

# Berkshire Family Historian

for family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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## March 2008

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

## Chairman's note

The Federation of Family History Societies has decided to transfer the data on FamilyHistoryOnline to findmypast.com during 2008. However, the Oxford Diocesan lawyers are not happy for us to put any transcripts of their records onto the internet, so the only Berkshire data currently on FamilyHistoryOnline which we can transfer will be the 1851 census. We hope to do this later in the year.

This diocesan problem also affects Buckinghamshire FHS and Oxfordshire FHS. Peter Durrant and the other county archivists are negotiating on our behalf with the diocesan lawyers. We can continue to sell our transcripts on CDs, fiche or booklets.

The sixth edition of the Berkshire Burial Index is now available and several new parish

registers are to be published on CD shortly. See <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks/index.htm](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks/index.htm)>.

**If you feel you would like to stand for the executive committee of your family history society, or help in any way please, please contact me. We are always in need of volunteers. The branches will also be looking for volunteers for their committees. Their contact details are on the cover.**

**Being a committee member can be fun!**

May I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable 2008.

**Jocie McBride  
Chairman**

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## Notice of annual general meeting

The Berkshire Family History Society Annual General Meeting, with annual reports from the chairman and treasurer, will be held before the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch meeting, starting at 19.30 on Friday 20 June 2008, at the Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, RG42 1TU. (See <[www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk)> for location map.)

If you would like to nominate a member to the executive committee, please let the secretary know, in writing, by 2 June. Nomination forms may be obtained from the secretary at branch meetings or downloaded from the website at <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>. All nominations should be seconded. Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the executive committee and be a trustee of the charity.

Information about being a trustee of a charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at <[www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)> (publication CC3). Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

- Persons under the age of 18
- Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent
- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt
- Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity
- Anyone who is disqualified from being a company director.

Of the current executive committee, Derek Trinder has served five consecutive years and is thus not eligible for nomination, and John Price has signified he is unwilling to seek re-nomination.

## Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the December 2007 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. The index now contains more than 550,000 entries.

Abingdon St Helen 1813 - 1815 (BTs)  
 Ashbury St Mary 1683 - 1687 (BTs)  
 Bray St Michael 1669 - 1681  
 Clewer St Andrew 1876 - 1879  
 East Lockinge All Saints 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Finchampstead St James 1607 - 1636 (BTs)  
 Longworth St Mary 1701 - 1812  
 Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin 1780 - 1812  
 Lyford St Mary the Virgin 1843 - 1978  
 Marcham All Saints 1813 - 1875 and Feb/Jul 1953  
 Moulsoford St John the Baptist 1617 - 1773 (BTs) and 1787 (BTs)  
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery 1905 - 1917  
 Newbury Shaw Cemetery 1948 - 1951  
 North Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1702 (BTs)  
 Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium 1951 - 1953  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground)  
 1894 - 1895 and 1896 - 1903  
 Reading St Mary 1839 - 1847  
 Ruscombe St James the Great 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Sandhurst St Michael 1813 - 1850  
 Sonning St Andrew 1789 - 1802  
 South Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1693 (BTs)  
 Sulham St Nicholas 1851 - 1983  
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1956 - 2002  
 Thatcham St Mary 1690 - 1709  
 Uffington St Mary 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and 1751 - 1760 (BTs)  
 Wokingham All Saints 1920 - 1947

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 32. The sixth edition of the Berkshire Burial Index is now on sale. See the booklist (centre pages).

**David Wright**

## Access to Ancestry

*The Research Centre subscription to Ancestry Library Edition allows visitors to use the service for £1 per hour. However members who have trouble getting to Reading may wish to know that subscriptions to Ancestry have also been taken out by*

- *West Berkshire Libraries (Newbury), offering access from any terminal connected to the West Berks Council network*

- *Slough Libraries, including Cippenham and Britwell Libraries.*

*The editor would like to know of any other Berkshire libraries offering free or low-cost access to Ancestry.*

### Evening courses on family history for beginners to intermediate level

**Autumn Course 2008**

**starts 13 Oct continuing 20, 27 Oct and 3 Nov to 10 Nov  
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**

## Slough Observer indexes online

Tony Pilmer, the local studies librarian of Slough Libraries, reports two new databases on Slough History Online.

### **BMD announcements:**

Volunteers have indexed each BMD announcement in the *Slough Observer* between 1883 and 1929.

### **Local news stories:**

Work has begun on indexing local stories from the *Slough Observer*. These include magistrates court reports, crime stories, adverts and meetings. So far, stories from 1883 to 1890 have been indexed and uploaded, with more entries being added regularly.

Both these indexes can be accessed through <[www.sloughhistory.online.org.uk](http://www.sloughhistory.online.org.uk)>.

Slough Libraries has also obtained a large batch of local parish records on microfilm from the CBS and the LDS. A full list can be found at <[www.sloughlibrary.org.uk/framesfolder/Parishrecords.doc](http://www.sloughlibrary.org.uk/framesfolder/Parishrecords.doc)>.

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## London records to go online

The City of London is planning to digitise many of its key genealogical resources including parish registers from over 1,000 C of E parishes in Greater London, wills from C of E dioceses dating from the medieval period, over 9,000 Boards of Guardians records from the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, poll books and electoral registers for Greater London in the modern period, and approximately 2,000 admission and discharge registers for London schools in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These collections are currently available on site at London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library, but work is beginning to create a chargeable web-based service.

*Please note that the editor's personal email address has changed, but mail addressed to <[editor@berksfhs.co.uk](mailto:editor@berksfhs.co.uk)> will continue to reach her. Unfortunately this does not signify a change to broadband, so any files mailed should be kept below 2Mb. Larger files should be put onto CD, and posted to The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW.*

## Archive CD Books

Family History Research is now the official reseller of the Archive CD Books range of genealogical and historical CDs, and it has recently launched an online sales service on <[www.familyhistoryresearch.org](http://www.familyhistoryresearch.org)>.

The Archive CD Books Project began in March 2000 making reproductions of old books, documents and maps available on CD to genealogists and historians. The project is worldwide, and the UK catalogue alone now lists over 2,000 items.

Archive CD publications may also be ordered through Berks FHS Books.

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## Free access to BMD at Kew and FRC

Visitors to The National Archives at Kew can now enjoy free access to the digitised BMD indexes. This service, introduced in conjunction with [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com), will run for a trial period ending in November 2008.

The same free access will be on offer to visitors to the Family Records Centre in Myddleton Street until it closes on 15 March 2008.

## Berkshire Record Office news

### ***Did your ancestors buy their first home with a loan from the Reading Building Society?***

BRO has received an extremely valuable resource for house history in the form of the records of Reading and High Wycombe Building Society. Reading Building Society was founded in 1852 to help ordinary people save money and buy houses. The society merged with High Wycombe and South Bucks Building Society in 1947, and was then taken over by Bristol and West in 1957.

The society minutes include details of properties on which mortgages were sought, with brief surveyor's reports to around 1928. Some volumes of accounts are indexed by customer name. The records can be found under reference D/EX2018.

### ***New registers deposited in the BRO***

- Peasemore: burials 1813 - 2007
- Remenham: baptisms 1948 - 2006
- Wallingford St Mary: baptisms 1920 - 1952; burials 1939 - 1961  
*plus the very exciting discovery of churchwardens' accounts 1667 - 1720 and vestry minutes 1707 - 1722*
- St Paul's United Reformed Church (formerly Bracknell Congregational Church) baptisms 1814 - 1972 and burials 1822 - 1859.

***Berkshire Record Office has again agreed to a special opening for Berks FHS members on Tuesday 22 April and Tuesday 15 July 2008 from 18.00 - 20.00. This time each member may bring along one friend. The Berks FHS Research Centre will be open from 18.00 - 21.30 on those evenings.***

***Introductory visits to the Berkshire Record Office for 2008***

***14 April  
7 July  
6 October***

Visits start at 14.00, and last for about one hour. Places are limited to 10 people. If you would like to book a place please ask at reception in the record office, or call 0118 901 5132.

## Online database additions

<[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)>

- National Burial Index: records for thousands of individuals back to 1538, drawn from parish records, Catholic, Jewish and nonconformist registers.
- 1871 census: four new counties : Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Rutland and Sussex.
- Royal Naval Division: casualties of the First World War from the RND in the Jack Clegg Memorial Database extending to 1942.

<[www.census.nationalarchives.ie/about/index.html](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/about/index.html)>

- 1911 Irish census: transcription and scanned images of each page. Entries give education details, religion, profession and place of birth. The site currently holds records for Dublin only, but the rest of the country, as well as details of the 1901 census, are to be added next year.

<[www.originsnetwork.com](http://www.originsnetwork.com)>

- British and Irish Passenger Lists 1890: this database is now complete, with three extra destination ports – Galveston, Vancouver and West Indies – added to the existing 11. The records are abstracts of 1890 passenger lists from British and Irish ports with US and Canadian destinations, compiled from the original lists held at The National Archives, London. They include date of sailing; ship's name, departure port, destination port. For each passenger the full name is given, occupation, nationality, age, and marital status.

## Branch lines

**Sue Matthews  
introduces the society's  
smallest branch, located in the  
Vale of the White Horse  
and stubbornly loyal to Berkshire  
despite the area's official transfer  
to Oxfordshire in 1974**

The Vale of the White Horse Branch was formed from a group of family history students and members of Oxfordshire Family History Society. The first meeting was held in September 1997 in the Tompkins Room at the Baptist Church, in Ock Street, Abingdon. In December 1998 the White Horse Group, as it was known at first, became an official branch of the Berkshire Family History Society.

We quickly outgrew the Tompkins Room, which got very stuffy when full, and moved to our present hall at Long Furlong Community Centre in Boulter Drive, Abingdon. This is a local community centre in north Abingdon with good facilities for our meetings – plenty of storage space and a reasonably large, free car park. Our branch meets on the third Monday in the month, when doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Abingdon is Britain's oldest continuously occupied town. It was the county town of Berkshire until 1867, when Reading took over. This was mostly due to the fact that Abingdon didn't want the railway to run through the town, which only ever had a branch line. The station was closed by Dr Beeching in 1963, and the line finally closed with the closure of the MG factory in 1982.

