

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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June 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

Yes, it is membership renewal time again. You will find the form on the reverse of your address sheet. I am sorry to have to tell you that we must increase membership by £1 this coming year, due to an increase in FFHS subscriptions, the overall running costs of the Research Centre and the increased cost of producing the magazine.

However we do have three pieces of good news this quarter:

- new CDs available from the bookshop: parish register CDs for Reading St Giles, Bradfield including Tutts Clump Methodist Registers and Little Wittenham and Reading St Mary's (1538 - 1812), and the Berkshire Poll Books of 1727 and 1768.

- We have signed a new five-year lease with Reading Borough Council for our Research Centre, which means we do not have to move. This unique position between the Berkshire Record Office and Reading Registry Office with its free car park makes it an ideal location.

- The Berkshire Record Office will open its doors between 18.00 and 20.00 for our members on 15 July, and this time you will be able to bring a friend. It is a great opportunity to introduce others to family history.

We are still in desperate need of help with the bookshop. If you live in or near Reading and would like to help, please contact Ivan Dickason, the bookshop manager, on 0118 978 6785 or email <ivan@dickason.co.uk> for details. Without a bookshop the subscription increase would have been a great deal more than £1, so please do support our bookshop.

This year the AGM will be held before the Bracknell Branch meeting at 19.30 on 20 June, followed by a talk from Roy Stockdill on *Sex, Sin and Scandal in Newspapers*. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Jocie McBride
Chairman

Berkshire Burial Index

David Wright

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2008 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These, together with all other additions made since the publication of the most recent CD of the Berkshire Burial Index in early 2008, will be included in the next update of the CD, which we aim to issue towards the end of this year. The index now contains more than 570,000 entries.

Bray St Michael 1681 - 1722 and 1792 - 1812
Chilton All Saints 1960 - 1992
Clewer St Andrew 1872 - 1875 and 1879 - 1885
Longcot St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1884
Longworth St Mary 1813 - 1940
Marcham All Saints 1876 - 1900
North Moreton All Saints 1735 - 1812
Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium 1953 - 1955
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1903 - 1907 and 1908 - 1909
Reading St Mary 1703 - 1710 and 1813 - 1839
Sandhurst St Michael 1850 - 1869
Shinfield St Mary 1845 - 1874
Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1996 - 2007
Thatcham St Mary 1640 - 1690
Wargrave St Mary 1710 - 1789

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 34.

Berkshire Record Office acquisitions

New parish registers are now available for:

Bracknell Holy Trinity 1995 - 2005
Cranbourne: marriages 1996 - 2007 and
banns 1977 - 2005
Remenham marriages 1998 - 2004

Other parish records (not registers):

Hurley (D/P 72)
Spencers Wood (D/P 194)
Tilehurst St Mary Magdalen (D/P 132E)
Winkfield (relating to the church of
St Martin, Chavey Down) (D/P 151)

Nonconformist records:

Basildon Independent Chapel 1852 - 1942
(D/N 51)
St Paul's United Reformed Church
(formerly Bracknell Congregational
Church) 1813 - 1998 (including baptisms
1814 - 1972 and burials 1822 - 1859)
(D/N 50)
Rokeby (Congregational) Hall, Caversham
1861 - 1975 (D/N 52)
Stroud Green Methodist Church, Greenham
(D/MS 15)
Shellingford Congregational Chapel
1828 - 1878 (D/N 53)
Spencers Wood United Reformed Church
1812 - 1949 (D/N 44)
Thatcham United Reformed Church
1811 - 2005 (D/N 37)
Wallingford Independent Chapel
1776 - 1905 (D/N 12)

We have also catalogued:

membership records for the Berkshire and
Oxfordshire Quakers 1876 - 1956 and
minutes of the Reading Monthly Meeting
1910 - 1928 (D/F)
records of Berkshire Federation of Women's
Institutes 1919 - 1996 (D/EX 2007)
accounts of Wallingford Rural District
Council 1873 - 1896 (RD/W)

wills of Robert Clerk of Padworth
1810 - 1815 (D/EX 2035)
and Richard Wilkins of Windsor 1849
(D/EX 2037).

An unusual new document is the 1886
repudiation by Mary Trotter, wife of the vicar
of Ardington, of her marriage settlement,
drawn up to protect her financial interests
when she married in 1877 (D/EX 2034).

Editor's note

The passenger list database on <findmy-past.com> is now complete, with the recent addition of the final decade, 1950 - 1960. For some of us this period is well within living memory, and I was thrilled to be able to look up my own family's voyage to the USA in 1947 on Cunard's SS Aquitania.

I duly paid to download a scan of the original ship's manifest. However I was less than impressed to find that in our family party of five, no fewer than three of us had been recorded with completely wrong Christian names.

Family historians are taught to be suspicious of all data, even from primary sources, but a ship's passenger manifest, one might have thought, would need to be spot-on; it would be highly relevant to the US immigration authorities, not to mention a fairly vital document if the ship went down. It astonished me that it could have been compiled so carelessly.

I have not as yet been able to bring myself to check whether or not Cunard brought us all home with the right identities in 1950.

Berkshire borders 1851 census project

***Chad Hanna (382),
the society's IT manager,
seeks volunteers for an
important project.***

Do you get annoyed with errors in the online census indexes? Much of these have been transcribed in Chennai (formerly Madras) in India and, despite training, there is still a limit to what can be achieved overseas. Berkshire FHS is very fortunate in having a very complete and accurate transcript of the 1851 census completed by members under the leadership of Geoff Mather. We hope it will not be too long before this is available on the findmypast website, as well as on the CD available from our bookshop.

It is important that our census is available online, so that people with Apple and other non-Windows computers can use it. The online census will also be linked to images of the census pages.

Many Berkshire ancestors strayed across the borders into parishes in neighbouring counties. Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire family history societies are fortunate to have good 1851 census indexes that are also likely to be available on the findmypast site, while Middlesex, Surrey and Hampshire are not so fortunate.

The census is divided into "pieces" that ignore county boundaries. Beech Hill, for example, is a small part of piece 1681, the remainder of which is all Hampshire. In fact, of the 14 pieces that include parts of Berkshire, only four appear to be totally within Berkshire! We hope to transcribe the neighbouring parts of Hampshire, Surrey and Middlesex. These include areas such as Alton, Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Epsom, Chertsey, Staines and Uxbridge.

How will this be done? Volunteers will need a reasonably up-to-date computer with a web browser and a broadband internet connection. Some knowledge of the areas covered will be invaluable.

When you join the project you will be given a user name and password to access a website. You will then be able to download one or more images of census pages, and you will be given a date by which the transcription needs to be completed.

Transcribing is simply a matter of reading information from the image at the top of the screen and entering it into a grid at the bottom of the screen. An illustration from an early version of this transcription tool is shown opposite. There is a small panel at the bottom right that provides help and lookups for the column currently being transcribed.

If you have difficulties with a particular page or you feel it's beyond your current abilities, (you will improve!) you can easily send it back and start another page.

Findmypast is different from other census websites in that it uses a complete transcript, allowing advanced searching using occupation and address. Many subscribers will view our transcript before referring to the image. Our society will receive royalties from findmypast.com when people use the information we transcribe, and this will help to support the other activities of the society. Clearly the more we transcribe the greater the royalties will be in the future.

Through our participation in this project with findmypast.com and our membership of the Federation of Family History Societies you will be able to obtain a discount to subscriptions on findmypast.com.

Please email our project co-ordinator at <1851census@berksfhs.org.uk> to register your interest in taking part or to ask a question. A more detailed tour of the transcription tool is available online at <www.familyhistoryonline.net/fmp/1851.html>.

ancestry.com transcription tool · 1831 Census - Durham - Pn. 2181 - Durham - 1 - Image F1217

Household No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abides in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1831	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age if over 15	Sex	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and dumb
1	Wickston Tisbury	Henry Mainsworth	Head	Mar	30	M	Book & Stationery	York - Leeds	
		Thyly	Wife	Mar	28	F		Durham - Stockton	
		John	Son	Un	5	M	a scholar	Durham - Stockton	
		William	Son	Un	1	M		Durham - Whitley	
		Elizabeth	Son	Un	2	F		Staffordshire - Lane End	
2	Wickston Tisbury	James Trotter	Head	Mar	24	M	Route-Servant	York - Redwigg	
		John Trotter	Son	Un	10	M		York - Whitley	
		Henry Hitching	Son	Un	10	M	Agricultural Labourer	York - Whitley	
		Stephen Trotter	Son	Un	10	M	Creamer	Durham - Whitley	
		James Trotter	Son	Un	10	M	Butcher's Wife	York - Bradford	
3	Wickston Tisbury	John Trotter	Head	Mar	50	M	Farmer of 120 acres	Durham	
		John	Wife	Mar	50	F	Farmer's Wife	Durham - Whitley	
		Thomas	Son	Un	10	M	Farmer's son		

findmypast transcription tool

Don't discard the address sheet that came with your magazine...

...because on the reverse of it is the form which you need to renew your society membership. Please write your membership number on the reverse of the cheque, and don't staple the cheque to the renewal form. Sterling payments only please, from overseas members. If you have inadvertently lost this sheet please go to <www.berksfhs.org.uk> and renew online.

