

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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For reasons of privacy personal emails and postal addresses have been redacted from this online archive. If you wish to contact anyone mentioned in this issue please contact the society.

Chairman's note

There was a good turnout for the AGM hosted by the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch in June, at which three new members were elected to the executive committee for the coming year: Margaret Brenchley (Bracknell and Wokingham Branch chairman), Margaret Crook (Reading Branch chairman) and Mike Dabbs. Jean Herbert was elected as society vice-chairman and will represent Newbury Branch on the Exec.

Our membership secretary tells me that he has received several hundred cheques for £1 or £2, topping up the misquoted subscription fee. I would like to thank all those of you who sent the extra. Solo, the mailing house which distributes our magazine, sent the second

letter out at no expense to us. It was decided not to ask for the pound this year from those who paid promptly, but we are grateful to those of you who nonetheless sent it in.

We are putting our 1851 Berkshire Census transcript onto Findmypast, as well as transcribing pieces other societies do not wish to transcribe, in order to earn the royalties for this work and hopefully to keep our subscriptions down. If you have a computer with a broadband connection and would like to help with this work at home, please email Bev Charlton at <projects@berksfhs.org.uk>.

Best wishes to all.

Jocie McBride
Chairman

AGM report and accounts

The 33rd annual general meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, held on Friday 20 June 2008 at Bracknell and Wokingham Branch, was attended by 74 members. John Price, Derek Trinder, Jane Burrell and Cliff Debney retired from the committee, and Margaret Crook, Margaret Brenchley and Mike Dabbs were welcomed as new members. Jane Burrell has stepped down from the committee, but she continues to chair Newbury Branch.

The treasurer's report had been approved at an executive committee meeting, and a summary was distributed at the AGM. Acceptance of the accounts (summarised below) was proposed by Tom James and seconded by Ivan Dickason, and this was carried by the meeting. The treasurer explained that during this year the bank account changed from Lloyds to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), which levies no bank charges, and yields a higher interest rate (about £800 pa). The charge of £884 for Ancestry.com was covered by income, and the society is negotiating a 10 per cent reduction for 2008-09.

Although the membership decreased by three per cent this year the society will still be contributing £4,000 to the BRO towards the Probate Index. Subscriptions have been raised by £1 per member. The absence of Gift Aid was explained, and a volunteer requested to complete all the relevant forms for this year and to audit all the paperwork held to date.

income and expenditure for year ending 30 April 2008		
	2008	2007
total income	£35,074	£38,380
total expenditure	(£41,615)	(£42,164)
surplus/(deficit) for the period	(£6,541)	(£3,784)
surplus brought forward	£51,505	£55,289
surplus carried forward	£44,964	£51,505

WDYTYA: a second successful year

More than 12,000 people visited this year's *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* event over the May Day bank holiday weekend at Olympia where, for the second year running, the Berkshire Family History Society had a stand with two tables staffed by volunteer members.

This year saw over 60 family history societies and associated groups exhibiting – the largest gathering of its kind anywhere in the UK. In total there were over 175 different organisations and commercial companies represented at the event.

The event had three themed areas: family history, military and archaeology. The most noticeable area was the military one, with a large First World War British tank and a Second World War Russian tank stationed in the entrance.

The family history area was the busiest, where there were many family history societies together with commercial companies ranging from Cassini Maps to giant companies such as Family Search, Ancestry, Findmypast and *The Times*.

As well as things to see and buy there were a number of theatre and lecture workshops to entertain and inform visitors.

The Berks FHS stand was kept very busy with customers wanting to buy books about Berkshire, CDs of our indexes and transcriptions of Berkshire data, and to request look-ups from the Berkshire Name Search on the society's laptop.

Members who volunteered to man the stand gained free entrance to the show in return for giving the society half a day of their time. I think that everybody had a really enjoyable if tiring time, whether they were helping on one of the stands, were visitors with an interest in history or were just dragged there by their family or friends.

Please note next year's event is scheduled for 27 February to 1 March 2009, again at Olympia.

Gillian Stevens



Margaret Crook and Mike Dabbs enjoy an untypically quiet moment on the Berks FHS stand at Olympia

Meet the new Exec

The society elected its executive committee for 2008-09 at the AGM in June.

Sir William Benyon DL of Englefield House has been president of the society since June 2002. A former MP and High Sheriff of Berkshire, his extensive career in public service has included membership of the University of Reading Council and Berkshire County Council. He is also president of the Berkshire Record Society.

Dr Peter Durrant, county archivist at Berkshire Record Office, has been vice-president since 1988.

Chad Hanna, a long-term member of the society who has served in many roles, is now in his second year as vice-president. He also continues as the society's IT manager.



Jocie McBride is now starting her third year as the society's chairman, serving on the Exec for the second time. She still organises the society publications, as she has done for 10 of her 15 years' society membership.

Arthur Beech is now in his second year on the Exec as Research Centre manager.



Carolyn Boulton is beginning her fifth year on the Exec. She and her husband Barry have been members for nearly 13 years, and both have been teaching introductory courses for the society for eight years. Her past service

to the society has included Research Centre assistance, co-ordination of projects and many other society functions.

Margaret Brenchley joins the Exec as chairman and representative of Bracknell and Wokingham Branch, following the retirement of Derek Trinder from the post.



Sue Clifford continues to serve as treasurer.

Margaret Crook is the newly elected chairman and representative of Reading Branch, which she has served as secretary for the past two years. She has been a member of the society for about 15 years.

Mike Dabbs joins the Exec this year, having been co-opted onto the Computer Branch committee earlier this year. He also serves the society as a Research Centre assistant, and has helped at the Bracknell and WDYTIA family history fairs.



Jean Herbert becomes vice-chairman, in addition to her role as librarian. She will also represent Newbury Branch on the Exec.



Sue Matthews continues to serve as chairman and representative of the Vale of White Horse Branch.

Gillian Stevens is now in her second year on the Exec as chairman and representative of Computer Branch. She has also been events manager and workshop co-ordinator for the last seven years. Previously she served on the Research Centre committee, as Research Centre assistant and as assistant librarian.



Valerie Storie is the society's secretary, as well as chairman and representative of Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch.

This will be your last copy of the Berkshire Family Historian...

... if you did not renew your membership as requested in June.

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

Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the June 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 588,000 entries. Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 33.

David Wright

Appleton St Laurence 1802 - 1812	Reading London Road Cemetery
Ardington Holy Trinity 1789 - 1812	(burials in consecrated ground)
Binfield All Saints 1731 - 1787	1907 - 1908, 1910 - 1917
Bray St Michael 1763 - 1791	and 1918 - 1921
Clewer St Andrew 1869 - 1872	Reading London Road Cemetery
and 1888 - 1892	(burials in unconsecrated ground)
East Challow St Nicholas 1778 - 1812	1865 - 1867
East Garston All Saints 1758 - 1812	Reading St Mary 1698 - 1703
Lambourn Woodlands St Mary	and 1847 - 1942
1842 - 2005	Shinfield St Mary 1874 - 1907
Marcham All Saints 1901 - 1943	South Hinksey St Lawrence 1693 - 1894
North Hinksey St Lawrence 1703 - 1900	Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1728 - 1775
Peasemore St Barnabas 1880 - 2007	Wargrave St Mary 1790 - 1812
	Winkfield St Mary 1720 - 1753
	Wootton St Peter 1786 - 1812

News in brief

Mike Booth (5662) reports that free access to Ancestry Library Edition is now available in the libraries of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (also includes Ascot) via the computer network, used in conjunction with a library card or a visitor card.

At the time of going to press the searchable database of 200 years of The Times newspaper, from its launch in 1785 until 1985, is still being offered free to the public. The entire archive is searchable by keyword as well as by dates, and gives access to digital images of the original pages with the text slightly enlarged. OCR indexing inevitably produces odd glitches, but the results are remarkable. Find it on <<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive/>>

Please be aware that the new postal address for the Federation of Family History Societies is PO Box 8857, Lutterworth LE17 9BJ. The organisation has advised that any mail sent to the old address (the Coventry PO box) will be returned to the sender via Belfast, a process which may take up to six months.

Familyrelatives.com has put Pigot's trade directories online. They cover 27 counties and provide valuable information covering 1830 to 1839, before civil registration. All major professions, nobility, gentry, clergy, trades and occupations including taverns and public houses and much more are listed. Parishes are listed for each area with useful information including the number of inhabitants, a geographical description and the main trades and industries of the area or town.

The new LDS FamilySearch database containing 500 million names and images is publicly available under beta testing at <<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch>>.

Members of the public are being consulted on Ministry of Defence plans to transfer to The National Archives records of soldiers, sailors and airmen who served between the two world wars and those who were members of the Home Guard during the Second World War. To access the public consultation process go to <www.mod.uk> and search under public consultation.

The recently reported discovery of around 400 soldiers' bodies buried after the battle of Fromelles in 1916 may have significance for Berkshire family historians. The bodies found are likely to include several members of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Identification may be possible by matching with DNA from descendants. Anyone who would like to follow this up further is advised to contact John Chapman.

The Federation of Family History Societies reports that DOVE, the GRO project to scan, digitise and index BMD records for England and Wales from 1837 to 2006, has ground to a halt following the decision not to renew the three-year contract with Siemens IT Solutions and Services. The August edition of Ancestors magazine published by The National Archives reports that "the digitisation of Britain's most important set of national family history records has hit the buffers and there is currently no timetable to restart the project."

ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST: did you know that...

- Any member may join the online Discussion List, where information and problems are shared daily
- Topics range widely, and they are not confined to Berkshire
- Virtually every question posted receives several responses
- To join just send an email message with your name, membership number, postcode and a brief request to be subscribed, to [<listowner@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:listowner@berksfhs.org.uk)

A recent turn-out of old editorial files has brought two documents to light:

One is a certificate (original, not a copy) of the marriage of Walter White, town postman, to Annie Warner, 6 December 1891, at the church of St Mary in Reading. Those members who list Whites of nineteenth-century Reading among their Members' Interests have been contacted, but none has claimed it.

The second document is a solicitor's letter of 1863 from Hobbs and Collins of Reading (acting for Peregrine Lidiard of Reading) to Thomas Selby Little and Thomas Evans of Chepstow concerning the ending of a tenancy in Reading's market place.

The editor would be pleased to return these documents to their rightful owners. Please contact her on [<editor@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:editor@berksfhs.org.uk) if you think either of these may be yours.

