband, which was attached normally on the left cuff, consisting of a blue and white vertically striped strip of cloth.

Policemen were not allowed to sit down in public houses, even when off duty. The hours of duty were long: seven days a week. Night shifts were nine hours, and day shifts 12 hours long. There was a maximum of one superintendent and three officers in the force; two constables did night duty, and one constable and the superintendent did the day shift.

I searched under Maidenhead Borough Police on the internet, and found an entry on the constabulary website of another person searching for details of the Maidenhead Borough Police uniform. The entry was about a year old, but I sent off an email. The correspondent turned out to be none other than the great-great-granddaughter of the superintendent who had the argument with George prior to his dismissal. This superintendent, one Henry McGraw, had died at the age of 54 of cirrhosis of the liver, so I like to think that the abuse that George gave Superintendent McGraw before his dismissal, and before the councillors, was along the lines of “practise what you preach”.

Superintendent McGraw’s great-great-grand-daughter gave me copies of her research, including newspaper articles concerning the force. One mentions my great-great-grandfather arresting some poor unfortunate for drunkenness, of all things. I also found an account of him receiving two black eyes from the wife of someone he was arresting. Another article (30 November 1870) mentions moves (in a public meeting at the Town Hall) to scrap the borough police force due to its drunkenness. However this was resisted and Maidenhead Borough Police survived for another 19 years until it amalgamated with the Berkshire Constabulary.

#### Sources

Watch Committee Minutes Maidenhead Borough Police 1850-1877. Berkshire Record Office M/AC2/2/1  
*Maidenhead Advertiser* from 1870: microfiche at Maidenhead Public Library  
A A Clarke. *Police uniform and equipment*. (Shire Books)  
Simon Dell. *The Victorian policeman*.

*John Randall was charged with being drunk and riotous on the previous day.—Supt. M'Graw stated that between 11 and 12 o'clock in the morning, he was sent for to go to Ray Cottages, and he there found the prisoner, who was drunk and creating a great disturbance. He persuaded him to go away, and at last told him that he should summon him for it. In the evening, P.C. Finch found him in Queen-street, drunk and making a disturbance, and took him into custody.—Prisoner, who said he was very sorry, was fined 7s. and 6d. costs, in default seven days' imprisonment.*

from the *Maidenhead Advertiser*  
28 September 1870



# Purley a parish portrait

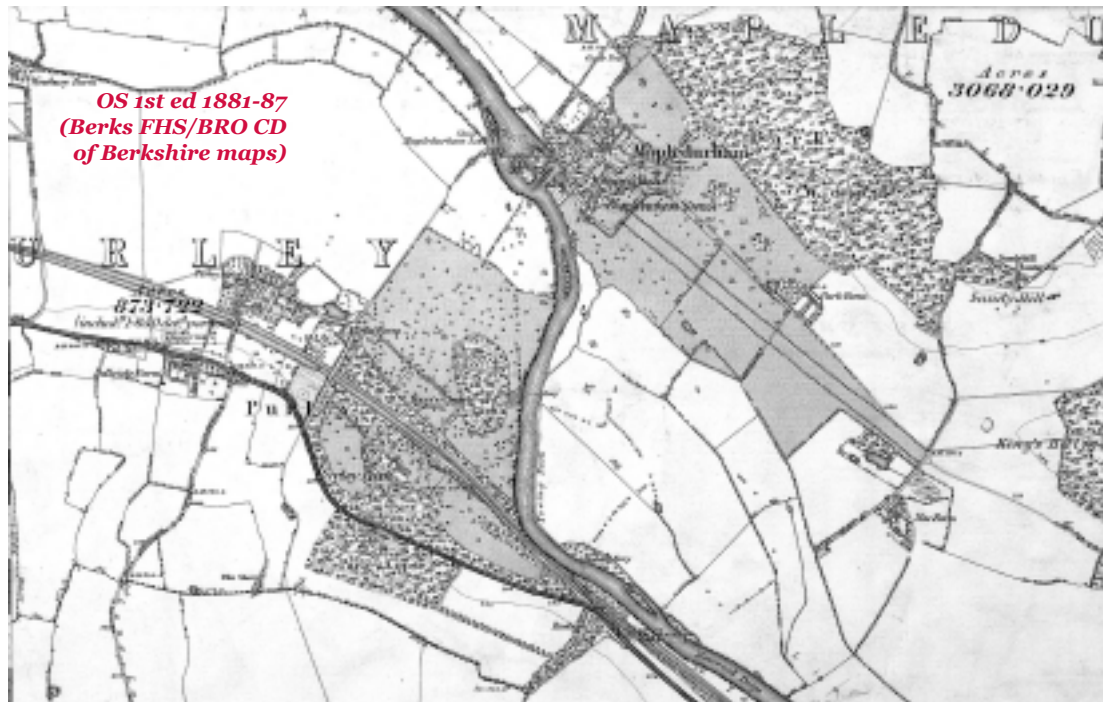
**Jean Debney  
takes us on a tour  
of her home turf.**

Bisected by the A329 and Brunel's Great Western Railway, Purley lies four miles west of Reading, and is easily missed as one speeds along the road towards Pangbourne. The Norman church and most of the old cottages are hidden by trees on lower ground extending to the bank of the River Thames, the curve of which forms the north and east boundary. Tilehurst lies to the south, and parts of Sulham, Whitchurch (Oxfordshire) and Pangbourne to the west. The parish covers 877 acres (355 hectares). In common with many other rural areas, the continuing explosion of new houses threatens to obscure the original village.