Abingdon and the rest of the Vale of White Horse, including Wantage, Didcot, Faringdon and Wallingford and all the surrounding villages, were transferred from Berkshire to Oxfordshire as a result of local government reorganisation in 1974. We are therefore

*Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett introduce VWH branch members to the name game in November 2007*



holding our meetings in Oxfordshire, but historically it is North Berkshire. Personally, I still regard myself as being Berkshire; I have never got used to being part of Oxfordshire.

Our membership is not as big as the other branches, most probably because of our close proximity to Oxford, which has large meetings, but we are a very active branch. We have manned the help desk at family history days in Abingdon library, and put on displays at local history events in Longworth and Drayton. We also attend the open days of clubs and societies in Abingdon, and we help local people to take their first steps into family history.

The main project we are working on at present is the transcribing of the monumental inscriptions of St Peter's Church at Drayton, near Abingdon. A few years ago we completed the transcribing of Shippon. One of our branch meetings, usually in early summer, is held in a graveyard, so that any members who want to help can do so. Despite the awful summer of 2007 a small group spent several Monday evenings at St Peter's, and the transcription part of the project is almost complete.

We were also asked to put on a display of our work in the church during a history weekend. The vicar had retrieved some of the old parish registers from Berkshire Record Office, where most of the north Berkshire registers are deposited. As well as manning our display we were in great demand by visitors who needed something looking up in the registers, or had queries about their family history. Over the



*The Vale Island Dancers entertained members at the Christmas 2007 meeting*

weekend we helped several enquirers find memorials to their ancestors in the graveyard, solved a few family mysteries and we even put some people in touch with distant relatives.

At our meetings we have a variety of speakers, some of whom have become quite regular visitors. We also like to go on a couple of trips a year. Last year we organised a coach trip to The National Archives at Kew. As we are a small branch we invited the other branches to join us, and a small band from Reading came along. We also went to Oxfordshire Museum Resource Centre at Standlake in

March 2007, and learned about all the artefacts, photographs and documents that they hold, and the online database. This year we are planning trips to the Vale and Downlands Museum in Wantage, and the Museum of Rural Life in Reading. Both museums also hold a vast amount of information on our ancestors and how they lived. Our talks for this year range from multi-media (presenting family history in text, image, sound and motion) to insanity. All Berks FHS members and new visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

## Dates for your diary

*\*Berks FHS will be present at this event*

date	event	venue	more details
<i>Remember that the Family Record Centre at Myddelton St closes on 15 March 2008</i>			
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
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 20 Apr	South Coast Family History Fair	Pavilion Theatre Worthing BN11 3PX	<www.familyhistory fairs.com>
Fri 2 - Sun 4 May	Who Do You Think You Are? Live Family History Show*	Olympia	<www.sog.org.uk/eve nts/2008show.shtml>
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 18 May	Kent Family History Fair	Market Hall Lockmeadow Maidstone ME16 8RG	<www.familyhistory fairs.com>

# Berkshire people in the 1851 religious census

*Kate Tiller of Kellogg College, Oxford previews a major new research project on Britain's only religious census*

The 1851 religious census was a unique exercise. It is the only national record of religious provision and of attendance at places of worship ever made. As such its returns, (covering the number of sittings available together with attendances on 30 March 1851 and/or average attendances in preceding months), have intrigued local, social and religious historians. Many questions crowd in: the number of places of worship; the sittings in them; the balance of provision between the Established Church and its rivals; the varied kinds of churches, chapels, meeting houses and preaching rooms. Attendance data suggest levels of support between denominations, the presence of Sunday Schools (192 referred to in the Berkshire returns), and the proportion of local populations who were not attending formal worship at all. These questions and more have been in my mind as I prepare a text of the returns for all 432 places of worship recorded in the religious census for Berkshire. (This is due to be finished during 2008 for publication by the Berkshire Record Society). Intriguing variations between places, areas and denominations are emerging, some reflecting the historical character of local settlements and societies and their religion, others showing that a snapshot of Berkshire in 1851 catches the county at a point of rapid change, urban and rural. In a religious context this is clear in references to new-built, rebuilt and restored

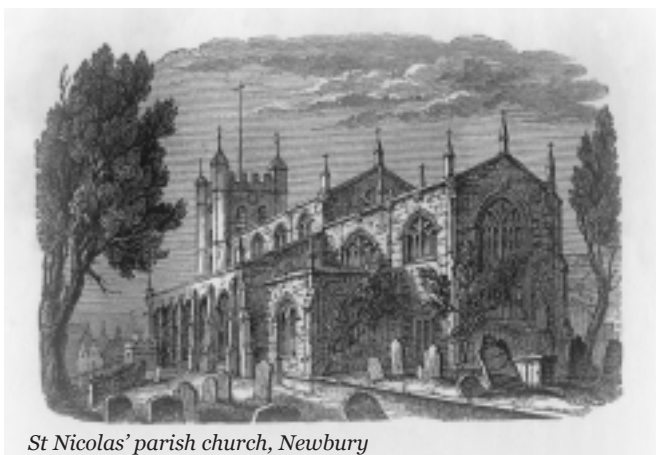
Anglican churches and the redrawing of parish boundaries that was under way. Equally apparent is the burgeoning growth of the then young denomination of Primitive Methodism, and the recent and ongoing surge of chapel building in both established and new Dissenting congregations.

The returns require only numbers of sittings and attendees, not names, which seems to make this source a peripheral, if perhaps interesting, context for family historians. However, as I have worked through the Berkshire material I have been struck by just how individual apparently rigid proformas can be. Printed boxes can overflow with unsolicited information or added detail; some omissions are also eloquent. The handwriting on the forms, sometimes uncertain and mis-spelt, sometimes oozing impatience, is telling. Overall, the identity of the individuals who actually signed the over 400 returns, is adding significance to my study, as I tie them in with the enumerators' returns for the population census of the same date. I hope this short article, summarising some findings so far on the signatories of the Berkshire religious returns, will be of interest to Berkshire family historians, who may find in this source additional references to names they are researching and possible new insights into wider lives.

***Dr Kate Tiller, DL, MA (BA, PhD Birmingham), FSA, FRHistS is a Founding Fellow 1990 and Reader Emeritus in English Local History at Kellogg College, Oxford, and Visiting Fellow in English Local History at the University of Leicester. She has published many books and papers on rural and religious history, especially relating to Berkshire and Oxfordshire.***



## ***From the highest...***



*St Nicolas' parish church, Newbury*

What sort of people signed the religious census returns? The greatest variety of signatories is on nonconformist returns, and amongst these some marked contrasts point up not only the different organisation of denominations but also their different character and tone. Most numerous amongst Berkshire Dissenters in 1851 were the Wesleyan Methodists, returning 69 places of worship. Twenty-two returns (32 per cent) were signed by ministers (nine individuals), reflecting the organisation of Wesleyanism into circuits. However, the dominant impression is of the importance of local lay activists, especially chapel stewards, who signed in 39 cases. A quarter of all the stewards were labourers, agricultural labourers or gardeners. The remainder of the non-ministerial signatories demonstrate a wider range of support, including some significant local employers. The steward at Northbrook Street Chapel in Newbury was John H Mason of Market Place, a grocer and cheesemonger employing 21 men. Wesleyanism also attracted farmers (six such signatories with farm acreages ranging from 50 to 260 acres). Crafts and tradesmen also featured, but no white-collar workers, gentry or professionals. The only hint of industry was Thomas Blackall, steward of Bethel Chapel in Caversham Road, Reading, who was a permanent way inspector on the Great Western Railway.

Wesleyanism had long been subject to secessions, the most recent at this date being the Wesleyan Reformers, who broke away in 1849 on issues of local autonomy over central control. No chapel in Berkshire and only one signatory, a grocer, allied themselves with the Reformers in 1851.

However, an earlier breakaway, the Primitive Methodists (formed in 1811 and proselytising in Berkshire from the 1820s) was strong and growing in the county especially in rural areas, many of its congregations in 1851 meeting in rooms in cottages rather than purpose-built chapels. Although the Primitives adopted the same organisational structure as Wesleyanism (local classes and societies, circuits, districts and national conference) their still-developing local roots and strongly working-class support are reflected in the signatories of their 52 Berkshire places of worship. Only 25 per cent (13) were ministerial. Chapel stewards and local preachers dominated. Labourers, agricultural labourers and gardeners signed 31 per cent of the returns. Only one signatory is recorded as having employees: John Phelps, confectioner and hairdresser employing three men, was chapel steward at Eddington, Hungerford. There was one farmer, of 40 acres with no recorded employees. This was the only denomination where the question of the

## ***...to the most humble***



*The Waterside Chapel, also in Newbury, where Presbyterians worshipped from 1697. Photo courtesy of West Berkshire Museum.*

Picture (courtesy of Berkshire Record Office): Samuel Wilberforce, Lord Bishop of Oxford from 1845 to 1869, and opponent of the religious census.

literacy of the respondents arose, in five cases. These involved agricultural labourers, a gardener and James Greenaway of Maidenhead Thicket. A Primitive Methodist meeting was held in his cottage, and he was apparently a master blacksmith on the Bath Road. What made him a Primitive Methodist?