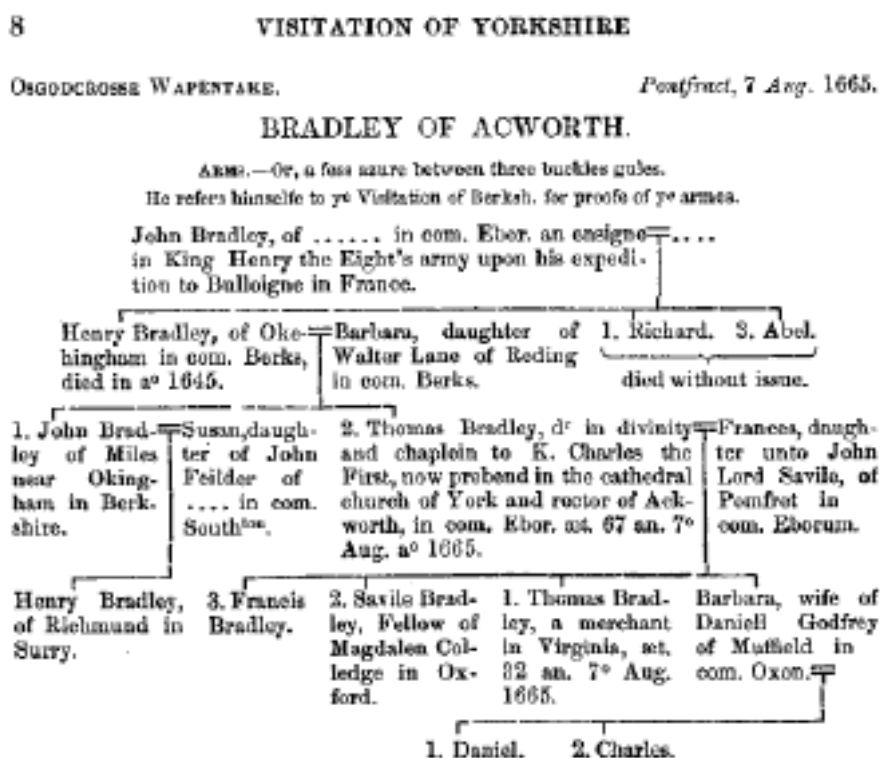
Dates for your diary

date	event	venue	more details
10.00 -16.30 Sat 13 Sept	National Family History Fair 2008	Gateshead International Stadium	<www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com>
11.00 Mon 15 Sept	Society of Genealogists Open Day	Charterhouse Bldgs London EC1	<www.sog.org.uk>
Sat 20 Sept	Oxfordshire FHS Open Day	Exeter Hall, Kidlington	<www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay>
10.00 - 16.00 Sun 21 Sept	Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day	Horndean Technology College	<www.hgs-online.org.uk>
Sat 27 Sept	GLS Bristol & Avon FHS Open Day	Thornbury	<chairman@bafhs.org.uk>
10.00 -16.00 Sun 28 Sept	West Middlesex FHS Open Day	White House Community Centre 45 The Avenue Hampton TW12 3RN	<openday@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk>

The Bradleys of Wokingham

Richard Bradley (6625), a new member in California, is looking for descendants of a lineage that he has traced back to Tudor Wokingham

Thomas Bradley DD (1598 - 1673) was born in Berkshire, son of a merchant from Wokingham. After entering Oxford as a plebeian, he became chaplain to Charles I and, according to some accounts, accompanied the king to the scaffold. He was appointed the rector of Ackworth in Yorkshire and there married a daughter of Sir John Savile, Baron Pontefract. Widowed and near the end of his life, Dr Bradley was required to appear before Sir William Dugdale, deputy to the King of Arms, to provide proof of his coat of arms and his pedigree, which follows:



Thomas Bradley
coat of arms
Eborum (Yorkshire) 1665

The shield left corresponds to the coat of arms in the 1665 visitation. The shield on the right was recorded in 1285, and is identical with the one on the left with the exception that the colours have been reversed. The visitation indicates the family originated in Eborum, but the ancient shield on the right was exclusively found in Salop. According to the Yorkshire visitation proof of these arms is to be found in the visitation of Berkshire, but no such proof exists in any extant Berkshire visitation.



Roger de Bradleie
coat of arms
Salop
(Shropshire)
c1285¹

Bradley lineage

John Bradley was an ensign in army led by King Henry VIII in his expedition to France in 1544. Born c1524, based on the expedition (siege of Boulogne-sur-Mer). (*Earlier researchers have identified him as John Bradley of Louth, Lincolnshire, c1540 - 1591, but the Lincolnshire John Bradley's will does not list sons Henry, Richard, and Abel, nor do the names, ages, and coats of arms match the Berkshire Bradleys.*) Children:²

1 Richard Bradley

2 Abel Bradley

3 Henry Bradley of Ockingham in Berkshire: married Barbara Lane (1572 – before 1645), daughter of Walter Lane of Reading; clothier; left will dated 10 September 1645. Children:

A John Bradley: will dated 6 April 1650³, brewer of Wokingham; married Susan Feilder, daughter of John Feilder of Southampton⁴. Children:

1 Henry Bradley of Richmond, Surrey

2 John Bradley

a Thomas Bradley

3 Abell Bradley: inherited father's brewery business in Wokingham, died in 1676 leaving wife Elizabeth.

a Abell Bradley (the younger);⁵ died 9 August 1727; Wokingham town recorder; Inner Temple, London; married 1687 Margaret Watts.

i Dennington Bradley: matriculated Oxford; attorney; Wokingham town clerk in 1719⁶; married Lydia (1683 - 1757)

b Samuel Bradley

c Susan Bradley

d Margaret Bradley

e Elizabeth Bradley⁷

4 Thomas Bradley

5 Susan Bradley Waltham

B Edward Bradley: not mentioned in visitation, but mentioned in Henry Bradley's will, having wife Susan Streating (and also possibly a Widow Ford and another wife, the widow of Edward Loveridge). In 1626 Edward Bradley of Thacam, cloth worker, confessed in court to selling hogs without the owner's approval.⁸

1 Susan Bradley

2 Rachell Bradley

3 Anne Bradley

4 William Bradley

C Anne (or Agnes) Bradley, married Robert Sampson, clothier of Wokingham

1 John Sampson

2 Robert Sampson

D Thomas Bradley, DD (1596 – 1673) married Francis Savile

1 Thomas Bradley (the younger): born 1632; as of 7 August 1665 a merchant in Virginia; long identified in Virginian genealogical circles as Thomas Bradley of New Kent Company VA, who first leased Indian lands from the Pamunkey Indians; this Thomas died in 1716 owning 4,485 acres, and leaving son:

a Edward Bradley (c1670 - 1732), ancestor of the author

2 Savile Bradley: died 18 May 1692; Magdalen College, Oxford in 1665; ordained in 1661; served as vicar of Langford⁹

3 Francis Bradley: born 1640; marriage licence on 2 November 1675 reads *Francis Bradley of Ackworth, gent, bachelor, about 35 and Mrs Jane Jennings of St Martins in the Fields, spinster, about 30 at St Martin, St Mary, Savoy or St Paul, Covent Garden.*

4 Barbara Bradley: married Daniell Godfrey of Nuffield, Oxfordshire

a Daniel Godfrey: born 1660s

b Charles Godfrey: born 1660s

With this lineage I hope to bring forth some information about the origins or records for John Bradley (born 1524?), the earliest ancestor in the visitation. I am interested also in any information about the other descendants and marriage connections noted in the visitation. Lastly, I would like to locate male descendants of Dr Thomas Bradley's brothers John and Edward in order to do DNA testing, and prove or disprove my connection to this family, and eventually to verify either Yorkshire or Shropshire origins for the Berkshire Bradleys.¹⁰

References

- 1 St George's Roll (no E219) College of Arms, London, MS Vincent 164 ff 1-21b
- 2 Dugdale's visitation and will of Henry Bradley, clothier of Wokingham, Berkshire, 10 September 1645, Canterbury
- 3 Will of John Bradley, brewer of Wokingham, Berkshire, 6 April 1650, Canterbury
- 4 John Feilder, gentleman of Burrow Court, Southampton, Hampshire, who held many manors, including Odiham, Hampshire. This elder John Feilder left a will in 1638. His son, Sir John Feilder, was High Sheriff of Southampton, MP, royalist and friend of Sir John Denham (1615 - 1669), famous poet of the period.
- 5 A later Abel Bradley was involved in the following transaction: *Conveyance from Henry, Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, to Abel Bradley gent., for use of Recovery by said Henry, of the castle, manor and chase of Rising, burgages in Rising, manor of Roydon, North Wooton rectory, fulling mill in Rising, ... and, with Exemplification of Recovery re same.* Howard (Castle Rising) collection, settlements and cognate papers – date: 1761

- 6 *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, p51.
- 7 Will of Abell Bradley, brewer of Wokingham, Berkshire, 23 October 1676, Canterbury
- 8 Confession of Edward Bradley of Thacam, cloth worker, diary of the corporation, Reading Borough Council
- 9 Clergy of Church of England 1540 - 1835. Other records: Savile Bradley with Jane Bradley and Fra Bradley were witnesses to will of Anne Calverley, widow, 29 September 1699, Ackworth, Yorkshire. Savile Bradley MA presented by Sir George Norton with post of rector, 21 January 1703 of Aston Botterell in Shropshire and resigned 5 June 1703. Savile Bradley, rector of Binsted with John Spicer in a case concerning the tithes for Marsh Farm, 18 November 1706. On 22 November 1719 Savile Bradley, chaplain to the Duke of Richmond and rector of Earnly, Sussex, performed marriage at Lord Stair's house in Paris. In *London Gazette* 24 May 1723, record of sale of land in Langford, Berkshire, and West Weld, Oxford by Savile Bradley, clerk, deceased. Savile Bradley, clerk of St Margaret, Westminster, Middlesex, left will probated 1729 in which he wished burial in Sussex and named heirs Anna Giles and Louisa Charlotte Giles.
- 10 I thought I had found such evidence in a book *Memoirs of a District Officer* by Sir Kenneth Bradley, who claimed descent from the Berkshire Bradleys. Because Sir Kenneth was related both to F H Bradley, the philosopher and A C Bradley, the Shakespeare scholar, this was intriguing information. However, I discovered that the clergyman ancestor, Charles Bradley (1789 - 1871), although he was a schoolmaster at Wallingford, Berkshire, was actually born in Halstead, Essex, and his parents, Thomas and Mary Bradley, came from Yorkshire.

Evening courses on family history for beginners to intermediate level (members and non-members) are held periodically at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading. Please see <www.berksfhs.org.uk> or the Research Centre noticeboard for details.

**£25 per person for 6 x two-hour sessions
Ring Barry or Carolyn 0118 957 3651 evenings**

The wreck of the *Mohegan*



Joan Vinall (1028) follows her husband's great-uncle to an untimely end in a notorious maritime disaster of the Victorian period

Between 1985 and 1991 my father-in-law, Albert Sidney Vinall (1901-1991), related family stories, some of which were factual and some more anecdotal. He couldn't always give names. One tale, which he must have heard as a small boy, was of his Aunt Georgiana Vinall, who was married to a merchant seaman (whose name he didn't know) and was memorable for its punchline.

Georgiana Vinall was the eldest daughter of Frederick John Vinall, one-time landlord of the Old Bull and Bush in Hampstead. In the 1891 census she is found living and working as a barmaid at the Crown and Seven Stars in Royal Mint Street, Whitechapel, with her brother, the landlord, William Vinall. In 1892 she married Hubert Hamper, and their daughter Georgina [sic], is recorded in the GRO index as born in the second quarter of 1893.

Georgiana and Hubert (according to my father-in-law) had a quarrel as he departed to join his ship at Tilbury. Maybe Georgiana didn't want him to go. Whatever the reason, Hubert left with the sound of "Hope the ship sinks!" ringing in his ears. Father-in-law's story always ended with the triumphant punchline "and it did!"