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

places are limited

<www.berksfhs.org.uk>

or ring Barry or Carolyn

Ancestry in libraries

Bracknell Forest and Wokingham libraries (Denmark Street, Lower Earley and Woodley) have joined Newbury/West Berkshire and Slough in offering members Ancestry Library Edition free of charge using library terminals and logging on with their library card. However, Derek Trinder reminds members that most librarians will not be expert in family history, and their other tasks are such that they are unable to offer detailed help on how to get the most from it. First-time users of Ancestry will benefit by initially visiting the society's Research Centre, where advice and guidance are readily available. There are also drop-in help sessions held at Wokingham Library (in the Learning Zone) on the last Tuesday of the month from 14.00 to 17.00.

Manorial documents register online

Mark Stevens
Berkshire Record Office

The Berkshire part of this project will conclude in May 2008. It will see lists and locations for all known documents of Berkshire manors placed online, creating for the first time a definitive list of Berkshire manors which held courts and kept records. The project has been funded by BRO and the Marc Fitch Fund, and was promoted at a day school held in Oxford in March.

At the time of the Domesday Book the manor was the basic unit of local government, and the manor court evolved as the place to hear cases about property, byelaws and local disputes. Such court records contain a great deal of information about local communities, including many names of manorial copyhold tenants. They are scattered across the country, and the Manorial Documents Register

attempts to act as an index to them. For many years it has existed only as notes in loose-leaf binders at the Historic Manuscripts Commission, but it will soon be available to anyone over the internet.

The list will include details of court rolls, rentals, surveys, accounts and court papers where they survive. In Berkshire 350 manors have been identified, and records survive for 265 of them. It will come as no surprise to hear that most of the Berkshire records are at the BRO, but a substantial proportion is at The National Archives and in public and private repositories.

To see the register online please visit <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr>. The Berkshire documents will be available by the end of May.

Berkshire Family History Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held before the

Bracknell & Wokingham branch meeting

19.30 Fri 20 June

***(followed by Roy Stockdill's talk on
sex, sin and scandal in newspapers)***

Priestwood Community Centre

Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, RG42 1TU

All members are welcome to attend

News in brief

The Way we Were? is the title of the National Family History Conference 2008 hosted by the family history societies of Essex and Suffolk at the University of Essex, Colchester on Friday 29 August to Sunday 31 August 2008. There are two streams of talks, sales outlets, a banquet and the Federation General Meeting. All-in residential (en-suite accommodation but excluding banquet) cost is £210 but session rates are also available. Speakers include Pamela Horn, Brian Oldham, Clive Paine and Joan Grundy. The programme is available at <www.esfh.org.uk>, where you can also download and print out a booking form.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the local studies collection at Oxford Library. Recent reports spoke of closure by the end of April, and transfer of the collection to the Oxfordshire Record Office. However, as this magazine was going to press, callers were being told that the collection would stay in place for at least six months, after which it may be affected by the Westgate redevelopment. Hampshire County Council, meanwhile, has launched the new, integrated Hampshire Archives and Local Studies at the Hampshire

Record Office, incorporating the former local studies collection from the library.

From 1 April 2008 the General Register Office (GRO) became part of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS), an executive agency of the Home Office, responsible for handling passport applications and, in the future, the issue of identity cards.

<findmypast.com> has added nearly 30,000 City of London Burials 1742 - 1904 to its searchable archives.

Buckinghamshire FHS will be holding its annual open day on Saturday 26 July 2008, 10.00 - 16.00, at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury. Attractions include the full Bucks FHS library and databases, guest societies, commercial suppliers, and guest speaker Nick Barratt from *Who Do You Think You Are?* Admission and parking are free. See <www.bucksfhs.org.uk> for more information.

***Special open evening at the Berkshire Record Office
for members of the Berkshire FHS
18.00 to 20.00 Tuesday 15 July 2008***

Members may bring one friend

The Berks FHS Research Centre will also be open from 18.00 to 21.30

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

7 July & 6 October 2008

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.

The House of Toomer

In the 1960s you could buy almost anything from the House of Toomer, from nuts and bolts to televisions or agricultural machinery.

Phil Wood (4495) finds the family behind the shopfront.



Reproduced by courtesy of West Berkshire Museum (2001.85)

Long-time inhabitants of the Newbury area will be familiar with the title of this article. For many years it featured above the windows of an ironmonger's shop in a prominent position at 2/3 Northbrook Street, Newbury's principal shopping street. Alongside the name was the proud claim *Estd 1692*, making the House of Toomer Newbury's oldest surviving business at that time.

Family historians seeking relatives in early nineteenth-century Newbury will be familiar with the name for a different reason: the Toomer census of Newbury taken in 1815.

Who were the Toomers? Where did they come from? Why is the census of 1815 named after them? This article looks at the family's arrival in Newbury. Future articles will look at the early days of the business and the man behind the 1815 census.

When I started investigating the Toomer family history almost the first information that came to light was a family tree dating back to the late seventeenth century. From this it would seem that James and Sarah Toomer founded the firm, as they were the adult Toomers alive at the date of foundation, 1692. This has often been reported in articles on the House of Toomer in the local press, but it is almost certainly not true. There is a further, somewhat contradictory, claim that James was mayor of Shaftesbury in Dorset. Why would a Shaftesbury mayor come all the way to Newbury to found a business? It is not impossible, but unlikely. More damning is that the records of the borough of Shaftesbury do not show any James Toomer as mayor. However, Toomer is a local name, there are a few Toomer mayors and one bears the

relatively uncommon name (at the time) of David. The name David occurs again in the Newbury Toomer line – tenuous evidence, but perhaps there is an undiscovered link to the Shaftesbury Toomers.

So how did the Toomers get to Newbury and when? The family tree gives the next generation as Joseph Toomer and Mary Cooper, who married at East Ilsley in 1728, Joseph being buried at St Nicolas in Newbury in 1750. These dates check out and they certainly demonstrate a

Newbury link. One could surmise that a girl from East Ilsley met the man of her dreams when shopping in Newbury, but further checking of the parish registers for East Ilsley dispels this theory. It soon becomes evident that the marriage to Mary was not Joseph's first experience of wedded bliss. From 1714 to 1720 Joseph and Ann Toomer baptise six children, two of these, both called Ann, die in infancy, and their mother is buried within weeks of the second. Following his marriage to Mary, two further children are baptised, including David in 1730. So Joseph was an East Ilsley resident for at least 16 years; he certainly wasn't running an ironmonger's in Newbury. Was he even the same Joseph who is buried in Newbury in 1750?

A little more digging, and Joseph's marriage to Ann King comes to light in Compton in 1713, two weeks after the baptism of their first child in East Ilsley. The register entry shows that Joseph was an exciseman, and that both Joseph and Ann are recorded as being from East Ilsley. Why the marriage after the birth? Why in the parish next door? In part this may be explained by Joseph's job, and Ann's father's occupation of innkeeper. Excisemen, like their counterparts in the customs service (the two did not combine until the twentieth



*There is no record of which of the many East Ilsley inns was run by Joseph Toomer, but perhaps it was one of these in the High Street (c 1905).
Reproduced by courtesy of West Berkshire Museum (1994.42)*

century) were never stationed in their home towns or nearby. This was an attempt to minimise the possibility of corruption or of leniency towards their relatives or friends. Hence it is unlikely that Joseph originated from Newbury, as a posting to East Ilsley would be too near home.

Joseph's career in the excise service can be followed in the excise minute books held at TNA. He is first mentioned in 1709 when he is appointed as supernumerary (assistant) to the excise officer at Windsor. The circumstances were awkward, as the current officer was dismissed at the same time for gross incompetence (or corruption); after 11 previous warnings this was not summary justice. It appears that no replacement was appointed for the sacked officer, and young Joseph found himself in charge, inexperienced and ultimately incompetent. A few months later he is demoted back to supernumerary, and transferred to Reading, following his failure to do much better than his predecessor. A subsequent transfer goes unnoticed in the minute books (or perhaps simply unindexed) so his next entry records an exchange of posts with the officer at East Ilsley. Joseph was by then (1713) officer at Wallingford. Perhaps the attractions of East Ilsley had something to do with the landlord's daughter. The fourth and


final entry records his resignation from the service following his marriage. His new occupation is recorded on a marriage licence bond, when he stands surety for a bond on the marriage of John Blunt and Elizabeth Harvey in 1716; he is recorded as Joseph Toomer, innkeeper of East Ilsley. A further record of his time in East Ilsley comes from 1728 when he seeks and obtains administration of his late wife's estate. It is not clear why he should feel the need to do this eight years after her death, but the fact of his remarriage that same year may be a clue: was there a falling-out with the Kings over Ann's property? If so, this could also be a reason why he would leave East Ilsley with his new family, maybe even leaving Ann's surviving children, by then aged 12 to 17, behind (I have found no record of them beyond their christenings).

It is in 1730 that the name Toomer first occurs in Newbury records, when Joseph is sworn as a juryman at the local Quarter Sessions. He appears from time to time in these records as a juryman, as the accused (on one occasion both) and to be appointed to a

position in the town (bread and butter weigher – in essence, the weights and measures man for the year). Given this appointment it is ironic that his occasional appearances as the accused are for having his pots too small (serving short measure). He is fined on a few occasions for this transgression, always in company with a number of other innkeepers. That he continues as an innkeeper is implied by his transgressions and confirmed by another marriage bond in 1738 when he stands surety for the marriage of Anne Phillips of Speen to Hugh Barker Bell of Aylesbury.