Purley's Saxon origins lie in its name, variously spelt *Porlaa* or *Porlei*, which means either a woodland clearing with pear trees, or inhabited by snipe or bittern. Pear Tree Pightle, marked on the tithe map (1840), supports the first definition; the low-lying river meadows, which could be a habitat for either

bird, suggest the second. The earliest written record is in the Domesday Book (1086); two manors can be identified, later known as Purley Magna and Purley Parva. A third, smaller manor, later known as La Hyde, included land scattered into the parishes of Purley, Sulham and Pangbourne, and a detached portion of Whitchurch. Most of these lands were merged into Purley in the late 1800s. There was no mill in the parish, the nearest being Mapledurham Mill across the river. Mapledurham Lock is in Purley, and was built as a pound lock in 1777 to replace the old flash lock.

Purley was in the Hundred of Reading, and later in the Hundred of Theale. Ecclesiastically it is in the rural deanery of Bradfield, and the archdeaconry of Berkshire, which was formerly in the diocese of Salisbury, in the province of Canterbury. In 1836 the archdeaconry was transferred to the diocese of Oxford.







*Church of St Mary the Virgin, Purley*

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin dates from the twelfth century, and contains a Norman font and chancel arch. Except for the tower and the interior of the south wall, the church was rebuilt by G E Street, who enlarged the nave and chancel and added a north aisle and vestry. In 1983, the north aisle and vestry were demolished, and the church was extended to the north. The tower contains six bells, the earliest dated 1627. After recent reinforcement their cheery sound can be heard for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and the Friday evening practice.

On the south side of the tower is the weathered coat of arms of Oliver St John dated 1626, and a clock donated by Leila Fullerton (née Storer). The registers, dating from 1662 to 1885, and other parish records are in the Berkshire Record Office. An incomplete run of Bishops' Transcripts, 1607 to 1812, and other records, are in the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office.

The old rectory on the south side of Purley village was sold in the 1930s (a smaller rectory was built nearby) and demolished in the 1960s. Lister Close is now on the old site.

The St John family of Lydiard Tregoze, Wiltshire and Battersea, Surrey, were lords of the manor of Purley Magna for nearly 300 years. The red-brick manor house known as the Great Farm adjoined the churchyard on the riverbank. In the late eighteenth century the



*Purley Park*

manor was lost by George Richard St John in a gambling debt to Robert Mackreth, owner of White's Coffee House in St James, Piccadilly. In 1793 it was bought by Anthony Morris Storer MP with money inherited from his father's estate in Jamaica. Storer engaged Humphrey Repton to design an "estate fit for a gentleman", and the new mansion house was built to a design by James Wyatt in 1800. The surrounding land was enclosed to form Purley Park.

Purley Park was held by the Storer family until it was sold in 1920. Later, portions were sold off for market gardens and housing. The Grade II-listed mansion house has recently been repaired and divided into three luxury apartments, with smaller houses on the site of the old stables.

At the same time as Purley Park was built, the Great Farm near the church was moved to the south side of the turnpike road, and renamed Belleisle Farm after the Jamaican plantation. A new farm house (later extended to form the present building, and now divided into apartments) was built to the design suggested by Repton, with the old barn and stables re-erected round the new farmyard. The sporting artist, Cecil Aldin (d 1935) lived there; he was master of the South Berkshire Hunt in 1904. After the Second World War Trenthams Engineering Company occupied the site. After it was sold it became a housing

estate, and the developers, while retaining the original farm house and the later bowling green, presented the old barn to the parish. It was re-erected at Goosecroft Recreation Ground in 1983, where it is now used for meetings and other public events.

Purley Hall, originally called Hyde Hall, is said to date from 1609. A stone on the ground floor marks the spot where the parishes of Purley, Sulham and Whitchurch meet. In the early 1700s the house was purchased by Frances Hawes, who was associated with the South Sea Bubble. Later in the century it was rented by Warren Hastings of the East India Company prior to his impeachment in the 1790s. It was bought in the late eighteenth century by the Wilders of Nunhide and Sulham, who owned it until 1961. Regrettably, when the house changed hands some years later the old pictures and mirrors which had hung in the house for over 200 years were removed.

Purley Lodge is a large stone house at the west end of Purley village, dating from the mid-eighteenth century. Now a Grade II-listed building and divided into two, it is said to occupy the site of an older building associated with Reading Abbey. Further along the village street are several timber-framed cottages, including Ivy and Jasmine Cottages, and an early eighteenth-century brick house where shoemakers lived in the 1700s. It housed successive village schoolmistresses in the following century. On the A329 the thatched Yew Tree Cottage is now listed. Close by is the brick Lichfield Cottage, which was originally the parish house and then the post office. It was run in the 1920s by the Misses Pocock, who also sold sticky sweets.

There has been a village school since at least 1818, when the children were probably taught by the rector's wife and niece. A purpose-built elementary school, designed by Joseph Morris of Reading in 1873 is still in use today as an infant school. A late nineteenth-century logbook, admissions register and a

punishment book from the 1920s are in the Berkshire Record Office.

Westbury Farm, the former manor house of Purley Parva, is on a rise west of the village. Dating from the early seventeenth century and built of red brick, it was known as Viners' Farm in the late 1700. Adjacent is Scrases Farm, which was part of the manor of La Hyde and later the Wilder estate. Home Farm (for Purley Park) was at the bottom of New Hill. It is now Farm Close, with a new Home Farm built nearer the Thames. The old village pond, Hackmer Pond, used for watering cattle and horses, was opposite the old Home Farm. It was filled in during the 1960s, but the site is still marked by some ageing willow trees.