Another pattern of signatories is found amongst Berkshire's "Old Dissenters", the denominations whose origins as separate churches go back to the late seventeenth century – the Baptists (General and Strict or Particular Baptist), the Independents or Congregationalists, and the Quakers. Particularly strong in the Thames Valley and the Vale of the White Horse, their organisational maturity and the social and economic substance of many leading local supporters is apparent. The Baptists (29 places of worship) are notable for ministerial dominance of signatures (66 per cent). At Brightwell, near Wallingford, Edward Wells, a farmer of 492 acres employing 38 labourers, made the return for Slade End Baptist Chapel. At the other end of the scale was a draper's assistant, Joseph Drew, who signed for Appleton Chapel. He lived in Oxford, an example of a more general pattern of older urban chapels linked to rural offshoots. Generally the Strict and Particular Baptist signatories (13 returns) came from a narrower social range, mainly tradesmen and shopkeepers; fewer ministerial signatures (31 per cent) presumably relate to their strong emphasis on the autonomy of local churches. In this respect the Independents and Congregationalists (chapels sometimes used either title or both) followed a similar pattern; 35 per cent of their 37 signatories were ministerial. Deacons and local preachers were important figures, predominantly tradesmen

and craftsmen. The Quakers had only five Berkshire meetings by 1851, mostly with attendances in single figures reported by signatories including a grocer and an outfitter.

Berkshire also had 14 places of worship that fit no denominational labels, or deliberately set themselves outside any such allegiances. They throw up some fascinating characters, about whom it would be good to know more. The Mormons had two meetings and the Brethren one. This was in a converted building in Mr Westell's Yard in Northbrook Street,

Newbury. The Ministering Brother was Alfred Brown, a carpenter and joiner, who laid out the offering very clearly:

*We meet simply as Christians every Lord's day morning to break bread in the afternoon to preach the gospel and in the evening to read the word of God. The morning meeting is public to all as observers and all who love our Lord Jesus Christ are welcome partakers with us at the Lord's table. The evening meeting is likewise public and open to all. We have occasionally Christians from the denominations to break bread with us and often some observers.*

At Old Windsor the only woman signatory in Berkshire, Mrs Eunice Bagster, returned details of the Evangelical Dissenters' meeting in her cottage. At Stanford in the Vale John Jewell Penstone, Preacher of the Gospel (and artist and proprietor of houses) returned a Christian Chapel, opened in October 1850, whilst at his home, Clarefield House, Pinkney's Green in Cookham parish, Harry Nesbit provided room for "the Preaching of the Gospel by any Evangelical Christian... a private effort of my own to benefit my poor neighbours by a very plain and simple exhibition of Divine Truth." Nesbit was a gentleman, retired from the East India Company service.



Finally, there are the Anglican (203) and Roman Catholic (six) returns. I have deliberately said little of these, since the identities of clergy are well recorded, and they are less likely to be from local families. It is important to note, however, the exceptionally high level of non-signature of returns by Anglican clergy. No less than 39 per cent came from local registrars, non-clerical correspondents, or (usually not fully completed) from an openly hostile clergyman. The influence of the diocesan bishop, Wilberforce of Oxford, who was a national leader of opposition to a religious census, appears strong in the county. Nevertheless, some Anglicans responded in full measure, unconstrained by the boxes of the return. Memorably, Charles Vansittart at White Waltham and Shottesbrook, seized the

opportunity to inveigh against Wilberforce's opposition to the census, the impact of national and local taxation on his own income, the imposition of fees for baptisms and burials, and "the High Church folly refusing to bury dissenters". Names and people, circumstances and attitudes are all to be discovered in the returns of the religious census for Berkshire.

#### References

The original returns are at The National Archives (HO 129/120; 129/122-131;129/116;129/155). Microfilm copies are held at the Berkshire Record Office.

See also

K Tiller. Church and chapel: the 1851 religious census, in J Dils (ed), *An historical atlas of Berkshire* (1998)

L Spurrier (ed). *Berkshire nonconformist meeting house registrations 1689-1852*. Berkshire Record Society, vols 9 and 10 (2005)

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## Jean's research tip

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

As regular researchers will know, each of the decennial census returns (1841 - 1901) is made up of many enumerator's books, each containing the details copied by the enumerator from the householders' returns – that all-important page which includes your ancestors' details.

However, additional material can be found on the front page of each book, which includes a description of the enumeration district, its boundary and the names of many streets, large houses, pubs, shops and farms etc. This often includes a great deal of interesting and informative material, and may even contain a reference to your ancestor. It is always worth printing or copying the details to help you locate on a map (modern or contemporary) where your ancestor was actually living at the time.

To find the front of an enumerator's district either:

- Wind the microfilm back from your page, watching the page and folio numbers, until you reach the cover. Then make notes or print it out for your research file.

or

- When searching on <www.ancestry.co.uk>, at the top of the screen above your page, you will see the following hotlinks, such as

*Search > Census > UK > Census Collection > 1891 England Census > London > Clerkenwell > Amwell > District 1*

Make a note of the district number (very important) then click on the sub-district (Amwell) and the following will appear:

*District 1 description of enumeration district*

*District 2 description of enumeration district*

*District 3 etc ...*

Click on *District 1* or the adjacent *description of enumeration district*, and the page will appear.

NB: Don't forget to make a note of the census year and the full reference for your records.

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# Searching for family with DNA tests

*David Pike*

Many of my ancestors left the UK well before census and civil registration records began to be kept, so for me it has been a challenge to try to make connections with distant descendants from my ancestors' kin that remained in the UK. Census and civil registration are wonderful genealogical tools, but it has been nearly impossible for me to tell from them who are, and who not, my relatives. To overcome this obstacle I have turned to the aid of genealogical DNA tests.

My surname is Pike, and my Pike ancestors probably resided in Poole, Dorset, in the late 1600s or early 1700s, just prior to their settlement in Newfoundland. There is speculation that Poole may have only been home to my Pike ancestors for a few generations, meaning that my Pike line might have originated somewhere else.

But where? Pike is a common surname in the West Country; in Dorset alone there are clusters of Pikes in Stour Provost, Wareham and Church Knowle, Worth Matravers, Pimperne and Shapwick. Moreover, there are many additional groups of Pikes in counties such as Wiltshire, Somerset, and Devon to name just three. Which of these families, if any, am I related to? I could easily waste both a fortune and a lifetime trying to research potential connections with traditional records, and still not obtain any answers.

So I am delighted by the advent of genealogical DNA tests that can tell whether two family lines are related or not, and all with the ease of mail-order. DNA tests take just a few weeks to process.

My task now is to find other people with Pike ancestry, and in particular those who have inherited a Y-chromosome (a small portion of DNA that is passed only from father to son)

from a Pike ancestor, so that we can compare our genetic signatures with one another.

Within the Pike family there is an active effort at building a genetic census, to be used hand-in-hand with traditional census records and other genealogical tools at our disposal. Although the Pike project has discovered a number of genetic matches that have subsequently helped to unravel enigmatic genealogical connections, I personally have not so far found any genetic matches anywhere in the UK. But, far from being discouraged, I can thus stop wasting time and money trying to find elusive connections to families with which I am a known genetic non-match. I now know that I can focus my efforts elsewhere, and if/when I do find a genetic match, I can further concentrate my attention on finding connections between my Pike ancestors and those of my new-found cousins.

One of the goals of this article is to provide a glimpse into the utility of genealogical DNA tests, which I hasten to point out are quite different from the DNA tests used by government and law enforcement agencies; these focus on those parts of a person's DNA that are unique to only one individual, whereas genealogical DNA tests aim to reveal genetic signatures shared by extended families along either paternal or maternal lines.

An excellent book with more details is *Family history in the genes: trace your DNA and grow your family tree* by Chris Pomery. People wanting to learn more about genealogical DNA tests might also find the resources "for newbies" at <[www.isogg.org](http://www.isogg.org)> helpful. FamilyTreeDNA is one of several companies providing genealogical tests; it has links to websites for

over 4,000 family DNA projects, just one of which is the Pike project.

The Pike project website is at <[www.math.mun.ca/~dapike/family\\_history/pike/DNA](http://www.math.mun.ca/~dapike/family_history/pike/DNA)>. It can also be easily found by doing a Google search for "Pike DNA".

There is a map on the project's results page that shows where in the UK we have found members of several different Pike families who are involved in the project, including one family from Cork in Ireland, but which is believed to have originated in Berkshire.

***The editor would be delighted to hear from members who have tried genealogical DNA testing, with or without success.***

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## Heathens, felons and Granny's memories

***Godfrey Collyer (4604)  
seeks to rehabilitate  
the notorious  
Wokingham Blacks***

While researching my Collyer ancestors from Wokingham I found references to a group of local felons known as the Wokingham Blacks. Some quick research revealed them to be men who blackened their faces and got up to no good in Windsor Forest in the 1720s. They were referred to variously as an infamous band of robbers, footpads and ruffians. Their crimes would appear to have been robbery, blackmail, burglary, extortion, mugging and murder, and their leader William Shorter was accused of commanding most of the crime in east Berkshire. It was also claimed that locals were afraid to speak out against them.

Surely my ancestors could not have belonged to such a band of criminals, for they were gamekeepers, small farmers, husbandmen, blacksmiths and agricultural workers – hardworking, respectable people, God-fearing and church-going!

Recently a distant cousin wrote explaining that her grandmother had discouraged her from researching her family's history, declaring that they were criminals buried on the wrong side of the church wall, and that they never married or baptised their children, so no church records existed. My cousin went on to describe a family crest in her possession, consisting of a blackened face and an oak leaf. Could this be a reference to the Wokingham Blacks?

I value the recollections of elderly relatives, but I have learned to look for evidence to substantiate them. I have evidence to show that my ancestors did marry, and that their children were baptised. They are found in large numbers in all of the parishes of Windsor Forest and the Bagshot Heath area, which was the stamping ground of the infamous Wokingham Blacks. Did the supposed family crest suggest criminal association with the notorious Wokingham Blacks?

***...robbery, blackmail,  
burglary, extortion,  
mugging and murder...  
locals were afraid to speak  
out against them***

I read E P Thompson's *Whigs and hunters*, which contains much about the Wokingham Blacks. I located an article by Pat Rogers called *The Waltham Blacks and the Black Act*, which also discusses the activities of the Wokingham Blacks, and another by John Broad called *Whigs, deer stealers and the origins of the Black Act*. After many hours' reading I concluded that history has been less than fair to the Wokingham Blacks, who were in the main men of substance, including:

The Reading MERCURY: Or,

29

WEDNESDAY'S POST.