When he and Mary move to Newbury they bring their two young sons. David marries in Newbury and moves to Henley where he has a business as a carpenter and builder. Following Joseph's death in 1750 Mary moves to Henley to be close to David, and dies there in 1756.

And so we reach 1756, the end of this episode, but still no ironmongery business. So where does the *Estd 1692* come from? I'm afraid this revelation will have to wait for the next thrilling instalment.






West Berkshire Museum

A resource for local family history.

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

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

Open: 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holidays.
 The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5AS. Tel: (01635) 30911.
 E-mail: museum@westberks.gov.uk. Website: www.westberkshireremuseum.org.uk.

“An excellent example to other similar institutions”

from a Home Office inspector's report, 1914

The Church of England Waifs and Strays Society was founded in 1881, and opened its first children's home (in Dulwich) in 1882. Others followed, and presently it became a social obligation for every county to establish one. In 1886 a drawing-room meeting – the conventional Victorian means of getting good works off the ground – was held at Englefield House, attracting the great and the good of Berkshire. Funds were raised for the acquisition of Hill House, a former school in Cold Ash, near Thatcham, and its conversion to what became known as the Hill House Home for Girls.

By the time of its formal opening on 29 May 1886 10 girls were already in residence, and it soon reached a full complement of 27. In addition to its status as a home, Hill House was a certified industrial school, one of only four in the country. This made it open to inspection by HM Inspector of Prisons (a status which accounts for the survival of detailed records) but it also enjoyed the close paternal interest of Prebendary Edward Rudolf, founder of the society.

The society's mission was to bring up girls from impoverished backgrounds in the conditions of a respectable Church of England family home, as near as it could be

***Penny Stokes (2961)
chronicles a century of service
given by the girls' home at Cold Ash
to children in need.***



*Hill House, Cold Ash, later known as St Mary's Home.
Reproduced with permission from the Children's Society*

institutionally replicated and, through the school, to train them to support themselves as adults in domestic work. Admissions were to be those children not catered for by Poor Law legislation, but deemed to be in need of rescue from “immoral and vicious circumstances”. Nonetheless, the society was “most careful to avoid relieving unworthy parents of their responsibility”. Orphans were allegedly preferred, but case histories indicate that several children had parents living.

Admissions might be voluntary, or via the police court, although the latter did not necessarily signify that the children themselves were considered to be at fault. The process of committal was sanctioned by two magistrates under the Industrial Schools Act of 1866.

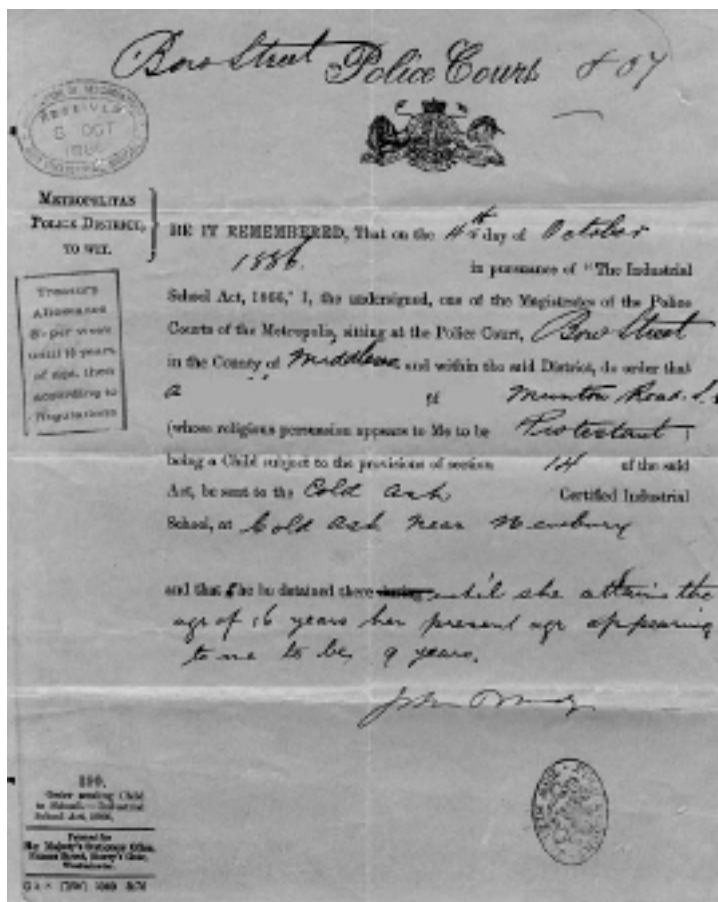
The bald facts of case number 807 are summarised on the Hidden Lives website:

A's father was a tram conductor. He abandoned his family. A's mother was a prostitute, on remand for assault. A was living in the St Giles workhouse, London, at the time the application was made. She was committed to the Cold Ash home under the Industrial Schools Act 1866. In November 1888 A's mother was found drowned in the river Thames. A went into service in May 1893.

There was no lower age limit for admission to the home, and the 1891 census recorded children of one, five and six years old as well as the seven-to-fourteen-year-olds who attended the school. It is clear from the case histories that some arrivals did not know their own ages, and so a guess would be made.

The home (which changed its name from Hill House to St Mary's Home in 1893) was not created for Berkshire needs; most of the girls came from London, and the London County Council later became involved. Indeed, there was occasional local antipathy. In 1923, during a diphtheria epidemic, two girls were sent to the isolation hospital in Wash Common, giving rise to complaints from local people that these London girls were not the responsibility of Newbury ratepayers.

The home was headed by a matron, later designated lady superintendent, assisted by a deputy and a school matron. As part of their training in domestic work, the girls carried out the laundry, cooking and sewing that were essential to maintain the home and its



An anonymised committal order to Cold Ash. Reproduced with permission from the Children's Society

inhabitants. "We hope to provide good servants" was the avowed intention of Miss Gilbert, the schoolroom matron in 1887. Nonetheless the curriculum also included elementary schooling, moral training and physical education. In the first 15 years this was informal outdoor play, but the trend in Edwardian times switched to Swedish drill, a more regimented form of exercise.

Hill House/St Mary's was assiduous in attempts to contribute to its own running costs, estimated at £459 a year in 1887, and £600 in 1895 (after new building in 1891). Fund-raising initiatives by the girls and staff included the annual Rose Fete, the sale of preserves (St Mary's blackberry jam and marmalade became locally famous) and Pound Day, when donations of one pound weight



THE MAYPOLE GIRLS AT COLD ASH.

Maypole dancing was a regular feature of the Rose Fetes held at St Mary's. Reproduced with permission from the Children's Society

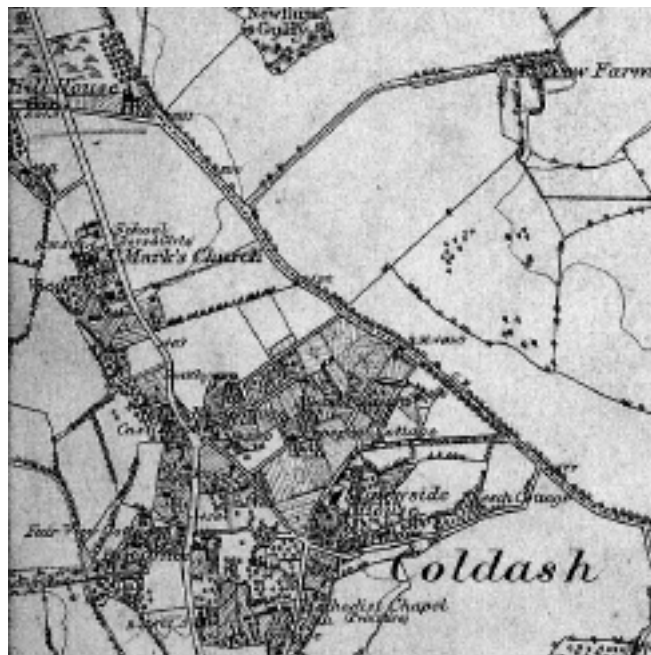
were solicited. The mortgage was paid off in 1898, and shortly afterwards (perhaps significantly) the Rose Fete was scaled down in favour of an annual outing to the Isle of Wight.

Food and sanitation fell far short of modern standards, of course, but the girls' lives were not wholly miserable. There was a library, and each girl had her own garden patch. At Christmas they had stockings, presents and festive food, and in 1902 it is noted that every child was presented with a hoop by the home's managers. At other times there were plays, band concerts, singing, maypole-dancing and slide shows, although the first Isle of Wight trip in 1901 was acknowledged as an all too rare opportunity for the girls to see the wider world.

Village people were strongly encouraged to take an interest in the home, and some local families developed personal relationships with individual girls, through which they were invited out to tea and received birthday treats.

Despite its clear identity the home was often confused with its neighbour, the Cold Ash Children's Hospital, which catered for sick

children of both sexes. Both home and hospital were of similar foundation, and shared many sponsors: William Mount, William Benyon, Major Ricardo and the Rev W S Grindle. There were frequent social exchanges between the two institutions, not to mention a degree of rivalry when it came to competing for donations. A clash of fete dates led to strained relations in 1908.