This was just a story with few details, until my husband's cousin, Susan Smith, contacted us through the Guild of One-Name Studies. She was enquiring about the story, as she had

looked for a death certificate for Hubert Hamper, and found that he had indeed perished in a shipwreck on the famous rocks named the Manacles, near the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall on 14 October 1898.

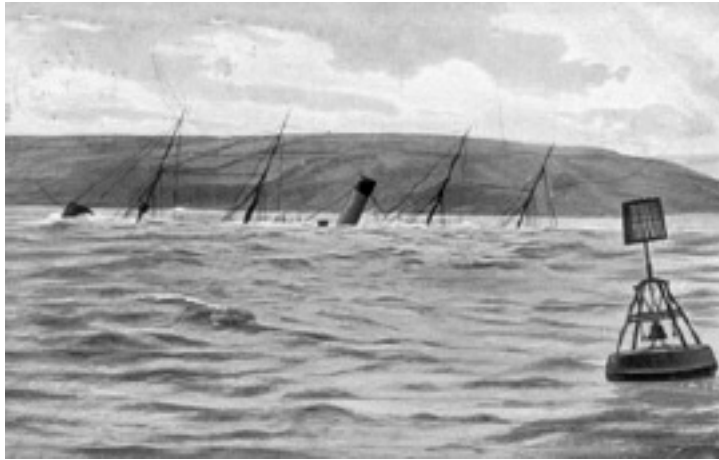
Interestingly Hubert has two death certificates: one dated December 1898 and another dated the following March 1899.

The disaster was a significant event in the lives of the people of St Keverne, Porthoustock and Coverack on the Lizard Peninsula. The *Mohegan* was wrecked at 7.15pm on the evening of 14 October 1898, having left Tilbury the day before en route for America.

We took the opportunity to visit in May 2006, and arrived in St Keverne on a beautiful sunny day. From the display inside the church – the stained glass window, the Celtic Cross memorial on the mass grave – it is easy to picture the horror and distress, both of the casualties and the villagers.



The Mohegan earlier in 1898



This photograph of the Mohegan was taken soon after the disaster, before the funnel had fallen. The image circulated widely as a postcard.

St Keverne has a local history society, and there is much to be found on their website www.st-keverne.com/history some of which is quoted here. The parish records demonstrate how often the vicar had to bury casualties of the sea, which led him to campaign for the provision of a light.

The accounts of the care that the people of St Keverne took of the *Mohegan* survivors are very moving; a few casualties stayed as long as six months as guests in the cottages, while broken bones and other injuries healed. The bravery of the lifeboat crew in pitch dark on the fateful evening is inspiring.

There is a book, *The Mohegan 1898 – 1998*, written by Terry Moyles, a local resident, and a CD of interviews with local people who were children at the time, or heard accounts of the wreck from their parents. Sadly, the CD is no longer being offered on the website, and the book is out of print, but I managed to obtain a copy from Helston public library, through inter-library loans and my own public library. It contains vivid and moving accounts from survivors and residents of St Keverne, together with some black and white photographs. The event was also reported extensively in the national press, and can be found in *The Times* digital archive.

I was most interested to see the ill-fated *Mohegan* on the recent BBC programme *Coast*. The wreck is now, apparently, a favourite for divers.

The following is summarised from the leaflet provided in the church at St Keverne:

On 13 October 1898 the steamship Mohegan of the Atlantic Transport Company sailed from Tilbury under Captain Griffiths with 53 passengers, 97 crew and seven cattlemen. Her weight was 7,000 tons, her length 482 feet, her beam 52 feet. She had four masts with a funnel amidships and her maximum speed was 14 knots.

Soon after 7pm the next day she ran at great speed onto the Manacle Rocks, sinking within 12 minutes. The Porthoustock lifeboat was launched at 7.25pm; it saved 44 people, and another four or five were saved in other ways; 13 were lifted from the mast and rigging as the ship went down.

In all 107 lives were lost. Many of the bodies were buried at a funeral on 19 October, while others were embalmed and sent to America. Memorial services, attended by a very large number of people were held in the parish church on Sunday 23 October 1898. As the captain and crew were all drowned no conclusion was reached as to why the ship was lost.

The owners of the Mohegan gave a stained-glass window to the church as a memorial to those who perished.

More background is available from <www.ancestorsonboard.com>, which states that The National Archives' BT27 passenger lists show only one voyage for the Atlantic Transport Line's *Mohegan*, on 12 October 1898, although that voyage was actually the ship's second. At the time of its maiden voyage on 29 July 1898 the *Mohegan* was called the *Cleopatra*. The *Cleopatra* proved unseaworthy on this voyage and, following passenger complaints, the ship had to undergo temporary repairs when it reached New York, followed by a full re-fit on returning to Britain. The Atlantic Transport Line then changed the name to *Mohegan* to distance itself from the bad publicity.

All but one of the passengers on board appear to have been American (including the father of the dancer Isadora Duncan), the sole exception being the sadly anonymous "Mrs King's maid", against whose entry on the list is the annotation "This girl was a native of Elstree" (in Hertfordshire).

The Wreck of the Steamer Mohegan

*Good people of high and low degree,
I pray ye all to list to me,
And I'll relate a terrible tale of the sea
Concerning the unfortunate steamer, Mohegan,
That against the Manacles Rocks, ran...*

...and so it goes on. Those with a taste for William McGonagall's poetry can read all 16 verses of his excruciating tribute on Wikipedia and many other net sources.

THE WRECK OF THE MOHEGAN.

The adjourned coroner's inquiry concerning the deaths of those who perished in the wreck of the Atlantic Transport Company's liner *Mohegan* upon rocks known as the Manacles on the south coast of Cornwall, about two months ago, was concluded at St. Keverna yesterday.

The CORONER observed that, even if criminal neglect could have been proved, it could only be against some persons in authority on board the vessel, and all those persons had been drowned. Thus, it was perfectly impossible to bring in a verdict of manslaughter or murder against them. That being so, he had awaited the Board of Trade inquiry before resuming the inquest. The most important fact elicited by that inquiry was that the vessel was steered west by north from the Eddystone. How the officer in charge caused that course to be steered would never, he feared, be found out. Great credit was due to the lifeboat crews for their bravery, and to the inhabitants of the district for their kindness to the survivors. The question of a lighthouse on the Manacles had been considered by the Trinity House and the Board of Trade, who, after careful consideration, had come to the conclusion that a lighthouse was unnecessary. Seeing that the night of the wreck was perfectly clear and the lights of the Eddystone and the Lizard were very bright, it seemed almost incredible that such a well-found and well-manned ship as the *Mohegan* could have come to such a fate. The captain was said to be rather a severe man, and perhaps the officers hesitated to tell him that the course was wrong. In the Board of Trade report it was suggested that officers of vessels should in future regard it as their bounden duty to report to the captain if a wrong course was being pursued.

In the course of discussion by the jury opinions were expressed that the captain was guilty of culpable negligence, and even that he wilfully steered the vessel on to the rocks.

The CORONER observed emphatically that there was no evidence whatever in support of such an insinuation.

A proposal to pass a rider inculcating the captain was defeated by the casting vote of the foreman of the jury.

To the open verdict that the victims were found dead was added a rider to the effect that the wreck was the result of carelessness and irregular navigation. Strong views were expressed in favour of the better protection of the Manacles, and it was decided to take steps for the purpose of inducing the authorities to place a coast-guard look-out just above the dangerous ridge of rocks, whence a great sweep of coast-line can be commanded.

report in The Times 23 December 1898

Answers from your genes



Debbie Kennett (5278) explains how DNA testing can help with your family history research

DNA is increasingly being used by genealogists as a research aid, not replacing documentary research, but in conjunction with paper records. A DNA test will determine whether or not two people share a common ancestor within a certain number of generations, and it can therefore validate research. It can also go back beyond the paper trail by connecting two people who have the same surname but no documentary proof of a link.

Today there are over 5,000 surname projects worldwide, and it is highly likely that one of the names you are researching is already represented.

Two types of DNA test are used for genealogical purposes: the Y-DNA test and the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test. The Y-DNA test looks at various markers on the Y-chromosome, which is normally passed down unchanged through the generations. Very occasionally (about one in 500 times) an error occurs in the copying process, resulting in a harmless mutation on one of these markers. Scientists have calculated mutation rates for the various markers and, using these statistics, it is possible to compare test results and establish whether two men share a common ancestor within a given time frame. The more matches they have, the more closely related they are. Y-DNA follows the direct paternal line (your father, your father's father, etc) which usually corresponds with the inheritance pattern of surnames. The Y-DNA test is therefore of particular value in surname projects. As women do not inherit the Y-chromosome they cannot

take a Y-DNA test, but most will have a father, brother, uncle or cousin who can take the test in their place.

The mtDNA test looks at specific regions in the mitochondrial DNA, and tracks the direct maternal line (your mother, your mother's mother, etc). Both men and women receive mtDNA from their mothers, but only women pass it on to the next generation. The test can therefore be taken either by a man or a woman. The mtDNA test is less useful for genealogical purposes, because the markers mutate at a much slower rate. Furthermore, the surname usually changes with every new generation, making it much more difficult to locate potential testers for comparison purposes.

Finding a surname project

A DNA test is of most use when the results are compared with other people of the same or similar surname. If there is an existing surname project for your name it makes sense to take the test with the company hosting the project. There are considerable cost benefits when testing within a surname project, as it is possible to purchase the test at the discounted project price. The testing companies all use different markers, so it is not always easy to compare the results for two men who have been tested with different companies.

There are three main testing companies which host Y-DNA surname projects: Family Tree DNA, DNA Heritage and DNA Ancestry. Family Tree DNA, the market leader, hosts the largest number of surname projects and provides the widest variety of tests. It is worth checking all three websites to see if your surname is registered. The tests are all priced in dollars, and can be ordered online by credit card. At present it is cheaper to pay in dollars rather than ordering from any of the re-sellers in Europe.

Some surname projects focus on a surname in a specific geographical area; others study a

surname on a worldwide basis. There are now over 40 surname projects with more than 200 participants, whereas a newly established project might have just one or two. As the main purpose of the test is to compare your results with other people the initial success of your test will therefore depend on the number of people in the surname project and in the company's database. The larger the project the greater the chances of finding a match. If you are joining a new project you will probably have to wait longer for a match. However, every project has to start somewhere – with just one tester. Some surname projects have the facility to subsidise the cost of a test through donations from other researchers or through a family association.

Many surname projects started in America and are gradually recruiting British testers. As the first British tester you might have to wait longer for a meaningful match, in which case you might benefit from recruiting another British tester at the same time, so that there is someone with a proven British paper trail with whom to compare your results. Some American projects even offer a free test for Britons with multi-generation pedigrees.

If there is no project for your surname you will either have to wait until one starts up, or take the plunge and become a project manager yourself. The testing companies all provide guidance on setting up a project, and it is also worth asking questions on the various DNA mailing lists. The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) has educational material on its website to help with the process.

How many markers?