Since our last arriv'd one Mail from France  
and one from Holland.

From the London Gazette, July 16.



THE most material News this Paper has, is from Pyrmont, (July 20) That His Britannick Majesty has done drinking the Waters; and intends to set out

for Herenhausen the 22d Instant.

In this Paper is incerted the following Advertisement, which (as it relates to the Blacks of this Country) we incert in our Mercury, hoping they'll be so wise to themselves, and so just to their Country, as to take Notice of it.

Whitehall, July 16, 1723.

Whereas by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament for the more effectual punishing wicked and evil disposed Persons going armed in Disguise, and doing Injuries and Violences to the Persons and Properties of His Majesty's Subjects, and for the more speedy bringing the Offenders to Justice, It is among other things enacted, That all Persons who since the 2d of February last have been guilty of any of the Offences in the said Act mentioned, and shall not surrender themselves before the 24th Day of July Instant, to one of the Judges of the King's Bench, or to a Justice of the Peace for the County where the Offence was committed, and make a full Confession thereof and a Discovery upon

Oath of their Accomplices, shall be guilty of Felony without Benefit of Clergy, provided that such as do so surrender themselves on or before the said 24th Day of July, and make such Confession and Discovery, shall by Virtue of the said Act be pardoned: It has been thought proper to give this publick Notice thereof, that Persons under such unhappy Circumstances may be warned of their Condition, if they neglect to comply with the said Act.

From the Post-Boy, July 16:

Thomas Power, clergyman of Easthampstead  
William Shorter, farmer

Edward Collier, felt-maker of Wokingham  
George Wynne, clock-maker of Wokingham  
Charles Rackett of Bagshot, gentleman and brother-in-law of Alexander Pope.

These men were not ruffians, and they had too much to lose to be common criminals.

They lived in the time of George I and the prime minister Robert Walpole. There was unrest, with rumours rife regarding Jacobite plots and uprisings. (At one time it was claimed the Wokingham Blacks were Jacobite activists.) Expansion of colonial plantations and successful overseas trade, including the slave trade, brought increased wealth and a fashion for large country estates. In Windsor Forest this occurred at the expense of people dependent on the forest for a living. Forest administration was in the hands of Whig nominees, who plundered it to expand their estates. They increased restrictions and fees for local people to collect fuel and to kill small game. They also kept deer in increasing numbers, protected in ways that added to the hardship of the foresters, who were prevented from fencing their land against deer. The foresters fought back by killing and poaching deer, knocking down fences around the estates and destroying estate fishponds. To conceal their identity they blackened their faces.

Reading Mercury July 1723, from Reading Central Library

The first reference to the activities of the Wokingham Blacks was published in *The London Gazette* in March 1720. This tells of armed men on horseback and others on foot with a greyhound, all with blackened faces or other disguises, who had coursed deer in Bagshot Walk, threatened a keeper and killed four deer.

Keepers would pursue the Blacks and, if they caught them, destroy their dogs, confiscate guns and fine the culprits heavily. In response the Wokingham Blacks sought reimbursement from keepers to meet these fines and for the replacement of dogs and guns. Their visits to collect repayment were often preceded by a letter demanding money, which is believed to be the origin of the term blackmail.

Eventually the wealthy landowners with influential friends in Parliament had had enough, and in 1723 the Black Act was passed – one of the most draconian pieces of legislation ever passed, introducing numerous capital offences.

In an article in *The Guardian* of 3 March 1995 entitled *The hunters and the hunted*, George Monbiot wrote that the Wokingham Blacks:

*protested against the royal hunt's restrictions on farming and gathering rights not only by poaching, but also by damaging the property of the hunting gentry and beating up gamekeepers. Fifty new capital offences against the Blacks were passed by Parliament without debate: you could be hanged for crimes as grievous as pulling down a fence or blacking up your face.*

The best known Collyer/Collier involved with the Wokingham Blacks was Edward, who stole a tame deer from Sir Robert Rich. He was sentenced to seven years' transportation to America. Soon after sentencing, Edward escaped from prison, and went into hiding in Windsor Forest. He had married by licence at Wokingham in 1720, and his absence caused great hardship for his family. Several years later, following the death of Sir Robert,

Edward gave himself up, and sought mercy from the widow. She proved to be forgiving, and with her support Edward received a pardon from the king.

So why did my cousin's grandmother think Edward was a criminal? The main reason I believe is due to the Wokingham Blacks' bad press. A popular publication in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was *The Newgate Calendar*, designed to frighten children into becoming law-abiding adults. *The Newgate Calendar* published the substance of the Act by which the Blacks were convicted. Even those who had not read it would have known of its contents, the crimes committed and punishment received. Wealthy landowners could not afford for the Wokingham Blacks to be seen as champions of the poor or as martyrs, so their crimes were distorted and exaggerated, and they are still inaccurately reported today.

Was Edward Collier a felon? If that meant law-breaking I would agree, but I prefer to see it as direct action to resist changes that made a hard life even harder for local people. History has many examples of direct action to address social injustice, but it has generally been kinder to them than it has been to the Wokingham Blacks.

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# Babies without names

**Former superintendent registrar of Slough  
Barbara Dixon investigates  
an anomaly of registration and discovers why  
some parents may have been reluctant to  
choose their babies' forenames at registration**

A recent reference in *Family Tree* magazine mentioned an unusual birth certificate where the baby was not named in Column 2, and Column 10 was left blank. Being interested to know how common this was, I had a look at my early registers. A proper count showed that in the 500 entries of the first register (from 1 July 1837 to 20 September 1840) 61 babies were unnamed. This was a high proportion of the total – one in every eight or nine.

Why was this? Was it just a glitch in the early register, when everything was new and unfamiliar? This first idea was soon dispelled; 13 years later, when registration was hardly new, there were still 46 babies unnamed – roughly one in every 11 registrations. However the number was dropping, and that trend continued, so that by the 1880s roughly one baby in 30 was unnamed at registration.

Then I wondered if maybe the babies were either dying, or had already died at registration, and the parents did not wish to name them. To check this out I extracted the surnames and dates of birth, and checked the death registers for the same period to see if these unnamed babies had died. Of the 61 babies in the first register only 16 could be confirmed as having died – that is, the age given at death, the details of the father and the place of birth and death matched. Few of these deaths, though, were close to the date of birth. Only two babies (who died at three days and five days) were unnamed at the death registration too. The others died between five weeks and 30 months after birth. Obviously, most of these babies were not at risk at birth, so that was not a reason not to name them.

Most babies who died close to birth were named at both registrations. There were 40 in the first register who died within three months of birth. The youngest died at 22 hours, and

was registered with a name in the birth register, as were babies who died at between two and 11 days.

So it does not look as though the possibility of the child dying was a reason for registering without a name.

Next I wondered if the children were being registered very close to birth, so the name had not yet been chosen. Again, this did not hold up to examination. There were frequently long delays between birth and registration. The average time taken was 30 days. With the exception of 12 children who were registered within 10 days, there was surely sufficient time to choose a name for the registration.

I then tried to see if any of these children had been baptised, using the LDS Family Search website. This was only partially successful; much of the indexing was only pre-1837, and the nonconformist churches were not indexed. I did access five baptismal registers, and found 18 of the babies. Again, only those where the details of the parents, the timing of the baptism and the place matched the birth registration were noted. All the baptisms took place after the registration of the child.

Again, there was a long delay between the birth of the baby and the christening. The quickest baptism was after 23 days, most were within 70 days, and the average figure for the baptism was 41 days after birth.

So the picture that emerges is as follows: Not naming babies at birth was remarkably common. In the first register approximately one in every eight or nine births was registered without a name. This cannot be put down to the novelty of the civil registration. In the register that covers 1847 – 1850, 13 years later, 46 out of 500 (ie approximately one in 11) were similarly registered without a name.





Only two of the unnamed babies died close to birth, and indeed most babies who did die shortly after birth were named at both the birth and the death registrations.

Most babies were not registered close to their birth, giving the parents plenty of time to choose a name.

And that leaves us with the baptisms. Eighteen unnamed babies subsequently had baptisms that I could find. However, I could only access five Church of England registers on the web. In the area covered by the civil register there were at least another five Church of England registers, as well as nonconformist churches, which would add many more possible registers not accessed. It is likely then that a significant number of the unnamed babies were baptised.

This would fit, I think, with the way in which civil registration was viewed by the churches, and especially by the Church of England. The clergy were very much opposed to the introduction of civil registration, fearing rightly that once parents had a legal document

from registration they would not bother with baptism. As every bishop had a seat in the House of Lords, the original bill was amended, so that baptism superseded registration, and this is the purpose of Column 10 on the birth certificate. If a child was baptised within one year of birth registration, the name given at baptism could be added in Column 10, and this superseded any other name given in Column 2. A baptismal name could be added if Column 2 was blank, or could be totally changed, or a different order given, or a different spelling if Column 2 already had a name in it. Once the registration was amended after baptism, only the name in Column 10 would be shown on the short version of the birth certificate, and Column 10 would supersede Column 2 on the full certificate.

At the same time that a certificate of baptism allowed an altered name in Column 10, a system called a certificate of naming permitted the same changes to be made without baptism. This accommodated people such as Quakers and Jews, for whom baptism was not possible.

Given the importance of baptism at the time, I think it likely that some parents deliberately chose not to name their children when registering, preferring to baptise them and use the baptismal certificate. They either did not know or did not care to amend the birth registration via Column 10, thus giving rise to unnamed babies.

Any child who was not named in Column 2 would be indexed under male or female in the General Registrar's indexes. If however, the name was later amended by Column 10, the registrar had a duty to send an occasional copy of the new entry to the General Register Office. The new name would then be inserted into the indexes, and this was perhaps the explanation for those asterisked entries which appear out of place at the bottom of an index.