Hill House is marked top left. OS 1st ed 1881-87 (Berks FHS/BRO CD of Berkshire maps)

Whilst the published records of the Children's Society blank out individual names, the *Newbury Weekly News* freely identified girls in regular news stories about entertainments, fund-raising achievements, and distinguished visitors at Hill House/St Mary's. The Rose Fete included prize-giving, and the crowning of a Rose Queen, all faithfully reported. Less welcome, perhaps, were the paper's equally dutiful reports of misdemeanours. An early runaway was 13-year-old Louise Carver, said to have taken three shillings from a charity box in the chapel before disappearing off to Reading in early 1890. Apprehended five months later, she went to prison for two weeks before being sent to a reformatory. Five years later Louise Young was said to have taken seven shillings, but she got no further than Newbury station. Runaways (often after a minor theft) were reported fairly regularly, and were usually sent to a more punitive institution.

The industrial school functioned until 1932, when it closed and its 25 pupils were farmed out to local elementary schools.

During the Second World War St Mary's Home took in evacuees, and emerged from the war as St Mary's Nursery, still under the society's management. From 1973, in partnership with Berkshire County Council, St Mary's became an assisted community home, taking in young handicapped children.

St Mary's closed on 31 August 1980, in the society's centenary year.

Sources

1. <www.hiddenlives.org.uk>
2. Kay Wood. *Story of St Mary's Cold Ash Child Care Study Paper no 7* (Church of England Children's Society, 1981)
3. Reg Piper. *Cold Ash diaries* (scrapbook compilation of *Newbury Weekly News* entries about the village of Cold Ash, deposited with West Berks Museum.)
4. 1891 census

The author would like to thank the Children's Society for help in compiling this article.

Hill House/ St Mary's Home staff names from various sources

NWN= Newbury Weekly News reports

Wood = Kay Wood. *Story of St Mary's Cold Ash Child Care Study Paper no 7* (Church of England Children's Society, 1981)

1886-93 (NWN)

matron Miss Sommerson (variously spelt)

sub-matron Miss Cook

school matron Miss Gilbert

1890 (NWN)

head girl Blanche Tuttle

1891 (1891 census)

sub-matron Gertrude Leytham, 21 years old

school matron Sarah Eaton, 30 years old

1893-99 (NWN)

matron Miss Barter from Leeds

1895 (NWN)

staff included a Miss Clifford

1899 at least until 1902 (NWN)

Miss Amy/Isobel Walters

1921 to 1937 or 1944 (NWN)

lady superintendent Miss Ann Kirby

assistants Misses Lacy and Orton

1941 (NWN)

matron Miss C Lacy

1947 (NWN)

matron of the nursery Miss G Bayley

1950 (NWN)

Miss Audrey Fiennes

1980 (Wood)

Miss Angela Davidge

Anyone wishing to make family history enquiries relating to this article should contact:

Lucy Farrow

Records System Supervisor

The Children's Society

Records and Archive Centre

Tower Bridge Business Complex

Block A, 2nd floor

100 Clements Road

London SE16 4DG



The Newbury Weekly News 9 Dec 1886

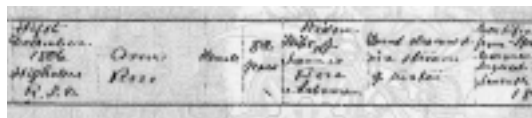
Postscript tells of a sad end

In the March issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* Jane Barrett (5612) wrote of her ancestor James Rose, transported to New South Wales for poaching in 1834, never to be reunited with his wife and children in Enborne.

Since then she has uncovered more details about the death of James' wife Ann, as reported in the newspaper cutting here.

Still apparently working as a domestic servant at the age of 83, Ann Rose was walking from her visiting her daughter (also Ann) in Enborne Row, just inside Berkshire, back to Wash Water Farm, just inside Hampshire, where she worked and lived. She was last seen "at the mill", probably Wash Mill, just a few yards from the farm. Her companions had advised her to walk through the farmyard, but she seems to have taken a short cut over a side-stream, and slipped crossing a footbridge. She drowned in two feet of water.

The mill is long gone, and Enborne Row has graduated from being a string of hovels clustered on the edge of common land, into a tree-lined hamlet of mostly detached, private houses. The Derby Arms, mentioned at the inquest, is now called The Woodpecker. The river Enborne still marks the county boundary. Wash Water Farm, now called Falkland Farm, lies on the other side of the Enborne, just inside Hampshire.



Extract from Ann Rose's death certificate

Scanning and preparing a photo for editing

There are many articles about the specific use of tools in photo-editing programs, but they do not discuss the broader background to the complete process of restoring photographs. In many ways the quality of the final photograph depends as much on the scanning and saving techniques as the actual “tarting up” of the photograph. This article will briefly mention the preliminary stages prior to the use of the repair tools. The explanation is based upon Adobe Photoshop, but Paintshop Pro and most other editing software have similar options.

Scanning the photo

Basically you can't convert a postage stamp sized original into a brilliant A4 size print. A basic constraint is the resolution of the scanner. It is important to know the optical dpi figures, not the extrapolated ones, which will be much higher. Ideally you should not go above the highest optical value. If you choose higher values, all the scanner software is doing is guessing the extra dots. At this stage you want the most accurate scan.

A printout of 200 dpi is usually quite acceptable, so scanning at 2400 dpi will allow the image to be printed at up to 12 times the size of the original. Thus, based upon a final print size of 10 x 8 ins from an original sized 3.5 x 2.5 ins, you will want to enlarge about four times. The scanning resolution should therefore not be lower than 4 x 200, that is, 800 dpi.

Scanners vary so much in their capabilities that you should experiment trying out different settings and assessing their effect. This way you will get to know your scanner and the

***Lionel Carter (6136)
takes beginners through
the first stages of
digital photo-editing.***

consequences of changing the settings. The objective is to transfer the best possible quality picture into the computer before trying to remedy any deficiencies.

Finally take care to scan your picture as straight as possible.

Altering and resaving

Before charging in and altering photos you need to appreciate a few points about altering and resaving photo files. It is important to get into the habit of saving the photo frequently as



Fig 1: the original

you work on it, say every 15 minutes. This way if you make a mistake you will not have wasted hours of effort. You simply go back to your last saved version.

Having said that, you should never change the original photo. It should always be there in case you want to work on it in a different way, or use it for another purpose. The first thing to do after loading the original photo, therefore, is to immediately resave it under a different name.

Another issue is the file format to use. The file name suffix or extension (the letters after the dot) indicates the format being used. Basically there are three types to consider:

- 1) **.jpg** also written as jpeg or JPEG
- 2) **.tif** also written as tiff or TIFF
- 3) proprietary file extensions, such as
 - .psd** for Photoshop
 - .psp** for PaintshopPro

The original scanned image or one from a camera is likely to be a jpg or a tif. Although jpg is the most common, it has a sting in the tail. Every time you resave a jpg file its quality deteriorates. Tif files don't deteriorate so much in quality, but they are usually much larger; hence the attraction of jpg. The third type of file covers proprietary formats developed by particular software companies to make the best use of their programs. Saving and resaving in these, when running that particular software, does not lead to deterioration.

The practical implication of this is that you should load the original image, as a jpg or whatever, into the software you are using, and then keep saving the changes using the proprietary format (psd in the case of Photoshop). Only when you need to pass the final result to someone else, or place it on the web, should you finally produce a jpg or tif version.

Rotate to straighten

Having loaded your image into the photo editing program, the first thing to do is to make sure it is straight. It can be very difficult to position the original on the scanner bed and close the lid without it moving slightly. However the software will allow you to rotate the photo for a final adjustment.

Most users will realise that you can rotate a photo through 90 degrees, but a two- or even one-degree rotation is possible. In my simple version of PhotoShop you use the *Image* menu, choosing *Rotate canvas*, then choose *Arbitrary*. (Older versions of Photoshop may have slightly different terminology, such as *Rotate* and *Custom*.) This allows you to stipulate the number of degrees to rotate, *Clockwise – CW*, or *Counter Clockwise – CCW* (which may be *Right* or *Left* in older versions). I applied one degree clockwise to Fig 1. Whatever you do, don't cumulate the changes. Use *Undo* (in the *Edit* menu) as you keep trying different degrees of rotation, until you are satisfied that you have achieved the best straightening.



Fig 2: straightened and cropped

The *Undo* option is sometimes called *Step backwards*.

Crop to cut out unnecessary parts

The next stage is to consider cropping the image. You don't want to waste time working on irrelevant parts. You might, for example want to use just the heads and shoulders of a group photograph, the foreground being irrelevant. Most old photographs were printed with white borders: do you need them?

Usually you want to be able to select a rectangular section of the photo to continue with, and discard the rest. This means copying the section you want and pasting it into a new canvas.

The tool we use to select a rectangular area of the picture is shown as a dotted rectangle on the tool bar (the Marquee tool in Photoshop). You click on this and the cursor changes to a crosswire. Left-click on the image at one of the corners you want to specify and then, holding the left button down, move to the diagonally opposite corner. You should have the rectangular area you want to retain now showing within a dotted rectangle. If you made a mistake, click *Undo* in the *Edit* menu, or click *None* (*Deselect* in older versions) in the *Selection* menu, and try again.