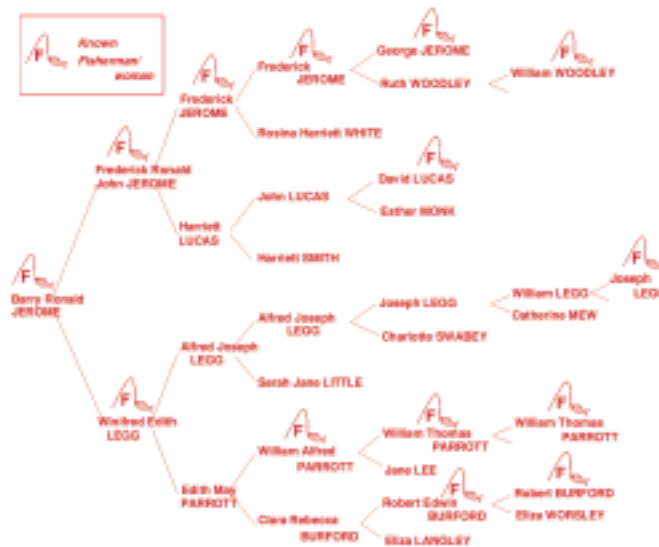
Project Purley, the local history society founded in 1982, has regular meetings and a journal three times a year. As part of my researches, I have transcribed the registers and many other documents, and reconstituted most of the families who have lived here over the centuries. Most of this work was done prior to computers, so any enquiries may take some time.

*Many sources have been used including the Victoria County History of Berkshire, other printed sources, and many original records in the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire record offices, Reading Central Library and The National Archives. Some records are included in the CDs published by Berks FHS, such as the Berkshire Burial Index, the 1851 Census Index and Transcript, the Berkshire Overseers' Papers (prior to 1834) and the First Edition 6in Ordnance Survey Maps (1881-1887).*

*This article was adapted from Purley, originally published in Berks FHS Journal, vol.7 pt 1, Autumn 1981, pp12-16, which also included a full transcript and scale drawing of the assessment for the churchyard rails made in 1711, and part of Rocque's map of Berkshire, 1761.*

# A fisherman's tale

**Barry Jerome (2760)**  
*fishes around in his family tree for a gene to explain the prevalence of piscatorial relatives.*



Scientists have been unravelling the human genome and identifying genes responsible for various illnesses and traits. My family history research has prompted me to explore a tongue-in-cheek hypothesis: is there a fishing gene?

I have always been very interested in freshwater fishing. I cannot remember what prompted my interest, but when I was 10 years old I chose a fishing rod as a present. My father and mother also started fishing then, and I later discovered that my father had been keen on fishing when he was a boy.

What has this to do with family history? Nothing, is what I thought until recently, when I noticed several ancestors on both sides of my family tree who had fishing as a hobby or a job. There are at least 13 fishermen and women in my recent family history that I know for certain.

In the family tree above I have highlighted the fishermen and women that I know about. I will illustrate what I have uncovered so far with a short description of each.

**Frederick Ronald (Ron) Jerome** (1922 - 2006) Ron's (my father) interest in fishing started when he was very young, influenced by his great-grandfather David Lucas. As a boy, he fished on the River Mole, near Dorking in Surrey.

**Frederick (Fred) Jerome** (1900 - 1968) Fred (my grandfather) had a career in the Royal Navy. I remember him relating stories of sea-fishing activities, and in particular the stories of shark fishing. The bait was provided by the ship's butcher, and tied onto a large hook and wire line.

**Frederick Jerome** (1863 - 1932) Frederick was born in Henley-on-Thames, where as a youngster he would have helped his father George (see below). In later life he owned and ran a fishmonger's and poulterer's shop in Dorking, Surrey.

**George Jerome** (1831 - 1885) George started working life as an agricultural labourer, but became a fisherman and waterman on the River Thames at Henley after meeting his future wife, Ruth. Ruth's father was a waterman.

**William Woodley** William was a waterman and fisherman also at Henley. Freshwater fish were fished commercially then. Typical species caught from the Thames were roach, dace, bleak, perch, bream and pike.



**David Lucas** (1847 - 1927) *pictured left*

David was a head gamekeeper on an estate in Brockham, Surrey. He coached his great-grandson (my father) as a young boy in his first tentative steps at fishing.

**Winifred Edith (Win) Jerome** (née Legg) (1919 - 81)

Win (my mother) did not become a “fishing widow” when I took up fishing with my father. She had her own fishing equipment and club membership.

**Joseph Legg** (1769 - 1854)

was a farmer in Ringwood, Hampshire, but after he retired became a commercial fisherman on the River Avon. In the 1851 census he was a widower aged 81 with a live-in housekeeper whose son was a fisherman’s labourer.

My Parrott and Burford ancestors were all involved in oyster-fishing on the tidal River Medway in Kent. It was a major industry at the time.

**William Alfred Parrott** (1866 - 194?) William owned and worked two sailing barges and was a freeman of the River Medway. As a waterman he would have been involved in various activities including fishing, dredging and moving goods.

**William Thomas Parrott (jnr)** (1826 - 97)

William Thomas was a waterman on the River Medway following in his father’s footsteps. His boat was one of the familiar Thames and Medway sailing barges, a 43-ton barque called the *Alice Maud*.

**William Thomas Parrott (snr)**

(1794 - 1874) William lived at Pelican Quay in Strood, Kent. As well as oysters smelt would have been one of the principal catches, as the Medway was not polluted then.

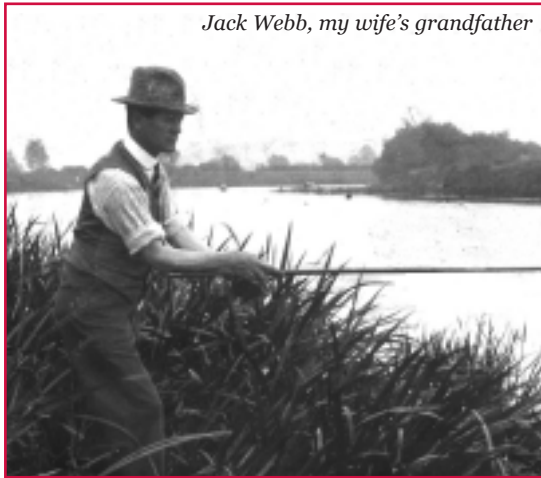
**Robert Edwin Burford** (1839 - 1915)

By the time Robert Edwin was 22 he was a commercial fisherman on the River Medway at Strood, and later he also ran a fishmonger’s shop. Although not identified separately as a fisherwoman, his wife Eliza was involved, as she worked in the family business.