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***Barbara Dixon's homepage is <<http://home.clara.net/dixons>>***

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Reading Races, August 1844

## Days at the races in Reading

**Penny Stokes**

The *Victoria County History* dates Reading's racemeetings from 1747, but the *Racing Calendar* listed them from 1727. These annual meetings were a moveable feast in Georgian times, settling eventually on Bulmersh Heath, where they were patronised by the local nobility and fashionable gentry.

A noteworthy supporter from these ranks was Richard Barry (1769 - 1793), seventh Lord Barrymore, a notorious rake and hell-raiser with an estate at Wargrave-on-Thames. A one-time friend of the Prince of Wales, he lived riotously, reputedly spending £300,000 in his short racing career as owner, gambler and jockey. In debt before his majority, he borrowed to build a private theatre at Wargrave for the entertainment of his racing guests. Caroline Lybbe Powys, a diarist of gentle family owning substantial estates in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and an avid race-goer, was charmed to find herself in his company at the Reading Races ball in 1789. Alas, not everyone held Barrymore in high regard; it was said that when he was appointed steward of Reading Races the fixture was shunned by mainstream racing support, such that he was obliged to enter his own horses

under his friends' names. In 1791 Barrymore fell out with the Prince of Wales. Subsequently he laid out 1,700 guineas on two banquets at Ascot in the hopes of rekindling the prince's friendship but alas, his ostracism was complete, and the invitations were ignored by one and all. Two years later Barrymore died, aged 23 and newly married, in a gun accident.

Reading Races also enjoyed the support of two Dukes of Cumberland, John Elwes (MP and famous miser of Marcham Park), Charles Bunbury (first president of the Jockey Club), the Leveson-Gower family of Bill Hill and the Mounts of Wasing Place.

Whilst patrons, owners and stewards came from the upper classes, and were unpaid, the clerk of the course was a professional, usually a solicitor or auctioneer from the town. The economic benefits of raceweek (not that the races themselves lasted more than two or three days) encompassed accommodation, catering, blacksmithing, fashion and entertainment, concessions which were jealously guarded by the local business fraternity. The catering bonanza was shared out between local inns by turns in hosting the "ordinaries", which were special *table d'hôte*

meals for racegoers. The Race Ball was a noteworthy highlight of the festivities, as were cockfighting and prizefighting bouts.

Reading Races survived crime on and off the course, occasional vandalism and, in 1770, a riot between mounted and pedestrian spectators. Heads were broken, rioters jailed and a poem composed (anonymously) to commemorate the occasion.

In 1814 the Blgrave family sold Bulmersh Heath to a Mr Wheble, who subsequently enclosed it, thereby ending nearly 90 years of racing, although the *Victoria County History* claimed that the grandstand remained visible into the early twentieth century. The subsequent economic depression kept Reading out of the *Racing Calendar* until 1844, when the town sought to rebrand itself in competition with spa resorts. A new series of racemeetings was launched on Kings Meadow (then owned by a Mr Tompkins) under municipal patronage, and in conjunction with a regatta on the Thames.

This series endured for 30 years, the newly-opened GWR attracting racegoers from far afield. However it never attracted big prize money, and could not compete with its fashionable neighbour, Ascot. Nonetheless, Reading Races must have had a reputation of sorts, because in 1856 12 members of an evangelical organisation called the Open Air Mission attended the meeting to distribute literature urging patrons to turn away from the temptations of betting. They claimed to have handed out 40,000 leaflets, of which only three were discarded.

Kings Meadow eventually came into the hands of the Palmer family who, as Quakers, also disapproved of racing. Reading Races on the Flat folded in 1874, although steeplechasing continued to flourish. Chinnock's Farm had a jumps course laid out with a grandstand. Maiden Erleigh and Redstone Farm at Hawthorn Hill were both favoured by the military and the South Berks Hunt for steeplechasing meetings, which continued almost until the Second World War.

### ***Finding your racing ancestors***

*There is no more complete record of British racing than the Racing Calendar, published annually since 1727, listing courses, dates, prizes, clerks, owners, trainers and jockeys. Sadly it has no index, so you need to have some idea of time and place to find a name. Complete runs are scarce and difficult to access, but enquiries to <[www.thecoxlibrary.co.uk](http://www.thecoxlibrary.co.uk)> are the best bet. This is a private library devoted to racing, and the owner is extremely helpful. Newmarket Public Library also has quite a few copies.*

*The Reading Mercury regularly reported on Reading (and other local) races, and is worth consulting if you can narrow down the date. Reading Races of the Georgian era were generally, but not invariably, held at the end of August.*



# Wixenford School

***Cyril G Ward, a Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, retired some years ago from teaching at Lambrook School in Wokingham. His subsequent researches have revived the memory of a nearby school which educated several major public figures of the twentieth century.***

Seventy years have now passed since there was a Wixenford School at Wokingham. Its story deserves to be remembered.

In the village of Eversley in Hampshire an early Ordnance Survey map showed a house named Wixenford. This was where the preparatory school of that name was founded. An old boy recalled that in 1873 the headmaster Rev Cowley Powles used to take the boys to the parish church to hear Canon Charles Kingsley preach. Two years later an advertisement in *The Times* confirmed that the small boys' school was still at Wixenford, Eversley, Winchfield, but a move was soon to take place to a purpose-built building near Wokingham in Berkshire, where there would be fives and squash courts, an indoor swimming pool, a chapel, gardens and playing fields. The house at Eversley would soon become St Neots Preparatory School.

In 1885 a boy wrote from Wixenford, Wokingham, to his cousin giving a brief description of the school, and making a small sketch. Had the school just moved? The boy's signature was "Other", a name in the Windsor-Clive family recalling Walter FitzOther, a baron of William the Conqueror. The cousin was William Clive Bridgeman. In the same year that the letter was written a new boy named G M Trevelyan arrived. His last report, in Easter 1889, showed that Mr E P Arnold, the headmaster, taught Latin, Greek, French and Divinity Old Testament. Mr Arnold was a nephew of Dr Arnold of Rugby, according to the obituary of a former pupil, P F Anson.

Boys visiting Wixenford from Lambrook, a nearby school in Winkfield Row, were not impressed when they noticed a sandpit and a swing; however, when Mr Arnold drove up to

Lambrook in a carriage and pair there was nothing but admiration. Their own headmaster at the time, Edward Dillon Mansfield, the inaugural master of Clifton College Preparatory School and one of the originators of the Common Entrance Examination, was probably the uncle of a later Wixenford headmaster, Charles Mansfield.

A photograph of about 1900 records the visit of W G Grace, who came to Wixenford to play a round of golf on the nine-hole course.

In 1903 Philip Howard Morton, who had played cricket for Cambridge, became headmaster. In 1916 he was succeeded by Charles Mansfield, who had been an HM Inspector of Schools in the Transvaal. The boys nicknamed him Punch. When the difficult times of the 1930s came, he and his partners Garnett and Wallis were unable to stop numbers dwindling. Now mayor of Wokingham, and in Holy Orders, he retired in 1934 to become vicar of Dunsford near Exeter, where he lived for another 22 years.

The three partners were then Greig, Harold Tom Wallis and Reed. Wallis died in Wokingham in 1963. A nephew of Rev Charles Mansfield was headmaster of Aravon, a preparatory school in the Republic of Ireland founded in 1862. He retired in 1970.

While Wixenford was having its problems, Ludgrove, a preparatory school in Barnet, was finding that its environment had become too urbanised, and the headmasters decided to move further into the country. Wixenford was brought to their attention, and in 1936 Ludgrove took over, accepting one Wixenford master, Captain C G Reed, and four boys out of the remaining dozen: Peter Walmisley, John Reed, and two Houston brothers.

Among Wixenford's better known Old Boys were George Macaulay Trevelyan (the historian); Kenneth Clark (later Lord Clark of "Civilisation"); Willie Whitelaw (later Lord Whitelaw, deputy prime minister under Margaret Thatcher); and Michael Palliser (later Sir Michael, head of the Diplomatic Service in the 1980s). The first three are in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

The names of some other boys were:

P F Anson	Herbert
Benton-Jones	Sir Howard Kennard
Bonham-Carter	(British ambassador to
R Burdon	Poland in 1939)
D H Cameron	J V Knox
Cayzer	Moore
Lord W C J Clonmore	Lambton
N E F Dalrymple-	G L Radcliffe
Hamilton	P M Robertson-Ross
Dunkels	Stopford
J K Garnett	C H G Summers
W H Grenville-Grey	A J Tillard
G G F Greville	Sir Harry Verney
Gurney	B A Wallis-Wilson
Heber-Percy	O R Windsor-Clive
J D W G W Heneage	(Viscount Windsor)

A master, Gilbert H Norris, was killed in the First World War, as were several of the boys listed. G Fidler was probably another master. The Matron, according to her great-niece, was Miss Gertrude H Stacey, a blacksmith's daughter from Penselwood in Somerset.

The school pavilion, "a splendid thatched

relic of Wixenford," as the historian of Ludgrove described it, was tragically burnt to the ground with all its contents in 2005. On the boards inside were the names of the Wixenford boys who had played in matches over many years.

Apart from some photographs in the Berkshire Record Office no more records of Wixenford seem to have survived. Nevertheless one wonders if any more reports lie among private papers awaiting rediscovery, or if any nearby school still preserves its cricket score-books of the time with the names of visiting teams and umpires.

*For help in compiling this account I am most grateful to the historian Mr Richard Barber, author of The story of Ludgrove; to Mrs Isla Brownless, who wrote The Lambrook legacy; and to the late Rev A W Hooper (father of Mr Christopher Hooper, also a former headmaster of St Neots) who first told me about Wixenford. The A2A website and The Times digital index proved worth visiting.*

*It should be added, however, that the withdrawal of several frequently used genealogical reference books from my local library hindered the research. It was disappointing that no-one could say if the books might be consulted anywhere else in the county. How would Carnegie have reacted to this?*



*Exams at Wixenford School in the 1930s. Picture from the Berkshire Record Office photo album of Wixenford School 1926 - 1934 (D/EX 1883)*



# Apprenticeship 1867 style

Much has been said recently about modern apprenticeships, but conditions for twenty-first-century apprentices are unlikely to be as harsh as those to which my grandfather John Tomlinson had to agree in 1867. For the privilege of his being an apprentice, his widowed mother had to pay the employer a premium of £20, which for her was a very large sum. She was unable to write, so signed the indentures with a large cross.