When you have the area you want properly identified click *Copy* in the *Edit* menu. Next, go to the *File* menu and open a new file. Then paste your copied area using *Paste* in the *Edit* menu to give you a new canvas of your cropped image.

Fig 2 shows the original photograph after straightening (rotated by one degree) and cropped. Notice that the cropped area has been chosen to get rid of a lot of the damaged parts of the photo, whilst retaining the essence of the image.



Fig 3: brightened

Improving contrast

Most old photos are faded and look "flat". Before altering any part of the photo, now is the time to get the contrast and brightness adjusted. The intention is to get the lightest part white and the darkest part black. Most modern editing programs are usually very good at making this adjustment automatically. In Photoshop you simply click on the *Image* menu (*Enhance* menu in older versions) and choose *Auto levels*. Fig 3 shows the effect of this on the example image. You are now ready for using the repair tools such as stamping, cloning and blurring.

Since retiring 15 years ago from a research fellowship at Brunel University, Dr Carter has been supervising MBA dissertations at Henley Management College. He has written many books on computing, and became drawn into family history recently to process relatives' data, for which he has created a family web page based on Legacy. Currently he is working on a wills index. In the next issue of the Historian Dr Carter will continue this subject in a second article.

Genealogical DNA *member's experience*

In the March issue of the Berkshire Family Historian David Pike described his experience of using DNA in searching for relatives among other Pike families, in which it became clear that elimination is as important as any positive discovery.

Christopher Kirby (4488) takes up the thread.

I have had both the mitochondrial and Y lines tested. I am interested in my ancient origins as much as the more specific family tree. The service I used is Family Genetics, a company which visits the FH fairs, and which also at that time offered a discount to societies whose members took tests with them. I mention this because it could possibly result in a higher uptake of the service, generating a larger database against which results could be matched.

My Y line of Kirby testing on 26 markers resulted in matches at 11 generations, 22 and 29 generations, none of which bore the surname. The Kirby names that had been tested did not match sufficiently. I sent some questions to Family Genetics, whose reply is printed overleaf.

I had thought that the name was adopted as a result of the need to have a surname which was taken from a home locality. Eleven generations, though, may be too late for the usual medieval, post-Black Death explanation, so other solutions that I have considered are all possible.

A check against a Kirby interest group on Family Tree in the USA showed that while they all shared my basic haplotype of R1b, most of them had variations that also indicated a far older link than would be useful. All those participating Kirbys were in the US and were a larger number than on my testing company.

My observations are that the testing certainly answers questions relating to haplotypes and their origins. I can keep pace with developments relating to relational DNA

in *New Scientist* and the web, as well as the Family Genetics website, and I do not have a problem with theories relating to migrations across Europe. Continuing research can only be welcomed to assist in the understanding of our ancestral behaviours. When it comes to recent family history, there are currently too few participants to make a match on my surname unless any are hidden in other inaccessible databases. As David Pike indicates, it does currently indicate exclusions but too few matches.

I have come up against brick walls because my late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ancestry is Baptist. It is through the gathering of wedding entries of possible relations, as well as census results, and naming patterns that I got back as far as I did, and that took two of us to unravel.

The expense of testing is going to filter out many potential customers. Maybe the society could come to an agreement with the testing firms, and encourage the creation of surname projects, perhaps inviting representatives from the companies to make presentations at meetings with discussions on the process and the value to members which could be published in the journal. Testing does not take the place of research, but it could break down brick walls. Although I have not so far had any near matches to be of immediate use, I do not regret the money spent. Indeed as far as my mother's female line is concerned it confirmed the Scottish/Irish link for her H haplotype. Money well spent, say I!

Christopher Kirby received this reply from Bryn Carr of Family Genetics Ltd
<www.familygenetics.co.uk>:

There are sub-groups of R1b which we can perform a more detailed test for, but unless you are terribly curious I can tell you that it will add only one or two sentences to your knowledge about your genetic group, and this will be in the ancient past. However, I am happy to give you more details of this test if you are interested.

As for your Kirby matches, I have done another search in our database and four more Kirbys have been added. Interestingly, none of them are particularly closely related to one another or to you. Looking at how distantly all the Kirbys tested seems to be related, it does certainly seem to suggest that the name has multiple origins, or that it was assigned to families for reasons other than genetic relationship. It is certainly worth looking into the history of the name as much as possible. (This is not at all uncommon – we have one surname study currently running with us whose members turned out to be in completely different haplogroups, suggesting totally different ancient origins for the families despite having the same name.)

In terms of narrowing down your results through an upgrade, I would suggest that you wait for the time being. This is for a number of reasons. First of all, your exact matches were not tested for as many markers as you have been, so even if you were to upgrade they have no additional results to compare with your own to narrow down matches. Secondly, because they are matches that are not of your own surname and you are in a relatively common European haplogroup, you would need to have some way to compare your genealogy to confirm your genetic results, and as you say at the moment you are not back to 11 generations at present, and there is no evidence for a change in your surname before this period.

More about genealogical DNA

Chris Pomery. *Family history in the genes*

(The National Archives, 2007) priced variously at £5.99 - £7.99

<www.one-name.org> The Guild of One-Name Studies, where many DNA projects begin

<www.genuki.org.uk/big/bigmisc/DNA.html> for an overview of projects and sources

<www.kerchner.com/glossary.htm> for some helpful definitions

<www.cyndislist.com/dna.htm> a general portal

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 34 or by email to <miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk>.

Time to come online

More than 70 per cent of society members have an email address, but fewer than 20 per cent have joined the online Discussion List. Joan Vinall (1028), who runs the group, tells the others what they are missing.

WHY

The online Discussion List offers a variety of benefits, which include the exchange of local knowledge and helpful suggestions from members with years of experience in research. These links can lead to the discovery of lesser known sources, and even “lost” ancestors, when researchers are put in touch with each other – sometimes three branches of the same family. The Discussion List is especially useful for keeping up with society notices and information from outside bodies such as the BRO and the Federation of Family History Societies.

WHO

Any member of the society may join. The list was set up by the late Eddie Spackman more than 10 years ago, and he maintained it until his untimely death in 2005. Currently 345 members take part – a surprisingly small percentage of total society membership which, even more surprisingly, fluctuates very little. Quite a few subscribers are in or from the surrounding counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire, and are often also members of their own county FHS. Overseas members also regularly participate.

WHAT

Topics range widely, and need not be confined to Berkshire. It is difficult to judge which have been the longest running or the most interesting. The recent query which highlighted a relationship to *The Other Boleyn Girl* was interesting, being topical because of the film, and it had a Berkshire connection to the Knollys family. There have also been some light-hearted contributions, including a song about a guinea pig taught to us by a very nice man in Devon!

The discussion list archive contains all of the messages exchanged since 1998, and one does not need to be a current list subscriber to do this. Instructions on how to access the archive are contained in your welcome letter when you join the

society, together with the user name and password needed.

HOW

To join just send an email message with your name and membership number, your postcode, and a brief request to be subscribed to <listowner@berksfhs.org.uk>

To access the archive visit <ww.berksfhs.org.uk>, click on *Discussion list*, and then on *Contents* (at the top of the page). Scroll down to *Discussion list archive* (the sixth item under *About our society*). If you have lost the access details please email <listowner@berksfhs.org.uk> for a reminder.

Message posting is simple, but please be guided by the following:

- The subject line should be a clear indication of the content of the message, whilst aiming to entice others to read it. Avoid unhelpful subject lines such *Help please* or *Where do I go next*. If there is a surname involved, include that too, as this is the primary information which appears in the online message archive. When replying to a previous message it sometimes may be appropriate to change the subject details.

- Keep messages short and confine them to one subject only. Messages exceeding 12kb will automatically be sent to the Listowner for approval. If you include part of the original message, be sure to trim it a little.

- Write in lower case, but with surnames in capitals. Place names should have an initial capital.

- Send all messages in plain text format. Rich text (HTML) format makes the messages much longer, and can be used to spread viruses.

- Please do not include attachments, and do not send virus warnings, or chain emails of any kind.

Within the Discussion List you can participate or hibernate at will, but active members find their research gains added momentum, and lasting friendships are often made.

Head hunting

***Phil Wood (4495)
demonstrates that dogged research, and a
measure of digital good fortune, can eventually
overcome brick walls in research.***

For a long time my researches stopped at my great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Head. I knew she married Andrew Holt on 22 Oct 1772 at the parish church in Edgcott, Buckinghamshire. They had a son, Richard Head Holt, who farmed in Grendon Underwood in Buckinghamshire, and whose granddaughter, Susan Rebecca Holt, married Richard Harper. Their daughter Lily was my paternal grandmother.

However, the earlier history of Mary Head was a complete blank. I was faced with a fairly common surname and a very common fore-name, but no obvious links to any Heads in local parishes. Online research turned up a number of trees stating that she was born in Grendon Underwood with a date prefixed by the dreaded *abt* – a sure indication of dodgy data. No surprise then, when this turned out to be totally wrong.

This is the story, as it unfolded, of my researches that eventually led to a tree dating back to the first year of parish registers in 1538.

Totally by chance, I came across an interesting entry in the Poll Book for the Berkshire election of 1812, showing John Head of Grindon (sic), Buckinghamshire voting on the basis of owning a freehold in the parish of Peasemore, Berkshire. Could this indicate a Berkshire source for my Head ancestors?