**Robert Burford** (1811 - 57)

Robert was a commercial fisherman and dredgerman on the River Medway at Gillingham in Kent. In later life he owned and ran a fishmonger’s shop and his wife, also called Eliza, worked in the business. The artist J M W Turner captured in paintings fishermen selling their catch on the banks of the Medway in the early 1800s. Robert may have been amongst them.

My son Ceri has also caught the fishing bug. This could be influenced by the fact that my wife Ann has fished occasionally, her father was a very keen angler throughout his life and her grandfather, Jack Webb, has a specimen trout on display in Wollaton Hall museum. He caught it from the River Trent near Nottingham; the river must have been a lot cleaner then.



*Jack Webb, my wife's grandfather*



*Win Jerome née Legg (my mother) fishing in her "Sunday best"*

I will be following further gene research with much interest. I wonder if it is just possible that there could be a fishing gene. Has anyone else found similar activities appearing frequently in their ancestors' jobs or pastimes?

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# Surnames in spelling and speech

Derivation from a place name is one of the well known ways in which a surname may come into existence. If, however, over the centuries both the place name and surname undergo changes in pronunciation and spelling, problems of identification for the family researcher will almost certainly arise. I have attempted to illustrate some of these uncertainties as they affect a particular family or group of families within the standard IGI classification Hayden – Hudden. The general principle will however apply to other IGI family groupings.

At a certain period English spelling began to replace *y* by *i*, Hydden becoming Hidden, Smyth by Smith etc. In medieval legal documents such as land charters, which were translated by scribes into a Latinised form, the letter *y* in English presented particular difficulty. Such a letter not existing in the Roman alphabet, the letter *u* was used in its place. Thus the Anglo-Saxon place name Hydden appears in its Latinised form as Hudden. Fortunately this practice did not apply to surnames, which in legal documents were written as they appeared in English, and since the use of the Latinised spelling Hudden (from Hydden) is not an indicator of change in pronunciation, there can be no instance of the surname Hidden (as distinct from the place name) being transformed to Hudden. In particular no confusion occurs with the Hudden family prominent in the sixteenth century in Potterne, Wiltshire. (For further details see my article in the *Wiltshire Family History Society Journal* Summer 1994).

During the period circa 1400 - 1600 English pronunciation underwent a change known as the Great Vowel Shift. One such change was where the sound *i* as in Hidden for instance

***The late Norman Hidden explains pronunciation and spelling changes which sometimes confound family historians.***

became *e* as in Hedden, and was represented accordingly in writing. This sound and consequent spelling change from Hidden to Hedden is particularly noticeable in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. That the change may not have been recorded even earlier is probably due to the fact that the surname Hidden remained for some time identified with the place from which the name took its origin, the manor of Hidden in the parish of Hungerford. As soon however as any of the Hidden family moved from Hungerford to an area where the surname's association with the place name was lost or unknown, the pronunciation shift and consequent spelling shift begin to appear. This happened even in bordering parishes such as Kintbury, Inkpen and Lambourn. In short, familiarity with the place name from which the surname derived extended only a few miles from the manor farm of Hidden itself. To all except the most local or the most educated persons, ie those familiar with the name from written documents, the spelling became Heeden or Heddon.

This spelling however led to a series of possible confusions of surname identity. Since the sound represented by the spelling *hedd* may also be represented in writing as *head*, the likelihood arises of writers such as parish clerks transcribing the name Hedden as Headen. Whilst this may have caused no difficulty for local contemporaries, it can be confusing for modern researchers, since Headen is also an IGI variant for another surname altogether, Hayden.

Further confusion for modern researchers may also arise from the fact that in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the spelling *ea* was pronounced *ay* as in modern

English. In Shakespeare's play *Hamlet* (written circa 1600) the word *peacock* appears as *paycock*. (Act 3 Scene 2)

One further pronunciation change seems to have developed in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: a change in intonation whereby words ending in a nasal represented by *n* in writing came to be pronounced in a way represented by spelling as *ing*. Thus Hedden became Hedding, which was undoubtedly a more fashionable pronunciation. A forerunner of this intonation change may perhaps be seen in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (circa 1400):

*Ful weel she sooing the service dyvyne  
Entuned in her nose ful semely*

It is amusing to recollect that in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries upper-class speakers reversed this process, dropping the *g* sound and talking of *huntin'*, *shootin'* and *fishin'*. Such is the whirligig of fashionable pronunciation.

The use of Hedding as a variant for Hedden may produce further difficulties for the modern researcher due to a compulsion for alternative spelling always to be attracted to a form already familiar. The sound of *hedd*

recalls the similar sound of the word *head*, a more commonly used word having many derivative forms such as headache, headdress; the spelling thus came to supersede Hedding.

Unfortunately, where an original surname is based on an identifiable place name, change occurring by attraction to a more familiar word of different origin can lead to loss of the original word's clear identity. There are families named Heading to be found in various areas of England, especially in the counties of Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and these go back several centuries. It is not known from what source their name derives. It may or may not be a place, but it is most certainly not the Berkshire manor of Hidden in the parish of Hungerford. In Cornwall the Headen family seems almost invariably to have doubled the *d* to Headden, and something similar seems to have happened to the Hampshire Hedding family.

Great efforts are needed to separate these families. Like so much else in family history some problems may never be resolved with complete satisfaction, but they may also on occasion produce one of those rare, unexpected and joyous surprises that the pursuit of genealogy sometimes allows.



**The poet Norman Hidden (1913 - 2006) was also a prolific researcher of local and family history. His *Aspects of the Early History of Hungerford* is to be published by Hungerford Historical Association, whose archives also contain many of his local history works.**

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In  
Memory of  
Ambrose Cable  
Who Died July 16th 1855. Aged 49 ys  
Deeply Lamented

from **Margaret Oates**

This cowrie shell inspired me to search for more details about Ambrose and his family and perhaps even unite this memento with some descendants. The information I have so far has been gleaned from the internet, with help from the Berkshire Record Office, and I would love to hear from anyone who is able to fill in any more details.