The cost of a DNA test varies according to the number of markers tested. Low resolution tests on 12 markers do not provide enough differentiation, and can give either false positive or false negative results, especially with borderline 10/12 matches. A high-resolution test at 37 or 43 markers is recommended for accurate interpretation. Family Tree DNA now offers a 67-marker test, which can be useful in specific situations. With most companies it is possible to take a lower resolution test and upgrade at a later date.

Understanding your results

Your Y-DNA test result is presented as a string of numbers representing your genetic signature, which is known as a haplotype. You do not have to be a scientist to understand your results. It is rather like buying a lottery ticket and then checking your numbers to see if you have won a prize. Your DNA “ticket” has much greater chance of success if people with your surname are already included in the “draw”. The more matching markers you share with another tester the more likely you are to be related. With a 37-marker test fathers and sons, brothers, and first and second cousins would normally all have perfect matches on 37/37 markers or, rarely, 36/37 markers. Seventh cousins sharing a common ancestor from the 1700s might match on 34 or 35 out of 37 markers. Too many mismatches indicates no common ancestor within a genealogical time frame or, in other words, from the 1100s onwards, when surnames were introduced.

Making the most of your test

Once you have your results you can upload your numbers to the online public DNA databases to enable you to compare your results with people from other testing companies. This is particularly important if you take your test with one of the new companies which do not have established databases and a large pool of surname projects. The two main Y-DNA databases are Y-search, sponsored by Family Tree DNA, and Y-base, sponsored by DNA Heritage. Family Tree DNA also provide a public mtDNA database known as Mitosearch.

Conclusion

Family historians are accustomed to spending small sums over long periods of time. In contrast, a DNA test might seem like an expensive purchase. It should however be regarded as an investment. The money only has to be paid once, and the value of your investment will continue to grow as more people get tested, and you get more matches. As surname projects increase in size, it is possible to learn about the origins and evolution of a surname. Your DNA test will contribute to these findings and will serve as a legacy benefiting not just you but your children and future generations.

More about genealogical DNA testing

General

<www.isogg.org> is the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, a non-profit making organisation which provides a number of valuable resources including comparison charts for Y-DNA and mtDNA tests with the various testing companies.

<www.kerchner.com/dna-info.htm> is Charles Kerchner's genetic genealogy resources page.

<<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~allpoms/genetics.html>> is Chris Pomery's DNA portal.

<www.dnalist.net> is a user-submitted list of DNA projects.

<www.one-name.org> is the Guild of One-name Studies.

Research projects

<www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic> gives details of the Genographic Project.

<www.smgf.org> is the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation.

<www.peopleofthebritishisles.org> is an Oxford University project.

Testing companies

<www.familytreedna.com>

<www.dnaheritage.com>

<<http://dna.ancestry.com>>

DNA databases

<<http://ybase.org>> is a public Y-DNA database sponsored by DNA Heritage.

<www.ysearch.org> is a public Y-DNA database sponsored by Family Tree DNA.

<www.mitosearch.org> is a public database of mtDNA test results sponsored by Family Tree DNA.

Mailing lists

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DNA-NEWBIE>> is the International Society of Genetic Genealogy's DNA newbie mailing list.

<<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/DNA/DNA-NEWBIE.html>> is the Rootsweb DNA newbie mailing list.

Books

Chris Pomery. *Family history in the genes: trace your DNA and grow your family tree* (The National Archives, 2007)

A useful overview of the subject. Chris Pomery's earlier book *DNA and family history: how genetic testing can advance your genealogical research* (The National Archives, 2004) is a much more comprehensive survey, now out of print, but available through your library.

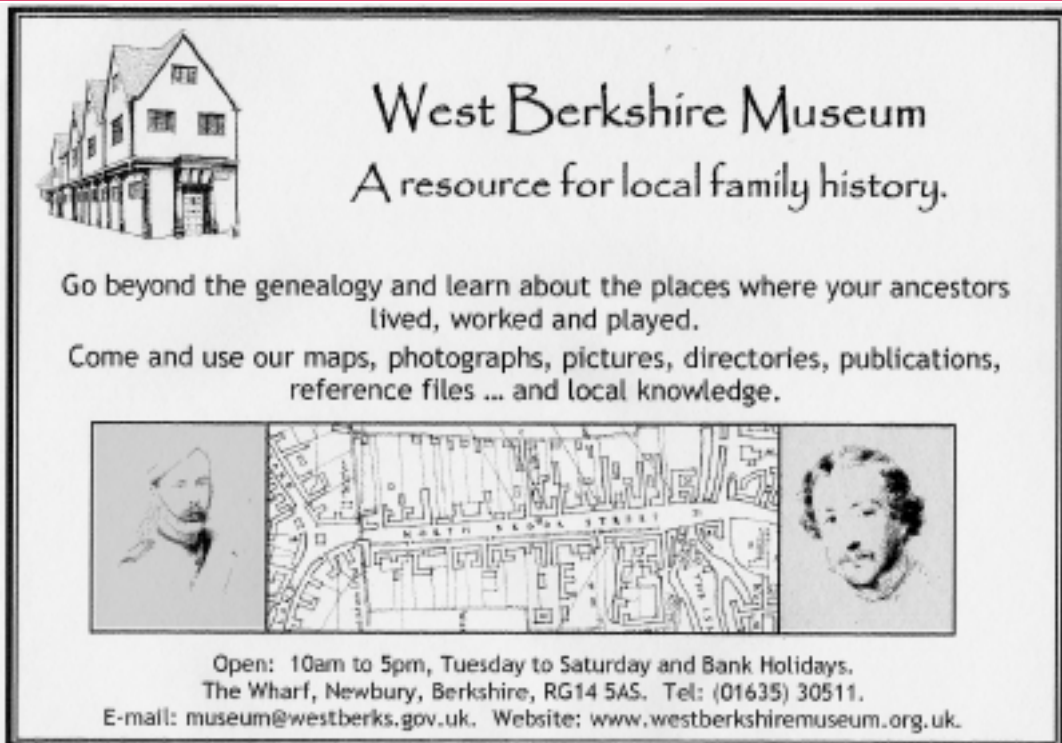
Megan Smolenyak and Ann Turner. *Trace your roots with DNA: using genetic tests to explore your family tree* (Rodale Books, USA, 2005)

Gives guidance on setting up and maintaining a DNA project, and understanding and interpreting results.

Spencer Wells. *The journey of man: a genetic odyssey* (Penguin, 2002)

The best book on deep ancestry.

Debbie Kennett is a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies. She is the group administrator of the Cruwys/Cruse/Crewes DNA Project at Family Tree DNA.



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Family legends – true or false?

Mention to a friend that you have family history amongst your hobbies and often the reply is something like: “My aunt has done the family tree and found that we’re related to...” Here insert a famous person, a heinous crime and/or punishment, or maybe a well known event at which the claimed ancestor was present and played a crucial part.

Your reaction will probably be: how many times have I heard that one before? So I have a theory: the chance of a family story being true is inversely proportional to the notoriety or fame of the claimed ancestor or event.

I’m inclined to believe as true stories that my mother’s family came from Lincolnshire, or that my father’s great-grandmother was descended from the News of Chaddleworth, because neither the New family, Chaddleworth nor Lincolnshire is particularly famous. However, when the story extends to grandmother’s name of Ouzman being a corruption of Guzman, one of that name having landed with the Spanish Armada, I begin to have doubts. When I discover that the commander was Alonso de Guzman El Bueno, seventh Duke of Medina Sidonia, should I take this as support for the story or not? I say not.

To test my theory I dug up some of the stories circulating within my family, and I was surprised to find about a dozen, none proved, but assumed by at least some of the family to be solid fact. These included one connection to a world-famous character, two or three others involving personages reasonably successful in life but known only to a few specialists in their respective fields (such as “great-uncle Henry founded and was president of the Institution of Structural Engineers and was their first gold medallist”) to stories which, although interesting, contained no hint of notoriety, such as the grandmother with Chaddleworth ancestry being only four-foot-six-inches tall, or my uncle Desmond dying 120 years ago.

**Bob Adams (3406)
calls into question
some time-honoured family myths**

My next task was some research to see how many of these stories stood up to scrutiny. Curiously, those with the best supporting evidence, including one which had been widely accepted as completely beyond doubt, turned out to be almost certainly false. This, of course, is so often the case when tracing a family line: evidence gradually accumulates, until the probability that one has the right person becomes increasingly secure, but how can we be absolutely sure?

There are stories which become transferred from one family member to another and, as in Chinese whispers, so-called facts gain minor distortions at each telling, so by the time they get down to us, the events and people involved have become mixed up. Those of this type don’t fit very well into the theory as, with no famous people involved, they should be highly reliable.

Beware the idea “there must be something in it”, which often starts with the discovery that someone famous with the right family name was in more or less the same place at the same time as one of one’s own. “I wonder if...”, is soon followed by “I’ve heard that...” to finally “Did you know you are directly descended from a seventeenth-century lord mayor of London?” The list for 1645 shows the right name, and more or less the right location: Sir Thomas Adams who, although born in Shropshire, moved to and is buried at Sprowston, Norwich, less than 20 miles from the home of my known Adams ancestors at Great Yarmouth. Another story claims that 50 years later they were commuting between Yarmouth and Lowestoft, having become owners of a fleet of fishing boats.

According to the theory the lord mayor is unlikely, but fishing boats are more plausible. There’s good reason for the fishing story to be true: Samuel Adams was not famous, and the Lowestoft fishing industry is famous, but with no great kudos associated with it. I’m a bit suspicious of the fleet, which sounds like

exaggeration. Gillingwater's *History of Lowestoft* (1790) records Samuel Adams and Robert Dixon's boat on 29 May 1731, being one of 15 which "landed 24,600 mackerals [sic], being the greatest quantity ever remembered to have been taken in one day".

Look out also for family members given to embroidery, not to say an inventive or even mischievous streak calculated to set a keen nephew (me) off on a wild goose chase. "Your great-grandfather George Ransome (or Jackson) fought at the Battle of Waterloo as a deputy for Charles Lamb". According to my Aunt Gladys, Charles had met George walking down the street. This is one I haven't followed up, but I would be naturally suspicious, not only for the inclusion of both a famous person and George's presence at a well known event, but also because Aunt G, who died about 30 years ago in her nineties, was the source of various colourful tales. Some of these even come with supporting physical evidence, which may have been totally genuine, or pure invention inserted to make the story more

convincing. She was a niece of my great-aunt, born in 1862, who lived to the age of 102 and was another such source. Between them they produced many stories spanning many years, but I learned to be extra-cautious before believing them. Did these two ladies come to believe the stories themselves? I'm inclined to think they did, although they probably started in the "I wonder if..." category.

So how did the theory work out when applied to my dozen stories? Pretty well in fact, although very few turned out to be absolutely correct. Of these, most were near enough, but a couple, particularly one which was undisputed fact passed down for well over 100 years, didn't quite make the grade. What a shame: we always thought that our connection with the last Empress of Russia was cast-iron!

Bob Adams has developed a presentation on this theme, with which he is willing to entertain society audiences. Contact him on <rjadams39@waitrose.com> for booking details.