Thus I left it, until a contact with a distant cousin gave me the contents of her mother's will. This named several siblings, and in turn led to the marriage of Mary's sister in Thame, Oxfordshire. Further investigation of the Thame parish registers unearthed the baptisms in Thame between 1739 and 1752, of Mary and five siblings (matching those mentioned in their mother's will). Now her parents Richard and Mary could be identified, and Richard's will was quickly found, as it was proved at the PCC. I paid up and downloaded the will

transcript. The link to Peasemore was confirmed, as he left property there to his son John.

It was good to get back another generation but, once again, there was no way to tell where Richard came from. He was a yeoman farmer in North Weston, a hamlet of Thame; apart from that, all I was able to find was a newspaper advertisement for the sale of his goods and chattels by his executors.

The next piece of good fortune was the arrival online of the Wiltshire Wills Project. To my great good fortune, among the first wills to be placed online (for free) by this marvellous project was that of Richard Head of Leckhampstead, Berkshire, proved at Newbury in 1756. Here we find two properties in Peasemore being left to his son, another Richard, and he names the properties as Freelands and Belchers. Freelands was easy to find in *Place-names of Berkshire* by Margaret Gelling (a wonderful work). This told me that Freelands was on the 1830 OS map, which is just as well, as it is not on any modern maps. Naturally my suspicion is that the Richard receiving this legacy from his father is none other than my Richard Head of North Weston, Oxfordshire.

In 1815 John Head of Grendon Underwood died and left a will, proven in the archdeaconry court of Buckinghamshire. In it he leaves property in Peasemore to his natural son, Richard Head Coles.

A Peasemore freeholder called Richard Head votes in 1818 (Berkshire FHS poll book transcript) and in 1819 and 1821, Richard Head and his wife Ann of Freelands, Peasemore, had daughters Ann and Elizabeth baptised in St Barnabas, Peasemore. The obvious conclusion is that this Richard is a descendant of Richard of Leckhampstead who left Freelands in his will of 1756.

It is also very tempting to believe that this Richard Head is, in fact, Richard Head Coles, using his father's surname rather than his mother's. By this date his parents had married.

All looked very neat until an 1838 valuation of Peasemore was examined. This clearly identifies the Freelands/Belchers property left by Richard Head in 1756. By 1838 it is owned by someone called Griffin, and let to a local farmer, Thomas Clarke. The property consists of a farm cottage, barn etc and three pieces of land named as Freelands, Freelands and Belchers. The spanner in the works comes in the village where Richard Head is shown as the owner of three cottages let to tenants. As these cottages alone constitute sufficient freeholding to qualify for the vote, they could be the property passed down the Thame/Grendon Underwood line. However, the sale of the Freelands property (essentially a small farm of about 30 acres) does not mean that it was not part of John Head's legacy to his son. John's will certainly mentioned both cottages (plural) as well as "closes pieces or parcels of arable and other land". The cottages themselves would not be enough to qualify for this description, but the three fields in the Freelands holding would fit in very nicely.

Freelands is in possession of Heads from 1755 to 1787 as successive occupants act as parish overseers in what appears to be a rota system: Richard Head in 1755; Thomas Head in 1762 & 1768; Widow Head in 1774; Elizabeth Head (aka Widow?) in 1780 and 1787 (she dies in 1790, buried at Chieveley). Then in 1819 and 1821 Richard Head of Freelands has children baptised at St Barnabas, Peasemore. So a Richard Head occupied Freelands, but was it Richard Head Coles?

OS 1st ed 1881-87
(Berks FHS/BRO CD of Berkshire maps)



The final piece of the puzzle was found in the 1817 marriage of Richard Head-Coles of Peasemore to Elizabeth Painter in Brightwalton. Coupled with the baptisms in 1819 and 1821 of daughters Ann and Elizabeth to Richard and Elizabeth Head of Freelands, this is, to me, fairly convincing evidence that a) Richard Head Coles moved to Peasemore as Richard Head and that b) he took possession of Freelands, the farm mentioned in his great grandfather's will in 1756.

***This article is based on a family history website recently set up by Phil Wood and Jane Burrell:
<www.burrell-wood.org.uk/FHist/Phil/England/Head/index.htm>
The website supplies direct links to the primary sources mentioned.***

Birth briefs

Alan Brooker (4764), pictured right, describes his involvement with this long-standing society service, and calls for more members to take part.



In 2005 I retired from work, in which I started as an office boy with BOAC and ended, via the construction industry, with lifting the new roof some 50 years later at the Heathrow Terminal 5. I took on responsibility for the society's birth briefs in 2006, following the retirement of Errol Page, who, with support from other volunteers, pulled together the initial project. My task now is to keep the database up to date with submissions from members.

New birth brief information passes from me to the webmaster on a regular basis, so that the society website can be kept up to date. I also deal with enquiries from members and others seeking either a print-out of a birth brief, or contact with the submitter. Enquiries come from anywhere in the UK, and often

from overseas, particularly New Zealand and Australia.

Birth briefs are by no means limited to Berkshire ancestry. They are very useful in locating family associations in other areas of the country. I personally have been contacted by a second cousin I had no knowledge of, who had searched our website and found our mutual surname interest, my mother's maiden name Passingham, although my mother and family had no connection with the county of Berkshire whatsoever.

Recently, I have had contact from someone searching my wife's family links to her grandmother's surname Smithard, whose birthplace was in Derbyshire, so be aware of possibilities outside Berkshire. This also highlights the need for a birth brief for yourself and partner if you are both interested in family history.

Birth briefs are an appealing way to follow the branches from your main family surname, and they can add interest to your main surname trail. A simple form is included with your membership pack, or you can download it from the website. There is space for you, your two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and 16 great-great-grandparents, but don't be put off if you cannot complete all these details; most of us cannot initially, but you can always add details at a later date.

It is also possible to enter the information into your family tree programme, export it as a GEDCOM file and submit it via email to <birthbriefs@berksfhs.org.uk>. This process in fact helps me to include the information



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more quickly and efficiently, and of course it avoids transcription errors. This is the best way to submit a birth brief, but if it presents any difficulties, please send in the form, clearly filled in, and I will do the rest.

Remember, replies to applications received for a particular birth brief are carefully filtered, so no information (other than names) regarding any living persons is given out. Privacy is protected.

Often, the next phase after providing a birth brief to an applicant is for the society to receive a contact request. Any contact requests following up from searches on the website or follow-ups from birth brief applications are passed onto the member involved, so that you control how you want to proceed with making contact. No personal contact information (address, telephone number, or email address) is given out without your approval.

Another consideration is that contact requests can only be passed to current members, so if you are considering not

renewing your membership, please think again; not only is the membership fee a small price for enjoying the benefits of the society, it also keeps your name within reach of contact for other researchers.

I hope this has reignited an interest in the birth briefs project. Please give serious thought to submitting your birth brief form or, if you have already done so in the past, consider revising it in the light of new knowledge, and let me have an update. Full information and adownloadable form can be obtained from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs>. This will benefit both you and others in pursuit of family history.

Birth briefs should be emailed to
<birthbriefs@berksfhs.org.uk>

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Turning research into print

Barry Jerome (2760)
revisits the perennial problem of transforming your research notes into a coherent narrative.

I began writing my family history about 15 years ago. As well as the bare facts of the research data, I wanted to include something of what life might have been like for my ancestors. One driver for this was an eager audience within my family who, I suspected, would be quickly bored by a list of dates and places.

I had a dilemma; if I wrote up my story and continued my research I would have to keep modifying it. On the other hand, if I just continued my research I would never start writing. To overcome this I consulted books on the subject and looked at how others had written their family history. Eventually I decided on an approach that has proved to work well for me for the last 15 years. Since then I have incorporated new ideas, but the original basis still holds good. This article describes my approach, in which I hope you may find useful ideas for your own.

This article updates a two-part article I wrote for the *Berkshire Family Historian* in 2001 (March and June issues). I will summarise my approach first as a series of steps, and then I will discuss new ideas that I have incorporated since then.

Step 1: Structuring the book

I have adopted an approach of chapters, sections and volumes for my family history book. I use a chapter for each surname in my family tree. Each of these chapters consists of sections, where each section is about a person.

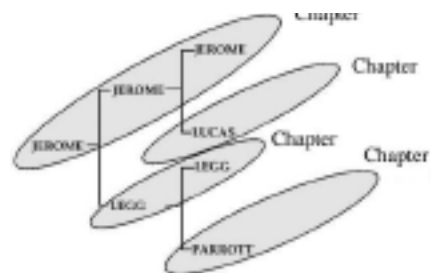
I bind the sections together into volumes which are of a manageable size for reading and distributing. Thus a chapter may be a single volume, or it could be several volumes, depending on the amount of information written up. The advantage of having a section as the smallest unit of my book is that I can work on one when I have enough research on an individual in my family tree. This can be done without needing to modify other sections of the book. I can also work on more than one section at a time. I have used a chapter per surname, but a chapter can be any division of your tree which makes sense for you. For example it could represent a common generation of your tree, as illustrated below.