I have been able to trace Ambrose in the 1841 census living in Little End, Binfield with his wife Mary Ann, son William aged 6 and apprentice Edwin James aged 14. The 1847 Kelly's directory for Berkshire and Oxfordshire lists Ambrose Cable as a tailor in Caversham.

In 1851 he is 46 years old, born in Woodford, Wiltshire, and Mary Ann is employed as a National School mistress, aged 45, and born in Chatham, Kent. There is no mention of their son William (who possibly did not survive, as he does not appear in later censuses). Also living with them and working as a tailor was a nephew William, born in Portsea, Hampshire and an apprentice David Painter, aged 15, born in St Mary's, Reading. *Billing's Directory and Gazetteer of Berks and Oxon* in 1854 reveals Mary Ann Cable listed as a "mistress of Parochial School".

The transcripts of burial registers for the parish of Caversham St Peter (BRO T/R



103/2) have Ambrose Cable entered on 21 July 1855, aged 49.

Mary Ann next appears in 1861 as a widow employed as an assistant (to whom?) and living at 87 Prospect Street, Caversham. In the Caversham enclosure award of 1865 Mary Ann (widow) is an allottee of plot 117. By 1871 and 1881 she has a boarder who is an infant school mistress, so she would still seem to have links with the local school. In 1881 her address was 93 Prospect Street, Caversham. The GRO records Mary Ann's death in the third quarter of 1886 aged 82 years.

Less certain is the information from the IGI of a marriage between Ambrose Cable and Mary Ann Fulton on 1 October 1832 at Saint Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, and also a christening of Mary Ann on 27 May 1804 in Chatham, Kent with her parents as William and Sarah Fulton.

I hope this will connect with someone.

from **Mrs J A Harris (6429)**

While researching the Treacher family of the Reading area I was delighted to find my great-great-grandfather had the splendid name of Nimrod Treacher, as did two other members of his close family. Not expecting to top this, I was amazed to find that in 1581 a distant ancestor who married a Janie Martine had the unbelievable name of Trustrueme Tracher. This however was not a one-off, as in 1945 in Midlothian, Scotland a Trustrueme Treacher popped up, and I wonder if any members know of any details during that 350-year period.

from **Bridget Thurgate (6434)**

I am totally stuck in my research into a family named French or Frenchat who lived in Ideson near Ashbury, I think. A Mary French married a James Deacon circa 1685. Both came from the hamlet of Ideson near the village of Ashbury. In an old notebook written by their son James Deacon (1691 - 1748) there is an entry which reads:

*James Deacon my grandfather was married to Mary Frenchat, by whom was born my father George Deacon ( of ? ) ... Grange , it lyes between Newbury and Hungerford in Wiltshire it belonged to Robert Jacobs - it's near Hamstead House ...*

If anyone can throw any light on any of this I should be hugely grateful.

**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 **Beth Lipoff**

I am interested in conducting some historical research in Berkshire regarding the civilian home front experience of World War II. More specifically, I would like to interview local residents about their personal experiences living in Berkshire during the war, as part of a project to create an oral history of the area during this time. I would be doing this research next autumn/winter, and I'm looking for people who would be willing to be interviewed or contacted about this.

I'm also looking at experiences in Bristol and Cardiff, so if any members lived there during the war, I'd be interested in speaking with them as well.

At the moment I'm applying for funding to do my research, so I'm not scheduling interviews quite yet. However, I am putting together a list of people who would interested in speaking with me.

Thank you.

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## Daphne Spurling

The India-related holdings of the National Army Museum. *Journal of Families in British India*, no 15, spring 2006

Hints on research in the India Office records at the British Library Asian and African Studies Reading Room. *Journal of Families in British India*, no 16, autumn 2006

Index to grave inscriptions, St Mary's Church, Manchester. Part 1: Ackers - Lunt. *Manchester and Lancashire FHS*, vol 43, no 3, 2007

All Saints, Laxfield and Laxfield. One article on the church, and a second on the village. *Suffolk FHS*, vol 33, no 2, Sept 2007

A name index for Tudor Darlington. Approx 400 names. Includes associated townships of Bondgate, Cockerton and Blackwell. *Cleveland, N Yorks and S Durham FHS*, vol 10, no 3, July 2007

Using the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Explains some suffix letters of batch numbers. *Australian Family Tree Connections*, vol 15, issue 8, Aug 2007

Spotlight on Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna. *Somerset & Dorset FHS*, vol 32, no 3, Aug 2007

Somerset farms – the name game. Origins of farm names including historical from Saxon times. *Somerset & Dorset FHS*, vol 32, no 3, Aug 2007

Somerset snapshot: East Coker. *Somerset & Dorset FHS*, vol 32, no 3, Aug 2007

Summer cemetery recording – photography tips. *British Columbia Gen Soc*, vol 36 no 2, June 2007

Feature parish: Boyndie. *Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS*, no 104, Aug 2007

A study of Black Notley. Includes list of occupiers of cottages, sites and size in 1875 with sketches of some houses. *Essex FHS*, no 125, Sept 2007

London Metropolitan Archives. *Westminster & Middlesex FHS*, vol 29, no 4, July 2007

Chelsea Royal Hospital records. *Coventry FHS*, vol 7, no 3, Sept 2007

The Nalder and Nalder foundries of Challow and Wantage: the Booker and Gauntlet families of Grove. *Oxfordshire FHS*, vol 21, no 2, Aug 2007

The great St Albans pageant of 1907 – did your ancestors take part? 60 names. *Hertfordshire FHS*, no 102, Sept 2007

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Hitchin. *Hertfordshire FHS*, no 102, Sept 2007

Ware – report to the Board of Health 1849. *Hertfordshire FHS*, no 102, Sept 2007

# Bookends

For overseas p&p, or any prices not shown below, please contact BerksFHS Bookshop.