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BRO celebrates its 60th anniversary

Today, the BRO has seven miles of shelving in a suite of purpose-built and environmentally controlled strongrooms, together with research space for up to 50 people, a multi-purpose function room for talks or exhibitions, and a bespoke conservation studio. But it wasn't always like that. Mark Stevens, senior archivist, describes the early days of the BRO as it developed alongside the growth of family and local history research.

Our story begins nearly 70 years ago, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. By 1939 20 English counties had established a county record office. Berkshire was not one of them, although a few years previously the clerk to Berkshire County Council, Harold Neobard, had gained approval from the Master of the Rolls to store manorial records. Within three years around 500 documents had been deposited with the council, in addition to the quarter sessions and other county records already held.

A county records committee was constituted and met for the first time on 11 July 1939. It received a confidential report from the clerk, who reported that he had been “forced to the conclusion that the time has arrived when the council should engage an archivist and set up a muniment room”. The committee agreed to appoint an archivist from 1 April 1940 on a salary of £250.

War, however, intervened, and no appointment was made, although documents continued to be collected, notably in 1943 when the Poor Law Guardians' records were deposited.

The committee next met on New Year's Eve 1947, and agreed again to appoint an archivist, this time on a salary of £450. Felix Hull was duly recruited from Essex Record Office, and began work on 10 August 1948. It is this date that we are celebrating as the true start of BRO.

Felix's first task was to take an inventory of his inherited collections. His office accommodation and a research area were provided in the basement of the old Shire Hall in the Forbury, Reading.



The first visitors would have found some similarities with today – no bags, no smoking, please sign the visitors book – but they were required to give at least three days’ notice of wanting to visit, and to supply a reference from a JP or public body. They could, however, bring in pens if they wanted.

The office opened weekday mornings and afternoons, closing for lunch. Anyone engaged in business research (including family history work on behalf of others) had to pay 6s 8d per hour. Tracing a map would set you back a further shilling.



The assize court searchroom

The first customers were a mix of academics and local antiquarians. Felix Hull’s first searcher was Sir Henry Braund of Upton, who came in on 13 August 1948 to look at the Upton enclosure award. By the end of the year the office had received 21 visitors. The first group visit was in July 1949, when 35 members of the Reading Institute of Education came to look at a display of Finchampstead and White Waltham records.

The first strongrooms were also in the basement of Shire Hall, and might better be described as vaults. Doors and windows were a source of worry, but they had been racked with Edwardian iron when built, and the size of those racks has influenced our box sizes to this day.

Towards the end of 1951 the record office moved next door into the basement of the old assize courts (now part of Reading crown court). For the first time the record office had a

proper searchroom, with space for 12 visitors, and gained a further three vaults. By 1959 it had also gained a repair room, though it had no conservators on the staff.

The record office had to operate side-by-side with court business. One of the vaults was off the corridor which led to the cells, where prisoners were caged on the day they were awaiting trial. When the court was sitting record office staff had to ring a bell to be let through into the vault to retrieve documents. If a prisoner was considered dangerous the warders would refuse access, and searchers would have to be asked to come back to view their document another day. The searchroom door was also at the foot of the stairs leading to the cells, and it was not unknown for loved-ones to rush into the searchroom, intending to give a fond farewell to a prisoner before he was sent down.

It was a very different time, with different attitudes. When county archivist Will Smith sought to increase the number of staff from four to five in 1964, he said that “since some of the work connected with the reception, storing, and production of records is heavy for females, there is urgent need for an additional male officer of junior rank”. He later reported that the post had been filled by a middle-aged man, no suitable junior having been found.

By the time the first Berkshire Record Office shut its doors on 1 October 1980, it barely resembled the little office set up by Felix Hull more than 30 years earlier. During its final year in the old assize courts it received 2,553



Parish registers at home in one of the vaults



Repairing school plans, 1970s style

visitors. Family and other leisure historians were beginning to swell the ranks, and letters of introduction had long since been abandoned. Opening hours were longer, though a lunchtime closure remained each day. BRO had gained more office space, another vault, the Reading Borough archives at Tilehurst Library and a further store in Minster Street. Altogether it controlled two miles of shelving, and had seen staffing increase from one to 10, with the first conservator having finally been appointed in 1972.

In her annual report of 1978 county archivist Angela Green concluded: "It has again been a year not without its problems, one of the greatest being the cramped

accommodation in the offices, the searchroom and the strongrooms. The hope of improved quarters in the new building, however, draws nearer."

That new building was the new Berkshire County Council headquarters, Shire Hall at Shinfield Park. A new county headquarters had been planned since the 1960s, and the Shinfield Park site was chosen only after plans for new offices close to the Forbury were abandoned. The record office's move began on 5 December and continued until 15 January. Almost inevitably the accommodation was not ready, and work continued beyond the re-opening of the new office on 26 January 1981.

So the first office was no more, and the second would be the BRO's home for the next 20 years. The challenges of the first BRO had been to deal with rapid expansion of collections, storage and enquiries. These challenges would be magnified in the information explosion that was to come.

Sources (all at BRO)

County Records Committee minutes (C/CL/C3/18/1, 2)
 BRO annual reports (BRO Library)
 Archives vol 4 no 22 1959 (BRO Library)

Birth briefs

Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts submitted by members of the society. They contain the names and vital records (birth or christening, marriage and death or burial) of the member and up to 30 ancestors. All members are encouraged to submit and update their birth briefs, which can be very useful to other family researchers.

A form for compiling your birth brief can be downloaded from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs>, where you can also search the Birth Briefs Index, currently standing at 31,441 names or you can order a search by post for £2.

If you have an interest in a name on a Birth Brief you can order a copy (on paper, or as a digital file in either PAF Pedigree or GEDCOM) for £2. See full details on the website or in your Members' Handbook.

Search requests and orders for copies of briefs should be emailed to

<birthbriefs@berksfhs.org.uk>

Using some photo-editing tools

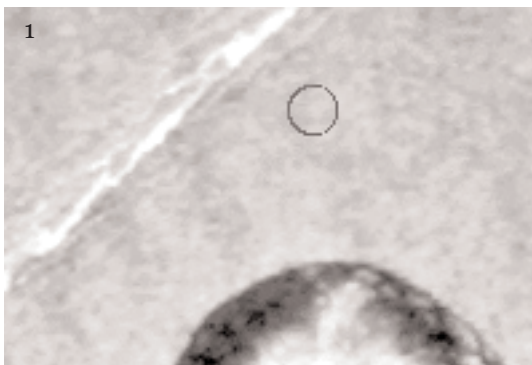
In this second article Lionel Carter (6136) explains how to use the two most important tools in the photo-editor's armoury

The previous article (in the June issue of the Historian) discussed the issues in preparing a scan or file for photo-editing. This article covers two of the tools more commonly used to repair damaged areas. These tools are available in most photo-editing packages, but the terms and the icons used may vary. The author would advise becoming familiar with these two techniques before moving on to all the other options in the package.

Cloning an area to cover a defect

The idea behind cloning is to paste over a defect by copying from a similar "good" small area. By doing this repeatedly along, say, a crease, the crease becomes blended into the surrounding area. This copy and paste technique is so useful that photo-editing programs provide a special tool to make the process easy. This tool is called the rubber stamp in Photoshop.

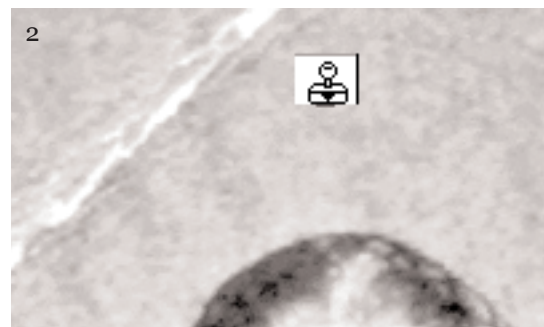
Clicking on the rubber stamp tool in the tool box changes the cursor to a small circular area as shown in figure 1. The size of the circle is



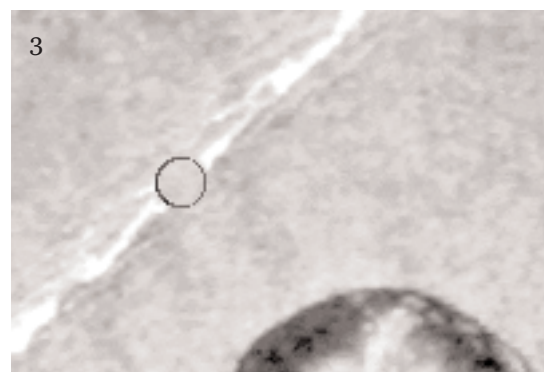
governed by the brush size, which has been set via the Windows menu and *Show brushes* option.

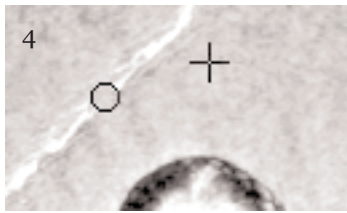
The rubber stamp operation works on the basis of setting up an offset to tell the computer where to copy from. Once set up, the pasted area will always come from a set distance and direction away from the position of the cursor.

To set up the operation you move the cursor to the area you want to copy from, and (for Photoshop) hold down the Alt key. A rubber



stamp icon appears as shown in figure 2. (Some versions of Photoshop show cross-wires instead of the stamp icon – this cross-wire version is shown in figure 4.) Then left-click on the mouse. This identifies the source for the rubber stamp. Move over an area you want to repair, and left-click the mouse again. The source area is copy-pasted over this area as shown in figure 3.





From now on you keep left-clicking over areas you need to repair.

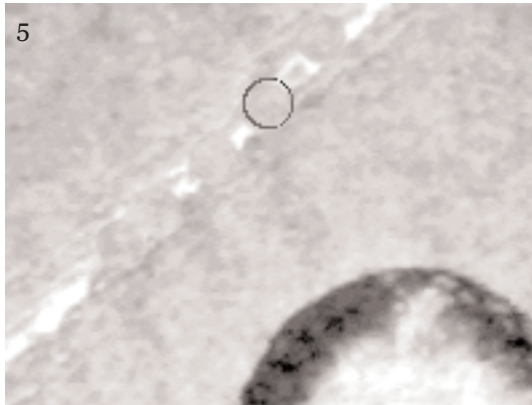


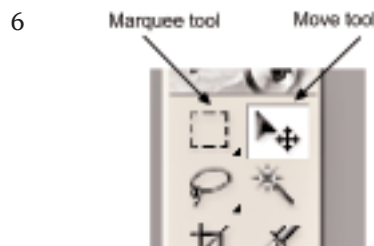
Figure 5 shows the result of a further four clicks.

As you can see, the crease in the photo is gradually being disguised. It is important to realise that the position of the source is constantly changing. If you left-click and hold the button down, you can move the mouse along the crease to stamp a strip from the source areas. The source is always in the same direction and at the same distance from the cursor as when you set the rubber stamp. This means that every so often you have to reset the rubber stamp according to the area being repaired.