Generations



Surnames



Step 2: Writing the story

With the book broken down into small sections the overall task did not seem so daunting, but which section should I write first? Should I start from my oldest discoveries, or with recent family members? It does not really matter. The most important thing I found was to start on a section which I would be enthusiastic about finishing. In my case, it was starting from my oldest discoveries on my own surname. I had made a breakthrough in my research and found that a distant ancestor, Giles Gerum, born in France, had been granted denization (naturalisation) by Henry VIII in 1544. This seemed a good place to start. For my second chapter, however, I elected to start with my great-great-grandfather on my mother's family name, as I discovered that he had



worked on the railways, and there was a lot of information about him from railway records.

What to write? That blank sheet of paper, or computer screen, can seem quite daunting. To overcome this I have adopted a mechanistic approach to getting words onto the paper or screen. I modify the words later to make it into more readable narrative as I work on the section.

First, I list all of the information I have about the individual. This will be the BMD, census and occupational data that I have collected. I also try

to gather information about the lifestyle that the individual would have experienced.

The first words I put down are the heading for the section. The heading for my great-great-grandfather Jerome section was "George the Waterman and Boatman (1831 - 1885)".

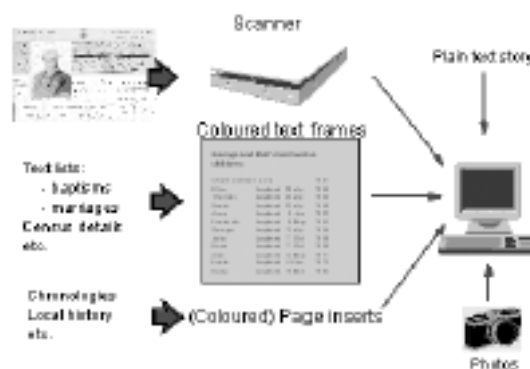
Getting further words onto the paper or screen involves using some standard phrases for birth, marriage, children, job, location and death. These standard phrases would not win a literary prize, but they are a way of starting the story without too much effort. The exact words are refined later as more information is woven into the story.

Step 3: Publishing and printing

Having written the story, I like to illustrate the plain text with pictures. This helps to break up the text, and makes the story easier to read and understand. Photos of the individual I am writing about are ideal, but this is often not possible. Other options are photos of places, for example, where they lived or worked. These do not have to be old photos: a modern photo of the village church taken during a research trip can be just as useful. I also include coloured text frames to break up the plain text. This includes, for example, lists of children or census information.

Another addition that I use to break up the plain text is the use of coloured page inserts containing, for example, a chronology (a list of family and relevant external events) or extracts of local historical events.

I try to achieve a balance between the plain text and the illustrations so that the story flows and there is also something interesting to look at. Consistency is important in, for example, heading styles, fonts and layout. My wife does the quality control, reading through and suggesting



changes. For flexibility I do my own printing, rather than having it printed professionally. As prices have fallen I have progressed from monochrome inkjet, through colour inkjet, to colour laser printer.

Step 4: Collating and binding

Once I have written a few sections I bind them together into a volume that I can distribute to my family and others. My Jerome chapter is (or will be when I finish writing it) bound into six volumes. The volumes are *The first two hundred years*, *The next 50 years*, *Jonathan Jerome and family*, *George and Frederick Jerome*, *Fred Jerome*, and *Ron Jerome*. I have a lot of material, and I like to divide it into manageable chunks for reading and distributing. My Legg chapter, however, is currently a single volume. I create a cover page and a couple of introductory pages for each volume.

The final stage is binding the pages. Numerous types of binding are available. I started with a simple plastic strip to hold pages together. I now use comb binding, having invested in a binding punch and have been using it for a number of years. For me it was worth the extra initial cost as (I think) it presents the story in a way that looks good, and the volume is easy to handle. It is now ready to send to my family and friends.

I hope you have found something interesting in my approach to writing my family history. Next time I will explore additions that I have introduced over time, and also alternative approaches that I am exploring for publishing and distributing.

READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

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A great opportunity to enhance your Family History Collection!

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By car: exit M4 at J11, follow signs to Reading town, but continue towards Caversham, and Rivermead Leisure Centre. Car parking available.

For further details ring the Club Secretary on 01628 637868

Write now *your queries, your comments, your news*

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.

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

from **Steve Crowhurst (6596)**

I am trying to trace a William and Martha Romaine. William apparently had a curacy in Reading. He died in 1826 and so far I've had no luck in locating place of burial, his will, children or what happened to his wife Martha (née Roberts). He was the son of the well documented Rev William Romaine of London. I know that William Romaine is listed in the Poll of the Freeholders of Berks (taken at Abingdon, on Monday, 12 October 1812) and he is listed as

Romaine, Rev. W. D.D. Abode Reading
In the 1818 issue of the poll he is listed as
Romaine, William, D.D. Abode Reading
Martha Romaine is shown on a document (BRO D/P 98/27A) as a landowner, with a number 116 that refers to "the Plan".

Can anyone direct me to sources that would help in filling in the blanks? Most important is perhaps if William and Martha had any children. We are one generation away from linking this branch of Romaines to ours; my mother was a Romaine, and passed down to me was a medallion minted in 1786 of the Rev William Romaine.

from **Hilary Le Clanche (6595)**

I am trying to find information about my line of the Cliffords. I think I have traced them to Berkshire, and I would like to know whether any of your members could give me any information. My Gt x 4 grandfather, Charles Clifford, is given in the 1841 census (when he was living in London) as being born in another county. After a lot of research, I think he could have been born in 1761 in Berkshire. His father was probably Edward Clifford, born in about 1730 in Berkshire, his mother was Ann (?). Charles had a brother, Edward. They were a very well-to-do family; in Charles' will he is given as "gentleman" and he had lots of property in London. Charles' first wife was Margaret Lorimer (they married in London), his second wife was Fanny Spalding. Charles' brother Edward married Margaret's sister, Elizabeth.

If this rings a bell with anyone I would be very grateful if they could contact me.

from **Roger Shuff (4533)**

Like most genealogists, I imagine, I have a number of stubborn instances where births or deaths simply do not appear to have been registered, that is, they do not appear in the GRO indexes. Is anyone aware of any research that attempts to assess how common this was (no doubt it was more so in the early days of civil registration) or whether there are other explanations, perhaps discrepancies between local register office records and the GRO index?

Waiting for enlightenment!

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.

Coventry FHS will no longer be exchanging magazines but would like to point out that their website <www.covfhs.org> will feature a selection of articles from the magazine, together with members' interests.

Daphne Spurling

Making the most of researchers
Quaker Connections, no 42, Nov 2007

A different way to record monumental inscriptions: photography
Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, vol 32, no 4, Dec 2007

My parish: Rangeworthy
Bristol & Avon FHS, no 131, March 2008

Family history for absolute beginners: wills
Bristol & Avon FHS, no 131, March 2008

Sheriff Hutton: an index of people 1099 - 1900
Part 1: A - B
Drawn from a variety of sources. City of York & District FHS, vol 9, no 1, Jan 2007

Epworth: subscribers to church bells in 1907 (over 150 names) and copyhold lands in Epworth manor dated 1767
Isle of Axholme FHS, vol 14, no 4, 2008

Gamrie revisited
Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS, no 106, Feb 2008 (see also no 105)

Feature parish: Fyvie
Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS, no 106, Feb 2008

Latin for family history
NW Kent FHS, vol 11, no 5, March 2008

Ordnance Survey large-scale plans
Concentrates on Shropshire, includes list of references.
Shropshire FHS, vol 29, part 1, March 2008

Monumental inscriptions of Monks' Eleigh churchyard recorded May 1924
Total 180, 74 given here, to be continued.
Suffolk FHS, vol 33, no 4, March 2008

The parish church of St Mary, Ware
Hertfordshire FHS, no 104, March 2008

What is Cornishness?
Cornwall FHS, no 127, March 2008

Cover talk: the parishes of St Ewe and St Mewan
Cornwall FHS, no 127, March 2008

Beginning genealogical research in Canada
Manchester & Lancs FHS, vol 44, no 1, 2008

Buried at the Collegiate Church: three centuries disposing of Manchester's dead
Manchester & Lancs FHS, vol 44, no 1, 2008

Manchester Cathedral grave inscriptions
Volume 22, Owens MSS. About 750 surnames, a few with forenames.
Manchester & Lancs FHS, vol 44, no 1, 2008

Bookends

Prices quoted are for

a) purchase direct from Berks FHS Bookshop

b) mail order purchase within UK, inc p&p by second class post

c) mail order purchase from overseas, inc p&p airmail.

Jean Debney

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Parish registers on CD

All the parish registers published by Berkshire FHS include a county map with the parish location highlighted. All have some illustrated history notes, and a local map, followed by a fully referenced list of all the parish registers in the Berkshire Record Office (with the BTs for some parishes) and then the transcripts. Indexes vary slightly between each one but all the text is searchable using the Adobe search facility of *Ctrl F* or the binocular icon.

It is essential that you read the introduction on each CD for abbreviations used, details of the indexes available, etc.

The transcripts have been carefully checked but, as with any work of this nature, it is essential that you check your entries against the original documents.

Bradfield

St Andrew

baptisms 1538 - 1962, marriages 1559 - 1989, banns 1757 - 1980, burials 1540 - 1980

Tutts Clump Methodist Chapel

baptisms 1877 - 2002, marriages 1921 - 2006, burials 1908 - 2006

Berks FHS CD BRK0242 (2008)

Bookshop £9.50, mail order £10.20 UK, £11.85 airmail

The Methodist chapel registers also contain baptisms at other Methodist chapels in the area, and many were not entered in chronological order. To make searching easier,

they have been sorted into date order with notes re their original location in the register. In addition, there is a sketch map of the burial ground and a list of grave plots.