The conditions included the following:

- *The apprentice shall serve his master's secrets, keep his lawful commands and do no damage to his said master.*
- *He shall not waste the goods of his master nor lend them unlawfully to any.*
- *He shall not commit fornication nor contract matrimony within the seven-year term.*
- *He shall not play at cards or dice tables or any other unlawful games without permission of his master.*
- *He shall neither buy nor sell.*
- *He shall not haunt taverns or playhouses nor absent himself from his master's service day or night unlawfully.*
- *In all things, as a faithful apprentice, he shall behave himself towards his master and all his.*

In return, his master, John Simpson, would teach, or arrange for him to be taught, the art of a barge-builder, and provide him with meat,

## ***Dennis Tomlinson (5243) ponders the rigorous conditions imposed upon his grandfather as a Victorian apprentice***

drink, washing, lodging and all necessaries.

For the first two years of the apprenticeship my grandfather would receive no wages. In the third year he would be paid one shilling per week; in the fourth, one shilling and sixpence; in the fifth, two shillings; in the sixth, two shillings and sixpence; and in the seventh, three shillings and sixpence. These wages would be paid provided that he was not absent due to sickness, accident or mental infirmity. His mother was responsible for providing him with clothing, medical attention and medicines. My grandfather finished work at 4pm on a Saturday, and he used to walk 10 miles home to Touchen End in the parish of Bray to see his mother. He walked back to Henley on Sunday evening.

He married Jane Tuck from Maidenhead in 1880, and continued to work as a barge-builder in Henley until 1882. He then rented How Lane Farm, White Waltham, a small dairy farm, from his father-in-law, later buying the farm. He remained there until his death in 1936 at the age of 84.

A tale from his barge-building days has been passed down to me. A one-legged man named Bucket worked for Mr Simpson. One day one of the men went to Mr Simpson and told him that Bucket had broken his leg. "Which leg?" asked Mr Simpson. "The wooden one, sir" was the reply. Mr Simpson: "That's no problem. We can soon chop him out another one."

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# Transported for poaching

**Jane Barrett (5612)**  
**discovers the fate of an ancestor and his family separated by transportation in the 1830s**

I have been tracing my family for three or four years now and many of my ancestors hail from Enborne and the environs. Therefore when I read Penny Stokes' article (extract opposite) in the *Berkshire Family Historian* in December 2006 I was intrigued. She described an entry in St Michael and All Angels' Church vestry record which referred to Ann Rose as the wife of transportee James Rose.

I had already found James and Ann in my family tree, and wondered why I could not find any evidence of James in the census returns from 1841 onwards, nor his death listed. Could the reason be that he had been sent to Australia?

I started to search on the internet, and soon discovered a James Rose who was transported in 1834, and so I decided to investigate further. First, a visit to Reading Library was called for. Here the report in the *Berkshire Chronicle* of the Berkshire Assizes for 25 February 1834 gave the details of the crime and punishment. Apparently James Rose had been poaching on the Craven Estate. The report states that *on the night of December 20th 1833 James Rose unlawfully entered Banner's Coppice with guns for destroying game and assaulted the gamekeeper of the Earl of Craven, Thomas Sargeant with the gun.*

James was sentenced to seven years' transportation to New South Wales. He left on 3 December 1834 on the *Lady Nugent* from Sheerness in the company of 285 others. The journey took 126 days, arriving in Sydney on 9 April 1835. Two people had died during the voyage and, having read descriptions of conditions on those convict ships, I am surprised that the rest survived the voyage.

*...the vestry's allocation of £30 from parish funds to allow the wife and children of James Rose, a transported convict, to join him in New South Wales in 1836. Presumably they estimated that this would be less than she might otherwise cost them in parish relief over the years. The 1851 census, however, finds her still head of a fatherless Enborne household, described as the "wife of a transportee"...*

I have no details of the imprisonment in Australia, but in 1842 James Rose received his pardon certificate. I obtained this from the records office of New South Wales. This described him as five-foot seven and a quarter inches tall, with dark complexion, dark brown hair mixed with grey, and brown eyes. It was also noted that he had a burn scar on the back of his left wrist. It was strange to read this, as it began to put the real man before me.

The trail goes cold at this point until 20 years later.

James Rose died an accidental death on 31 May 1862 in Aberdeen New South Wales. On the death certificate he was described as a labourer who had spent 27 years in the colony. Mention was made on the certificate of his family of six children still in England, and that his birth place was Newbury, Berkshire.

What of James' wife and family? I know from searches at the Hampshire Record Office that his wife Anna Maria Ansell was born in East Woodhay and was christened on Christmas Day 1804. James Rose was christened in the same parish on 8 October 1797, son of William and Elizabeth Rose. James and Ann were married on 24 December 1821 at East Woodhay Parish Church.

From census information and parish records I have gleaned that Ann lived in Enborne and



had six children born there between 1822 and 1838, and two born in 1843 and 1846. The last child, Elizabeth, was born on 13 September 1846, and her birth certificate does not name a father. It appears that Ann did not take the money offered by Enborne parish to go to Australia and join her husband.

In the 1861 census she was still described as a wife, but by 1871 she was a widowed general servant living in Faulkland Farm, Highclere, the home of John Collier, who was a farmer of 287 acres employing 10 labourers.

By 1881, despite being 76 years old, she was still described in the census of that year as a general servant in the same household. She finally died on 5 December 1886 at the age of 82 in Highclere, and the cause of death on the certificate was “found drowned in a stream”. Had she been too weak to get up after a fall, or had she chosen this end to escape the hard life? I shall never know.

My family descends from James and Ann’s eldest daughter Ann, who married into the Pibworth clan – but that is another story....



*St Michael's Church in Enborne, where the vestry offered Ann Rose £30 to join her husband in New South Wales.*



*Enborne Row, where Ann Rose was found with six of her children in the 1851 census. The settlement was a string of labourers' cottages perching between the river Enborne floodplain and former common land. Of these buildings only a small farmhouse and the chapel (which is marked) still stand today. The river Enborne still marks the county boundary. The map is an extract from the Ordnance Survey 6-inch series (Berkshire) published on CD by Berks FHS and the Berkshire Record Office.*

# Write now

## *your queries, your comments, your news*

from **Robert Waite (2233)**

I wonder whether anyone out there is researching the Sparks families, or if anyone else has touched on the name in their own endeavours.

My Sparks forebears from the mid-nineteenth century up until my grandparents' final days in the twentieth came from the Windsor area, mostly within the town itself.

The earlier generation (1813 - 1837) of 12 children, including my great-great-grandfather William, were all baptised in Frilsham and Yattendon. According to the 1851 census William (baptised 1818 Frilsham) was housed with his wife Charlotte (no surname as yet but apparently born in Beenham) and a number of

children. They were all offspring of Thomas Sparks and Maria Woodage, who married in Frilsham in March 1811. Maria was apparently born in Blewbury, and Thomas in Beenham. Their ages, given in the 1861 census as Thomas 76 and Maria 70, would indicate births of around 1785 and 1791 respectively, but no baptisms have been found in either location.

Coincidentally or not, there were quite large settlements of Sparks within the census periods in Marlow and immediate districts, and a number of the males were recorded as bargemen. The fact that my grandfather and his male siblings (with one exception) all settled after marriage in and around Windsor could possibly indicate a connection, but with having not yet found Thomas' origins, this is currently speculation.

## West Berkshire Museum

A resource for local family history

Go beyond the genealogy and learn about the places your ancestors lived, worked and played.

Come and use our maps, photographs, pictures, directories, publications, reference files, and local knowledge.



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*Please send your letters and articles to the editor, either by email to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk> or by post to The Editor, Berkshire Family Historian, The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW. Letters may have to be edited, and it will be assumed, unless you ask otherwise, that you are happy to have your postal and email address published for replies.*

from **John M Pollock (3103)**

Jean Debney omits two disadvantages of applying for post-1858 wills from York. The last time I wrote for wills I waited more like seven working weeks, rather than the seven working days promised and met by First Avenue House. Second, I find reading the poor secretary script copies of documents that we get from York a difficult chore which invites skipping. Wills obtained from First Avenue House are copies of solicitors' copies, which are hand-written before the age of the typewriter in legible copperplate.

from **Bert Tincey (869)**

Has any member of the society researched the ag-labs and servants working for the Englefield and Sulham estates (near Theale and Pangbourne) who could help me with Edward and Eliza Horn, married 1855 and John and Jane Wigmore, married 1851? Eliza and Jane were sisters, and are my Tincey great-aunts. If I write to the estates, to whom would it be best to address a family history enquiry?

from **Chris Hewlett**

I have in my possession some old (empty) bottles of culinary flavouring made in Reading. Two were made by Dakota Dainties Ltd, and one by Charles Cocks and Co Ltd from Reading. Having found a reference to Charles Cocks on the Berks FHS website, I wondered if any of your members had a particular interest in either of these local firms, and would welcome the bottles (at no cost other than postage). It seems a shame just to throw them away!