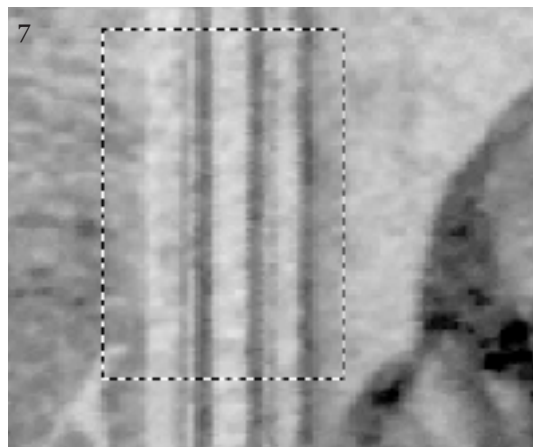
Experimentation will help demonstrate the action of the rubber stamp tool. Just play around stamping anywhere and you will quickly see how the choice of the source affects the stamping. By changing brush sizes and relative positions you can repair most defects. The ribbed frame in the photo can be difficult to repair with stamping because it is difficult to stamp in a steady vertical line. Repairing the frame is better done by copying a good section of the frame and sliding it over the defects. This requires the use of the Marquee tool as described in the next section.

Copying and moving an area of the photo over a defect

The intention is to select a rectangular section of good frame and, by copying, slide it over the defective frame. This makes use of two tools: the Marquee (for selecting the rectangular area) and the Move tool (for sliding). The icons for these two tools as used by Photoshop 7 are shown in figure 6.

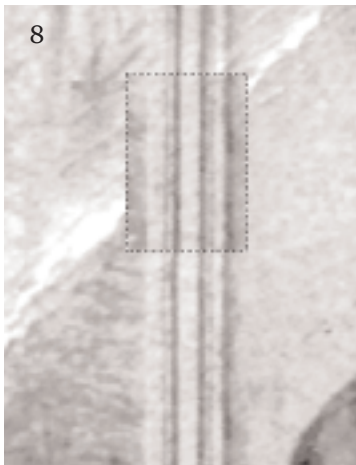


First you select the Marquee tool, then move the mouse to the top left-hand corner of the area you want to select. Hold down the left hand mouse button and move to the right-hand bottom corner. As you do this a rectangular area will be selected outlined by a dotted line – see figure 7.



You have now designated the source and need to copy this via the Edit - Copy menu.

The next step is to click on the Move tool icon, and then move the mouse back to the just selected area. Hold down the Alt key, and with the left mouse button held down, slide a copy of the selection into place as shown in figure 8. In this instance a rather darker portion of the column has been moved to illustrate the



outcome. Sometimes the selected rectangular portion moved contains bits of unwanted detail. You can use the stamping tool to disguise these.

The final image

The final image is shown in figure 9. The black spots on the original image have been covered over by stamping from the adjacent area.



Similarly, the creases around the legs of the chair have been disguised by stamping. More work could be done, but there is always a danger of overdoing it. There comes

a point at which to carry on would start to make the photograph worse. All that remains is to save the final version.

There are many other options in a photo-editing package. Many are difficult to describe in print and a hands-on session is best for mastering these. The following are important techniques to learn:

Outputting the image as the right size

The packages allow you to re-size the image. Although this can be a minefield it is a very useful facility. You should always start off with the largest image (file size) possible. The aspect to understand is how to reduce the file size (for putting on the web) and/or set the physical print or display size while maintaining the best possible definition.

Blurring

Sometimes as a result of rubber-stamping or other changes, the area that you have worked on does not blend in nicely with its surroundings. There can be an abrupt change of boundaries. There are often a range of blurring options, but one needs to be very subtle in using them or the touching-up becomes very apparent.

Sharpening

For reasons best known to the printing trade, the best tool to use, unexpectedly, is the *Unsharp* option. This increases the difference between boundaries and gives the illusion of the image being sharper. The settings for the unsharp tool are very critical and easily overdone. The Unsharp tool has been used in figure 6 to reduce the fuzziness of the original screen dump.

Colour matching

Matching the colours scanned, the colours displayed on the monitor and those output by the printer is a very complex business. Professionals spend a lot of time and money having the settings tweaked by specialists. Even with black and white images it is necessary to make sure black is really black and white is pure white.

The best way to learn about photo-editing is practice. Always make sure you still have a copy of the original on your disk, such that you can experiment as much as time allows. Don't attempt to use all the features, but concentrate on mastering a few at a time and gradually extend your repertoire.

The House of Toomer part II



Phil Wood (4495) continues the family saga of Newbury's much-loved ironmongery business

The first episode of this story saw the Toomer family, in the person of Joseph Toomer, innkeeper, his wife Mary and their sons William and David, move to Newbury from East Ilsley in 1730. The story now includes another child, Samuel Toomer, born in Newbury in 1736.

I have not yet found any record of Samuel Toomer's birth or baptism, nor those of his two more probable siblings, George and Charles. All three existed, Samuel and Charles living out their lives in Newbury, while George moved to Shoreditch and became a silk weaver. The Newbury Toomers maintained contact with George and his family, staying with them when they went up to London. A trip to London could also involve a detour to visit David's family in Henley. There is no concrete evidence that Samuel, Charles and George were the sons of Joseph and Mary, although it seems likely.

Samuel is the first Toomer who can be clearly linked to the House of Toomer business. He was apprenticed to Joseph Hawkins of Newbury, variously described in records as a dyer or an ironmonger. Subsequent events make it very likely that Samuel learnt the ironmongery trade through this apprenticeship. Early in 1759 Joseph Hawkins died young, leaving his property to his father, also to Joseph and sisters Sarah and Ann. He left his former apprentice the considerable sum of £20 as payment for

helping the executors to sort out the firm's books. It is at this point that the Toomer fortunes began to rise; soon after his former master and employer's death young Samuel married Sarah Hawkins on 11 April 1759. With Sarah came title to a large portion of the Hawkins business. Samuel, aged just 23, rose rapidly from apprentice to owner. It is through this link with a Hawkins ironmongery business that the House of Toomer's claim to have been established in 1692 might perhaps be justified. However, so far, no records have been found to further substantiate the claim.

Samuel's rise was not just within the business community, but also within the social structure of Newbury. Whilst some Newbury inns were very profitable, especially those just outside the borough in Speenhamland, innkeepers like Samuel's father Joseph would have been regarded as of the servant class. Samuel's rise owed much to his wife's family, many of whom were members of the corporation. (Newbury was managed by this self-perpetuating body, which consisted of six alderman and 24 capital burgesses, one of whom would serve an annual term as mayor.)

Within months of his marriage Samuel was invited to join this body as a capital burgess. In 1760 he was one of the signatories to the corporation's address celebrating the accession of the new king, George III. In 1767 he became mayor for the first time; he served again in 1783.

There is little doubt that Samuel was an astute businessman. The ironmongery trade made him a wealthy man. He and Sarah had three children, all boys, Joseph (1760), Samuel (1761) and Edward (1764), who were well educated in their father's trade, and were to become successful businessmen themselves. Joseph assumed the elder son's role, becoming his father's right-hand man in Newbury. Samuel was set up in trade as an ironmonger in Basingstoke, and Edward in Southampton. Sarah saw to their spiritual upbringing, and all three were staunch supporters of the Independent (later Congregational) church all their lives.

Samuel's ironmongery business was successful and he found himself with cash to spare, so he joined three others with a similar surplus of funds to found Newbury's second bank: Toomer, Bunny, Slocock and King, in 1791. King soon departed, but the remaining three partners ran a successful concern until Samuel retired in 1811. Even his retirement was profitable; when selling his share in the bank Samuel took part of the payment as a generous annuity. Samuel was 75 by this date, old for the time, so his partners surely did not expect to be paying it for long. However, he kept them paying until 1818, when he died aged 83. Subsequently the bank went through a number of changes of partners before being taken over by a larger concern, itself now part of Lloyds TSB.

The ironmongery business included the area of Newbury known today as Toomer's Wharf, alongside the river Kennet behind the east side of Northbrook Street. The property included several buildings, most notably the building known as the Upper Meeting House, the Presbyterian Chapel or Unitarian Chapel, but most familiar as the Waterside Chapel. This was owned by the Hawkins family, and was certainly part of Samuel's property portfolio by the early 1800s, by which time he had bought out those shares in his late brother-in-law's estate that had not been inherited by Sarah. Another structure was a fish house, in which

Samuel fattened trout caught in the Kennet. His fish became famous; one large trout of some 17lbs was given to Lord Craven, who was so impressed that he passed it on to the king. A book on the agriculture of Berkshire devotes a small section to Toomer's trout, and the anecdote of the fish fit for a king is published a few times.

One structure that is not found in the variously known Toomer's Wharf, Crown Place, Toomer's Yard, Meeting House Yard is an ironmonger's shop. This was in the Market Place, on the north side, probably the building currently housing the Italian restaurant Ask. Samuel also paid poor rates on properties on the wharf, a house and an iron store. Poor rate books do not conclusively identify the house, but it seems likely that it was the house depicted by his son Joseph in a watercolour of *circa* 1780. The house was attached to a large store, perhaps the iron store. In later years this became Newbury's fire and ambulance stations, and the house was divided into at least two cottages. However, it was clearly still a house of substance when the wharf was surveyed in 1839, and the house was identified as Mr Budd's (probably William Budd, another leading tradesman, capital burgess and mayor). It was finally demolished in the 1960s.

Samuel also had houses and land in Speenhamland as well as a small freehold in Holtwood, Hamstead Marshall. Near to this small field he rented a pleasant country property to which the family would retreat to avoid the hustle and bustle, and no doubt the odours, of Newbury life. His son Joseph speaks with affection of Holtwood in letters written in his own later years.

When Samuel finally passed away he did so in the knowledge that he was leaving behind a family of genuine wealth, at home in the company of the gentry – a class he certainly saw himself as part of. Prior to his retirement he would describe himself as *Samuel Toomer, banker*; after retirement he was *Samuel Toomer, gent*. He was buried in the churchyard of St Nicolas.

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.

from **Keith Armstrong** (4082)

For some years, working on odd occasions as time permits, I have been studying my family tree. I can go back to a marriage in 1772 at Steventon, Hampshire, where my ancestors James Armstrong and Linny Littleworth were married by the Rev George Austen, Jane's father. Several members of the Littleworth family were servants to the Austens. My James was of Old Basing on the marriage record, but how he arrived in Old Basing and his place of birth I have never discovered. The nearest James Armstrong was born in Reading to John Armstrong and Elizabeth Cook in 1735. This John was a son of William Armstrong, a rug-maker, and his wife Elizabeth Cooper. Their eldest son William was mayor of Reading in 1746, if we have the right one. His father was a rug-maker resident in Castle Street, Reading and his dyehouse was attached to his home. The first William made a will in 1717 and the Berkshire Overseers Papers mention a Will junior in 1708. Will junior was, I think, the mayor of 1746. His younger brother Benjamin was mayor in 1753 and John was a member of the council at this time. This family must have served on Reading Borough Council virtually continuously from before 1708 to some time after 1753. Does anyone have a list of mayors of Reading from say 1680 to 1780? A list of members of the council for the same period

might be helpful.

Old Basing had at least two mills. Does anyone know if one of these was a fulling mill that might have had a dyehouse attached?

from **Thelma Woodley** (4212)

A friend of mine has asked if I may be able to help through the society.