**Jean Debney**

## BERKSHIRE FHS PUBLICATION

### ***Farnborough, All Saints parish registers***

CD - BRKO237 (Berks FHS, 2007) £5.40 inc UK p&p.

The history notes on this CD record that Farnborough's most well-known resident was the poet John Betjeman, who between 1945 and 1951 lived in the Old Rectory, which he described as being of "great architectural distinction". Some colour photographs include one of a stained-glass window in the parish church dedicated to Betjeman and designed by John Piper.

The transcript, which is easily searchable in Adobe Acrobat Reader (used to read this disk) includes indexes to: baptisms; banns and marriages indexed by bride and groom; and burials. This is the latest and very useful source of Berkshire data.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### ***The story of Blewbury Charity School***

Peter Northeast (Blewbury Local History Group, 1964, 3rd ed with amendments by BLHG, 2007) A4 flexiback (clip binding). 30pp. ISBN 978-0-9504794-7-7

Written to celebrate the 300th anniversary of this village school, this history includes three new chapters to bring it right up to date (from the first edition in 1964), with a new site and a new name for the school. The contents list and the index take you quickly to the pages of interest. Illustrated with old black and white photographs and modern colour images of today's children, also showing the new

premises, which are grouped at the end of the main text. Recommended for anyone associated with Blewbury or the history of education.

### ***This venerable village of Blewbury***

Peter Northeast (Blewbury Local History Group, 1964, 5th ed, revised 2007) A4 flexiback. 92pp. ISBN 978-0-9504794-6-0

This new edition has been updated with additional material and appendices. The front cover has a very attractive photograph of the cob wall in Blewbury, the back cover a street map, and in the text there are line drawings and a map of old field names. The index is helpful if you are looking for an ancestor or details of a particular property. A useful and interesting local history.

### ***London Street described 1800 - 1900: a Reading historical record***

(The London Street Research Group, 2007) A5 flexiback. 120pp. Three indexes: surnames, professions and occupations, and general index by property identification number. £9.15 inc UK p&p.

This book has been a long time coming because of all the detailed research carried out by this dedicated group, which started as an evening class. Each property and court in London Street is listed, from north to south with odd numbers on the east side and even numbers on the west. Each entry lists the names and dates of the heads of households compiled from directories, rate books, census returns etc, an architectural description of the property frontage, and in most cases a line drawing. The abbreviations used are listed and mentioned in the introduction. This

excellent book is almost certainly going to be a classic reference source, useful for anyone with an interest, or ancestors, in Reading, and London Street in particular.

***Sandhurst, how it has changed***

Research Group, Sandhurst Historical Society (2007) A5 flexiback. 72pp. £6.00 inc UK p&p.

This is the fourth and last publication by this society, which was formed in 1996. Using old photos and modern images taken from, as near as possible, the same place, it illustrates how things have changed over the years. Each is accompanied by historical notes. This book is well written and well produced, and it will appeal to both past and present, old and new residents. (Sadly no contact address is given.)

***Vale of the White Horse***

Nigel Hammond and Jon Brown (Nonsuch Publishing Ltd, 1999) pocket ed 2007 4.9 x 6.6in (123 x 168mm) flexiback. 128pp. ISBN 978-1-845888-388-1 £7.19 inc UK p&p.

A small book with over 200 photographs, arranged thematically, and some old adverts, each with a short explanatory text. The images are dated and the local people named, giving a glimpse of the past in the towns and villages of this lovely part of the old county of Berkshire.

***Former mayors of Wokingham from 1885 to 1946***

Jim Bell (Wokingham Society, 2007) A5 flexiback. 52pp. £4.70 inc UK p&p.

This reference booklet lists the mayors in chronological order between 1885 and 1946 with notes about their civic careers and their biographies. Most are illustrated with a portrait.

***Walks with writers: new literary walks in Old Berkshire***

Elizabeth Cander-Cuff (D & N Publishing, Lambourn, 1999) A5 flexiback. 112pp. ISBN 0-9535695-0-0

Illustrated with maps and coloured images, the book describes 16 walks in the footsteps of writers associated with Berkshire. These include Samuel Pepys, D H Lawrence, John Betjeman and Oscar Wilde. Each walk has a brief biography followed by a description of the walk. This fascinating publication has plenty of interesting details to enliven any walk, as well as to encourage people out into the fresh air to explore the local countryside. And there is a bonus: our limited stock has been signed by the author.

*A few copies only of the following flexiback publications are also available from BerksFHS Bookshop:*

***Chieveley remembered***

Bill Martin (Trafford Publishing) 211 pp. ISBN 1-4251-0246-8; £11.02 inc UK p&p. Memories of the 1930s.

***Cumnor and Farnoor with Appleton and Eaton: the changing faces of***

Norman Dix and John Hanson (Robert Boyd Publications) 96pp. ISBN 1-899536-11-6. £10.42 inc UK p&p

***The history of Didcot: the long years of obscurity***

**vol 1 – to 1841.** B F Lingham and M & M Heard (2nd ed, 2005) 238pp. £11.92 inc UK p&p.

**vol 2 – 1918 - 1945: a poor struggling little town.** Brian F Lingham (Didcot Town Council, 2000) 224pp. £9.92 inc UK p&p.

Indexed and illustrated with maps, drawings and photographs.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

***More of the Tilehurst we remember***

(History of Tilehurst Group, 2001) 103pp. ISBN 0-9531479-1-6. Formerly £5.99 now only £4.20 inc UK p&p.

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**The Research Centre will close on Thursday evening 13 December 2007 and re-open again on Tuesday 2 January 2008.**

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 532,000 entries to date. More than 80 per cent of the entries 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 sixth 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

Whether you are a member or a visitor, these tours will show you what research and finding aids are available to enable you to

make the most of the rich resources at the Research Centre.