**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.**

## Gleanings *from exchange magazines*

*These articles are available in either hard copy or electronic file for up to two years. For hard copies, send your request with a SAE (min 11 x 22 cm) and two loose stamps to Exchange Magazines, Berks FHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. For electronic copies, apply to <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>. Please supply both the issue date of the Historian and full details of the title and source of the Gleaning. This quarter, Somerset and Dorset FHS have informed us that they will no longer be exchanging their magazine The Greenwood Tree. Several other family history societies have come to the same decision, mainly due to lack of storage space. When this happens with neighbouring or popular societies, Berks FHS takes out a subscription, but other societies are dropped from our Exchange Magazine Library. A few Berks FHS members donate their magazines to us. We are happy to take these donations provided that they are from major FHS with potential wide interest, and that they can be delivered to us on a regular basis.*

**Daphne Spurling**

My parish – St James' and St Paul's, Bristol.  
Bristol and Avon FHS, no 129, Sept 2007

Older antiquarian and genealogical periodicals in the Society of Genealogists' Library and some of their editors. Journal of Society of Genealogists, vol 29, no 3, Sept 2007

To be sent to America: indentured servants registered at Lyme Regis, Dorset, England, 1683 - 1689. 30 names. Journal of Society of Genealogists, vol 29, no 3, Sept 2007

Huguenot families in Australia project.  
Journal of Society of Genealogists, vol 29, no 3, Sept 2007

Cornish orphans in Essex. Over 100 names 1836 - 1910 at the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum at Snaresbrook. Cornwall FHS, no 125, Sept 2007

Cover talk – St Just in Penwith. Cornwall FHS, no 125, Sept 2007

People who count in Derwen. Clwyd FHS, no 94, Sept 2007

A name index for Tudor Darlington (continued from July 2007). Cleveland FHS, vol 10, no 2, Sept 2007

Tracing your Baptist ancestry. Kent FHS, vol 11, no 12

School records (various types of schools). East Yorkshire FHS, no 112, Oct 2007

Spotlight on Lockington. East Yorkshire FHS, no 112, Oct 2007

Somerset spotlight – Walton. Somerset & Dorset FHS, vol 32, no 4, Nov 2007

Towcester – cover photographs.  
Northamptonshire FHS, vol 30, no 2, Nov 2007

Whose copyright is it anyway?  
Northamptonshire FHS, vol 30, no 2, Nov 2007

Boys and men ..... Grimsby fishing apprentices 1879 - 1937. Estimated 4,277 apprentices between 1868 and 1878. Lincolnshire FHS, vol 18, no 4, Nov 2007

A short history of Blackburn. Lancashire FHS, vol 29, no 3, Aug 2007

Scottish Catholic archives. Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, no 105, Nov 2007

Feature parish: Gamrie. Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, no 105, Nov 2007

National memorial card index (for Lancashire), Parts 1 and 2 (A to J). Over 200 names. Lancashire FHS, vol 29, nos 3 & 4, Aug and Nov 2007

Telling your family story on video. Australian Family Tree Connection, Dec 2007

Tracing ancestors in Oxfordshire's second town: 50 years of the Banbury Historical Society. Lists sources. Also CD containing all the BHS journals 1957 - 2003. Journal of Society of Genealogists, vol 29, no 4, Dec 2007

My parish – Easton-in-Gordano. Bristol & Avon FHS, no 130, Dec 2007

Old Thornaby. Description of village about 1880 including residents' names. Cleveland FHS, vol 10, no 5, Jan 2008

Churches of Derbyshire – Ashbourne St Oswald. Derbyshire FHS, issue 123, Dec 2007

Research in the USA. Gloucestershire FHS, no 115, Dec 2007

Index to grave inscriptions St Mary's Church, Manchester. Part 2: Mackay to Young. Manchester Genealogist, vol 43, no 4, Dec 2007

## Bookends

Jean Debney

**Please note prices given include p&p for mail orders received up to 1 April 2008 only. After that date postal rates increase. Please contact BerksFHS Bookshop for new p&p charges.**

### RESEARCH AIDS

Eureka has two new additions to the series of indexed transcripts of documents in the Berkshire Record Office and elsewhere. All are A5, flexiback (colour coded by basic topic), and include a useful introduction to the records and their historical background.

#### ***Barge people of the River Thames.***

(The Eureka Partnership, 2007) A5 orange flexiback, 56p.  
£4.66 UK, £5.35 airmail

Under the terms of a Parliamentary Act in 1795 all boats and barges over 13 tons using the inland waterways had to be registered. The records for the boats using the Thames, the river Wey in Surrey and the Kennet and Avon Canal are in the Surrey and Berkshire record offices, and have been transcribed and indexed. Information includes the name and tonnage of each vessel, the owner and master and the number of crew.

Most vessels were barges and lighters, with a few punts. The Surrey records include a large

number of lightermen on the Thames between Gravesend, Kent and Windsor, Berkshire. Included are details of 10 barges owned by Francis Page of Newbury and Robert Holmes and George Keates from Abingdon. There is a long list of the Thames lightermen, who operated not only in London's dockland, but also further afield to Windsor.

This small booklet therefore will have a wide appeal for those with boating ancestors who operated between the north coast of Kent, into the heart of London, as well as north Surrey, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire as far as Lechlade in Gloucestershire in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Also available from Berks FHS Bookshop:  
***Boat people of the Oxford Canal.***

#### ***Newbury Lower Meeting Independent Church baptisms 1695 - 1771, 1784 - 1864.***

(The Eureka Partnership, 2007) A5 green flexiback, indexed, 64p.  
£4.66 UK, £5.35 airmail

***Newbury Lower Meeting Independent Church marriages 1839 - 1860, burials 1784 - 1864 and church minute book 1696 - 1734.***

***Newbury Upper Meeting Presbyterian Church baptisms 1763 - 1837 and burials 1784 - 1837.***

**Indexes** (by publication and alphabetically) **of volunteers from Berkshire in WWI**, published in local newspaper on CD compiled by Andrew Punshon (2004)

£5 each + p&p

***Abingdon and district volunteers, 1915.***

1,660 names, including the playing men from the north Berkshire football clubs, published in the *Abingdon Free Press* of 5 and 19 Feb.

***Maidenhead and district volunteers, 1915.***

2,588 names published in the *Maidenhead Advertiser* of 29 Dec 1915.

***Newbury and district volunteers, 1915.***

3,530 names from the *Newbury Weekly News* of 23 and 30 Dec 1915, plus information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

### BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

***Berkshire old and new***, no 24, 2007.

Dr J Brown ed. (Berkshire Local History Association, 2007) A4 flexiback, illustrated, 60p. ISSN 0264-9950  
£3.66 UK, £4.35 airmail

Four very different but well researched and well written articles:

*Berkshire and Jacobitism* by Jonathan Oates.  
*From white elephant to town's museum; the changing fortunes of Abingdon's town hall* by J Dunleavy.

*Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey 1870 - 1948*

by Kate Tyte.

*Berkshire County Council building contracts 1892 - 1939* by Jeremy Taylor.

There is also a good Berkshire bibliography compiled by David Cliffe, local studies manager of Reading Central Library. A very interesting read.

***The Snares of Minster Street, the printer and the picture.***

Diana R Mackarill (author, 2007) A5 flexiback, illustrated, 30p.

£5.66 UK, £6.35 airmail

A succinct account of John Snare, the well-known printer of Minster Street in nineteenth-century Reading, his family and the legal problems encountered when he purchased and authenticated a lost portrait of Charles I by Velasquez. Recommended.

Also available from BerksFHS Bookshop:  
***Snare's Post Office directory of Reading 1842-3***

(CD BRK0201)

£7.50 + p&p

***So many hearts make a school: the centenary of the George Palmer School, Reading.***

Daphne Barnes-Phillips (Corridor Press, 2007) A4 flexiback, illustrated with photographs, 240p. ISBN 1-897715-07-2

£15 UK, £16.20 airmail

The George Palmer Council School, dedicated to the co-founder of the well-known Huntley and Palmer biscuit company of Reading, was built between 1904 and 1907 in the Basingstoke Road, Whitley, south Reading, to replace the older Southampton Street School.

The author, formerly a pupil at the school, records her own memories, those of staff and of other former pupils. Illustrated with many named photos, but unindexed. However, a detailed contents list, plus lists of head-teachers, contributors and principal sources used help to make up for this. A fascinating read for anyone who was or had a family member associated with the school.

***A county at war: Berkshire 1914-1918.***

John Trigg (author, 2007) A5 flexiback, wire-spiral bound, illustrated, 172p.  
£11.60 UK, £12.72 airmail

This book contains stories found mainly in local newspapers about those who joined up and those who remained at home. The font and illustrations are small, and there is no index, but a search could be rewarding.

***Some nineteenth-century Berkshire squires: a county history 1800 - 1900.***

John Trigg (author, 2005) A5 flexiback, wire-spiral bound, illustrated, 168p.  
£11.60 UK, £12.72 airmail

The villages of Aldermaston, Ashdown (in Ashbury), Basildon, Benham, Buckland, Bucklebury, Buscot, Coleshill, Crookham, East Hendred, Englefield, Lockinge, Marcham, Midgham, Pusey, Ramsbury (Wilts), Shrivenham, Shaw, Thatcham, Welford,

Woolley Park and Woolhampton are included. But, as with the title opposite, the font is small and there is no index.

**OXFORD LOCAL HISTORY*****Henley-on-Thames: a history.***

David C Whitehead (Phillimore, 2007)  
7in x 10in (175mm x 255mm) hardback,  
illustrated, indexed, 152p. ISBN  
978-1-86077-452-2  
£20 UK, £22 airmail

Written and produced to the high standard we have come to expect from any Phillimore publication. The detailed text is illustrated with 138 pictures, many of which are old photographs, and the endpapers include sections of the Ordnance Survey map of Henley published in 1927. Recommended to anyone with an interest in this fascinating old town.

**Records wanted**

*If you have records of any names that would fit into the Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (relating to an event occurring 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>.*

**Are you enjoying this issue?**

***If so, you might like to reflect that the pleasure you gain from your membership of the society comes from the voluntary work of ordinary members like you.***

***The society's most urgent need is for someone (or two) to take over the bookshop. Berks FHS Books generates revenue which makes a vital contribution to the society's running costs, and helps to peg subscriptions at a modest level. Hours can be flexible, and some of the work can be done on a computer at home. No special skills or experience needed.***

***Could you, would you, give a couple of hours a week?***

***For more details please ring Ivan Dickason on 0118 978 6785.***

**Join the team and make a difference**

## Members' services

Please advise any changes of address, phone number etc to the membership secretary, Berkshire FHS at the Reading address below.