Farnborough, All Saints

BTs 1607 - 1738 (not all years), baptisms 1739 - 2004, marriages 1739 - 2006, banns 1822 - 2002, burials 1739 - 2002.
Berks FHS CD BRK0237 (2007)
Bookshop £5.00, mail order £5.70 UK, £7.35 airmail

Little Wittenham, St Peter

baptisms 1538 - 1991, marriages 1538 - 1986, banns 1757 - 1811 and 1824 - 1986, burials 1543 - 1992.

Little Wittenham was in Berkshire until 1974, when it was transferred to Oxfordshire.
Berks FHS CD BRK0241 (2008)
Bookshop £5.00, mail order £5.70 UK, £7.35 airmail

Reading, St Giles

baptisms 1564 - 1990, marriages 1564 - 1991, banns 1754 - 1997, burials 1564 - 1895 and funerals 1955 - 1990
also baptisms at St Agnes 1904 - 1918, St Luke 1878 - 1912, and St Michael 1901 - 1918
Berks FHS CD BRK0243 (2008)
Bookshop £9.50, mail order £10.20 UK, £11.85 airmail

Baptisms in the daughter churches of St Agnes, St Luke and St Michael are listed in the St Giles registers at the end of each relevant year. Plague victims are identified in the burial registers of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and there is a list of

unbaptised children during the Interregnum of 1653-56. The burial register ends with the closure of the churchyard in 1895, but later funeral services are included.

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

Ock Street remembered: an Abingdon community

J Hudson and E Drury, eds (Ock Street Heritage Group, 2008)

A4, flexiback, 44pp

Bookshop £7.00, mail order £8.40 UK, £10.45 overseas.

This is a colourful, well illustrated and well written publication contributed to and supported by many local people, businesses and, of course, the Abingdon Museum and the Abingdon and Area Archaeological Historical Society.

Across pages 2 and 3 the 1912 Ordnance Survey map of the area sets the scene, and under paragraph headings such as *The Clock House* and *Early history, Local trades, Fairs, Religion, The wars*, the reader is led through each topic. A fascinating read, full of illustrations and facts about the social and local history of this part of the town.

Village millennium: a short history of Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor

W R Carmichael. Facsimile of 1970 edition (Thematic Trails Trust, 2007)

A5, white flexiback, 33pp

Bookshop £3.00, mail order £3.70 UK, £5.35 airmail

Originally written when these two villages in the Vale of White Horse (which was part of Berkshire until 1974) had recently been amalgamated. The chapters cover their early history and charters, the Domesday Book and the Middle Ages, Tudor and Stuart times, the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and up to *circa* 1970. There is also a chronological table of historical events, with maps of the

villages in 1761 inside the front cover, and 1970 inside the back cover. This is a fascinating read.

Hinton Waldrist through the centuries

Jasmine S Howse. Facsimile of original volumes of 1968 and 1969 (Thematic Trails Trust, 2007)

A5, red flexiback, 167pp of text, 42pp of appendices

Bookshop £11.00, mail order £12.35 UK, £17.30 airmail

Longworth through the centuries

Jasmine S Howse. Facsimile of original volumes of 1980 and 1982 (Thematic Trails Trust, 2007)

A5, green flexiback, 163pp, unnumbered pages of appendices and maps

Bookshop £9.00, mail order £9.95 UK, £14.00 airmail

Jasmin Howse was an indefatigable local history researcher, and these two volumes contained a wealth of information, plus some transcriptions, and were illustrated with black white photographs, reproduction drawings and maps. Neither is indexed, but if your ancestors came from either of these parishes you are bound to find something of interest as the material is presented chronologically.

Town and countryside in western Berkshire, c1327 - c1600: social and economic change

Margaret Yates (Boydell Press, 2007)

6.5in x 9.5in (165mm x 240mm), hardback, dust-jacket, indexed, 338pp

ISBN 9-781843-833284

Bookshop £55.00, mail order £57.30 UK, £58.63 airmail

This is a fascinating in-depth study, in which the author has closely examined the records of a number of west Berkshire places in the Oxford clay lowland to the north, the

Vale of the White Horse and the Berkshire chalk downs. These include Ashbury, Buckland, Kintbury, Newbury, Shaw-cum-Donnington, West Hanney and Woolstone. She examines changes in their social and economic status during the medieval period within the context of the wider area, which includes many other places within and beyond Berkshire.

The detailed bibliography has a very useful list giving the location, title and reference details of all the original sources used, plus an even longer list of printed primary and secondary sources. Although few personal names appear, if anyone is lucky enough to have traced their family back to this area of Berkshire, they will discover the background to their ancestors' lives.

RESEARCH AIDS

Berkshire return of owners of land, 1873

Available in two versions/formats:

1) microfiche (West Surrey FHS)
Mail order £1.95 UK, £3.15 airmail

2) CD (Archive CD Books/Family History Research Ltd, 2001)
ISBN 1-84551-151-4
Bookshop £9.75, mail order £10.45 UK, £12.60 airmail

Both versions contain facsimiles of Berkshire entries extracted from the national return, including the original introduction, which it is recommended you read, as it details what Parliament had hoped to include, the problems they had collecting the data and how they merged names and acres to create the final alphabetical list (by county) of name and

abode of each "owner" (some holders of 99-year leases were included, and only one was named of a joint ownership), the estimated extent and the gross estimated rental.

In the CD version names are grouped in "Bookmarks", but the Acrobat search facility (*Ctrl F* or the binocular icon) for finding a particular place didn't work for me.

My ancestor was an agricultural labourer

Ian H Waller (Society of Genealogists, 2008)
A5, green flexiback, 136pp, indexed
ISBN 978-1-903462-98-0
Bookshop £7.50, mail order £8.70 UK, £10.75 airmail

This excellent book says on page 1: "How many times have you read in a record that your ancestor was an ag lab, and thought that there was little else to find out about him? How wrong you are."

The subsequent well-written text details what and where you can discover about the ag lab lifestyle and records relating to their work, using sources such as estate records and farmers' diaries, vaccination and court records, photographs, and many more in local and national record offices and other archives. Those of us who live in Berkshire will appreciate that the Museum of English Rural Life, one of many locations mentioned, is on our doorstep in Reading.

There are so many interesting and useful pointers in this publication that you will definitely be tempted to raise your hard-working and often downtrodden ancestors to their rightful position of importance in creating the landscape of our country as we know it today.

So, for all who have ag labs in the family this is a highly recommended and "must-have" book, which will certainly be on my bookshelf.

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 570,000 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, 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 are:

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

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.

6528	BARNARD	Cheltenham	GLS	pre 1810	6528	FULBROOK	All	BRK	pre 1830
6528	BARNARD	Maidenhead	BRK	pre 1880	6528	FULBROOK	All	BRK	pre 1800
6528	BARNARD	Cheltenham	GLS	pre 1840	6528	FULLBROOK	Oxford	OXF	pre 1790
6528	BARNARD	Cheltenham	GLS	pre 1780	6528	HUGHES	Cheltenham	GLS	pre 1810
6528	BAWDEN	Leicester	LEI	pre 1850	5711	LANGFORD	Gt Shefford	BRK	pre 1860
6528	BETTERIDGE	Leicester	LEU	pre 1830	6595	SETON	London	MDX	pre 1800
6528	BETTERIDGE	Leicester	LEI	pre 1860	5711	SEYMOUR	W Shefford	BRK	pre 1820
6595	CLARK	London	MDX	pre 1800	6595	SPALDING	Reading	BRK	pre 1763
6595	CLIFFORD	Reading	BRK	pre 1761	6528	TINKLER	Cheltenham	GLS	pre 1830
6528	FULBROOK	Oxford	OXF	pre 1880					

The whole members' interests name index can be accessed online at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/members-interests/index.htm>. Currently it records 12,267 names. You may update your interest profile at any time by writing to <membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk> or to the society's postal address on the inside front cover of this issue.

Birth briefs *See Alan Brooker's article on page 24 of this issue.*

The Vale & Downland Museum

The only museum and visitor centre covering the whole of the Vale of White Horse and adjoining downland

3,500 sq.ft. of displays

films narrated by David Attenborough

3-D interactive orientation map

exhibitions of downland art and history


Visitor Information Point for locality

research library & photo archive
(access by appointment)

café with homemade refreshments

patio, lawn and Wendy house

runner-up Best Small Visitor Attraction in SE England 2004



Free entry to Visitor Information Point, temporary exhibitions and café.
Main galleries: annual season tickets: £2.50 adults, £2 OAPs & registered disabled, £1 children (pre-school children free).

Open 10.00-16.00 Monday to Saturday every day except Bank Holidays.
 Private bookings on Sundays, Bank Holidays and evenings (catering optional).

Vale & Downland Museum, Church St, Wantage OX11 8SL
 Find us just a few minutes' walk from Wantage Civic Hall car park and Market Place bus stops. Drop-off point for disabled, and wheelchair access most areas. Induction loops in auditorium & reception.

more details from

01235 771447

www.wantage.com/museum

museum@wantage.com