The tours scheduled for 2008:

Saturday 9 February	14.30
Monday 12 May	19.30
Saturday 13 September	14.30
Monday 17 November	19.30

The tours last for about two hours, and will allow a short time to browse in the library, to buy publications and to use the computers for your family history research.

For further details contact Arthur Beech on 0118 978 4781 or <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>.

## 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 only (from those listed on page 32) 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

**Bob Plumridge <bob@theplumridges.com>**

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.**

6389	ALLEN	Rackheath	NFK	1750-1860	6315	BENDELL	Redenham	HTS	pre 1850
712	ALLIN	Stratfield Mortimer			6409	BLANCHETT	Steeple Ashton	WIL	pre 1701
			BRK	pre 1860	6409	BOND	Reading	BRK	1773+
6418	ANDREWS	Thatcham	BRK	1750+	6409	BOND	Potterne	WIL	pre 1773
6434	ANTRAM	Portsmouth	HAM	All	6410	BRANT	Warfield	BRK	1750-1900
6286	APPLETON	Beech Hill	BRK	pre 1900	5284	BRAZELL	All	All	All
6409	AVERY	Enborne	BRK	pre 1790	6411	BURTON	Bradford on Avon	WIL	1800-1930
6389	AYLARD	All	LDN	1700-1900	6417	BUTLER	Brightwalton	BRK	pre 1846
6411	BAKER	Market Lavington	WIL	1800-1955	6417	BUTLER	Letcombe Bassett	BRK	pre 1846
6417	BARBER	All	SFK	pre 1850	6377	CHARLTON	Chatham	KEN	All
6430	BARRETT	Abingdon	BRK	1840	712	CHIVERS	All	HAM	All
6286	BEARD	All	WAR	pre 1900	712	CHURCH	Reading	BRK	pre 1780
712	BEAUMONT	Brewham	SOM	pre 1800	6041	CHURCH	Cholsey	BRK	1750-
6315	BENDELL	Kimpton	HTS	pre 1880	6041	CHURCH	Goring	OXF	All
6315	BENDELL	Tanglely	HTS	pre 1810	6430	CLARKE	Bray	BRK	1850-1910

6377	CLAY	London	LND	All	6417	HULL	Bramshaw	WIL	pre 1800
6286	CLEMENTS	All	BRK	pre 1850	6409	HUMM	Bethnal Green	MDX	All
6286	CLEMENTS	All	BRK	pre 1850	3642	IRVING	Islington	LND	1850+
6315	CLINCH	Culham	OXF	pre 1840	3642	IRVING	Hurley	BRK	1860+
6283	COLLETT	All	SSX	All	3642	IRVING	Henley	OXF	All
6283	COLLETT	All	MDX	All	3642	IRVING	Cobham	SRY	1870+
6411	COLLINS	Lavington	WIL	1808-1910	3642	IRVING	Remenham	BRK	All
6411	COOKE	Bradford on Avon	WIL	1786-1930	6417	JACQUES	Corsham	WIL	pre 1800
6377	COOPER	Duffield	DBY	pre 1841	6377	JURY	All	MDX	All
6389	CORDELL	Shoreditch	LDN	1750-1900	6377	JURY	All	DEV	All
6410	COTTERELL	Easthamstead	BRK	1720-1850	3642	KEATES	Mile End	LND	1900+
6417	COUSINS	All	BRK	pre 1900	6430	KEEP	Charlton	BRK	1824
6315	CROSS	Wantage	BRK	pre 1900	6286	KEEP	All	BRK	All
6315	CROSS	Ardington	BRK	pre 1840	712	LAVINGTON	Heckfield	HAM	pre 1770
647	CRUSE	All	All	All	6434	LEWIS	Upper Langford	SOM	1600-1900
6438	CUSDEN	Swallowfield	BRK	1750-1850	6411	LONG	Studland	DOR	1807-1925
6438	CUSDEN	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1850	6434	LOVING	Adgstone	IOW	1700-1900
6434	DEACON	Pewsey	WIL	1650-1800	6315	MALAM	All	BRK	pre 1840
6434	DEACON	Portsmouth	HAM	1700-1900	6409	MALONEY	Salford	LAN	1830+
6434	DEACON	Idstone	BRK	1600-1700	6409	MARCHANT	Kidderminster	WOR	pre 1900
712	DEADMAN	Tadley	HAM	pre 1820	6430	MARTIN	Bray	BRK	1880
712	DEADMAN	Aldermaston	BRK	pre 1820	712	MASON	Hughendon	BKM	pre 1830
6283	DIGWEED	All	BRK	All	6417	MAY	Atworth	WIL	pre 1810
3642	DOWLING	Reading	BRK	1920+	6409	McPHERSON	Rochester	KEN	pre 1850
6417	DREDGE	All	WIL	pre 1845	6409	MELLISH	Finsbury	MDX	All
6389	EAGLES	Hardwicke	GLS	1700-1900	6438	MOORE	Headington	OXF	1800-1900
6286	EDGERTON	Swallowfield	BRK	All	6438	MOORE	Reading	BRK	1800-1930
6377	FESTON	Southwark	SRY	pre 1841	3642	MUMMERY	Henley	OXF	1835+
6377	FLACK	Lambeth	SRY	All	6389	NEALE	Weeting	NFK	1800-1900
6438	FRANCIS	Hungerford	BRK	1700-1810	6417	NEWTON	Fisherton Angas	WIL	pre 1880
6438	FRANCIS	Reading	BRK	1800-1880	6389	NOON	Branstone	STS	1700-1871
6411	FRANKLIN	Welford	BRK	1804-1845	712	NORTH	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1740
5284	FRANKLIN	Reading	BRK	1750+	6411	O(A)TRIDGE	Bradford on Avon	WIL	1720-1851
5284	FRANKLIN	Newbury	BRK	1750+	6409	ORMESHER	Bolton	LAN	pre 2000
5284	FRANKLIN	Cholsey	BRK	1750+	6379	PACKER	Reading	BRK	1900+
712	FRARY	All	NFK	All	712	PAYNE	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1850
6434	FRENCH	Idstone	BRK	1600-1700	6409	PERRETT	Erlestoke	WIL	pre 1750
6315	FULLER	Wolverhampton	STS	1880-1920	712	PIKE	Aldermaston	BRK	pre 1750
6315	FULLER	Didcot	BRK	pre 1900	6417	POWELL	All	SOM	pre 1885
6411	GARDINER	West Wickham	KEN	1740-1850	6434	PRICE	Llandovery	CMN	All
6315	GARDINER	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1860	712	PRINCE	Stratfield Mortimer	BRK	pre 1700
6389	GILES	Ufton	BRK	1700-1850	6377	PRITCHARD	Hereford	HRT	All
6411	GOULD	Studland	DOR	1781-1900	6377	PULLING	Hereford	HRT	All
6377	GRAINGER	All	ESS	All	6389	RAYMEN	All	LDN	1800+
6417	GRAY	Bodenham	WIL	pre 1850	6410	RICHARDSON	Easthamstead	BRK	1800-1880
6417	GRAY	Britford	WIL	pre 1850	6041	ROBEY	Farnborough	BRK	All
6041	GREENER	Windsor	BRK	All	6434	ROLLEY	Llandovery	CMN	1750-1850
6377	GRIFFIN	Northampton	NTH	pre 1841	6409	ROSS	Leicester	LEI	1800-1850
3642	GROVER	Reading	BRK	1900+	712	RUMMEY	All	HAM	All
6377	HALL	London	LND	All	6389	RUTTERFORD	Lakenheath	SFK	1750-1900
6409	HALL	Clerkenwell	MDX	pre 1800	6417	SALTER	All	SFK	pre 1800
6379	HANKINS	Reading	BRK	1900+	6438	SAVAGE	Burgfield	BRK	1750-1850
6417	HART	All	DOR	pre 1860	6438	SAVAGE	Bray	BRK	1750-1840
3642	HERBERT	Reading	BRK	1940+	6417	SHEPHARD	Atworth	WIL	pre 1880
6377	HILLER	Reading	BRK	All	6041	SIBLEY	Chesham	BKM	All
6286	HODKINSON	Coventry	WAR	All	6041	SIBLEY	Windsor	BRK	1850-
6418	HOLDER	Bishop Green	BKS	1850+	6041	SIBLEY	Little Missenden	BKM	All
6418	HOLDER	Greenham	BRK	1750+	6377	SIMONS	London	MDX	All
6410	HOLLOWAY	Warfield	BRK	1800-1930	6417	SMITH	West Ilsley	BRK	pre 1840
6410	HOLLOWAY	Winkfield	BRK	1800-1930	6417	SMITH	Brightwalton	BRK	pre 1840
6315	HOPGOOD	Chute	WIL	pre 1840	6286	TANNER	Swallowfield	BRK	All
6411	HOPSON	Welford	BRK	1740-1804	6286	TANNER	Wokingham	BRK	All
6389	HUBBARD	Sloley	NFK	1750-1820	6410	TAYLOR	Easthamstead	BRK	1790-1850
6389	HUGHES	All	MAY	1800-1845	6389	TAYLOR	Mortimer	BRK	1800-1900