In 1940 his stepfather was in the retreat of the British army to Dunkirk. Coming home safely, he produced from his bag presents for his three sons. These included sheets of French postage stamps and other items for the children.

Over many years since then a personal item remained undiscovered in his home. It was found at the bottom of a tin box, which was full of papers. The find was the remains of a leather wallet which bore on the outside the cannon crest of the Royal Artillery Regiment. Inside the wallet were photographs, 10 in all, showing members of a family. These included a single photo of four standing Royal Artillery soldiers, one of whom featured in several other pictures, and had been superimposed on the photographs with a lady.

On the back of one of the photographs is a name and address: Mr W Harrison, 14 Station Flats, Suningdale [sic], Berkshire. Two others have messages of love written on the backs. These messages are: "With all my love Nellie xxx" and "With love Nellie xxx". Six of the photographs show the same male child with a lady assumed to be Nellie, the child's mother. Some of the photos are "freckled" but nevertheless are good pictures of the subjects.

At this point in time the whereabouts of the tattered wallet is not known, but occasionally it makes an appearance, and if anyone is related to this family or knows how they can be contacted, he will pass them on.

from **Cliff Debney** (205)

The quick answer [to Roger Shuff's letter in the June *Historian*] is that there are known discrepancies between the GRO indexes and the records held in local register offices.

There are two A5 books written and published by Michael Whitfield Foster of New Zealand, the first of which is *A Comedy of Errors or The Marriage Records of England and Wales 1837 - 1899*. His second book has the same title, but is overprinted on the front cover *A Comedy of Errors, Act 2*.

The author spent nearly six years exploring the structure of the records and errors in the indexes. Included in this research were several weeks spent, with the permission of the GRO, within the Southport office in 1998, the book coming out the same year. The second book was the result of further research in the GRO in 2000, with its publication in 2002.

These books are widely available in British reference libraries, but if you cannot find local copies your nearest library should be able to borrow them for you. We have copies of both in our Research Centre library. They may still be available in the UK book trade.

Editor's note: at the time of going to press Amazon was offering two new copies of the first title at £15.95 and £18.99 (and, astonishingly, one used copy at £125.80). The second title was listed as unavailable.

BARGAIN BOX

Discontinued microfiche at half price
(NB - may be in poor condition)
1851 census Berkshire individual RDs
Berks Overseers Papers for individual unions
List changes frequently - see
<www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks/BargainBox>

from **Bill Johnson** (3022)

Are there any members researching Goodhall/Goodall/Fred Goodall? I have several snapshots of a family I believe are his: Mum, Dad and two small girls. I am convinced it was the family that lived at Potash in Mariners Lane, Bradfield around 1930, and later moved to a farm at the top of Aldermaston village. If so, feel free to contact me direct.

from **John M Pollock** (3103)

With reference to Roger Shuff's surprise at gaps in registers, I have seen estimates of 10 per cent in the number of omissions. During the first 30 or so years of registration it was the registrar's duty to find births and deaths, and sometimes they failed. I have examples of at least two Church of England rectors who did not register the births of their children, two families where early and late children were registered, but not some in the middle. One may have been because the family was living a long way from a register office when the children were born, but the other lived in Kensington throughout, and the children were all baptised in the same church. In that case it was not a failure to pass the details to the Registrar General, since there is no trace of registration in the local register office. Country vicars did not always insist on a death certificate before burial.

The nicest error I have found was the farmer who registered his second daughter in the eldest's name in Hungerford, probably on market day. One Newling was Newland in the ONS index, and I spent too long looking for a Fanny Downes, witness to a wedding. When I took a copy of the church original I found she was Fanny Desborough, the best man's fiancée.

from **Heather McGuinness** (4003)

I am searching for the lost family of Edward William Claridge born 1908 Wokingham, of parents Albert Claridge born 1870 Binfield and Mary Fletcher born 1880 Berkshire. Mary later married James Hannington. Known siblings of Edward William Claridge are Agnes born 1900 = Alexander Carlson, David John born 1901, Ellen Mary born 1902, Ada born 1903, Mary born 1905, Annie Margaret born 1907. I believe they were all born in the Easthampstead and Binfield area.

Edward William Claridge went to Canada in 1923 aged 14 with the help of the Salvation Army, and there is nothing known of the other children of Edward Claridge and Mary Fletcher.

Any help would be most welcome.

from **Vivian Crellin**

I have a sampler made at Blewbury Charity School in the early nineteenth century and wanted to know more about the school. I found *The story of Blewbury* very interesting, and its story typical of the enthusiasm and opposition aroused by schooling the poor.

I had expected to find William Malthus to be a relative, perhaps great-grandfather, of the more famous Thomas Robert Malthus, whose essay on the principle of population caused such a stir at the end of the century. The uncommon name, the coincidence of living near Reading, both benefactors of the Bluecoat School there, both successful merchants and with other interests in common made a family connection likely.

But the book made no mention of it, so I wondered if any members know whether such a connection exists.

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.

Daphne Spurling

Further sources for World War I ancestors

Many names from Appleby, Kirkby

Stephen and Tebay.

Cumbria FHS, no 126, Feb 2008

Spotlight on Swanland

East Yorkshire FHS, no 114, April 2008

Tudor Darlington vol 2

About 600 names.

Cleveland FHS, vol 10, no 6, April 2008

Directory dipping – Hucknall Torkard

A few extracts from directories and websites.

Notts FHS, vol 12, no 6, April 2008

Tracing your Unitarian and English

Presbyterian ancestry

Kent FHS, vol 12, no 2, March 2008

Photographs for family history

NZ SoG, vol 39, no 310, March 2008

Tell it: print-on-demand (POD)

Paying for digital printing of your family

history. North Cheshire FHS, vol 35, no 2,

May 2008

Nitrate film – a health and safety warning
Nitrate negatives, manufactured until 1950, can self-combust. East of London FHS, no 118, Spring 2008

Feature parish: Belhelvie
Plus short articles on the Crombie and Orrok families of Belhelvie. Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, no 107, May 2008

Preserving your history
Historical photos, family bibles, diaries, certificates and deeds. Northamptonshire FHS, vol 30, no 4, May 2008

Stamford Baron St. Martins, being that part of Stamford south of Welland River and west of A1 Northamptonshire FHS, vol 30, no 4, May 2008

People of Sheriff Hutton 1099 - 1900 Part 2 Surnames beginning with B from 1540 City of York & District FHS, vol 9, no 2, May 2008

Starting the pub trail Lists 100 landlords in 31 Crowland pubs 1828 - 1913. Peterborough & District FHS, vol 27, part 2, June 2008

Windows into the past (newspapers)
Mentions a list of over 850 Berkshire freeholders in a London paper of 1775. Bucks FHS, vol 32, no 2, June 2008

The Roman Catholic parish of Holy Trinity, Hethe
Lists names.
Oxfordshire FHS, vol 22, no 1, April 2008

The Hoover evacuees
Names and ages of 100 children of Hoover employees in Perivale, Middlesex, who went to Ohio in 1940.
West Middlesex FHS, vol 26, no 2, June 2008

Education
21 pages on various schools on the Isle of Man.
Isle of Man FHS, vol 30, no 2, May 2008

Some seventeenth-century sources
SoG, vol 29, no 6, June 2008

Discovering Mulbarton's family histories
Mulbarton is a village.
Norfolk FHS, vol 5, part 6, June 2008

People who count – Llangynhafal
Clwyd FHS, no 97, June 2008

St Mary's, Redgrave
Suffolk FHS, vol 34, no 1, June 2008

Records of the British in India
Hertfordshire FHS, no 105, June 2008

A lost ancestor
120 families selected from mid-Sussex Poor Law records 1670 - 1832 with settlement orders to move to Surrey.
East Surrey FHS, vol 32, no 2, June 2008

Pre-1841 census and population listings
Bedfordshire FHS, vol 16, no 6, June 2008

My parish – Abbots Leigh
Bristol and Avon, no 132, June 2008

Chasing the Barnwood elephant
About researching a suburb of Gloucester.
Gloucestershire FHS, no 117, June 2008

The Cheltenham engineers
Names of nearly 300 volunteers who formed the 113th Railway Company, Royal Engineers in 1915.
Gloucestershire FHS, no 117, June 2008

Index to the Owen manuscripts
400 names. Manchester & Lancashire FHS, vol 44, no 2, 2008

So where were they buried?
Details London cemeteries from sixteenth century with sources of information. London Westminster & Middlesex FHS, vol 30, no 4, July 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 LOCAL HISTORY

Royal Berkshire Militia return of volunteers 1854

(Eureka, 2008) A5 flexiback, 36pp, indexed Bookshop £3.00, mail order £3.65 UK, £4.85 overseas

Following an Act of Parliament in 1852, enrolment and discharge lists were drawn up of all the militia in England. This booklet contains an indexed transcript from documents in the Berkshire Record Office relating to the Royal Berkshire Militia. The enrolment lists include the place where enrolled, regimental number, name, age and date of attestation. Most of the discharge lists have only the name and number of each volunteer.

Hungerford Primitive Methodist Circuit baptisms 1869 - 1937

(Eureka, 2008) A5 flexiback, 44pp, indexed Price on application

Founded in 1869 by a group who separated from the Newbury Circuit, the Hungerford Circuit had chapels in Eastbury, East Garston, Hungerford, Kingbury, Lambourne, Shalbourne, Weston in Welford parish and West Shefford in Berkshire, plus Aldbourne, Bagshot, Froxfield, Little Bedwyn, Ramsbury and Witcha in Wiltshire. The register is chronological by baptismal date, and names the child, its parents, their residence and occupation, and in most cases, the date of birth.

East Ilsley in the 1830s

Interactive map and terrier listing on CD Sue Burnay and Nigel Wardell (Sigma Books, 2008)

Bookshop £7.50, mail order £8.20 UK, £10.65 overseas

This is a fully interactive production of terrier and map of East or Market Ilsley. (This downland village in west Berkshire lies a short distance south-west of Wantage.) It is dated about 1831, predating the tithe map and apportionment of 1839. The terrier lists the owners and occupiers of each numbered plot, a plot description (field name, cottage and garden), its usage (arable, meadow) and size in acres, roods and perches (a footnote in the important introduction explains these terms). This list is in three formats: by plot number, occupiers' and owners' names. Also in the introduction is a reproduction of the whole map which links directly to the relevant page in the terrier.

Recommended as an excellent example of a clear and easily searchable format for all local historians and for any lucky family historians who have ancestors from this parish.

Reading St Mary parish registers 1538 - 1812

(Anguline Research Archives, 2007) CD Bookshop £8.00

This is a complete digital version of the indexed printed registers in two volumes as transcribed by the curate, Gibbs Payne Crawford, and published in 1891 and 1892. In some earlier registers causes of death are given, including plague and childbirth. However, among the registers up to 1598 there appears to be been some confusion between loose paper sheets of baptisms and burials, as there are several instances where, despite the year changes, infants have apparently been buried before they were baptised. The CD can be used with Adobe Acrobat Reader.