### Research Centre

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

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

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

#### Tuesdays

**10.00 - 16.00, 19.00 - 21.30**

#### Wednesdays and Thursdays

**10.00 - 16.00**

#### 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

**11.00 - 16.00**

All staff on duty are volunteers who help researchers in the centre, but they do not carry out research for the visitors. The computer suite includes three computers set up specifically for the Ancestry Library Edition, for which a nominal charge of £1.00 per hour is made. The Ancestry Library edition is the *.com* version (much larger than *.co.uk*) which includes data from north American and other countries, making it much more useful to researchers.

### Berkshire Name Suite (BNS)

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

- **Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871** (both complete but mainly unchecked) and **1881**
- **Berkshire Marriage Index**  
Over 95,000 entries from pre-1837 Berkshire parish registers. Note that the early entries only give dates and names of groom and bride. Later entries include parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.
- **Berkshire Burial Index (BBI)**  
Over 550,000 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. (See mail order booklist.)
- **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 the 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 2008

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 :

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 (from those listed on page 32) only the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a printout of up to 25 lines of results.

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

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

- your membership number
- email/telephone details
- a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough for several A4 sheets (2 x IRCs if writing from overseas)
- a bank draft or sterling cheque drawn on a London clearing bank

and mark your envelope BNS or OCCI, depending upon the database you wish to search.

# Members' interests

**Bob Plumridge**

*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.**

6425 ABRAHAM	Newbury	BRK pre 1810	6386 CRIPS	Ashampstead	
6425 ABRAHAM	Kintbury	BRK pre 1850			BRK pre 1694
6495 ARCHARD	Stanford in the Vale		6495 DAVIES	Stanford in the Vale	
		BRK 1700-1800			BRK pre 1750
1224 BAGGS	Reading	BRK 19c	6495 DAVIS	Stanford in the Vale	
6326 BERLE	Newbury	BRK 1900+			BRK pre 1750
1224 BETTS	Henley on Thames		1224 DREWETT	Headington	
		OXF 17c			OXF 17c
6456 BLACK(MAN)			1224 DREWETT	Henley on Thames	
	Any	HAM pre 1837			OXF 18c
6456 BLACK(MAN)			1224 DREWETT	Stanton St John	
	Inkpen	BRK pre 1837			OXF 17c
6285 BLAKE	Waddesdon	BUK All	6431 DUFFIN	Nutley	HAM 1800+
6424 BRANT	Aslackby	LIN 1700-1850	6431 EALES	Dummer	HAM 1800+
6386 BREN	Tilehurst	BRK pre 1825	6431 EDGINTON	Shinfield	BRK 1800+
6386 BREN	Reading	BRK All	6431 EDGINTON	Reading	BRK 1880+
6424 BUCKNER	Slough	BKM 1800-1950	6424 ELY	Crowthorne	
6424 BUCKNER	Wittenham				BRK 1880-1950
		BRK 1700-1850	1224 EMMETT	Harpsden	OXF 18c
6285 BUSS	Ufton Nervet		6495 FALKNER	Kingston Lisle	
		BRK All			BRK pre 1700
6399 CAVE	Any	DOR 1700-	6495 FALKNER	Stanford in the Vale	
6499 CHANT	Any	HAM 1700-1900			BRK pre 1800
1224 CLANVIL	Dorchester		6495 FAULKNER	Stanford in the Vale	
		OXF 18c			BRK pre 1800
6431 CORDERY	Mapledurham		6495 FAWLKNER	Kingston Lisle	
		BRK 1700+			BRK pre 1700

1224 FIPPEs	Stanton St John OXF 17c	1224 LOWE	Henley on Thames OXF 18c
1224 FORD	Dorchester OXF 18c	1224 LOWE	Burcot OXF 18c
6285 FOUNTAIN	All NFK -1880	1224 LUSH	Donhead St Mary WIL 17c
6431 FRANKLIN	Reading BRK All	1224 MARLOW	Old Windsor BRK 18c
6495 FROOMES	Moulsford BRK 1750-1850	1224 MARLOW	Henley on Thames OXF 19c
6495 FROOMES	Yattendon BRK 1650-1750	1224 MARLOW	Reading BRK 19c
6495 FROOMES	Cholsey BRK 1700-1800	6326 MATHISON	Newbury BRK 1800+
6495 FROOMS	Yattendon BRK 1650-1750	1224 MESSENGER	Henley on Thames OXF 18c
6495 FROOMS	Moulsford BRK 1750-1850	1224 NASH	Henley on Thames OXF 17c
6495 FROOMS	Cholsey BRK 1700-1800	1224 NASH	Wokingham BRK 17c
6326 GIBBONS	Newbury BRK 1750+	6386 NEWELL	Thatcham BRK pre 1711
6399 GLEAVE	Any CHS 1800-	6456 NICHOLSON	West Meon HAM Any
1224 GOSNEY	Sutton Mandeville WIL 19c	6495 ORCHARD	Stanford in the Vale BRK 1700-1800
1224 GREENWAY	Dorchester OXF 17c	6495 OSTLER	Aldworth BRK pre 1800
1224 GREENWAY	Cholsey BRK 18c	1224 PARHAM	Donhead St Mary WIL 17c
6424 GULLICK	Trevethin MON1850-1950	1224 PARKER	Henley on Thames OXF 17c
6424 HADDOCK	Cradley WOR1700-1950	1224 PARSONS	Old Windsor BRK 18c
6386 HAMBLIN	Ashampstead BRK pre 1786	1224 PEBWORTH	Dorchester OXF 18c
1224 HARMAN	Cogges OXF 18c	1224 PERRIE	Caversham OXF 18c
6424 HARRIS	Byfield NTH 1700-1850	1224 PERRIE	Harpsden OXF 18c
6431 HAWKINS	Whitchurch OXF 1800+	1224 PERRYMAN	Old Windsor BRK 18c
6424 HAWTHORN(E)	All BRK 1700-1900	6386 PINFOLD	All BRK All
6431 HEATH	Ewelme OXF 1800+	6425 PIPER	Ashmans North HAM pre 1872
6386 HIDE	Thatcham BRK pre 1770	6386 POCOCK	Thatcham BRK pre 1751
6386 HIGGS	Ashampstead BRK pre 1529	6386 POCOCKE	Ashampstead BRK pre 1752
6386 HIGGS	Bucklebury BRK All	6424 POWELL	Trevethin MON1850-1960
6424 HILLERBY	Carlisle CUL 1910-1940	6431 PRIOR	Woodmancott HAM 1700+
6424 HILLERBY	Leeds YKS 1820-1850	1224 PUTMAN	Reading BRK 19c
6399 HORSEY	Any SOM1800-	6495 QUELCH	Ashampstead BRK 1600-1700
6424 ILBERY	Owlsmoor BRK 1880-1900	1224 RABBETS	Donhead St Mary WIL 17c
6482 JOHNSON	Bradfield BRK 1912	1224 RATHALL	Harpsden OXF 17c
6482 JOHNSON	Reading BRK 1905		
6482 JOHNSON	All BRK 1905-1925		
6482 JOHNSON	All BRK 1917		
6431 JORDAN	Reading BRK 1800+		
6431 LEWINGTON	Reading BRK 1800+		
6431 LEWINGTON	Aston BRK All		
6386 LEWIS	Midgham BRK All		
6386 LEWIS	Bucklebury BRK 1700-1800		
6386 LEWIS	Newbury BRK pre 1731		
6424 LOCKHART	Carlisle CUL 1800-1950		

6431 RATHILL	Aston	BRK 1700+	6424 SURMAN	Reading	BRK 1800-1900
1224 RICHINGS	Henley on Thames		1224 TAYLOR	Rotherfield Greys	
		OXF 20c			OXF 19c
1224 RICHINGS	Reading	BRK 19c	6456 THOMAS	Hungerford	BRK pre 1837
6456 ROBERTS	Kintbury	BRK Any	6285 TREW	Ipswich	SFK -1880
6431 ROGERS	Whitchurch		6386 TULL	Thatcham	BRK pre 1790
		OXF 1800+	6456 TURNER	Reading	BRK 1901+
6399 SELBY	Any	DOR 1700-	6456 TURNER	Dover	KEN 1850+
6399 SELBY	Any	GLS 1700-	6326 TUSON	Newbury	BRK 1750+
6399 SELBY	Any	WIL 1700-	1224 WALTER(S)	Henley on Thames	
6499 SHAW	St Pancras	MDX 1700-1900			OXF 18c
6424 SIMPSON	Reading	BRK 1750-1850	1224 WALTER(S)	Rotherfield Greys	
1224 SMITH	Brompton	MDX 19c			OXF 18c
1224 SMITH	Reading	BRK 19c	1224 WERNHAM	Beenham	BRK 19c
1224 SMITH	Chelsea	MDX 19c	1224 WERNHAM	Denham	BKM 19c
6424 SPIKIN	London	MDX 1700-1900	1224 WERNHAM	Reading	BRK 19c
6399 SPRINKS	Any	MDX 1800-	6456 WHEELER	Rotherfield Greys	
6399 SPRINKS	Any	SRY 1800-			OXF pre 1837
6399 STEPHENS	Any	DEV 1800-	6456 WHEELER	Henley	OXF pre 1837
6399 STEPHENS	Any	KEN 1800-	6431 WICKS	Reading	BRK 1700+
1224 STUBBLE	Wokingham	BRK 17c	6386 WIMBOLT	All	BRK pre 1755
6399 STUBBLES	Any	BKM 1750-	6431 WYETH	Nutley	HAM 1800+
6399 STUBBLES	Any	BRK 1750-			

## 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 31,298 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 (obtained from the website or a 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)>.