6410	TAYLOR	Chieveley	BRK	1770-1870	6417	WEBB	Atworth	WIL	pre 1880
6417	THORN(E)	All	DOR	pre 1870	6379	WEBB	Bix	OXF	All
6409	TIGHE	Salford	LAN	1800-1952	712	WELBANKE	Ufton Nervet	BRK	pre 1700
6389	TRIM	Isle of Wight	HAM	1700-1900	6409	WELLER	Reading	BRK	1800-1830
6434	TRIPP	Shipham	SOM	All	6379	WELLS	Reading	BRK	1900+
6434	TRIPP	Swansea	GLA	1800-1900	6379	WELLS	Ipsden	OXF	All
6434	TRIPP	Congresbury	SOM	All	712	WHITE	Brewham	SOM	pre 1800
6411	TUCKEY	South Norwood	SRY	1850-1920	6415	WICKENS	Hurst	BRK	1800-1850
712	TWITCHIN	All	BRK	pre 1800	6389	WICKS	Igborough	NFK	1800-1900
6434	UPTON	Sedgburgh	CUL	1500-1800	6411	WILDER	Wickham	BRK	1770-1901
6434	UPTON	Wilmslow	CHS	1600-1800	6411	WILDER	Welford	BRK	1770-1901
6434	UPTON	Taunton	SOM	1700-1900	6411	WILKINS	Bradford on Avon	WIL	1700-1909
6434	UPTON	Yeovil	SOM	All	6315	WILKINS	Ardington	BRK	pre 1840
6389	URRY	Isle of Wight	HAM	1700-1890	6409	WILKINSON	Milnthorpe	WES	All
6438	WADE	Reading	BRK	1840-1900	6377	WILLIS	Wycombe	BKM	All
6389	WARREN	Brandon	SFK	1800-1900	3642	WISE	Sulhampstead	BRK	All
6377	WATMORE	Reading	BRK	All	3642	WISE	Sulhampstead	BRK	All
712	WATTS	Cumnor	BRK	1760-1820	3642	WISE	Reading	BRK	1870+
712	WATTS	Shipton under Wychwood	OXF	pre 1820	6389	WIX	Igborough	NFK	1800-1900
6379	WEBB	Reading	BRK	1900+	6315	WOODLEY	Drayton	BRK	pre 1840
					6286	WYNN	Reading	BRK	pre 1850

## 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](http://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](mailto:membercontact@berksfhs.org.uk).