History of Lambs Lane School

1908 - 2008

(Spencers Wood Local History Group 2008)

A4, paperback, 68pp

Bookshop £5, mail order £8.20 UK, £10.65 overseas

The colourful montage of photos on the cover continues with numerous black and white and colour photos of past and present inside. Memories of former pupils and log books have been combined to form an interesting record of this village school. This group has fewer than 10 members, and is to be congratulated on the successful publication of this second booklet.

More Tilehurst memories

(History of Tilehurst Group, 2007) A5,

flexiback, 152pp

Bookshop £5, mail order £5.45 UK, £8.40 overseas

Here are the further memories of 25 current or former local residents illustrated with occasional sketches.

St Paul's parish church, Wokingham

Jim Bell (St Paul's Church, Wokingham, 2008)

A5 flexiback, 44pp

Bookshop £2.50, mail order £3.20 UK, £4.85 overseas

Illustrated with facsimile covers of two parish magazines dated 1865 and 1935 inside the front and back covers, plus several good but uncaptioned photographs, this is a useful account of a parish church created in 1863 to cope with the expansion of Wokingham's population.

RESEARCH AIDS

Family history for kids

Emma Jolly (Pymer Quantrill Publishing,

2007) flexiback, indexed, 64pp

Bookshop £7.99, mail order £8.70 UK, £11.45 overseas

At last a how-to-do-it book for children which is not only colourful, but tells them all they need to know about discovering their family history. To help them is a four-

generation family tree, tips, suggested activities, project sheets to complete, a glossary of family history terms and some links to school work. This is a book for all 7 to 14 year-olds and their parents to enjoy.

Family photographs, how to date them

Jayne Shrimpton (Countryside Books, 2008)

B5 flexiback, indexed, 191pp

ISBN 978-1-84674-099-2

Bookshop £9.35 mail order £12.99 UK, £14.70 overseas

This fantastic and easy-to-use reference book will be of major importance for all of us trying to date our old family photographs. The text is divided into decades from the 1850s to 1940s, each having a brief introduction to the period and several pages, with one or more dated photographs and concise and informative comments.

Poll books 1696 - 1872: directory to holdings in Great Britain 4th ed

Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers (Family History Partnership, 2008)

A5 flexiback, 56pp ISBN 978-1-906280-09-3

Bookshop £4.50, mail order £5.20 UK, £6.85 overseas

From the late seventeenth century until the secret ballot was introduced in 1872 locally published poll books recorded the names of all who voted – and some who didn't – and whom they voted for in a parliamentary election in a constituency. Some include details of occupation, residence and qualifications to vote. Listed by county in England, Wales and Scotland, this book details where such surviving poll books can be found. Also included are maps of England and Wales before and after the Parliamentary Reform Act 1832, when many changes were made.

The introduction is vital because it explains what this important source is all about. There have been many changes and additions since the last edition in 1994, so this edition is an essential reference book for any serious family historian.

Research Centre services

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

Closed from 16.00 on Thursday 18 December 2008 until 10.00 on Tuesday 6 January 2009.

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

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

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 588,000 entries to date. More than 80 per cent of 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
- CDs 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

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. They 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. 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 whole **Berkshire Name Suite** is currently £5. For searching one surname in one database only (from those listed on page 32) the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a print-out of up to 25 lines of results.

A search of **indexes to the 1851 census for other counties**, with print-out 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 33 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.

Please advise any changes of address, phone number etc to the membership secretary, at the address on the inside front cover.

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

Members' interests

Bob Plumridge

Members submitting interests in the last quarter:

- 5409 Stevens, Mrs J
- 5424 Barkus, Mr M
- 5711 Newman, Mr AL
- 5955 Kreibich, Mrs R
- 6252 Burns, Mr RJ
- 6397 Allum, Mr J & Mrs M
- 6454 Page, Mrs C
- 6532 Moss, Mrs M
- 6560 Secker, Mr K
- 6593 Wibberley, Rev AN
- 6603 Aubrey, Mr J Redlands,
- 6604 Beckett, Mrs J
- 6608 Hall, Mrs L
- 6609 Bowley, Mr K & Mrs S
- 6623 Jones, Mr B
- 6628 Davis, Mr A
- 6635 Howell, Mrs C
- 6637 Hyder, Ms G
- 6653 Meyer, J
- 6659 Trafford, Mrs J

For reasons of privacy personal emails and postal addresses have been redacted from this online archive. If you wish to contact anyone mentioned in this issue please contact the society.

6252 ALDER	North Berks	BRK	All	5424 BARKUS	Ipsden	BRK	1700-
6604 ALDER	Abingdon	OXF	pre 1864	5424 BARKUS	Reading	BRK	1800-
6252 ALDWORTH	North Berks	BRK	All	5424 BARKUS	Moulsford	BRK	1750-
6623 ALLEN	Reading	BRK	1901-1975	6397 BASSON	Faringdon		c1775
6635 ALLNUTT	Jamaica		1768-1789	6635 BASTER	All	BRK	All
6635 ALLNUTT	Twickenham	MDX	1800-1850	6532 BOWYERS	Warfield	BRK	1750-1900
6635 ALLNUTT	Maidenhead	BRK	1650-1850	6397 CHALICE	Speen	BRK	c1703
6635 ALLNUTT	London	LND	1800-1930	6560 CHAMPION	All	All	pre 1875
6635 ALLNUTT	Ibstone	BRK/BKM	1550-1650	6637 CHAPMAN	Oxford	OXF	
6635 ALLNUTT	Cookham	BRK	1690-1800	6397 COOPER	Moulsford		18th C
6635 ALLNUTT	All	SSX	1760-1780	5955 COOTE	Elsenham	ESS	1819-1832
6635 ALLNUTT	Wycombe	BKM	All	5955 COOTE	Bishop Stortford		
6397 ALLUM	Crowmarsh	Gifford				HRT	1835-1900
			BRK 1796	5955 COOTE	Great Dunmow		
6603 AUBERRY	Thatcham	BRK	1644+			ESS	1715-1842
6603 AUBERRY	Brightwalton	BRK	1766+	6628 DAVIS	Radley	BRK	1700-1900
6603 AUBREY	Aldermaston	BRK	1605+	6628 DAVIS	South Africa		c19th
6603 AUBREY	Chieveley	BRK	1535+	6628 DAVIS	Abingdon	BRK	1700-1900
6397 BAGGS	Combe		1797	6628 DAVIS	Twyford	BRK	1840-1900
6560 BALDWIN	Crowmarsh	Gifford		6608 DORE	Newbury	BRK	1750-1850
			BRK pre 1880	6252 DORMAN	North Berks	BRK	All
6560 BALDWIN	Cholsey	BRK	pre 1880	6252 DORMER	North Berks	BRK	All

Members' interests

6252	DORMOR	North Berks	BRK	All		
5955	DREW	Ramsbury	WIL	1826+		
5955	DREW	Burghclere	HAM	1809-1820		
5955	DREW	Reading	BRK	1881+		
5955	DREW	Chilton Foliat	WIL	1859+		
5955	DREW	Lambourn Woodlands				
			BRK	1818+		
5955	DREW	Aldbourne	WIL	All		
6659	EGGLETON	Brightwell	BRK	pre 1830		
6252	EUSTACE	North Berks	BRK	All		
6397	FOSH		BRK/OXF	Any		
6397	FOUACHE		BRK/OXF	Any		
5955	FREEMAN	Pampisford	CAM	1750+		
5955	FREEMAN	Farnham	ESS	1860+		
6637	GIBBONS	Oxford	OXF			
6637	GILES	Warfield	BRK			
6609	GIRLING	Abingdon	OXF	pre 1841		
6659	GOODEY	Brightwell	BRK	pre 1830		
6637	GROUT	Wokingham	BRK			
6604	GRUNDY	Abingdon	OXF	pre 1886		
6635	GURLING	All	SFK	All		
6454	HALL	Tilehurst	BRK	1880-1990		
6454	HALL	Bix	OXF	1850-1900		
5955	HARLING	Hackney	MDX	1837+		
6637	HARPER	Wootton	OXF			
6653	HASKER	Reading	BRK	1700-1900		
6653	HASKER	Wallingford	BRK	1700-1900		
6653	HASKER	Hampstead Norreys				
			BRK	1700-1900		
6637	HERBERT	Wargrave	BRK			
6397	HERN	Speen		c1703		
6593	HEWETT	Compton	BRK	pre 1769		
6608	HILTON	London	LDN	1800-1900		
6593	HUNT	Compton	BRK	pre 1736		
5955	JEVES	Deptford	KEN	1750+		
5955	JEVES	Poplar	MDX	1790+		
6637	JOHNSON	Standlake	OXF			
6623	JONES	Reading	BRK	1899-1947		
6603	KING	Ardleigh	ESS	1835+		
6603	KING	Bromley by Bow				
			LDN	1868+		
5409	LINE	North Heath	BRK	1690-1720		
5409	LINE	Oxford	OXF	1700-1800		
5409	LYNE	Oxford	OXF	1700-1800		
6397	MARCHANT	Faringdon		c1775		
6397	MASCALL	Any		c1796		
6397	MASKELL	Any		c1796		
6608	MERRYWEATHER					
		Newbury	BRK	1750-1850		
6252	MIDDLETON	North Berks	BRK	All		
6637	MORRIS	Wokingham	BRK			
6397	NIXON	Faringdon		c1778		
6593	PATIENT	Milton	OXF	pre 1736		
6397	PEAD	Newham		1791		
6608	PITTMAN	Any	WIL	1800-1850		
6608	PITTMAN	Any	BRK	1750-1860		
6653	PUMMELL	Hampstead Norreys				
			BRK	1700-1900		
6603	RANDALL	Penn	BKM	1838+		
6603	RANDALL	Penn	BKM	1811+		
6635	STOVOLD	Guildford	SRY	1881-1920		
6593	STREAM	Aldworth	BRK	pre 1805		
6608	STREATLEY	Thatcham	BRK	1800-1900		
6608	STREETLEY	London	LDN	1848-1995		
6397	TAYLOUR	Hinton Waldrist				
				c1540s		
6454	THANE	Fulham	LDN	1890-1960		
6454	THANE	Reading	BRK	1800-1900		
6454	THANE	Fulham	LDN	1890-1960		
6454	THANE	Maidenhead	BRK	1900-1980		
6454	THANE	Reading	BRK	1800-1900		
6609	TOWNSEND	Abingdon	OXF	pre 1841		
6637	TOWNSEND	Standlake	OXF			
6593	WAITE	Purley	BRK	pre 1839		
6397	WARWICK		BRK/OXF	c1785		
6252	WATTS	North Berks	BRK	All		
5711	WEDGE	Great Shefford				
			BRK	pre 1860		
6637	WESKER	Warfield	BRK			
6637	WILLATTS	All	All			
6560	WITHERALL	Cholsey	BRK	pre 1800		
6560	WITHERALL	All	All	post 1700		
6608	WOOLFORD	Thatcham	BRK	1750-1900		
5955	YOUNG	Sparsholt	BRK	1729-1780		
5955	YOUNG	Childrey	BRK	1780+		

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Please remember to be as specific as you can; many recent submissions have omitted the county code and/or a date period. This limits the likelihood of such entries being spotted by researchers who scan by column.